

# WHAT MATTERS . . . . . December 22, 2020

*News from Your Synod and Ministry Partners*

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA / 6401 Odana Rd./ Suite 20/ Madison, WI 53719/ (608) 270-0201/ [www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)

***Merry Christmas from the Staff of  
the South-Central Synod of  
Wisconsin!***

***This year, we bring you a video  
greeting to wish you a Blessed  
Christmas and to thank you for the  
privilege of serving God's church  
with you.***

***Click on the link:***

**[South-Central Synod of Wisconsin |  
2020 Digital Greeting \(scsw-  
elca.org\)](https://www.scsw-elca.org)**



Deacon Vicki  
Hanrahan



Rev. Walter  
Baires



Bishop Joy  
Mortensen-Wiebe



Rev. Steve  
Kottke



Robyn  
Zimmerman

Please note: The synod office will be closed the week after Christmas for the holidays.  
For pastoral emergencies, please contact the pastor on call, Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe at (920) 420-8342

## Conversations with the Bishop



All are invited to  
attend this  
bi-weekly webinar  
with the Bishop



### WEBINAR TOPIC:

## HOW TO HOLD AN ANNUAL MEETING DURING A PANDEMIC – Part 2

We had a great conversation about holding your annual meetings via videoconference today and feel it would be beneficial to continue the conversation. As you are planning your meetings, additional questions may surface. Please invite the council members, staff or members in your congregation who play vital roles in conducting your annual meetings.

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**2:00 – 3:00 pm**

**via Videoconference**

**Laity, please email Robyn Zimmerman for the link: [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org)**

**All rostered will receive the link the morning of the webinar**

**If you missed today's meeting, our webinars are recorded and accessible on the synod website:**

**[www.scsw-elca.org/webinars](http://www.scsw-elca.org/webinars)**

**Resources for how to hold your annual meetings, state statutes and the emergency bylaw can be found:**

**[www.scsw-elca.org/congregations/](http://www.scsw-elca.org/congregations/)**



**One of the outcomes of today's meeting was an offer by synod staff to conduct one-on-one Zoom trainings by congregation. In this way, we can tailor the training to the specific way in which you will be conducting your annual meeting. If your congregation decides to use Zoom as the platform in which to conduct your virtual annual meeting, you may be interested in signing up your congregation to participate in a one-hour Zoom training with Robyn Zimmerman and Deacon Vicki Hanrahan to brush up those Zoom skills!**

**You will have several dates and times from which to choose...Choose one date please.**

**<https://signup.com/go/KTWmfhx>**

After signing up, Robyn Zimmerman will send you a confirmation and link to the training session.

Feel free to call the synod office if you have any questions: 608-270-0201



## Bishop Joy's Recorded Sermon Available to All Rostered

Access the recording of the sermon and transcription through the synod's password protected directory page. All rostered have been given the password. Link to page:

Rostered can contact Robyn Zimmerman at the synod office by close of business tomorrow if you need the password. [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org) or 608-270-0201

## Have you completed the SCSW Racial Equity Team Survey yet?

Thank you to those who have responded. This team has extended the deadline to respond to the survey. Please do take a moment to provide them with your feedback as they could use more input to make this survey impactful.

Please do so by **January 15, 2021**

Link to Survey: <https://bit.ly/surveyracialequity>

The SCSW Racial Equity Team is making plans for our work in 2021, and we would love to hear from you! How is your congregation engaging anti-racist work? How can the Racial Equity Team support you? Please fill out [the](#) survey before 12/31/2020 to help guide our work in 2021. Multiple people from the same congregation can fill out the form.



## Partnering Opportunity with St. John's Madison – Would You Like to Help?

The *Backyard Mosaic Women's Project* has been collaborating with *St. John's Lutheran Church* and *Caring for Common Ground* on a restoration woodland garden for a hillside gathering space in the heart of downtown Madison. Each mandala mosaic was designed to reflect the creator's place in creation. The first one (photos attached) has been installed with others on the retaining wall of the hillside. We would like to install the remaining 16 on pavers for a garden path through the woodland garden, making it easier to care for the plantings.

- We need 16, 16" x 16" pavers, any color, texture or depth.

If your congregation is able to partner with us to provide these pavers, please contact me at St. John's. Phone: (608)658-5854

In gratitude, Julia Weaver  
Artist and Pastor of the Project/Pastor of Arts and Community



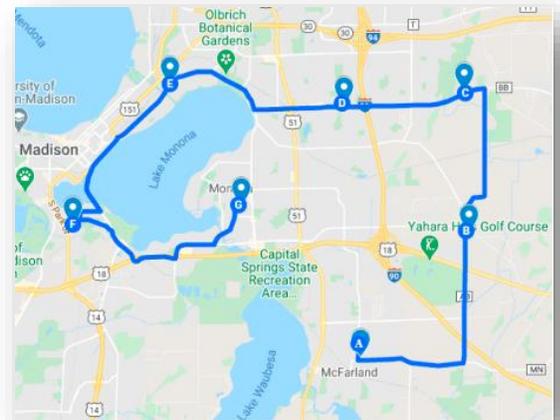
## Eastside Madison Conference Churches, ELCA

December 6, 2020 –  
January 6, 2021

**East Madison Conference Churches bring you**

### **“Advent Adventure!”**

Seven eastside churches have collaborated to bring you a fun and faith-filled activity this season! It's called the *Advent Adventure* and invites you to visit these seven churches to hear the story of the season, along with light displays, favorite songs, and prayers at each location. Please follow this **GUIDE** (link below) for more information and locations. The tour is self-guided and can be done at your own pace...so you can do it in one night or make it last the whole season. This adventure will be available December 6 through January 6 - and please feel free to share through your congregation.



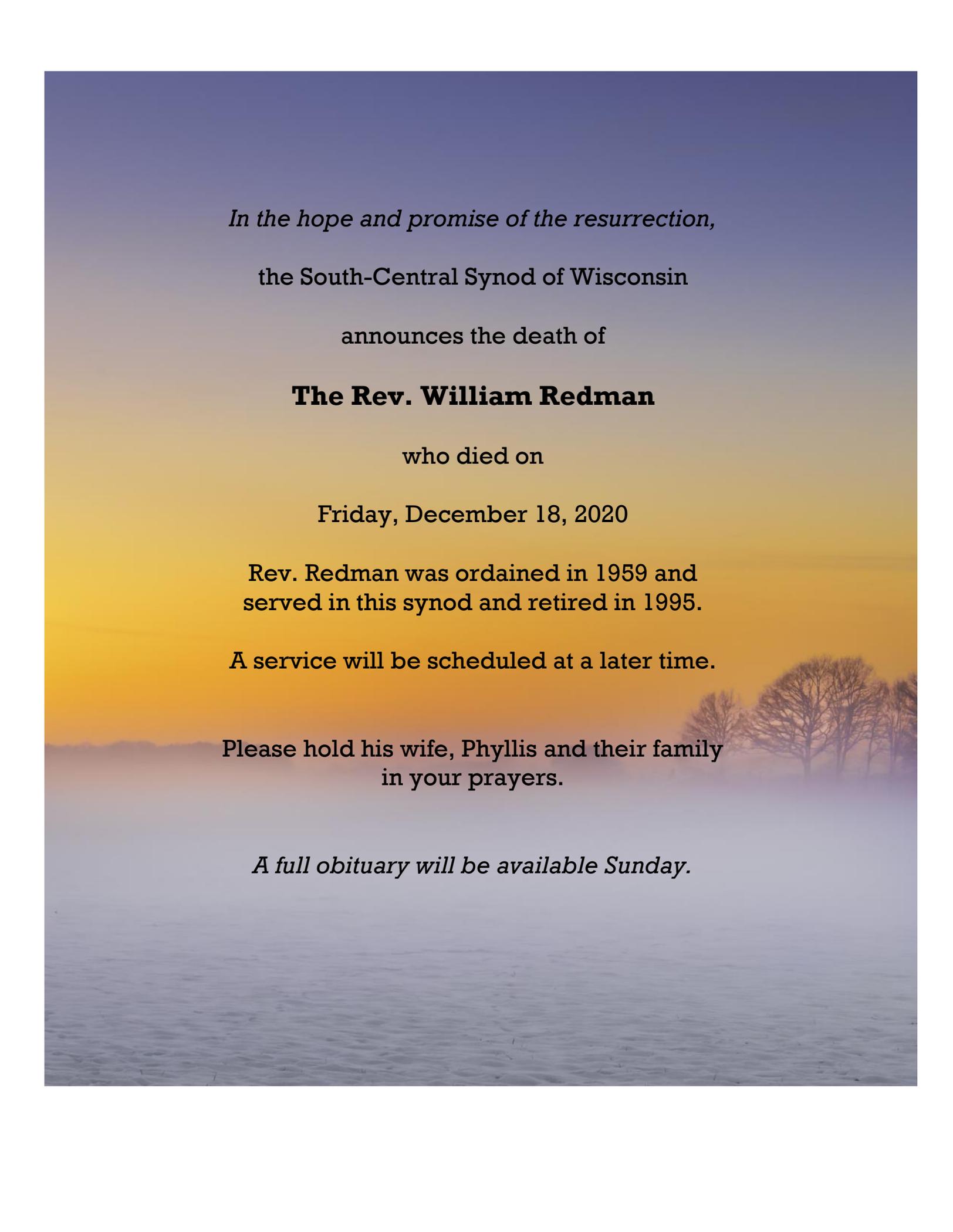
### **ADVENT ADVENTURE DRIVE THROUGH SELF TOUR GUIDE:**

**<https://scsw-elca.org/events/adventadventure/>**

Note: When you arrive at each church, look for the light display and then log onto the Youtube channel for the recordings. The link to the Youtube is inside the guide...please know it won't be live until the first day of the event.

May you and your families be blessed by this adventure!

We encourage you to share this in your newsletter and social media channels!



*In the hope and promise of the resurrection,*

the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

announces the death of

**The Rev. William Redman**

who died on

Friday, December 18, 2020

Rev. Redman was ordained in 1959 and served in this synod and retired in 1995.

A service will be scheduled at a later time.

Please hold his wife, Phyllis and their family in your prayers.

*A full obituary will be available Sunday.*

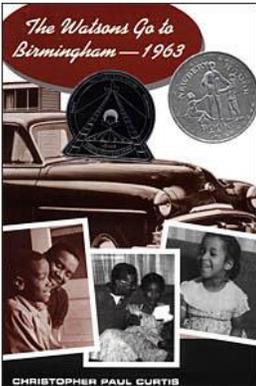


## A Christmas Tradition Continues in a Unique Way!

Check out this Christmas Pageant creatively done by Holy Trinity in Marshall. Send us links to your recordings so that we can share them in What Matters...you will enjoy them and perhaps pick up an idea or two to try out with your children, youth and family groups!

[Virtual Christmas Pageant 2020 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - YouTube](#)

## Join the WELCA Women of our Synod for a Book Discussion



### The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 Book Discussion (Zoom)

Jan. 14, 2021

7:00 pm

Janna Smith, retired school librarian and current SWO president, will be leading a book discussion on this young adult book (210 pages) by Christopher Paul Curtis. **The Newbery Honor** book tells the story of a loving African-American family living in the town of Flint, Michigan, in 1963. "When the oldest son (Byron) begins to get into a bit of trouble, the parents decide he should spend the summer and possibly the next school year with Grandma Sands in Birmingham, Alabama. The entire family travels there together by car, and during their visit, tragic events take place."

Remember, you can connect to Zoom without a computer or tablet. There is a number you can call using your telephone. It will be an audio connection, only, but you will be able to hear and participate in the discussion. Please contact Janna Smith, if you are interested in the book discussion ([smithjanna55@gmail.com](mailto:smithjanna55@gmail.com)) or if you have any questions.



## Interfaith Peace Working Group Joins Wisconsin Council of Churches

The Interfaith Peace Working Group was approved as an Associate Member of the Wisconsin Council of Churches at last week's annual Meeting. This group, which promotes nonviolence and demilitarization of U.S. society, invites you to read its December newsletter. You can find it at the group's website, [interfaithpeacewg.org](http://interfaithpeacewg.org) on the resource pages.

Rev. Jerry Folk, rostered leader in our synod is one of the groups founding members and author of this article in their December issue, "Advent Hope."

Congratulations to Interfaith Peace Working Group and blessings on your

continued work for peace!

## Synod Staff Continue to Work from Home

Synod staff continue to work from home and are available via all the normal digital technologies. Call the synod office and staff will direct your call to the appropriate person who will call you back. We do try to be prompt in our return calls. (608) 270-0201 Emails are as follows:

Bishop Joy: [joymw@scsw-elca.org](mailto:joymw@scsw-elca.org) Robyn Zimmerman: [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org)

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan: [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org) Rev. Walter Baires: [walterb@scsw-elca.org](mailto:walterb@scsw-elca.org)

Rev. Steve Kottke: [stevek@scsw-elca.org](mailto:stevek@scsw-elca.org)

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**Congregational Newsletter Editors - please include this text in your newsletters!**



**WHAT MATTERS - Stay Connected To Synod Happenings, News, & Events!** Grow in your faith and leadership! Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org) to be added to "What Matters."

Do you have a link to the synod website on your website?

If you do, thank you for your partnership!

If you don't, please do **add a link to the synod website to your website:** [www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)

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## Positions in the Synod

**We are happy to help promote your positions. Please submit 100 words or less to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Synod Communicator, email: [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org). Please notify Deacon Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!**

### **New! Organist - Grace Lutheran Church, Cambridge**

Grace Lutheran Church is seeking an organist to play weekly at our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship service. Candidates may also be considered for a Choir Director position when choral singing is safe again. For more information, or to submit a resume, e-mail Pastor Jennifer Jelinek at [pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com) by January 1.

### **Synod Candidacy Committee is Looking for A New Member**

If you are interested in serving in this important role that helps candidates walk through the discernment process for rostering in the ELCA, please email the Candidacy Chair, Janet Lord, with your name, congregation and a little information about yourself and your interest. [jrj.lord@gmail.com](mailto:jrj.lord@gmail.com) (12/01/20)

### **Crossways Camping Ministries Has Opportunity for an Internship**

Crossways Camping Ministries is seeking an intern for our ELCA camp in Hatley, WI. Please see the link to the employment section of our website for more information: <https://www.crosswayscamps.org/employment> (10/27/20)

### **Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison, To Hire One or Several Part-Time A/V technicians**

Technicians needed to operate the camera and sound system in the sanctuary for worship and other events. A full position description is available on the church website: <https://www.midvalelutheran.org/welcome-midvale/work-midvale> - to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to [info@midvalelutheran.org](mailto:info@midvalelutheran.org). The position is open immediately. (10/13/20)

### **Choir Director – Bethlehem (Portage)**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is looking to fill our part-time Choir Director position. The ideal candidate would be able to lead the choir, as well as play the organ for worship services, funerals and weddings, and lead the Praise Band. Previous experience preferred to include the ability to motivate choir members, read music and conduct; knowledge of liturgical flow and connection to worship; piano experience strongly preferred. Part-time September through May. Please send resume to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage. (03/11/20)



## PRAYERS

### Social Media Team/Website

- Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Our Savior's, Sun Prairie, Synod Staff
- Rev. Brenda Lovick, Therapist with the Samaritan Counseling Center, Madison, WI

### Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Members of Luther Memorial, Delavan, WI
- Pastor Brad Pohlman, Pastor John Worzala Dumke, Pastor Rebecca Ninke and Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson, Pastors, Vicar and Members of Luther Memorial, Madison, WI

### Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Laurie A Jungling, the Staff, and the congregations of the Montana Synod

### Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. Richard E Jorgensen, Jr., Director for Evangelical Mission, Lower Susquehanna Synod,
- The Rev. Craig A Miller, Director for Evangelical Mission Upper Susquehanna Synod

*We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrate their anniversary of Ordination during this coming week:*

- The Rev. Sara Ehrets December 24, 1995, Associated Pastor of First Lutheran, Stoughton, WI  
[pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com](mailto:pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com)

**May these leaders continue to be blessed for service.**

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### Updates on Congregations in the Call Process and Rostered Leader Updates

Call process and roster changes are updated on the synod website monthly. Please keep these congregations and rostered leaders in your prayers.

**Link:** <https://scsw-elca.org/transitions/>

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Like Us on Facebook and you'll share in awesome ministry by congregations in your synod, share great ideas and be inspired with selected scripture from your synod staff.

**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**



Remember, when you see this symbol, this is a news item that should be put in your congregational newsletters! Thanks for your partnership.

Congregations can feel free to reprint these pages for your congregational use. Reprint permission provided by: South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA – 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, 53719. Please reference as seen in Synod e-news, "What Matters" in your reprint. Questions can be directed to Deacon Hanrahan at the synod office: (608) 270-0201 or [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org)

Share your news. If you have something you would like considered for publication in What Matters, send it to Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, at [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org).

**Visit our website:** [www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)

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*Following Jesus, who commanded his followers, 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,' and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA, strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability, while striving to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.*