

WHAT MATTERS January 5, 2021

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

Conversations with the Bishop Today at 2:00 pm

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 at our last gathering and felt it would be beneficial to continue the conversation. As you are planning your meetings, additional questions may surface.



Today! Tuesday, January 5, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm via Videoconference

Laity, please email Robyn Zimmerman for the link: robynz@scsw-elca.org

All rostered received the link this morning from our office.

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

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/



One of the outcomes of our last 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

Annual Meeting Resources can be found on the synod's website:

Annual Report – ELCA Cover with Letter from Bishop Eaton and Litany

[2020 Annual Report cover.indd \(elca.org\)](#)

Stories of Faith in Action – [SOFIA \(livinglutheran.org\)](http://SOFIA (livinglutheran.org)) – Beautiful digital magazine!

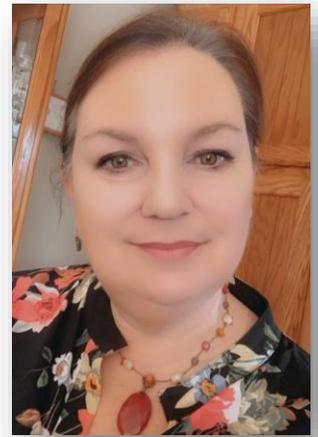


Taking God's Promises to Heart Together This Year

by Deacon Vicki Hanrahan

What will 2021 bring us? Where will we see God's grace working in us and through us? Where and how will we be called to be the heart and hands of Jesus to our neighbor? How will our hearts be changed as we listen for understanding to those with whom we disagree? In what creative ways will the Holy Spirit empower us so that we can live out our baptismal callings to be bearers of hope and light, loving kindness and mercy, working for justice and peace?

My colleague, Deacon Brenda Tibbets of the Northeastern Minnesota synod points out that hope, light, peace and love of Christ which is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit is not limited to the changing of the calendar from one year to the next or whether or not we are in a pandemic. We are mindful of that, but do we always believe that with our whole heart? Our prayer for our respective synod families is that **whatever you do** as you move into 2021, do it faithfully, taking God's promises to heart.



“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God, and not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.**” - Romans 5:1-5

God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit is also poured over us in the waters of our baptism where we are claimed and called as God's beloved children, marked with the sign of the cross and sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Take these promises to heart as you contemplate the Creator of the universe, who calls *you* beloved, calls *you* by name, chooses *you* to be loved; and then, fills *you* with all that you need to love others.

“As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. **And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**” - Colossians 3:12-17

Thanks be to God for carrying us through 2020 and for God's promises to always be with us in 2021. Thanks be to God for the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ and for the gift and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for each one of you, for our friends and partners in our 65 synods and for our staff at the ELCA churchwide offices.

A BIG THANK YOU for another wonderful year of connecting and serving with each other through volunteering in service to the whole synod, through collaborating with one another for ministry, through reading and contributing to the synod's intercongregational communication ministry of **What Matters**. Keep sending us your invitations to walk together for it is together that we are called to take God's promises to heart!

Blessings on the new day,
Deacon Vicki Hanrahan
Assistant to the Bishop
for Synodical Life
vickih@scsw-elca.org

Keep Everyone Connected in the New Year!

Some of you are starting to send me email addresses as you elect new leadership at your annual meetings. Thank you! As a reminder to others that have not yet held your annual meetings, as you elect new council members, remember to sign them up for What Matters to help them stay connected to their synod and larger ELCA church!

Send me their email addresses and do let them know you are doing that or you can direct them to the synod website to sign up: [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin | What Matters / News \(scsw-elca.org\)](https://www.scsw-elca.org/what-matters)

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan
Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life
(Editor, What Matters)
vickih@scsw-elca.org



Please help us frame up our work for the new year!

We are asking all congregations to fill out the SCSW Racial Equity Team Survey

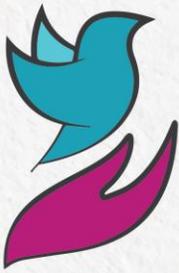
Thank you to those who have responded. This team has extended the deadline to respond to the survey. Please do take a moment to provide them with your feedback as they could use more input to make this survey impactful.

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.





HOLDING LOOSELY

EXTRAVAGANZA 2021

**ELCA YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK EXTRAVAGANZA 2021
FEBRUARY 4 – FEBRUARY 6**

What's the Plan?

The goal for Extravaganza 2021 is to answer 5 questions together:

- How do we help our people navigate the grief of losing "normal?" How do we navigate that same grief ourselves?
- How do we care for ourselves in the midst of accompanying others in their pain?
- How do we navigate change?
- What should we do next?
- How do we find hope in the midst of chaos?

We know that right now, ministry is hard and that we all wrestle with these questions. Together, with the help of our speakers and workshop leaders, we are going to try to figure out a road map.

Extravaganza 2021 is going to be an all-online experience. But we are still going to experience spiritual renewal, continuing education and networking and connection. Extravaganza 2021 will help you get through the next year, and beyond. Sign yourself, and congregational colleagues, up today!

Extravaganza Speakers:

We've got a great line up of dynamic and wise speakers!

- Rev. Kelly Chatman
- Kelly Sherman-Conroy
- Dr. Scott Comrode
- Rev. Angela T. Khabeb

Learn more about our speakers! [ELCA Youth Ministry Network - Speakers and Musicians \(elcaymnet.org\)](https://elcaymnet.org)

Learn more about the theme: [ELCA Youth Ministry Network - Theme \(elcaymnet.org\)](https://elcaymnet.org)

Extravaganza for \$50?

Yes! It's true! This year, given everything that's going on, we wanted to make the Extravaganza as accessible as possible. You've got two options:

1. Register yourself for \$50. That's it. No other hidden costs.
2. For \$120, register as many people from your congregation as you want. Colleagues, volunteers, pastors, church councils, youth committees, you name it. No limit! Bring 'em all!

Register Now! [ELCA Youth Ministry Network - Extravaganza 2021 - On-Line! \(elcaymnet.org\)](https://elcaymnet.org)

Mission Moment



Did you know that when you put money in the offering plate, some of that comes back to you in the caring of your pastors and deacons? Our synod holds a contract with the Samaritan Counseling Center that provides counseling services to our synod's pastors and deacons their families. Healthy leaders are better leaders, so the availability of Dr. Dan Feaster is a gift to you as well!

ASSIST Counseling

All rostered clergy, deacons and their families are eligible for up to three ASSIST counseling visits. If additional counseling is needed, health insurance will then cover. To schedule a visit contact scheduling@samaritancounselingcenterwi.org or call 608-663-0763 ext. 100 and let them know this is for an ASSIST visit.

About Dr. Dan Feaster, D.Min., MSW, LCSW, SAC

Professional Background

Dr. Dan Feaster is the Executive Director, and Psychotherapist. He is a *Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) & Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC)*, and an ordained ELCA Lutheran minister.

Dan graduated from St. Louis University with his Master of Social Work (MSW) in 1983. He graduated from Lutheran School of Theology Chicago with his Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling in 1997.

Dan Feaster also teaches a [Rebuilding-Divorce](#) class for individuals going through a divorce, and a relationship class for individuals or couples dating or interested in dating.

Additional Training

Dan is certified to administer the Prepare-Enrich Relationship Inventory: a tool utilized to strengthen a couple's relationship, certified in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing): a Technique used to Help those Dealing with Trauma, and is trained in Executive Coaching. Dan has also completed our specialized training to integrate one's own faith into the therapy process. For more information, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Dan is a licensed *Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC)* and completed part of his training through UW-Madison.

Areas of Focus

Dan's therapeutic approaches may include: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Family Systems Therapy, Brief Solution Focused Work, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in working with:

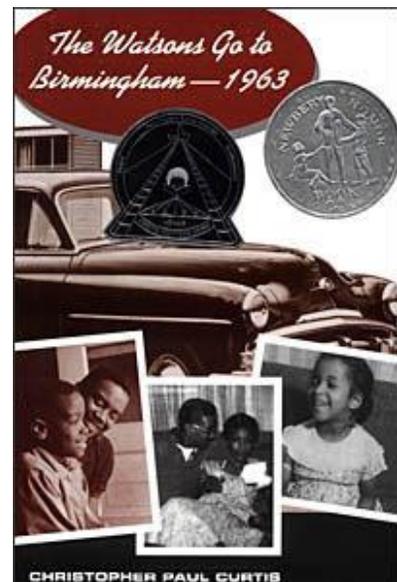
- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Grief Counseling

- Anxiety Disorders
- Dissociative Disorders
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Pre-Marriage Counseling
- Marriage Enrichment & Divorce Prevention
- Separation & Divorce Adjustment
- Career Issues
- Faith Issues
- Clergy Issues
- Divorce/Blended Family Issues
- Gay/Lesbian Issues
- Chemical Dependency
- Gambling Addictions
- Cults or Gangs Involvement

Dan works with Couples, Children (5+), Adolescents (Ages 13-17), Adults (Ages 18+), and Senior Adults (Ages 60+) including individuals with disabilities.

Outside of Work

Dan has studied martial arts for many years and holds a third degree black belt. He also teaches the self-defense class at the Samaritan Counseling Center. Dan enjoys being a part-time magician and performing magic for others. Dan loves music and enjoys playing the guitar, playing tennis, and spending time with his family of four adult children and their spouses.



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) or if you have any questions. **You can also call Janna Smith at: 262-215-6892**



Eastside Madison Conference Churches, ELCA

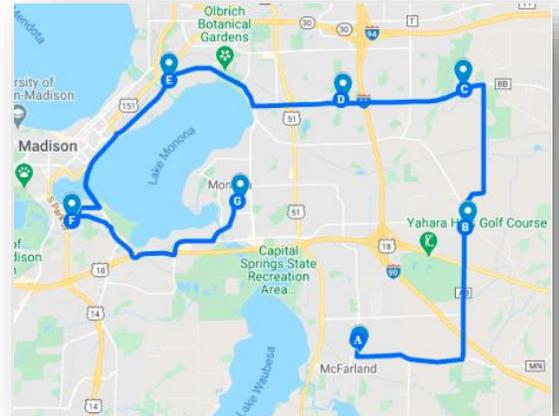
One more day...ends
tomorrow
January 6, 2021

This What Matters story writer will be there tonight ...if you participated, please send me an email...I'd love to include your comments! vickih@scsw-elca.org

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!



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

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 Robyn Zimmerman: robynz@scsw-elca.org

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan: vickih@scsw-elca.org Rev. Walter Baires: walterb@scsw-elca.org

Rev. Steve Kottke: stevek@scsw-elca.org

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 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

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. Please notify Deacon Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!

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 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 (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. 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)

Future Synod Gatherings/Meetings/Events:

2021

- Jan 5 Equipping the Saints Webinar with Bishop Joy – 2:00 pm**
- Jan 9 Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon – online**
- Jan 7 East Dane Conference Meeting – 9:00 am online**
- Jan 7 Sauk/Columbia Conference Meeting – 9:30 am online**
- Jan 7 Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Jan 12 Synod Ministry Teams Lunch ‘n Learn - 12:00 pm online**
- Jan 13 South Jefferson/Walworth County Conference Meeting – 10:00 am online**
- Jan 13 Synod Assembly Revisioning Team Meeting – 10:30 am – online**
- Jan 14 Synod Council Meeting – 4:00 pm - online**
- Jan 14 Diakonia Class – Practical Ministry: Biblical Images...Life of the Church – 6:00-9:00 pm online**
- Jan 14 WELCA Book Discussion – 7 pm via webinar**
- Jan 16 Diakonia Class – Faith in the American Context – 9:00 am – noon – online**
- Jan 21 Beaver Dan Conference Meeting – 10:00 am - online**
- Jan 25 SCSW Racial Equity Team Open House – 4:30 pm - online**
- Jan 28 SCSW Children, Youth & Family Networking – 10:30 am – noon - online**

*** Meets weekly**

PRAYERS (Note: If you have edits to your information, please email them to Robyn Zimmerman at robynz@scsw-elca.org as she manages the prayers for What Matters). Thank you.

Social Media Team/Website

Marsha Schwanke, Bristol, Sun Prairie
Trevor Thom, Immanuel Evangelical, Watertown, WI

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

Members of Luther Valley, Beloit, WI
Pastor Tim Dean and Pastor Kelli Schmit, Pastors and Members of McFarland Lutheran, McFarland, WI

Neighboring Synods:

Bishop Donald P Kreiss , the Staff, and the congregations of the Southeast Michigan Synod

Churchwide Partners:

The Rev. Amsalu T Geleta., Director for Evangelical Mission, Delaware – Maryland
The Rev. Gil Waldkoenig, Director for Evangelical Mission West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

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

The Rev. Nancy Hoelter, January 05, 2003, Retired Pastor, Living in Racine, WI
The Rev. JoAnn Fabie, January 06, 1995, Retired Pastor, Living in Waunakee, WI , joannfabie@aol.com
The Rev. Dean Phillips, January 08, 1967, Retired Pastor, Living in Burnsville, WI r-dphillips@msn.com
The Rev. Michael Lee, January 12, 1997, Pastor of Common Ground Church, Lodi, WI
commongroundlodi@gmail.com

May these leaders continue to be blessed for service.



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/>

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

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.

Visit our website: www.scsw-elca.org



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.