

WHAT MATTERS January 12, 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



Rejoice in
HOPE,

be PATIENT in
suffering,

persevere in
PRAYER.

Romans 12:12 NRSV

What image comes to mind when you think of hope?

The synod's prayer team met last week as they do regularly to pray for you, our synod, our nation and our world. They shared their ideas on hope. One team member shared the poem below. Another shared that she sees an image of balloons, and even when a big gust of wind comes along and sweeps the balloons into the air, she always has one string of hope in her hand. Thanks to Deacon Meg Nielsen for the poem and Diane Padrutt of the synod's prayer team for inspiring this week's image on the cover of this issue. What image comes to your mind? For what do you hope? Give your requests to God.

Hope

It hovers in dark corners
before the lights are turned on,
it shakes sleep from its eyes
and drops from mushroom gills,
it explodes in the starry heads
of dandelions turned sages,
it sticks to the wings of green angels
that sail from the tops of maples.

It sprouts in each occluded eye
of the many-eyed potato,
it lives in each earthworm segment
surviving cruelty,
it is the motion that runs
from the eyes to the tail of a dog,
it is the mouth that inflates the lungs
of the child that has just been born.

It is the singular gift
we cannot destroy in ourselves,
the argument that refutes death,
the genius that invents the future,
all we know of God.

It is the serum which makes us swear
not to betray one another;
it is in this poem, trying to speak.

"Hope" by Lisel Mueller from

Alive Together. © Louisiana State University Press, 1996.

Talking Together as Christians About Tough Social Issues

by Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life

I have been in several conversations these last few weeks in which people have reported instances of attendees “walking out” of meetings, albeit virtual meetings, because someone has been offended by another’s comment. I have also sat in meetings where people have communicated as if everyone in the “room” has the same political leanings; I can understand how that may alienate those who do not share their opinions and at the same time, do not feel the space is safe enough to share their differing viewpoints.

As people who strive to model the loving behavior of our risen Lord, I know we can do better. Talking about social issues together from the perspective of our faith is something that Christians can learn to do or do better and with more spiritual depth. Perhaps this is a time to get back to basics.

When I served as a council president of my church many years ago, I was taken to task about a conversation taking place in our church about whether we should build two high schools. I remember listening and then asking the person “Why wouldn’t the church be the absolute best place to have a conversation where everyone could feel safe to share their viewpoints as they would be among people whom they were already in a caring relationship?” That became the turning point in the conversation.

Even still, in our church families, it takes courage and the fruits of the spirit because as the authors of the resource I am about to recommend point out, “a given issue can affect some people in very different ways than it does others—due to what they have experienced, where they have come from, and individual personality differences. Talking about these things together brings these differences out in the open, which can be risky.”

They further explain, “Some people fear that disagreement on an issue will divide a congregation and threaten relationships in the congregation as well as in the wider community. That can happen, but it does not necessarily have to happen. Disagreements can become destructive when congregations do not have the attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, skills, and behavior to talk together constructively. However, if those who shape the life of a congregation give clear, reassuring signals that “we talk about matters like that here,” and if the congregation has developed the habit and learned practices for doing so, this begins to feel like a natural part of what it means to be a church. When issues arise, they must be talked about, and these congregations feel confident that they can talk about them.”

It is right to remember that Christians fulfill their vocation diversely and have many different gifts, so they will often disagree passionately on the kind of responses they make to social questions. So, in these conversations many questions need attention, and many viewpoints are helpful. All participants have something to contribute. The resources available provided by the Church in Society unit of the ELCA invite you into this conversation that serves the gospel’s free course in the life of the world and where faith communities like ours can become a natural place where these holy conversations can take place.

I hope you will gather a cross-generational team to use these resources in your congregation. And I hope you will not give up. Take heart, knowing that our country, while discord has taken many forms, has experienced these divisions before; we can persevere as we know always, that our faith produces endurance, and our God is always with us.

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Click on the links:

[Talking Together as Christians mr.pmd \(elca.org\)](#)

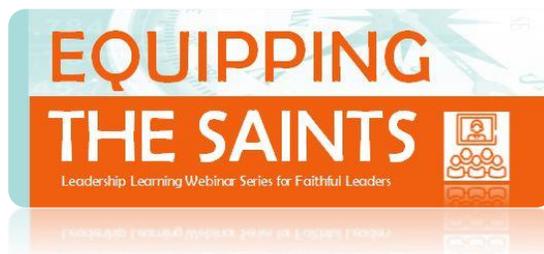
[Church SocietySS Introduction.pdf \(elca.org\)](#)



Conversations with the Bishop

January 19, 2021

All are invited to attend this bi-weekly webinar with Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe



Special Guest:
Rev. Kerri Parker
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Churches



Tuesday, January 19, 2021

2:00 – 3:00 pm via Videoconference

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

All rostered ministers will receive the link the morning of the event from our office.

If you miss it, our webinars are recorded and accessible on the synod website:

www.scsw-elca.org/webinars

PLANNING YOUR VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING?

Take note of this offer for synod staff to help:



Need to get your voting members trained up on Zoom? Synod staff has offered to conduct 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





“GROWING YOUNG”
A STAR Youth Ministry Initiative Series
(Small Town & Rural Ministry)

REGISTER VIA EMAIL WITH RACHEL MUELLER BY FEB. 1
rmueller.glc@gmail.com

You are invited to a Fuller Youth Institute Growing Young Training Series, Small Town & Rural edition!

WHAT WE KNOW

- We share a love and calling for the church and young people
- We desire deeper connections and networking with other leaders in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin small town & rural communities and other leaders in our church, as well as a hope for collaboration
- We know that young adults, who were active in their church in high school, are dropping out of church. We know our congregations are asking, where are the young people?
- We know that past research from the Exemplary Youth Ministry Study and similar studies shows that some congregations are not shrinking, they are retaining and involving their young people (ages 15-29) which brings overall vitality to the congregations.
- We hope this series will train leaders to work within the Synodical structures and our congregations to increase the number of youth and young adults involved in the life and leadership of the church
- We pray that because of this leadership training we will create pathways for increased leadership roles for younger people in our church

WHO IS INVITED?

We are inviting youth leaders, parents, grandparents, pastors, and all champions for youth discipleship from small town & rural congregations within a 30-40 mile radius from Grace Lutheran Church in Dodgeville to join in this training series. Designated staff and volunteers are most welcome. Pastors, if you do not have youth ministry staff or volunteers, we strongly encourage you to invite two or more adults of your congregation who are passionate about youth ministry to attend with you. Let's turn, "It's just me," into "I have a team!"

We believe this synergy of leaders will create a stimulating and innovative learning environment for training, discussion, and brainstorming. We can do so much more as a network of people working to develop and grow the faith of our young ones. Our youth aren't just our future, they are our today.

COST

We are asking for \$30 per participating congregations. You can mail a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church (1105 N Bequette St, Dodgeville, WI 53533) or go to our Donation tab on our website (<https://www.gracedodgeville.org/>) to make a one-time donation.

ABOUT

Leaders: Pastor Mark Williamson and Rachel Mueller of Grace Lutheran Church in Dodgeville. Rachel is the director of youth ministry at Grace as well as the coordinator for the STAR Youth Ministry Initiative, which is a pilot project of ELCA Domestic Mission and the South-Central Synod.

This training will run for eight 1.5 hour sessions over zoom. We will create a recurring link and share it with participants closer to the start of the training series. During each session, we will watch a 25-30 minute training video, followed by discussion and training worksheet. There will also be supplemental 5 minute videos showcasing congregations who are successfully Growing Young.

Each session will begin at 6:00pm and end no later than 7:30pm. We will begin Thursday, February 4th, and conclude on March 25th.

Registration Opens on January 11th and closes February 1st. To register, email Rachel Mueller (rmueller.glc@gmail.com) with the name of your congregation and number of participants. Additional Growing Young Resources for leaders, pastors and congregations can be found at <https://churchesgrowingyoung.com>

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.



Farmer Angel Network Virtual Program for Farmers Wednesday, January 13, 1-2:30 pm

The Farmer Angel Network will be hosting the January program "Financials on the Farm"- two-part presentation featuring **Peggy Olive, Extension University of Wisconsin financial capabilities specialist - "Helping Others Reach Their Financial Goals"**

Take the time to consider the dreams that you have for you and your family. Whether your dream is to retire early, send your kids to college, take a nice vacation, be debt-free, or simply to make ends meet each month, having these dreams in mind will help you stay positive and motivate you to keep going. It is OK to dream....in fact, it's required! Take some time to make a list of those things that you dream about for your family's future. Have members of your household do the same and then talk about it. Nothing is too big or too small....include them all! In this month's education series, Peggy Olive from the UW Madison Division of Extension, will share tips related to financial goal-setting, along with some skills to practice for having financial conversations. Part two - **DATCP staff, Michael Lochner & Frank Friar will join us highlighting Wisconsin Farm Center financial assistance programs.**

There is no cost but pre-registration is required to obtain the Zoom link and digital participant worksheets. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/FarmerAngelNetworkFarmFinancials> or email: alana.voss@wisc.edu by Jan. 11.



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)

ASSIST COUNSELING MAY BE JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

Being pulled in too many directions? Needing **assistance** navigating through these tumultuous times? Our synod holds a contract with the Samaritan Counseling Center that provides counseling services to our synod's pastors and deacons and 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

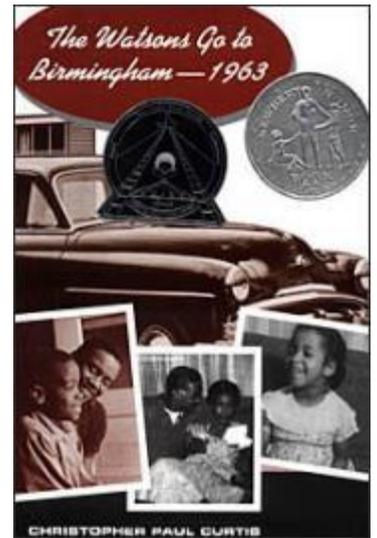
Dr. Dan Feaster is the Executive Director, and Psychotherapist. He is a *Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) & Substance Abuse Counselor (SAC)*, and an ordained ELCA Lutheran minister. Dan graduated from St. Louis University with his Master of Social Work (MSW) in 1983. He graduated from Lutheran School of Theology Chicago with his Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling in 1997. He 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. 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.



Join the WELCA Women of our Synod for a Book Discussion

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

THIS WEEK! 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**

A message from Bonnie Gilbertson, WELCA treasurer:

Thank you to all church WELCA units for your generous support to the general fund as well as to Pennies for Poverty. I know many WELCA units are having problems collecting for the Thankoffering, which is very understandable, seeing we are not having in-person church services. Try asking your members to mail their offering to you. Treasurers, fill out [Form B](#) and mail these Thankofferings to ELCA Gift Processing in Virginia (address is on Form B).

We have had a trying year not getting together. Try keeping communication open with the women in your congregation. We are looking forward to eventually getting together. We are asking our conferences to consider holding a late spring or summer gathering, possibly outside.

We continue to plan for a fall retreat/biennial gathering on September 24-25th at Lutherdale. We can then thank God for seeing us through these trying times, for strengthening our faith and trust in Him for we have been so richly blessed.

Our fiscal year ends on January 31st, 2021. All offerings must be received by me prior to that date. Please send them soon, using [Form A](#).

May God continue to give us strength. We trust that this virus will soon pass and we can worship and gather together as one body in Christ.

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: stevk@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!

NEW! Business Administrator - Luther Memorial Church, Madison.

Luther Memorial Church is seeking a part-time business administrator. A full position description is available on the church website: <https://www.luthermem.org> - to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Pr. Brad Pohlman at pohlman@luthermem.org (01/12/21)

New! Facilities Manager - Luther Memorial Church, Madison.

Luther Memorial Church is seeking a part-time facilities manager. A full position description is available on the church website: <https://www.luthermem.org> - to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Pr. Brad Pohlman at pohlman@luthermem.org (01/2/21)

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 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 16 Synod office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day**
- Jan 20 North Rock Conference Meeting – 12:00 – 1:00 pm online (Rescheduled from Jan 19)**
- Jan 21 Beaver Dam 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

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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

- Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong, Contracted Consultant, Our Savior's, Beloit
- Robyn Zimmerman, Synod Staff, Good Shepherd Madison & Verona

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. Jeff Vanden Heuvel and Rev. Mark Petersen, Pastors and Members of Messiah, Madison, WI
- Pastor Kathie Baardseth and Pastor Blake Rohrer and Rev. Ken Smith, Pastors and Members of Midvale Community Lutheran, Madison, WI

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Wilma S Kucharek, the Staff, and the congregations of the Slovak Zion Synod

Churchwide Partners:

- The Rev. John E Wertz, Jr., Director for Evangelical Mission, Virginia Synod
- The Rev. Danielle K DeNise, Director for Evangelical Mission North Carolina 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 Raabe, January 13, 2018, Pastor of Holy Trinity, Marshall, WI nancyraabe@gmail.com
- The Rev. Michelle Elfers, January 15, 2006, Pastor of St. John's Evangelical, Richland Center, WI pneuma0801@yahoo.com
- The Rev. Craig Simenson, January 18, 2015, On Leave from call, Living in Minneapolis, MN cfsimenson@uwalumni.com
- Deacon Phyllis Wiederhoeft, January 19, 1990, Retired Deacon, living in Verona, WI pwiederhoeft@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.