



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Christ said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you." (Jn. 14:27)

Dear Friends of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,
Greetings to you during this Lenten season. I write to you today to share news of staffing plans for the synod office. As you may know, rostered staff of the SCSW are co-terminus with the election of a new bishop. For us that means that Rev. Steve Kottke and Deacon Vicki Hanrahan have calls that end six months after a new bishop starts. Rev. Kottke has since retired from active ministry. Marie Leafblad will begin as Associate with the Bishop for Leadership on March 1st. This past week I informed Deacon Vicki Hanrahan that I would not be renewing her call. Her call concludes at the end of March. This was a very difficult decision to make. Vicki has served in the synod office for 13 years. She has been with you through many transitions and guided many events. Vick has served the ministries of our synod with professionalism. She has been a witness of faith for many around the synod. If you would like to send a card to Vicki please direct those to the synod office and we will present those to her.

My decisions about staffing also comes after prayer, discernment, and listening to what those around the synod lifted up in the town hall meetings last winter and in conversation since I took office. It also comes after a world and a church that has been turned upside down by a pandemic.

To that end, I see the need to adjust our staffing to better reach out across our synod to continue to rebuild trust and to extend our capacity to resource and connect with congregations and rostered leaders. My vision is that SCSW becomes known as the synod that loves Jesus and trusts one another in, through and with that love. I am excited to announce some new staff part-time positions:

- Associate to the Bishop for Relationships
- Associate to the Bishop for Generosity
- Communication Manager

I will begin filling these part-time positions in the coming days. If you would like more information about them or know of persons who may be interested, please have them be in contact with me.

In Christ,

Bishop Joy Mortensen - Wilke

Bishop Joy