



# South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## Synod E-newsletter

**Welcome to the interim synod newsletter!** While synod staff work behind the scenes on our communication strategy, we felt it was important to keep up regular communications from the synod.

See below for an invitation to a synod-wide listening session, survey reminder, and information about upcoming events, including the 2024 Youth Gathering.

# *Synod Listening Session*

## *June 28*

## Join the Conversation

**You are invited to join us at our Synod-wide Listening Session on:**

**Tuesday, June 28 from 6:30 to 8pm**

Our Savior's in Sun Prairie  
550 Lincoln Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

*or*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Horeb  
315 E. Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI 53572

The same content will be offered at each location; please choose the venue that is most convenient for you. No RSVP is needed.

**At this gathering, we will have the opportunity to share our concerns and laments regarding the current struggles of our church.** We will have a time of

prayers of laments, we will practice the RESPECT guidelines during our conversations, and we will be spending some time together to **begin a discerning process that can lead us to a call for transformative actions.**

**We are the church together.**

Please note, a Zoom listening session will be held at a later date.

If you have questions or hesitations, please contact Rev. Walter Baires, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission, at [walterb@scsw-elca.org](mailto:walterb@scsw-elca.org).

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## Communication Survey Still Open!

**Thank you to all who have completed the communication survey so far.** If you haven't already done so, read all about it below, then click on the button to take the survey!

**The survey is in three (short!) parts and should take about 5 to 10 minutes to complete:**

**Part 1 asks about the kind of information from the synod you would find most useful and helpful.** There are also a few questions about frequency of communication and where you are mostly likely to look for info from the synod.

**Part 2 asks about your ministry!** We know that the options included in this section can't possibly cover all of the good work you are doing in Jesus' name. Please view this as the beginning of a longer conversation and opening the door to greater collaboration amongst our synod congregations.

**Part 3 is the shortest section and asks for your name and your congregation's name.** This gives us a head start on making connections among congregations engaged in similar ministry. It also allows for easier follow up if we have questions or curiosities.

Thank you in advance for your time in completing this survey. **The survey will remain open from now until Friday, June 24.**

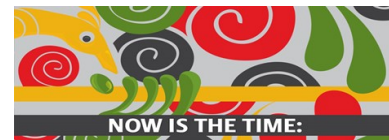
**Take the  
Survey!**

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## Upcoming Events

**Now is the Time - Study and Discussion**

"Now is the Time" is a new study guide that helps congregations wrestle with the meaning of the "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent."



The Synod Racial Equity Ministry Team and the Synodical Women of the ELCA invite you to participate in a guided discussion on the Declaration.

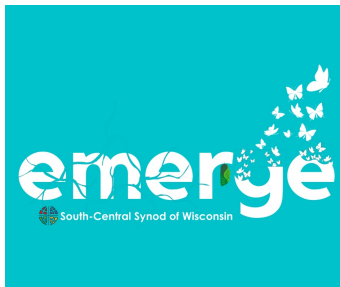
All sessions will take place via Zoom. The first session was on May 23. **The next session will be on Monday, June 20.**

**If you were not able to attend the first session, but would still like to participate, click on the button below to sign up.**

Click [here](#) for more information about the study, process, future gathering dates, and links to the participation guide and other study materials.

[Register for Now Is the Time Study](#)

## Emerge Youth Retreat, July 29 - 31, 2022



### Deadline Extended - Register Soon!

**Synod youth are invited to attend the Synod Youth Retreat** this summer at the Bethel Horizons Camp and Retreat Center in Dodgeville, Wis. This retreat is open to all youth going into 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade across our South-Central Synod. Invite friends! Invite family! **You all are welcome.**

**The special guest speaker for the weekend is Pastor Jenny Sung**, who serves as a specialized "free-range pastor" in the ELCA. This means Pastor Sung spends her time preaching, speaking, writing, and coaching leaders how to heal through brave love and beloved community.

**The retreat will include** worship, campfire time, large and small group games, hands on service projects, and use of the adventure space at Bethel Horizons. Expect the unexpected as the Holy Spirit weaves through our time together inspiring friendships, faith, and camaraderie.

**On-site lodging options** include cabins or camping. If you prefer not to stay overnight, a commuting option is also available.

Click [here](#) for more information. Click the button below to register!

[Register for Emerge Youth Retreat](#)

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering News

Did you know that the Gathering is planned almost exclusively by volunteers? As we ramp up for the 2024 Gathering, we're opening applications for one of our 10 planning teams. Consider applying to serve the young people of our church!



**Applications will be accepted until June 24.**

Click the button below for the 2024 Gathering website where you will find information about how to apply and can sign up to receive gNews, the Gathering email newsletter.

[Take Me to the Gathering Website!](#)

Care - Connect - Equip

