



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Fund for Leaders - Applications Open *Celebrating with Recipients Present and Past*



In late September Christopher Beaver, a member of Luther Memorial in Madison, was awarded a full scholarship to Luther Seminary through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. This year, the Fund for Leaders celebrates 25 years of providing scholarships to individuals pursuing rostered ministry in the ELCA.

For the academic year 2022-2023, 375 students will receive a portion of \$3.5 million in scholarship awards. **For many, this is a life-changing gift that will enable them to fully answer God's call to ministry.**

Christopher has this to say about his scholarship:

*"When I finally answered the call to ministry of Word and Sacrament late last year at age 42, I gained an incredible sense of calm and peace as I set off on this new journey. Now, as an ELCA Fund for Leaders scholar, I am grateful to all those generous donors who help make going to seminary possible for the next generation of church leaders. This program will not only pay my tuition but will also allow me to expand my network of friends and siblings in ministry throughout the ELCA. **I believe it is important to support those who seek candidacy to become pastors and deacons; and with the loving support of the ELCA Fund for Leaders, people of all ages can answer God's call free of the burden of student loan debt and knowing there is a support system available to them now and into the future. Thank you to all those who make the ELCA Fund for Leaders possible!"***

The Rev. Sally Williams, who serves at St. John's Lutheran in Prairie du Sac, is a previous recipient of the Fund for Leaders award. Rev. Williams shared the following regarding this gift:

"Receiving the Fund for Leaders in Mission Award was a life-changing gift. It allowed me to dive into my studies and grow into my identity as a leader in the church without the burden of financial stress. My first call process could focus on finding the best setting where my gifts and the church's needs met rather than the concern for financial stability directing the process. It has been powerful to watch this fund grow from supporting the 16 of us to the many people who have received it over the years. My gratitude runs deep."

If you are interested in supporting the ELCA Fund for Leaders with a financial gift to help enable future leaders to follow their call to ministry, please click [here](#).

The next opportunity to apply for an ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship began November 15, 2022 and will close on February 25, 2023. To learn more about the Fund for Leaders, eligibility, and how to apply, click the button below.

[Learn More about the ELCA Fund for Leaders](#)

Synod News and Events

Synod Staff Update!

We are delighted to share that we have made great progress in filling the two administrative positions in the synod office.

Shane Reich will join the synod staff as the Director of Candidacy and Operations on Monday, November 28. We will formally introduce Shane in the next synod newsletter.

We are interviewing for the second administrative position and are hopeful that both positions will be fully staffed soon.

Thank you again for your prayers and your patience throughout this process.

Region 5 Gathering



The synod staff attended the Region 5 Bishops and Staff Retreat from November 9-11, in Dubuque, IA. The gathering included leaders from synods in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Upper Michigan.

Our speaker was Dr. Miguel de la Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. We were blessed by his thought-provoking keynotes encouraging us to speak truth to the powerless and explore our Christian faith from the margins.

Synod staff members also took advantage of the time to connect and re-connect with their counterparts from around Region 5, building relationships and sharing best practices regarding mobility, holy closure, communication, and more.

Synod Office Move Update - Watch Your Inbox!



The Synod Office will be officially moved out of the space on Odana Road by November 22. Our lease agreement ends on November 30.

Details regarding the new synod mailing address, location of synod files, phones, how to reach the synod staff, and more will be sent in a separate, dedicated email to rostered leaders and congregations by early next week at the latest.

The Synod Office Relocation Team (SORT) is pleased to report that conversations with the council and leadership of Lakeview Lutheran in Madison regarding the synod office sharing space there are progressing. We will continue to update rostered leaders and congregations as that process continues.

Churchwide Updates

Young Adults in Global Ministry (YAGM) Applications Now Open!

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program is ready for new volunteers! This year, for the first time since early 2020, YAGM participants are walking alongside our international neighbors. Now, it's time for the YAGM team to find the next volunteers ready to step out into the world. Do you know one of them? Applications are now open, and you can invite young adults on this journey abroad for the 2023-2024 program year.



Through YAGM, young adults will learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They'll become immersed in a new community and form deep relationships. And they'll confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

For a downloadable poster you can print and post in your ministry setting, click [here](#).

For more information about YAGM and how to apply, click the button below.

[Learn More about YAGM!](#)

Indian Boarding Schools: ELCA Initiative

The ELCA is beginning a coordinated effort to research Lutheran involvement in Indian boarding and day schools dating back to the 1820s and is seeking both clergy and lay people who want to be part of this initiative. All are welcome, with a particular need for people with skills in research, data collection, organizing, and education. The goal is for our church members to know the history of church-sponsored Indian boarding schools and their devastating impacts on Native communities, and to participate in an ongoing truth and healing process.

Click on the button below to learn more and join the work of this initiative.

[Join the ELCA Truth-seeking and Truth-telling Initiative](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities

Below are a few Continuing Education and other learning opportunities that the Synod Office has been made aware of, which may be of interest to our rostered and lay leaders.

Protecting Places of Worship - Training Session



The SCSW was recently made aware that the U.S. Attorney's Office, along with the FBI, Dane County Emergency Management, Department of Homeland Security, Madison Police Department and others, are putting together a half-day session on Protecting Places of Worship.

This discussion will take place on **Wednesday, November 30, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Madison Police Department Training Center, 5702 Femrite Drive in Madison.**

The training will include emergency planning, information about grants available for improving worship space physical security, and how to respond to armed assailants in a worship setting.

Click the button below for more information, including a link to a survey regarding desired

outcomes and information.

Protecting Places of Worship Training Information

Proclaiming the Word of God Preaching Course

The Madison Learning Community invites you to participate in Proclaiming the Word of God, a seminary-level preaching class "that will equip both new and seasoned ministry leaders to preach with faithfulness and clarity."

The course will be co-taught by the Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen and the Rev. Dr. Jessica Patchett and is offered Tuesday evenings beginning January 24 through April 18, 2023.

Click the button below to view a promotional flyer from the Madison Learning Community and to learn how to register for this continuing education opportunity.

Proclaiming the Word of God Class Information

Synod Comings, Goings, and Celebrations

Installation in December

December 4, 2022

Pastor Ellen Stelzle
St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon

Helpful Links

Staff Contacts



Congregations in Transition



Ministry Teams



Job Openings



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA | 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, WI 53719

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