



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Grace and peace to you all, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the past few years, we have had an annual theme that served as a thread running throughout synod events. This year's theme revolves around partnership: Partner in Theology; Partners in Relationship; Partnership for the Sake of the Gospel.

From the very beginning, God created us to be in community. In Genesis God says, "it is not good" for humans to be all on their own. We are better able to carry out the ministry God gives to each of us when we do so together. Thanks be to God, that's what we do! Rostered leaders and congregational members partner with each other within our individual congregations to create meaningful worship services, inspiring education ministries for all ages, and to provide care for those in need. Congregations partner with other congregations and ministries to expand their reach through collaboration and shared ideas. The synod and congregations partner together to share resources, provide support, and to offer a bold witness to our communities and to the world.

We do the work of ministry most effectively when we do so in partnership. As I reflect on the ministry the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin carried out in 2024, I find myself grateful for the many ways I see partnership showing up in our work together. Congregations have explored shared ministry ideas, from combining youth and confirmation ministries to working together on outreach projects. Congregations have opened their space for synod events such as LEAD, synod assembly, and more. Rostered leaders are gathering together for text study and mutual support.

What a gift to be a part of this partnership with all of you! My prayer for you as we enter 2025 is that we will all continue to work together for the sake of the gospel. For indeed, God created us to be in community, to be in partnership with one another. Christ redeems us for our own sake but also for the sake of the world. The Spirit calls, gathers and enlightens the people of God, strengthening us for service in and for all of God's creation.

God bless your annual meeting, and your ministry.

In Partnership,

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

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