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Questions used for the videos and during the Assembly vote are a compilation from various sources. The committee used the Report of the Fall Gathering of Conferences, the Reconciling in Christ team, and suggestions submitted directly to the Bishop Election Committee. We wish to thank all who sent in suggestions and aided in the development of questions for the candidates.

This process is an important part of our life together as a synod, and the bishop that is elected will be called to take our synod into the next level of ministry defined by you, the members of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. We look and pray for the movement of the Holy Spirit as we enter the final selection process as part of our Synod Assembly.

- Rev. Vicki Watkins and Vickie Stretz, co-chairs, and members of the Bishop Election Committee

Additions to Mobility List from Jan - Mar

full list at milwaukesynod.org/congregations-in-transition

New Congregations in Transition

Atonement, Muskego (lead pastor) – Ministry Site Profile posted

Living Christ, Germantown (solo pastor) – names received

St. Luke, Slinger (solo pastor) – call accepted

St. Luke's, Greendale (solo pastor) – names received

New Change of Status for Rostered Ministers

Rev. Kathy Brown, from transition pastor at St. Luke's, Greendale to interim pastor at St. Mary's, Kenosha

Rev. Jaime Larson-McLoone, from candidate to called pastor at Bethel, Muskego and shared pastor at Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls

Rev. Elizabeth Lee, from called pastor at Cross, Burlington to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Rev. Paul Nuechterlein, from bridge pastor to called pastor at Bethlehem, Muskego

Rev. David Patterson, from interim pastor at Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls to retired & bridge pastor at St. Luke, Slinger

Rev. Sheila Rawn, from bridge pastor at St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa to bridge pastor at St. Luke's, Greendale

Rev. Jessica Short, from On Leave from Call to associate transition pastor at Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Died

Rev. James Niederloh died on Feb. 12. Among the congregations he served since his ordination in 1967 are Trinity, South Milwaukee and St. Paul's, Kenosha. Pastor Niederloh retired in 1998 and remained in our Greater Milwaukee Synod. We give thanks to God for his life and ministry. Here is a link to his obituary: bruchfuneralhome.net/obituary/pastor-james-jim-niederloh. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS UPDATE

You will be hearing more about the Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal at our coming Synod Assembly. We will celebrate the gifts already received; watch video stories of innovation, collaboration, and leadership that are already happening; and go home with an Equipping the Saints coffee mug! Funds were put to work this month in providing fund-raising training for Outreach for Hope and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Learn more at equippingthesaintsgms.org

'22 FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

September 26 - 28 @ Green Lake Conference Center (Green Lake, WI)

Featuring the Rev. Tyler Sit, church planter and author of *Staying Awake: the Gospel for Changemakers*, and Brian Schroeder, Worship Coordinator at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, MN.

Registration to open by June 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training for Rostered Ministers: 5/3, Martin Luther, Milwaukee

2022 Synod Assembly: 5/20 - 21, Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

GMS Youth Gathering: 7/27 - 30, Crowne Plaza MKE South

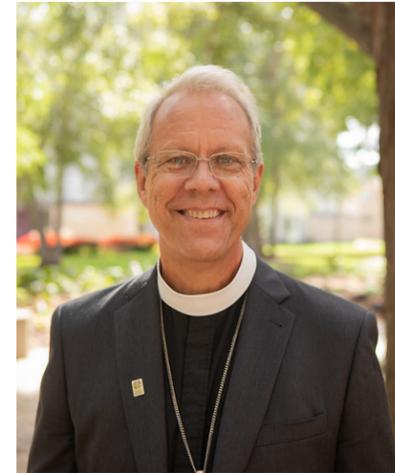
"I'm Curious About...": Every 4th Tuesday, Zoom

milwaukesynod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

LIFE TOGETHER | SPRING 2022



Notes from the Bishop

*Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.*

("Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers,"
All Creation Sings, Hymn #938, text by John Bell)

As we begin to emerge from this very long and challenging pandemic era, it feels like we are taking tentative steps into an uncertain future. We may be wondering when the next Coronavirus variant will arise, and whether the resulting increase in case numbers will be a little ripple or another tsunami that will send us back into masks and lockdowns. We may be wondering if it is safe to gather as we used to before the pandemic, and if we do, whether everyone will return. We may be wondering if our congregations and communities will recover from the challenges of recent years, and if they do, what they will look like.

This might be just a little bit like what the disciples were feeling in those early days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, when scripture records that they were fearful, tentative, and unsure. It took them a while before they became the bold and fearless apostles that built the church and transformed the world, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

How long will it take us to overcome the fears and uncertainties that fill our minds and hearts and embrace God's future with boldness? How long will it take us to embrace the truth that we cannot go back to how things were before—we can only go forward? We are called to be an Easter people, proclaiming that "Christ is risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been: evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen."

As much as we may be inclined to fret about what we are going to do, and how we are going to make things right, we need to recognize that God is already alive and well and moving in our world, and we are simply being invited to join God in the ancient work of transformation, inviting more and more people into life-giving and life-changing relationships with Jesus. This is God's church, this is God's world, and we are simply instruments of God's justice and mercy, connecting others to the new life that awaits us all.

In Easter hope,

Bishop Paul Erickson



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2022 Synod Assembly | May 20 - 21 Hybrid (Italian Community Center, Milwaukee and online via Zoom)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Krish O'Mara Vignarajah is the President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, overseeing a significant growth in the size and scope of the organization. She frequently appears on media outlets (CNN, MSNBC, NPR, etc.) to provide insight and analysis of current issues and challenges related to immigrants and refugees. She previously served in the Obama White House as Policy Director for First Lady Michelle Obama and at the State Department as Senior Advisor under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Krish has committed her career to public service because she knows how differently life could have turned out. Krish was nine months old when she and her family escaped a country on the brink of civil war and built a life in Maryland. Her parents came to this country with no jobs and \$200 in their pockets. She will speak on our assembly theme, "We Love All: Creating Communities of Welcome."

WORSHIP LEADER

Deacon John Weit serves as executive for worship of the ELCA. In this role, John oversees the work of the worship team within the churchwide organization and provides leadership on behalf of the presiding bishop in matters related to worship. This includes developing and implementing strategies and resources that support worship in synods, congregations and other local worship assemblies across the ELCA as well as planning and worship leadership for churchwide events. Prior to his call to the churchwide organization, John served as musician for congregations in Pennsylvania and most recently as cantor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, Mass. John earned a Master of Arts in religion with a concentration in liturgy and music from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, now United Lutheran Seminary. As part of his work with the ELCA, John works closely with the board of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.



Deacon John Weit

PREACHER

Rev. Marilyn Miller, a lifelong Milwaukeean, has served for over 40 years as an educator. She was the pastor of The Lutheran Church of the Reformation for about a dozen years before retiring in 2020, and she also served as the President of Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAHA). She is now a member of Cross Lutheran in Milwaukee. Rev. Miller continues her commitment towards dismantling racism as a partner in Leading for Racial Equity, LLC. She is also serving as the General Chair of the synod's Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal.



Rev. Marilyn Miller

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Lori Fedyk, a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Libertyville, Ill., was elected to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by the ELCA Church Council in November of 2018. The ELCA treasurer is employed full-time by the Churchwide organization and is responsible for oversight of all financial operations of the organization. Lori will chair the bishop election process during the assembly.



Lori Fedyk

DEADLINES

April 30: Last day for early bird pricing. Last day to cancel registrations for a refund.

May 1: Registration prices increase by \$25.

May 15 at Midnight: Registration closes. Due to the elections process and voting technology, we are unable to accept late or walk-in registrations.

May 18 at Noon: Voting members receive voting credentials via email (if you do not, please contact us immediately at 414-671-1212).

COST

- **Youth** (18 or younger when elected/appointed), **Young Adults** (30 or younger when elected/appointed) and **retired Rostered Ministers:** \$120 early bird; \$145 beginning May 1
- **All other registrants:** \$210 early bird; \$235 beginning May 1

For more information, see our enclosed Synod Assembly Snapshot for Voting Members, and visit milwaukee-synod.org/event/2022-synod-assembly

An Update from the Bishop Election Team

The work of the Bishop Election Committee began with the Synod Council appointing Rev. Vicki Watkins, Village Church, Milwaukee and Vickie Stretz, St. Olaf, Rubicon, as co-chairs at their meeting in November, 2021. Those who volunteered to serve on the committee reflect our representational guidelines and were approved by the Synod Council at their January 2022 meeting. The members of the Bishop Election Committee include:

- Charlotte Linberry - Lake Park, Milwaukee
- Chuck Ellingson - Cross, Milwaukee
- Dan Christianson - Atonement, Muskego
- Jerry Key - Reformation Milwaukee
- Rev. Beth Ann Stone - Mt. Pleasant, Racine

We have been meeting since February preparing for the election at the May 20-21, 2022 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

In January 2022, the Synod Council also acted to approve the process for the bishop election which you can read here: <https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/2022-synod-assembly/>

Our first work has been the pre-identification of rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament for bishop. The opportunity to submit names for this process closed at midnight on March 15, 2022. Seven pastors were identified and two accepted the invitation to go forward: Bishop Paul Erickson and Rev. Michelle Townsend de Lopez.

These two pastors will videotape responses to predetermined questions which will be posted on the Synod Assembly website along with their biographical information form. We hope to have these posted the week of April 4, 2022. This information will be removed from the website when registration for Synod Assembly closes at midnight on May 15, 2022.

The first ballot for bishop is an ecclesiastical ballot. The ecclesiastical ballot is an open ballot on which voting members will write the name of an ELCA pastor to be nominated for the bishop election. Pre-identified pastors must also be nominated on this ballot in order to participate in the election process. 75% of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. Successive ballots are outlined in the Rules of Procedure for Bishop Election milwaukee-synod.org/event/2022-synod-assembly.

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