

Additions to Mobility List | October 5, 2022 - February 7, 2023

full list at milwaukee-synod.org/congregations-in-transition

New Change of Status for Congregations in Transition

Christ Our Savior, Sussex (FT lead pastor) – MSP posted

Christ the Servant, Waukesha (FT solo pastor) – Names received

Fox Point, Fox Point (FT associate pastor, YFM) – in interim

Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls (FT associate pastor) – CALL extended

North Cape, Franksville (FT solo pastor) – in interim

Prince of Peace, Milwaukee (FT solo pastor) – Names received

New Change of Status for Rostered Ministers

Rev. Jennifer Arnold, from Assistant to the Bishop in GMS, to interim ministry at Galilee, Pewaukee

Rev. Brad Brown, from called pastor at North Cape, Franksville to Synod call to Chaplaincy

Rev. Dr. Sandy Chrowstowski, from ELCA Churchwide Staff to synod call to interim ministry at Mt Olive, Mukwonago

Rev. Andy Fetters, from called pastor at St Mark's, Waukesha to called pastor at Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls

Rev. Frank Maxwell, transfer to East Central Synod of Wisconsin

Rev. Karen Pahl, from interim pastor at Mt Olive, Mukwonago to interim GMS financial administrator

Rev. Paula Ramcke-Wilke, OLC to retirement

Rev. David Rebey, from called pastor at Redemption, Milwaukee to called pastor at Breaking the Chains Congregation

Rev. David Shelstad, transfer to La Crosse Area Synod

Rev. Robert Suhr, from called pastor at Christ, Mequon to retirement

Rev. Dean Willich, from OLC to synod call to interim ministry at Lakeside, Kenosha

Rev. Krista Zimmerman, transfer to Metro Chicago Synod

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Died

Rev. Fred Hofer died on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Rev. Hofer was ordained in 1962 and began his ministry serving as a missionary in Ethiopia. He served as pastor at St John in Dorchester IL, St Stephen in Camp Douglas WI, Perry in Mt Horeb WI, and Our Savior in Racine WI. He also served as Director of Pastoral Care at Lincoln Lutheran in Racine until his retirement in 2003.

Deacon Carol Lauterbach died on Monday, October 31, 2022. She was a member at St John's, Jackson. For 30 years she taught in public and private schools. Deacon Carol was a teaching minister in the AELC, an Associate in Ministry and then a Deacon within the ELCA.

Rev. Edward Weiskotten died on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. He was ordained in 1955 in the United Lutheran Church. He served in a variety of calls over the years, including Resurrection Lutheran in Syracuse, NY from 1956-66; Campus ministry from 1971-73; Lake Park Lutheran, Milwaukee from 1973-76; Assistant to the Bishop in the LCA from 1977-87; Region 5, ELCA Coordinator from 1988-1994.

Rev. James F. Peters died on Saturday, December 3, 2022. Pastor Jim was ordained in 1965 in the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and served many calls over the course of his ministry before retiring in 2009. His calls included Assistant Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Minneapolis MN from 1965-68; Missionary in Tanzania from 1969-74; Pastor at Faith Lutheran, Pelkie MI from 1974-81; Pastor at Zion Lutheran, Superior WI from 1981-85; Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran, Racine WI from 1985-2009.

Rev. Alan R. Lindberg died on Friday, December 16, 2022. He was ordained on 6/12/60 and had many calls in WI before he retired in 2001. Some of the congregations he served include Luther Memorial Lutheran, Madison – 1963-67 as Assistant Pastor; St Mark Lutheran, Neenah – 1967-74 as Pastor; Trinity Lutheran, Fort Atkinson – 1974-83 as Pastor; St John's Lutheran, West Milwaukee – 1983-93 as Pastor; St Luke Lutheran, Slinger – 1993-2001 as Pastor.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 11, 9 am - 3 pm:

2023 Spring Anti-Racism Retreat
Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee

Tuesday, April 4, 9 - 11 am:

Chrism Mass for Rostered Ministers
Location TBD

Thursday, April 20, 9 am - 4:30 pm:

Introductory Anti-Racism Training
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine

Saturday, May 6, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Advanced Anti-Racism Training
Martin Luther, Milwaukee

Friday, June 2, 2 pm (new start time!) -
Saturday, June 3, 5 pm

Synod Assembly 2023
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

October 2 - 3

Fall Leadership Conference
Lutherdale

milwaukee-synod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod

Life Together | Winter 2023

Notes from the Bishop

“My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn.”

(The Cantic of the Turning, ELW 723)



These words make up the refrain of the closing hymn that we sang at the opening worship service for our Together in Mission event a few weeks ago. I find this hymn, with its words coming from the Magnificat of Mary, to be energizing and hope-filled, and I felt it was a fitting way to kick off the day. We focused our work that day on the progress of the Authentic Diversity audit, a nine-month process that we hope will guide us in our work toward becoming an anti-racist and fully inclusive church.

I recognize, however, that not everyone may find our work in this arena to be energizing and hope-filled. There may be those who believe that the world is already turning too fast, and they are exhausted as we try to navigate the constant changes and overwhelming uncertainty of this age. Others may be skeptical that the hopes expressed in the Magnificat will ever be realized, given that over 2,000 years have passed since this vision was first expressed, and countless promises of justice and renewal have been made and broken ever since. Still others, those who might identify themselves as part of the elite and powerful that Mary prophesies will be cast down, may feel a bit threatened by the impending reversal of fortune.

We need to remember, however, that this turning of the world toward one of justice, equity, and inclusion is not something that we can or will accomplish by ourselves. It's the work of the life-giving and life-changing Holy Spirit, who chooses to work in us and through us, and, if necessary, in spite of us to accomplish all that God envisions. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often said that “the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice,” but I have come to believe that it doesn't bend by itself. We need to partner with God and with one another to dismantle the structures and practices that obstruct the turning that the Spirit is working to accomplish, and we need to listen to the voices of all who have been harmed and diminished by the actions and inactions of this Church.

As we deepen our relationships with God, one another, and the neighbors we have too long ignored, God's Holy and surprising Spirit gives us hope and energy for the road ahead, wherever it may lead.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul Erickson

SAVE THE DATE: Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly 2023

Friday, June 2, 2 pm (new start time!) -
Saturday, June 3, 5 pm

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

P O Box 341695
Milwaukee, WI 53234

414-671-1212

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milwaukee-synod.org



@MilwaukeeSynod

2023 Synod Assembly Preview



We will gather for the annual business meeting of the synod, with our theme taken from the first of our synod's four core values: curiosity, courage, compassion, and collaboration. This year's assembly will begin a bit earlier, around 2:00 pm on Friday (the schedule is still being finalized) with our first plenary session. Friday evening will include the banquet and opening worship, with the Rev. Kenneth Wheeler preaching, followed by a dessert reception. Saturday morning will be spent receiving and discussing the final report and recommendations for our Authentic Diversity Audit, and our business will conclude Saturday afternoon. We will also be sharing the final product of the photographic storytelling project led by A Peace of My Mind throughout the assembly. When registration opens, we will make an announcement via our regular communication channels, including our weekly e-news and social media.

A Message from Pr. Afi Dobbins-Mays, Our New Assistant to the Bishop

"I am deeply honored and grateful to join the Greater Milwaukee Synod as the Assistant to the Bishop for Authentic Diversity and Leadership. God has brought me here from the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church, where I served as an ordained elder for many years and also as a leader in our conference in efforts to raise awareness and bring healing where oppression of all kinds, and especially, racial injustice are concerned. I have been warmly received by so many and offer my heartfelt thanks. I look forward to meeting and working in ministry with those I have yet to meet! Until then, God's blessings, grace, light and love be with you."

Pr. Afi can be contacted at afi@milwaukee-synod.org or 414-671-1212.



Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal Update



You have been hearing about the Equipping the Saints (ETS) mission appeal for almost three years with regular reports and updates toward the \$2.3 million goal; we are delighted to report that we have now received \$1 million in gifts and pledges! With \$725,000 in gifts received, the meaning and impact of the appeal is taking life in our synod.

One of the major initiatives of the campaign is work toward racial equity, through an Authentic Diversity Audit and the hiring of Pastor Afi Dobbins-Mays as an Assistant to the Bishop for Authentic Diversity and Leadership. A grant from the Siebert Lutheran Foundation has provided full funding for those initiatives, both of which are already having an impact on our synod life and ministries.

Two other initiatives of the campaign are taking life this spring with grants to congregations for innovation and leadership grants to individuals. Leadership grants will soon be available to rostered ministers for debt relief or continuing education and to BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ candidates for ministry or awaiting first call. We will also be sending a tithe on 2022 giving to LSS Refugee Resettlement, the ELCA Holy Innovations Fund, and to our global partners in El Salvador and Tanzania.

The campaign is currently inviting congregations to offer the opportunity to their members to give to the ETS appeal. During a five-week campaign, members see and hear stories of synod ministries or stories from our ministry partners that have already been touched and strengthened because of the gifts received. Congregations that have already participated in the campaign have experienced surprising generosity.

We invite congregations to send their stewardship team or other designated campaign leader to a leader training to learn how

to inform, inspire, and ask. It is easy as church to approach our work from the viewpoint of the disciples to "send the crowds away" (Matthew 14:15) because there isn't any food for them and the hour is late. All the while, Jesus says 'Relax. I will provide.' It's amazing how over and over we come from a mindset of scarcity and anxiety while God comes from abundance and trust. And again and again we end up surprised when God's abundance shines through.

Learn more and get involved at equippingthesaintsgms.org

Seeking Nominations for ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

Last year, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the structure of the ELCA, with particular attention to our shared commitment to dismantle racism. This group will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention. **If you're interested in working on this Commission, we invite you to call the Synod office at 414-671-1212 by Feb. 28.**

Thank You, Sonja, For Your Service!



On behalf of our synod, thank you to Sonja Wolfe, member of Lord of Life Lutheran in Kenosha, for her service on the ELCA Church Council! Sonja completed her term at the end of October.

In reflecting on her time on the Council, she said she was "honored and surprised to be asked." It was an opportunity that had never crossed her mind. When she was asked to serve, she thought, "Really, me?" But with that ask, she felt called to step up and lead.

In her time on the Council, Sonja appreciated seeing how things should work from churchwide down to congregations, and that no matter where people are, we all have a voice within the church. She noted that at the congregational level we don't always see the church as we want it to be and appreciate what it can be. She appreciated meeting ecumenical partners and the many different

people with whom she served. There were also challenges in learning to listen more deeply to understand where and when she needed to speak, particularly on issues of injustice or mistreatment.

In her reflection, Sonja stated, "I learned a lot about myself. I found that I was stronger than I thought I could ever be. I always prided myself on having an open mind and was able to see that in motion. Working on the "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent" was the beginning of healing for a lot of people, including myself. That can continue. We can't stop working to be better."

Sonja noted that she made life-long friends and connected with people she otherwise would never have met. "Experiences working with, talking with people, changes you for the better." She feels sadness in leaving this time and experience behind, but is looking forward to being a positive beacon with the anti-racism team of our synod.

We give thanks to you, Sonja, for representing us as a synod on the ELCA Church Council. We give thanks for all you brought to the Church Council and all you learned. We look forward to your continued leadership in our synod!



Starting Ash Wednesday, Outreach for Hope will be releasing 40 days of devotion videos from congregational and ministry leaders in our synod on the theme, "God Sightings: Seeing God's Movement in Our Day." Visit outreachforhope.org/lenten-devotions for more information on how to watch and support the series!