

Additions to Mobility List | February 8, 2023 - May 1, 2023

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

New Change of Status for Congregations in Transition

- Christ the Servant, Waukesha** (FT pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- Good Shepherd Trinity, Milwaukee** (ELCA/PCUSA - PT solo pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- Grace, Grafton** (FT solo pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- Lakeside, Kenosha** (PT solo pastor) – in interim
- Our Savior's, Oconomowoc** (FT associate pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- Prince of Peace, Milwaukee** (FT solo pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- Reformation, Brookfield** (PT solo pastor) – MSP posted
- Resurrection, New Berlin** (FT solo pastor) – in interim
- St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa** (FT senior pastor) – MSP posted and names submitted
- St. Mark's, Waukesha** (FT solo pastor) – in interim
- Trinity, Cedarburg** (FT solo pastor) – MSP posted

New Change of Status for Rostered Ministers

- Rev. Kelly Nieman-Anderson:** from called pastor at Resurrection, Racine to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- Rev. Frank Maxwell (retired):** transferred to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin
- Rev. Casey Sugden:** from interim ministry at Christ the Servant, Waukesha to interim ministry at Ascension, Milwaukee
- Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld:** from on leave from call to retired
- Rev. Tracy Polzin:** from on leave from call to the South Central Synod of Wisconsin
- Rev. Sara Gillespie:** from the South Central Synod of Wisconsin to interim ministry at St. Mark, Waukesha
- Rev. Chad Kline:** from on leave from call to resigned from the roster
- Rev. Mary Ubuntu:** from called pastor at Resurrection, New Berlin to retired
- Rev. Robert Kosky:** from the South Central Synod of Wisconsin to interim ministry at North Cape, Franksville

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Died

Rev. Marie Avilés-de Jesús died on Friday, March 17, 2023. Born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico in 1915, she worked in a variety of positions in New York before attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, graduating with her Master of Divinity degree in 1980. She then served at several congregations in the Bronx before moving to Milwaukee and serving as the Visitation Pastor at Our Saviors Lutheran Church from 1988 until her retirement in 2001. A tireless advocate for peace, justice, and equity, she is survived by her son, Miguel de Jesús, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and co-conspirators. Her funeral was held on March 22, and a Celebration of Life service will take place on Saturday, May 20 at 2pm at Ascension, Milwaukee.

Rev. Paul Lee died on March 16, 2023. Rev. Lee was ordained in 1959 and retired in 1989. He served at a number of different congregations during his ministry, including two congregations in Montana, a new start in Wabasha, Minnesota, a congregation in Ashland, WI & in Mason, WI, and as senior pastor at Dr Martin Luther, Oconomowoc. In retirement, Rev. Lee served as an interim pastor. Services for Rev. Lee were held on April 1, 2023. Please hold his wife, Barbara, their three children, Kevin, Kari and Kristen, along with extended family and friends, in your prayers.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 1, 6:30 pm

2023 Pride Worship Service
Ascension Lutheran, Milwaukee

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

Synod Assembly 2023
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Saturday, September 30

Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk
Learn more at OFHRRW.org

October 2 - 3

Fall Leadership Conference
Lutherdale

Saturday, October 28

Introductory Anti-Racism Training
In-Person Location TBD

milwaukee-synod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod

Life Together | Spring 2023



Notes from the Bishop

As part of a recent Carthage College board retreat, I was invited to participate in a values exercise. This involved reviewing a list of 64 values and deciding which values I held as most important, ultimately constructing a pyramid that listed my 10 core values in descending order. I found this to be a helpful exercise, as we are so often focused on where we are going and what we are doing to get there, that we can lose sight of the things that determine how and why we do what we do. Even though this exercise was primarily directed toward us as individuals, organizations and communities share common values, as well, and it can be helpful to reflect on and clarify the values that guide how we live our common lives.

You may recall that we engaged in just such a process several years ago, resulting in a statement of this synod's vision, mission, values, and practices (<https://milwaukee-synod.org/about-us/vision-mission-values/>). Our next four synod assembly themes will highlight the four values we hold in common: curiosity, courage, compassion, and collaboration. This year's theme, "Curiosity: Hear the Stories" will help us explore how we can live into the insights of the Authentic Diversity audit as we work to become a more anti-racist and fully inclusive church.

The connection between curiosity and diversity will be highlighted, in part, by a photography project led by John Noltner, of A Peace of My Mind. John visited our Together in Mission event in January and asked participants to have their picture taken and to share a brief response to this question: "When have you felt included or excluded from a group or community?" We will take time to receive the responses of the 55 individuals who answered this question, and we will ask members of the assembly to reflect on times that they, too, have felt included or excluded. I would guess that we all have such stories to tell, and that we have also been involved in excluding or including others, knowingly or unknowingly.

Our goal in this project is not to evoke feelings of guilt or shame, but to simply invite us all to remain curious and to listen deeply to the stories of others, even if those stories are difficult or painful to hear. We cannot grow as a church or as individuals if we do not learn, and we cannot learn if we do not listen. Our stories make us who we are; listening to one another is holy ground.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul Erickson

P O Box 341695
Milwaukee, WI 53234

414-671-1212

gmsoffice@milwaukee-synod.org

milwaukee-synod.org



@MilwaukeeSynod

Pr. Char Guiliani Appointed to ELCA Commission

Congratulations to Pr. Char Guiliani (they/them) for being selected as a member of the ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church! Pr. Char is Pastor at Incarnation Lutheran in Milwaukee, and Convenor of our synod's Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team.



The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to establish this Commission to reconsider the structure of the ELCA, with particular attention to our shared commitment to dismantle racism. This group will begin meeting this summer, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention.

"I am looking forward to the work ahead," Pr. Char says. "My hope is we can have the conversations necessary to move the ELCA forward and live into our values. I hope we can renew and truly be God's church so when someone sees "ELCA," no matter their location, they will know they are safe, welcomed and affirmed as who God has created them to be, God's Beloved Child."

Please keep Pr. Char and the Commission in your prayers, as the Spirit guides their important work in the coming months!

2023 Synod Assembly Preview

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

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Join pastors, deacons and lay leaders from across our synod for our annual Assembly as we meet to worship, enjoy fellowship, and vote on business including our budget and elected positions. At this year's event, we will also hear the results of our Authentic Diversity Audit and see the final photo storytelling project from our Together in Mission event.

Our theme for this year's Assembly is "Curiosity: Hear the Stories"! This name and our selection of artwork by Robyn Sand Anderson was inspired by our core value of curiosity and the hymn, *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*.

Keynote Dinner & Worship Tickets Now Available

Did you know that our Synod Assembly dinner and worship on Friday, June 2 are open to the public? Join friends from your congregation, and meet new ones from ELCA churches across our synod!



5:30 pm - Dinner & Keynote

Our keynote speaker is **Pardeep S. Kaleka**, a hate and violence prevention senior advisor with Not In Our Town, and the author of "The Gifts of Our Wounds." As a first-generation immigrant from India, he has spent more than 25 years in law enforcement, education and social services. He is the former director of the Interfaith Conference, and has worked on coalition-building efforts across ethnic, racial and religious differences following the death of his father in the 2012 hate killings at the Oak Creek Sikh Temple.



7 pm - Worship

Our preacher is **Rev. Kenneth W. Wheeler**, a retired ordained pastor in the ELCA, and a sought-after preacher, public theologian, and writer. Most of his writings, sermons, and lectures focus on faith, race, and social justice.

Dinner tickets are included for all registered Synod Assembly voting members, or may be purchased individually by the general public for \$50 each at milwaukeeelca.org/our-events/dinner-tickets. Worship is open to all; you do not need to register or be a member of the assembly to attend.

Authentic Diversity Audit Presenters

Dr. Shaunna Payne Gold is the Owner & Founder of GELLC with 26 years of experience in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategic planning, facilitation, Multicultural & Antiracist Organizational Development, Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation, Truth & Racial Healing Circles™, project management, and change management.

Dr. Lisa Ingarfield has a doctorate in Intercultural Communications and is a mixed methods researcher and evaluator, with additional certifications in program evaluation and survey methodology. She currently teaches in the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work, focusing on intimate partner violence, feminist social work, and state policy advocacy.

ELCA Representative

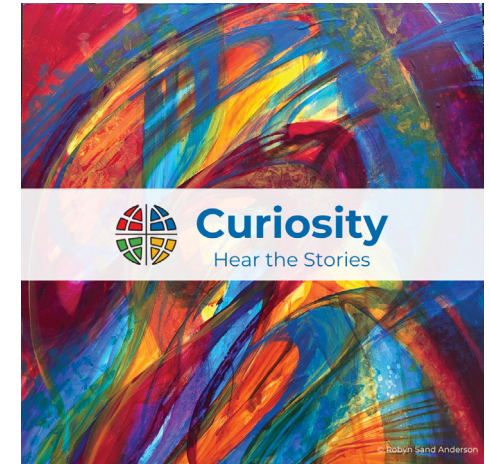
Rev. Kevin Jacobson serves as Director for Global Service on the ELCA Churchwide staff. He has worked in Lutheran global mission and education for over two decades. He is passionate about encouraging congregations to engage in God's global mission through the accompaniment model.



Information for Voting Members

Preparing for Assembly

- Add gmsoffice@milwaukeeelca.org to your email contacts to help ensure that you receive confirmations and important detailed emails prior to Synod Assembly.
- Materials and information will be shared directly with voting members at the email address you provided. If you neglected to include the voting members' personal information or if your email address changes, please contact us immediately so we can edit that person's form with the correct information.
- **This year's assembly is in-person only, and all voting will be voice or paper ballot.** No electronic voting.
- Synod Assembly work includes being informed about the resolutions, constitutional amendments, and elected positions that will be presented. We strongly encourage you to take the time to read through the information and be prepared for discussion and voting during assembly. Resolutions and nominations can be found at tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2023 (scroll down to the tabbed box for detailed information).
- Floor nominations for open positions will be accepted by the Assembly Manager or virtually at milwaukeeelca.org/nominations until 9 pm Friday evening, June 2, 2023. Anyone wishing to nominate an individual other than themselves must have the nominee's consent to run and serve if elected.



Art by Robyn Sand Anderson.
Learn more at robysandanderson.com.

Schedule

The full agenda will be adopted by the assembly.

Tuesday, May 30

6:30 pm Authentic Diversity Informational Zoom*

This 90 minute zoom meeting will give assembly members an opportunity to learn about the background of the authentic diversity audit providing the necessary foundation for the work we will do during assembly.

Wednesday, May 31

6:30 pm New to the Assembly Orientation, via Zoom*

Are you a first time voting member, or do you need a refresher on the work of the assembly? Join us for this one-hour orientation that will guide you through the why, what, and how of the assembly.

7:30 pm Budget Presentation, via Zoom*

This hour-long zoom will give you an opportunity to preview the budget, ask questions, and be prepared for action on the budget that will take place during the Synod Assembly.

Friday, June 2, 2023

Lunch is "on your own"

1:00 pm – Registration opens

2:30 pm – Plenary 1

5:30 pm – Dinner and Keynote Speaker with Pardeep Kaleka

7:00 pm – Worship and dessert reception with preacher Rev. Ken Wheeler

Saturday, June 3, 2023

8:30 am – Plenary 2

10:00 am – Break

10:15 am – Plenary 2 resumes

11:45 am – Lunch

1:15 pm – Plenary 3

3:00 pm – Break

5:00 pm – Closing of Assembly

*** Zoom links will be emailed to voting members.**

Learn More and Register at tinyurl.com/GMSAssembly2023