

Additions to Mobility List | May 2 - July 20, 2023

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

New Change of Status for Congregations in Transition

- All Saints, Wales (FT solo pastor) –MSP posted
- Ascension, Waukesha (2nd associate pastor) – call extended
- Bethlehem, Muskego (PT solo pastor) – in interim
- Christ, Mequon (FT associate pastor) – call extended
- Christ the Servant, Waukesha (FT pastor) – vote scheduled
- Cross, Milwaukee (PT associate pastor) – vote scheduled
- First United, Sheboygan (FT senior & FT associate pastors) – in interim
- Grace, Grafton (FT solo pastor) – Call Extended to Rev. Chris Thomas
- Holy Trinity, West Allis (FT solo pastor) –MSP posted
- Lake Park, Milwaukee (FT lead pastor) – submitted
- Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee (FT solo pastor) – call extended
- Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine (FT senior pastor) – MSP posted
- Mt Carmel, Milwaukee (FT lead pastor) – in interim
- Mt Olive, Mukwonago (FT solo pastor) – MSP posted
- Our Savior’s, Oconomowoc (FT associate pastor) – call extended
- Peace, Burlington (PT solo pastor) – in interim
- Prince of Peace, Milwaukee (FT solo pastor) – call extended
- Reformation, Brookfield (PT solo pastor) – Names submitted

- Reformation, Milwaukee (FT deployed internship site) – Steve Smart, intern
- St Mary’s, Kenosha (PT term call associate) – call extended
- Trinity, Cedarburg (PT or FT solo pastor) - Names submitted

New Change of Status for Rostered Ministers

- Rev. Edwin Aparicio Ortez: from candidate to called associate pastor at Ascension, Waukesha
- Rev. John Berg: from bridge pastor to called pastor at Our Savior’s, Oconomowoc
- Rev. Myron Crawford: from candidate to called pastor at Prince of Peace, Milwaukee
- Rev. Debbie Hartfield: from candidate to term called associate pastor at St Mary’s, Kenosha
- Rev. Pam Lange: from called lead pastor at Mt Carmel, Milwaukee to retirement
- Rev. Paul Nuechterlein: from called pastor at Bethlehem, Muskego to bridge pastor at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine
- Rev. Mike Skunes: from candidate to called pastor at Christ, Mequon

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Died

- Rev. Kara Baylor died Thursday, May 25. She was ordained in 2000 and served as the Associate Pastor at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran in Racine from 2000-2014, and then as Campus Pastor at Carthage College, Kenosha from 2014-2023. A full obituary can be found at draeger-langendorf.com/obituaries/rev-kara-f-baylor.
- Rev. Bill Mains died on Saturday, May 27. He retired from Trinity Lutheran in South Milwaukee in 2017 and served as an interim pastor in several GMS congregations during his retirement. A full obituary can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/obituary-rev-bill-mains>.
- Rev. Fred Marks died May 21. He was ordained in 1951 in the United Lutheran Church, and served as pastor at Calvary Lutheran, Two Rivers from 1951-56 and at Holy Cross Lutheran, Menomonee Falls from 1956-65. A full obituary can be found at legacy.com/us/obituaries/journaltimes/name/frederick-marks-obituary?id=52028535.
- Sister Rose J. Kroeger died on May 13 at the age of 103 at Luther Manor in Wauwatosa. She was installed as the Directing Sister of the Milwaukee Motherhouse and served in that capacity for 50+ years and helped direct the health care mission of the Deaconess at Lutheran Hospital in Milwaukee. A full obituary can be found at jsonline.com/obituaries/mjs077770.
- Rev. Lowell Timm died Friday, May 5. He was ordained in 1972 and served Grace Lutheran in Auburn ME until 1978, and then served Capitol Drive Lutheran from 1978 until his retirement in 2012. A full obituary can be found at jsonline.com/obituaries/mjs077654.



Life Together | Summer 2023



Notes from the Bishop

“The Church should stay out of politics and stick to the Gospel!” I would guess that most of us have either heard or said words to this effect over the years. While this sentiment isn’t new, it has taken on new energy in the current social and political environment, as polarization and conflict seem to be on the rise even as many of our congregations are struggling to regain their footing after the pandemic. It’s understandable that folks may want their congregations, their pastors, and their bishop to avoid anything that might be considered controversial or divisive.

If you have thoughts on this topic, I encourage you to participate in the upcoming dialogue that will take place as the ELCA develops a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship of church and state and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA

Churchwide Assembly (for more information: www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government). This process includes a six-week study guide, and there is a participant feedback period that runs through October 15. The first draft of the social statement will be distributed in December, and draft comment and hearing period will run through October of 2024. The final draft will then be released in early 2025 for consideration at synod assemblies in the spring of 2025 and at the Churchwide Assembly in August 2025.

Here are a few of my core convictions that I hope will be reflected in the final statement:

- The church is called to be political. My definition of the word political derives from the Greek word from which it comes, polis, which simply refers to our lives lived in the public arena. I believe that God cares deeply about how we treat one another in the public arena and wants us to work for policies and laws that promote the health and well-being of all of God’s children. Just as Jesus fed the hungry and healed the sick, God wants us to express love for our neighbors, not just in thoughts and prayers, but in concrete actions that tend to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- The church is called to avoid partisan politics. Individual Christians are certainly called to engage in the political process, voting, campaigning, and even serving as elected officials, but the church (congregations, pastors, deacons, and bishops) need to avoid being closely identified with any particular politician or political party. While the church and its leaders can and should advocate for budgets and laws that help society care for creation and all its inhabitants, we recognize that the political process is human and flawed, and we all stand in need of correction and admonition.
- The church is called to embrace disagreement and conflict. Simply put, life is complicated, and if the answers to the many challenges and conflicts of our common life were obvious and easy, we would have fixed things long ago. Thoughtful, faithful people who have different life experiences and priorities may disagree on *how* to create a society that respects human dignity and enhances the life and well-being of all. *That* we are called to love and serve our neighbors, however, is not up for debate.

Through it all, I hope we continue to be guided by a scripture passage that has shaped much of how I live and lead, recorded in Micah 6:8: “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” This compels us to engage in the civic arena and to do so with humility and love as we see justice for the whole creation.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul Erickson

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 10

”God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday
www.elca.org/dayofservice

Saturday, September 30

Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk
Register by 9/25 at [OFHRRW.org](https://www.0fhrrw.org)

October 2 - 3

Fall Leadership Conference
for GMS Rostered and Lay Leaders
Lutherdale | Register by 9/18

Saturday, October 28

“Deconstructing Racism” Training
St. Matthew’s, Wauwatosa | Register by 10/23

Learn more + register for events at
www.milwaukee-synod.org/events

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Register Now for our Fall Leadership Conference!
“Making and Creating Spaces: The Power of Storytelling”
with Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy
Monday Oct. 2 - Wednesday Oct. 4 @ Lutherdale Bible Camp



Join us at Lutherdale Bible Camp this October for a time of learning and renewal for GMS faith leaders - including lay members and staff, council presidents, pastors and deacons.

ABOUT THIS EVENT

“Making and Creating Spaces: The Power of Storytelling” captures the two main concepts that will be explored in this training: the importance of making space for people from all backgrounds and creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and included, and the power of storytelling to facilitate both of these things.

Hebrews 10:23-25 says, “*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of the Lord is near.*” This passage reminds us that we need to make space for each other in our lives, both physically and emotionally.

Storytelling is a powerful tool that can be used to connect with people on a deep level. It can help us to share our experiences, learn from each other, and build relationships. When we tell our stories, we are inviting others into our lives and giving them a glimpse of who we are. We are also giving them the opportunity to connect with us on a personal level. By making and creating spaces where people from all backgrounds can feel safe, accepted, and included, we can help to promote authentic inclusion in our churches and communities.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER

Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy— Mato Wašté Winyan, or Good Bear Woman —is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation. She has a passion for social justice, racial reparations, healing, and storytelling that has been felt across the globe. As the very first Native Woman Theologian with a PhD in the ELCA, she’s passionately pursued her calling to challenge the traditional conventions of theology. Her work primarily focuses on systemic theology, with a unique approach to Lakota Spirituality and how it can inform Christianity and instill healing. Kelly’s ability to speak the truth in love from a Native perspective coupled with her humility and humor makes for a powerful reception of truth in the hearts of Natives and non-Natives alike.

AGENDA

Monday, October 2	11 am Bishop’s time
1 pm Welcome	12 pm Lunch
2 pm Making Space for Connection (<i>Understand the difference between making space and creating spaces</i>)	1 pm Free time
4 pm Free time	3:30 pm Open Space Conversations
5:30 pm Dinner	5:30 pm Dinner
7 pm Worship and fellowship	7 pm Bonfire and Storytelling
Tuesday, October 3	Wednesday, October 4
8 am Breakfast	8 am Breakfast
9 am Creating Spaces for Grace (<i>Understand the importance of creating spaces where people can experience grace</i>)	9 am The Power of Storytelling (<i>Understand the power of storytelling</i>)
	11 am Closing worship

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, Sept. 18 at 12 noon

PRICING

- **Early Bird Pricing:** \$125 + lodging (through Aug. 31)
- **Regular Pricing:** \$145 + lodging (Sept. 1 - 18)

LODGING

Our Fall Leadership Conference will offer several housing options during the registration process. On-site lodging fees will be added to the basic registration fee. All registration options include meals. You are welcome to find a roommate(s) on your own and note this during registration. Lodging is available on a first come/first served basis.

Learn More & Register at milwaukee-synod.org/event/fall-leadership-conference

Synod Authentic Diversity Audit Update

In May 2022, our Synod Council voted to undertake a synod-wide Authentic Diversity Audit. A new report from Gold Enterprises summarizes the audit findings and introduces our next step: a synod-wide strategic planning process.

Read the full Audit Synopsis and learn more about our Authentic Diversity Audit at milwaukee-synod.org/about-us/authentic-diversity-audit.



16th Annual Outreach for Hope
Family Ride Run Walk

Saturday, Sept. 30 @ Four Event Sites:
Milwaukee • Kenosha • Dousman • Grafton

Together, let’s raise \$160K for grants to ministries serving neighborhoods experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA!

- Bike rides, a 2-mile walk and 5K fun run (options vary by site)
- Picnic lunch and fellowship with friends from other churches
- Celebrate progress towards our \$160K fundraising goal
- Hear stories of impact from OFH Ministry Partner leaders



Register starting July 18 at
OFHRRW.org

Questions? Contact us at 414-671-1212
or penny@outreachforhope.org

