

Additions to Mobility List | Oct. 17 - Dec. 28, 2023

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

New Change of Status for Congregations in Transition

Bethlehem, Muskego (PT solo pastor) – names submitted
Christ Our Savior, Sussex (FT lead pastor) – names submitted
Galilee, Pewaukee (FT pastor) – names submitted
Holy Trinity, West Allis (FT solo pastor) – call extended
Lake Park, Milwaukee (FT pastor) – MSP posted
Lakeside, Kenosha (PT solo pastor) – names submitted
St. Luke, Sheboygan Falls (PT or FT solo pastor) – names submitted
St. Mary's, Kenosha (FT lead pastor) – names submitted
St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa (FT senior pastor) – call extended
Spirit Alive!, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) – in interim
Trinity, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) – names submitted

New Change of Status for Rostered Ministers

Rev. James Ahlquist (retired) – transferred from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to the Greater Milwaukee Synod
Rev. Jeff Barrow (retired) – transferred from the Greater Milwaukee Synod to the Minneapolis Area Synod
Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill – from the North Carolina Synod to Synod Council call to ecumenical ministry at Bethel-Bethany UCC
Rev. Susan Bowen – from called pastor at Peace, Burlington to on leave from call
Amanda Christensen – resigned from the roster
Rev. Jane Crawford – from the South Central Synod of Wisconsin to called pastor at Holy Trinity, West Allis
Rev. Lynn Erickson – from interim pastor at Holy Trinity, West Allis to interim pastor at Mount Carmel, Milwaukee
Rev. Marcus Kunz (ELCA Executive for Discernment of Contextual and Theological Issues) – transferred from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod to the Greater Milwaukee Synod
Rev. Tim McIntosh – from Pastor of Spiritual Care at Cedar Community to on leave from call
Rev. Diane Olson – from on leave from call to interim pastor at All People's, Milwaukee
Rev. Cheryl Peterson (Academic Dean at Wartburg Seminary) – transferred from the Southeast Michigan Synod to the Greater Milwaukee Synod
Rev. Grant Quever – from interim pastor at Christ, Paddock Lake to interim pastor at Peace, Burlington
Rev. Tom Smith – from on leave from call to retired

Deacon Marian Wasierski – from Luther Manor to retired

Rev. Larry Westfield – transferred from the Greater Milwaukee Synod to the Saint Paul Area Synod

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Died

Rev. Dale Erickson died on December 14, 2023. He served congregations in Clarinda, IA; Omaha, NE; Wausau, WI; and at Mt. Zion in Wauwatosa, and Immanuel in Cedarburg. A complete obituary can be found at muellerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Rev-Dale-Alan-Erickson?obId=30126280.

Rev. Dr. Melvin A. Miritz died on November 30, 2023. He was ordained on January 29, 1950. He was called to a variety of ministries during his years of service, including: First Lutheran in Ohio, IL; St. John's in Johnson Creek; and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Racine. He also taught religion classes at Carthage College, and was the Director of Pastoral Care at the A-Center in Racine. A complete obituary can be found at sturinofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Melvin-Miritz/#!/Obituary.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 23

Inspired for Mission Gathering: “Meeting God in Authentic Diversity Work”
Zoom

Saturday, February 10

Together in Mission
Ascension, Waukesha | Register online by 1/28

Tuesday, March 26

Chrism Mass | Location TBD

Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18

2024 Synod Assembly
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Thursday, July 16 - Saturday, July 20

ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering
New Orleans, LA | learn more at elca.church/gathering

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



Greater Milwaukee Synod

Life Together | Winter 2024



Notes from the Bishop

As you can well imagine, the life of a synod bishop is filled with a never-ending stream of fascinating challenges and opportunities. Accompanying leaders, congregations, and organizations and trying to discern the best way to offer support, guidance, encouragement, direction and more is work that is never-ending and never dull. In a recent conversation with a colleague, we were reflecting on a particularly complex and challenging situation, and I commented, “it’s messy, but worth it.”

As I thought about this comment afterward, I realized that it sums up a lot of what we do in the church. Even though we might like to imagine that there was a time when life and ministry in the church was easier, or more successful, or more rewarding, I’ve come to appreciate the fact that it’s always been messy. Just think back to Jacob, sleeplessly wrestling with the angel before meeting up with his estranged brother, Esau (Genesis 32), or Paul and Barnabas parting ways after a significant disagreement (Acts 15), and we can see that relationships have always been complicated, challenging, and messy.

This is certainly the case today. We are faced with a host of vexing and complex challenges: the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Holy Land, the pervasive threat of global climate change, the rise of Christian Nationalism and the threats to our democracy and the health and safety of women, people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community. Even if we focus solely our congregations and our denominations and our current challenges related to mission, resources, and people, any honest view of history will reveal the messiness that has always been with us.

And yet, I believe that engaging in the struggle is worth it. Even if we realize that we will never be able to eliminate the mess, God invites us to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty as we try to make a difference, in the lives of those around us and in the work of the institutions and organizations we serve. God calls us to do whatever we can to increase the amount of dignity, justice, compassion, and love in the world. It matters when we listen with compassion and understanding to someone who is lost or hurting; it matters when we work to establish more healthy patterns of communication and accountability; it matters when try to sort through conflicting emotions and experiences to find common ground and express common values.

God sent Jesus into a messy world not to clean it up and to make life easy, but to empower us and to accompany us as we strive to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). This is the messy but meaningful path to a life worth living.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul Erickson

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Register Now For Together in Mission



Saturday, February 10 at 8 am - 3 pm @ Ascension Lutheran (1415 Dopp St., Waukesha)

Deadline to Register with Lunch: Sunday, January 28 at 11:59 pm

Join us for Together in Mission, our synod's annual learning gathering for lay and rostered leaders! This year, we return to our popular workshop format. Together we'll worship, celebrate our partnership in the Gospel, and learn together on a variety of ministry topics.



We're excited to share that **Dr. Anthony Bateza** will preach at our opening worship, and lead two workshops ("ELCA Statement on Civic Life and Faith" and "Jesus and Justice").

Dr. Bateza is an associate professor of religion at St. Olaf College and an ELCA pastor. He is also co-chair of the ELCA Task Force for Studies on Civic Life and Faith.

Visit milwaukeeesynod.org/events for registration and a full list of workshops

2024 Synod Assembly Preview



Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18

Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

Every year we gather for Synod Assembly: a time to pray, worship, work, connect, and learn. This year we will gather around *courage*, the second of our synod's four core values. We are delighted to welcome Vance Blackfox as our ELCA representative and our keynote speaker for Friday evening's banquet. Friday night's worship and reception are open to all (no registration required.)

Vance Blackfox is an Indigenous Theologian and citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is the founder and director of Other+Wise, a multi-site cultural education and cultural immersion program for youth and student groups from across the country. He serves the ELCA churchwide organization as Director of Indigenous Ministries & Tribal Relations and Interim Senior Director of Ministries of Diverse Cultures and Communities.



Registration will open soon for voting members. We will also have separate dinner tickets available to the general public. Everyone is welcome to attend worship and the dessert reception that follows.

Mission Renewal & Innovation Coaching



As we look to the exciting possibilities of the New Year, we invite you to check out two new coaching resources for leaders in our synod...

For Congregations: Mission Renewal & Innovation Coaching

Thanks to the generosity of all who are participating in the Equipping the Saints synod mission appeal, any congregation who desires mission renewal and innovation coaching can receive 12 months of coaching and training. Visit our website to learn more and apply.

For Rostered and Lay Leaders: Life/Leadership Coaching

Individuals at a crossroads or in transitional phases of life or ministry may benefit from individual coaching. Check out our website for a curated list of individual coaches available in our area.

Questions? Contact Rev. Matthew Short at matt@milwaukeeesynod.org.

Learn More:

milwaukeeesynod.org/resources/for-congregations/mission-and-innovation-coaching

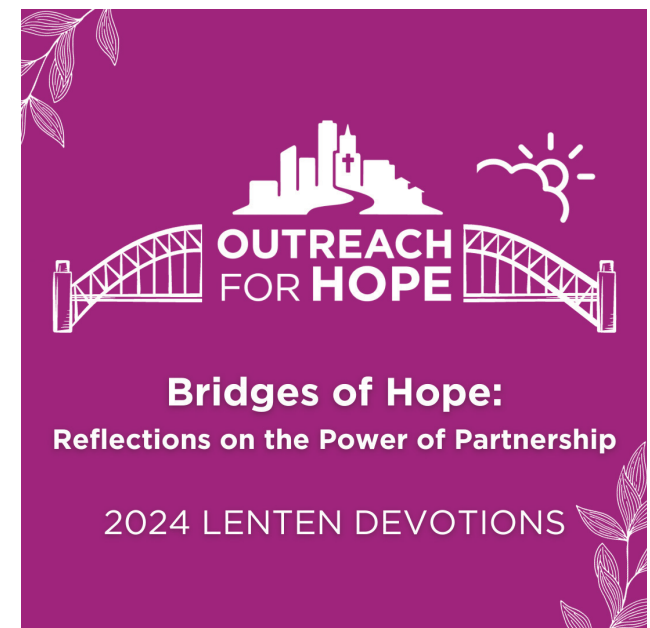
I Love to Tell the Story!

Check out these photos from our synod-wide storytelling event series! And stay tuned for more events (which are open to all) to be announced in the coming weeks.



Dec. 2: Central Conference event

Dec. 12: North Conference event



It's almost time for Outreach for Hope's annual Lenten Devotion series featuring ministries across our synod! Visit outreachforhope.org/len-ten-devotions to join the devotion email list. (NOTE: If you've gotten these emails in the past, you DO NOT need to sign up again.)