

Together in Mission: Register Today!

February 15, 2020
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave. | Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Together in Mission is a one-day educational event that brings together over 200 rostered and lay leaders from around our Greater Milwaukee Synod to learn together about a variety of ministry topics: from everyday church operations, to social issues and inclusion efforts, to churchwide issues and our partner churches in El Salvador & Tanzania.

"I really loved this event, both last year and this year," said a 2019 event participant. "I came with several first time lay attendees whose eyes were opened to what it can mean to be Church together as a synod. It was exciting!"

On our online registration page, select your morning and afternoon sessions from the full list of workshops offered throughout the day.

Here are just a few that will be available:

- Strategies for Conversations Across the Divides with Dr. Katherine Wilson, The Zeidler Group
- What Does It Mean to Be a Sanctuary Church? with Bishop Paul Erickson and Mary Campbell
- Faith, Mental Health & Wellness with Carolyn Karl
- Using Finance for Social Change with Rev. Stephen Marsh, The Criterion Institute

Between the two session times, participants will gather with others in their mission cluster of neighboring congregations for conversation around shared mission.

Cost for the day is \$12/person and includes lunch. Registration will close on Friday, February 7th.

Visit milwaukeeesynod.org/event/together-in-mission to register and download our promotional bulletin insert and slide!



Upcoming Events



Together in Mission
February 15, 2020
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa



**Learning & Telling the Story:
Deconstructing Racism**
March 20-21, 2020
Faith Lutheran Church, Cedarburg



Retired Rostered Ministers' Lunch
March 30, 2020
Location TBD



Navigating Boundaries for Healthy Leaders
April 28, 2020
Location TBD



Synod Assembly 2020
May 29-30, 2020
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee



Diakonia Graduation
June 6, 2020
Lord of Life, Kenosha

More information: milwaukeeesynod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Life Together

January 2020

Issue 14

Stay Connected

 milwaukeeesynod.org

 [/MilwaukeeSynod](https://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeSynod)

 E-news/Google Group:
bit.ly/2JLPmba

 414.671.1212

 1212 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

SAVE THE DATE: 2020 Synod Assembly

Fri. May 29, 4 p.m. - Sat. May 30, 4 p.m.
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Rev. Patricia Davenport
Bishop, Southeast Pennsylvania Synod



Rev. Kristen Kuempel
Bishop, Northwest Intermountain Synod

Registration opens February 10
Learn more and register:
milwaukeeesynod.org/event/synod-assembly-2020

Notes from the Bishop

I often say that one of my greatest joys in my work as bishop is the opportunity I have to visit and worship in a different congregation each weekend. I have a goal of worshipping in each of our synod's 126 communities, and I've reached the 3/4 mark thus far. I also enjoy the chance I get each year at this time to read through the annual reports submitted by our rostered ministers as they share updates, joys, and concerns. We have close to 300 pastors and deacons in our synod, active, retired, on leave from call, and disabled, and reading these reports is one small way I can take stock of things and hear how it's going in life and ministry with these leaders. A third way that we have sought to connect with the congregations and leaders of our synod is by sending out around 40 trained listeners to visit with the council or leadership team of every congregation or ministry in recent months. We weren't able to connect with every ministry for a variety of reasons, but the conversations that did happen were vibrant and helpful.

As I take stock of what I/we have learned through these various connections, there seem to be several themes emerging:

1. **The future is unclear.** It is clear that the world is changing and our congregations are changing, and feelings are mixed about whether these changes are positive or negative. There are congregations who are wondering if the ways they have organized their lives and engaged in God's mission are as effective as they once were, and they are wondering how they could and should move forward.
2. **God isn't done with us yet.** In the midst of change and uncertainty, I continue to hear and see signs of folks who are taking risks, reaching out in new ways, and exploring new partnerships. All of this innovation and experimentation is fueled by a belief that God shows up and walks with us when we step out in faith.
3. **We are better together.** Even as folks wrestle with change and uncertainty, it seems that one clear way that God shows up in through the gift of relationship. When we are hurting, when we are lost, when we are curious, when we are hopeful, we are stronger when we remember that we are not alone, that others are going through many of the same things, and we're all on the same team, striving for the same things: strong and vibrant communities, rooted in the promises of Jesus and shaped by our love for our neighbors near and far.

All of this leaves me filled with hope. In the midst of all of the ups and downs and ins and outs of life and ministry, I am more hopeful now than ever, and I look forward to continuing to discover with all of you the future that God has in store for us.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul D. Erickson

A Message from Outreach for Hope Interim Director Michael Groh

Vision, Mission, Values & Practices Resources

At the 2019 Assembly, our Greater Milwaukee Synod adopted a new Vision, Mission, Values and Practices statement that named nine common practices as central to our faith.

Additional resources available at milwaukee-synod.org/vision include:

- A one-page monthly practices resource sheet that includes scriptures, hymn/song suggestions, books, videos, discussion questions, and social media hashtags for Synod photo sharing.
- A five-week Lenten series for worship or bible studies, highlighting the synod's new mission statement and core values. Each week's resources include readings, thematic notes, questions, a suggested hymn and modern song, a prayer, and a synod ministry highlight.

Visit
milwaukee-synod.org/vision
for more resources!

Last week at Grace Welcome Center Pantry in Kenosha, approximately 50 people quietly stood in line, waiting in the cold for the doors to open for the weekly food pantry. I imagined those standing toward the end of the line were wondering how many people are ahead of me? Will I be allowed to shop for my weekly groceries? Will I be told that there is not enough food for me and my family?



Photo by Rev. Jonathan Barker

Pastor Jonathan Barker related that many of the guests have already waited in line before arriving at Grace. There is the line for the shuttle bus that goes to a job, the line to meet with a social worker, doctor, or job counselor, just a few of the lines people face. For pantry guests that take the bus to Grace the whole process can easily take 4-5 hours to obtain food for their families.

How many times have we arrived somewhere, and the line was too long, and we chose to leave and come back or go to an alternate location?

Our brothers and sisters impacted by poverty that are struggling day to day do not have these options. They stand in line uncertain of the outcome. They stand in lines knowing that this process will be repeated many times in the days and weeks ahead. No matter the weather conditions, they have no choice but to stand in line.

The next time you are standing in line for a movie or sporting event feeling sorry for yourself for a few minutes of inconvenience, remember our brothers and sisters who have no choice but to stand in countless lines that we would not tolerate.

I saw something else that day at Grace that gave me Hope. Smiling friendly volunteers who patiently helped to register guests, bag their groceries, and help them carry their groceries up the steps. At the end of this line was dignity and respect.

Respect, dignity and sustenance for our brothers and sisters in Christ being shared on our behalf by the volunteers at Grace Welcome Center.

Grace Welcome Center Food Pantry in Kenosha shares approximately 2000 pounds of food each week. Every Tuesday volunteers stock the shelves, greet approximately forty families with smiles making suggestions on food choices and helping to bag the groceries.

If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities at Grace Welcome Center or other Outreach for Hope supported ministries, contact Michael Groh – mike@outreachforhope.org.

— Michael Groh, Interim Director of Outreach for Hope

Congregations and Ministers in Transition

as of January 21, 2020

Congregations in Transition

Recent Vacancy:

Note: PACT stands for Pastors Accompanying Congregations in Transition. A PACT includes the following types of positions: "Interim Pastors" provide pastoral support, and lead a MET process. "Transition Pastors" provide pastoral support, and do not lead a MET process. "Transition Consultants" help lead a MET process, and have limited pastoral support responsibilities. "Bridge Pastors" offer short term pastoral support until an interim or a called pastor begins. "Consistent Supply Pastors" cover weekly worship for an extended period of time and have limited additional pastoral responsibilities.

PT = part time

FT = full time

Vacancy covered by supply pastors or current staffing

- First, West Allis (solo PT pastor)
- Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls (solo pastor)
- Nativity, Wauwatosa (solo pastor)

PACT begun and/or Mission Exploration Team (MET) in process:

- Abiding Savior, Milwaukee (solo pastor) – Rev. Dean Natterstad, PT interim pastor
- Adoration, Greenfield (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim pastor
- Ascension, Milwaukee (FT bi-lingual co-pastor) – Rev. German Novelli, PT bridge pastor
- Bethlehem, Muskego (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Molly Doreza, PT interim pastor
- Capitol Drive, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Bill Mains, PT bridge pastor
- Emaus, Racine (pastor, bi-lingual) – supply pastors for Spanish language service
- Gethsemane, Brookfield (PT pastor) – Rev. Karen Natterstad, PT interim pastor
- Living Christ, Germantown (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Michael Anderson, PT interim pastor
- Lord of Life, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Carol Jeunnette, interim pastor
- Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) – supply pastors
- Luther Memorial, West Allis (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT interim pastor
- Mt. Hope, West Allis (solo pastor) – Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor
- Our Savior's, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock, PT transition pastor
- Our Saviors, West Bend (FT senior pastor) – Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld, PT interim pastor
- Redemption, Wauwatosa (PT solo pastor) – David Rebey, PT transition pastor
- Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) – supply pastors and Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT Transition Consultant
- St. Paul, Kenosha (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Cindy Aasen, PT transition pastor

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Posted:

- Bethel, Muskego (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Jennifer Olson, PT bridge pastor
- Christ the King, Delafield (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Jim Holmberg, FT interim pastor
- Incarnation, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) – Char Guiliani, PT bridge pastor
- Vernon, Mukwonago (FT solo pastor) – Rev. David Patterson, PT interim pastor

Candidate Name/s Submitted to Call Committee:

- Advent, Cedarburg (FT solo pastor) – Rev. John Holm, PT transition pastor
- Good Shepherd Trinity (PT solo pastor) – supply pastors
- North Cape, Franksville (deacon or associate pastor for YFM)

Calls Extended (*=started the new call):

- Christ the Servant, Waukesha (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Diane Olson*
- House of Prayer, Franklin (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Karl-John Stone*
- Messiah, Twin Lakes (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Melody Brink*
- Mt. Zion, Wauwatosa (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Tyler Rasmussen*
- Peace, Burlington (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Susan Bowen*
- Spirit Alive!, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Kevin Beebe*
- St. Luke, Waukesha (FT associate pastor) – Rev. Maren Hooper, PT bridge pastor

Rostered Ministers in Transition

Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Changed Calls:

To the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Kevin Beebe, from candidate for call, to called pastor at Spirit Alive!, Kenosha
- Rev. Tyler Rasmussen, from the SE Pennsylvania Synod to called pastor at Mt. Zion, Wauwatosa

Within the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Michael Anderson, from FT called pastor at Abiding Savior, Milwaukee to synod call to interim ministry at Living Christ, Germantown
- Rev. Susan Bowen, from FT chaplaincy to called pastor at Peace, Burlington
- Rev. Melody Brink, from 2 yr term call pastor at Messiah, Twin Lakes to called pastor at Messiah, Twin Lakes
- Rev. Kathy Brown, from synod call to interim ministry at House of Prayer, Franklin to synod call to interim ministry at Mt Zion, West Allis
- Rev. Diane Olson, from OLC to called pastor at Christ the Servant, Waukesha
- Rev. Karl-John Stone, from synod interim ministry to called pastor at House of Prayer, Franklin

Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Moved to On Leave from Call (OLC):

- Rev. Elizabeth Baires, from PT transition pastor at St Luke, Waukesha to OLC
- Rev. Steve Clingman, from synod call to interim ministry at Christ the Servant, Waukesha to OLC
- Rev. Grant Quever, from called pastor at Gethsemane, Brookfield to OLC
- Rev. Dean Willich, from term call pastor at Bethlehem, Muskego to OLC

Rostered Ministers Recently Retired:

- Deacon Judy Kolstad, from called deacon at Atonement, Muskego to retirement

Is Stewardship for All Seasons Right for Your Congregation?

The purpose of Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) is to guide pastors and congregation leaders to learn tried and true basic principles and effective methodologies to carry out productive stewardship programs. Learn how to do year-round, on-going stewardship resulting in more money for ministry, more energized stewards, and a culture of generosity.

BENEFITS OF STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS:

- Prepare your congregation's story
- Educate people to tell that story
- Focus attention on your congregation's mission
- Inspire people to give generously
- Learn tools and methods that really work
- Build a team that enjoys leading stewardship efforts
- Become confident and skilled in stewardship development > Apply biblical principles to gain more resources for mission > Experience the joy of asking and giving
- Avoid searching for the latest hot stewardship program
- Increase annual giving by 10 – 20% or more each year

To learn more, visit milwaukee-synod.org/sas