

A Message from Outreach for Hope

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7-12

I hope you have been able to find a few minutes in your day to watch the OFH Lenten devotions. Throughout the season of Lent, forty of our leaders from Outreach for Hope ministries are reflecting on what it means to give in their own words and via video from their own ministry locations. The simple question, "what does it mean to give?", has so many answers and so many examples of how giving can be lived out in our daily faith walk.

Giving is a faith expression for us as children of God because it represents our deep understanding that all we have and enjoy is a gift and expression of love from our benevolent God - a God who gave His life on a cross for all of us. Our giving becomes our response to that life-giving love.

Our Lenten journey is a time for self-reflection and a call for us to draw closer to our God as we move toward the pinnacle event of God's gift to us. How you share your blessings with others through your time, talent and treasure becomes a response of thankfulness to all that God has done for you - our simple acts of kindness in building up the Kingdom of God for the sake of the world.

One year ago, life changed for so many of us as the pandemic began its terrible march across our world, and the effects of this pandemic are felt even more dreadfully in the heart of our city population.

As we move toward the conclusion of Lent, we know that the need for our Ministry partners' efforts continues to grow. People still are struggling under the immense weight of poverty and our ministry partners work tirelessly to bring hope and relief.

I ask that you consider making a monthly pledge commitment to Outreach for Hope as we continue to support our ministry partners financially in the work that they do. Your gift to Outreach for Hope is shared with 15 central city ministries of our Greater Milwaukee Synod and becomes a tangible expression of how we walk together.

As we continue our Lenten journey toward our Easter celebration, may we remember how much we have been blessed with each new day and may we respond to that goodness with faith expressions of love for our neighbor.

Lenten blessings be with you!

Pastor Chris Manke, Executive Director



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Life Together

March 2021

Issue 17

Notes from the Bishop

By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:1-4)

Those who know me well know that I love to sing. It's one of the many things that brings me joy, joining my voice with others, singing in harmony, creating something larger and more beautiful than any of us could accomplish by ourselves. It doesn't matter if it's contemporary worship songs, classic hymns, global music, or even singing the doxology before a meal, I love to sing.

As I look back over all that we have had to set aside these past 12 months during the pandemic, there's a long list of things I long to recover, and singing is pretty high on that list. Even though I've participated in countless online worship experiences and listened to a lot of hymns and songs, it's just not the same.

While there are many differences between our situation and the challenges facing Israel as they endured a painful exile in Babylon, it has certainly been difficult to imagine how we can sing, and worship, and gather, and serve in what has felt like a very foreign land. And now, as more and more people become vaccinated and the overall numbers related to cases,

hospitalizations, and deaths appear to be declining, we may be tempted to believe that we can quickly return to our pre-pandemic life and pick up right where we left off.

We need to remember that nothing in this pandemic has been a straight line, and with the new variants spreading and the resolve to adhere to safety protocols weakening, there's a significant possibility that we'll soon be seeing another spike in the numbers. So, we'll need to hang in there a bit longer, longing for the day when we will be able to join together in song and re-engage in all the other things that we have missed.

And then, when we do return, whenever that is, I don't think it's going to be easy. We can't assume that things will just snap back to how they were before the pandemic; we've lost too much, suffered too much, changed too much. When the Israelites returned from their exile, they began to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, and the book of Ezra records a powerful scene:

"All the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away." (Ezra 3:11-13)

All this is to say, let's be patient, dear Church: with ourselves, with each other, with our God. None of us has ever experienced what we're going through, and none of us can predict what the coming days, and months, and years will bring. Let's walk before we run, and let's give everyone the time and space they may need to think and feel and plan and grieve, trusting that, even when we don't know how to sing or what to sing, our God hears our cries and considers them beautiful music.

We're in this together,

Bishop Paul Erickson

GMS Boundary Training Opportunities for 2021

Rostered Ministers serving in our Greater Milwaukee Synod are expected to participate in healthy boundaries training once every three years. This is typically a five to six hour, in-person event, in which they gather with other Rostered Ministers to reflect on and explore the many boundary questions they face in the course of daily ministry. Since 2019, Bishop Erickson and Pastor Jennifer Arnold, Assistant to the Bishop, have offered a workshop titled *Navigating Boundaries for Healthy Leadership* which was to be available twice per year. Unfortunately, both 2020 workshops were cancelled due to COVID safety precautions.

As we have entered 2021 with hopes of return to in-person events, the next scheduled *Navigating Boundaries for Healthy Leadership* workshop is now scheduled for **Tuesday, September 21, 8:45 am - 3:00 pm**. Registration will open in early June.

For those who would like to do their boundary training before September, we are recommending an online course offered by Convergence/Faith-Lead (faithlead.org/p/boundarytraining-clergy). Here is a brief description of the online course: "Learn from denominational experts and the team at Convergence about the need for and management of excellent boundaries. Each unit will contain specific learning objectives, reflections based on theological foundations, case studies, best practices and video interactions."

- *Boundaries in Pastoral Relationships with Adults*
- *Boundaries in Pastoral Relationships with Children & Youth*
- *Boundaries with Finances and Church Business*
- *Boundaries with Ministry Transition*
- *Boundaries with Social Media*
- *Boundaries for Self-Care*

Participants will write 250 word reflections after each unit and a 600-1000 word reflection at the conclusion of the course. Upon review by the Convergence staff participants will receive a certificate in Boundary Training for Clergy as well as a packet containing their reflections that can be turned in to their conference or denominational offices to verify their completion of the course." The cost for this course is \$99 after inserting the code BOUNDARY at registration.

Thank you to our Rostered Ministers and all who support them in establishing and navigating healthy boundaries! If you have any questions about boundary training, please contact Pastor Jennifer Arnold at jennifer.arnold@gmselca.org.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021: April 30 - May 1 (online)



Registration for Synod Assembly 2021 is now open and we encourage you to register as soon as possible. We've worked hard to keep our costs as low as possible this year and have set a fee of \$80 per person for early bird registration (through April 14th) and \$95 per person for registrations received April 15th and later. These fees cover the technology needed for voting, sound, cameras, and help us provide easily accessible documents during the meeting. Please register early to take advantage of early bird prices.

Registration cancellations are non-refundable after April 15. **The deadline for voting member registration is noon on April 26, 2021. We are unable to accept registrations for voting members after this deadline.** The deadline for resolutions and nominations is March 15.

Basic Agenda - A full agenda will be updated on our event site as it is available.

Friday, April 30	Saturday, May 1
6:00 pm Orientation	8:30 am Plenary 2
7:00 pm Worship	12 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch break
8:00 pm Plenary 1	1:30 pm Plenary 3

All documents and full details are on our event page which is located at milwaukee-synod.org/event/synod-assembly-2021.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Join us in worship. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship at 7pm on Friday evening, April 30. Our worship service will be live on zoom and livestreamed on Facebook.

Watch the Assembly livestream. Watch the assembly live on Facebook on Saturday, May 1. Only voting members will be able to access the zoom meeting. The livestream will begin at 6pm on Friday, April 26 and at 8:30 am on Saturday, May 1.

Sing with us! We've partnered with SongAlong to create a way for all of us to sing our assembly hymn together. Anyone can join in with a few simple steps. We encourage you to share this with your congregations and music groups. The deadline for submitting your recording is April 1.

- Visit <https://songalong.live/?id=TU582OAD> – you may create an account or continue as a guest
- A computer with webcam (not your phone or tablet)
- Use Google Chrome internet browser (Firefox also works)
- headphones/earbuds
- a plain backdrop for recording
- WiFi connection

You'll have an opportunity to practice before you record and you can sing along with the lead voices that are already recorded. More complete details and tips on are our website: milwaukee-synod.org/event/synod-assembly-2021 and choose the "Join the Virtual Choir" tab.

Share your photos: We're looking for photos and videos that show the creative ways that congregations across the Greater Milwaukee Synod have formed communities of ministry and worship over the past year. Share your files with robyn@milwaukee-synod.org by **April 1** and they might be shared at our 2021 Synod Assembly!

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

1/1/1971: Rev. Mick Roschke
 1/1/1977: Rev. Paul Hill
 1/1/1977: Rev. Stephen R. Wohlfel
 1/1/1987: Deacon Barbara Johnson
 1/3/1999: Rev. Sharon Georgi
 1/3/2004: Rev. Brian Hooper
 1/5/1991: Rev. Jennifer Arnold
 1/6/1985: Rev. Randall Koeller
 1/6/1991: Rev. Elizabeth Jaeger
 1/6/2008: Deacon Sherie Kruse
 1/12/1997: Deacon Susan Giese
 1/12/1997: Rev. Michael McAllister
 1/13/1985: Rev. James O'Reilly-Christensen
 1/14/2007: Rev. Jennifer Rose
 1/14/2012: Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
 1/16/2010: Rev. Kevan Penrose
 1/17/2016: Deacon Douglas Kreckling
 1/24/2009: Rev. Lynn Erickson
 1/26/1992: Deacon Ruth Schmidt
 1/27/1990: Rev. Karen Kastler
 1/28/2006: Deacon Judith Kolstad
 1/29/1950: Rev. Melvin Miritz
 2/6/2010: Rev. Douglas Andersen
 2/8/2019: Rev. Allison Johnson
 2/10/2002: Deacon Susan Bischmann
 2/11/1990: Rev. Gail Brodersen-Heins
 2/11/2001: Rev. Dab Willich
 2/11/2006: Rev. A.J. Bischoff, Jr.
 2/13/2005: Rev. Ingrid Huebner
 2/17/2002: Deacon Susan Daniels
 2/21/1982: Rev. Sandra Roberts
 2/23/2003: Rev. Ned Dorau
 2/23/2019: Rev. Lindsey Beukelman
 2/23/2020: Rev. Amanda Christensen
 3/1/1979: Rev. Myron Deschaine
 3/11/1973: Deacon Janice Janzow
 3/13/1988: Rev. John Horner-Ibler
 3/16/1997: Rev. Denise Mbise
 3/19/2011: Rev. James Lynch
 3/21/2010: Rev. Sarah Stobie
 3/21/2015: Rev. Karen Jost
 3/23/1997: Deacon Kenneth Bischmann
 3/25/1990: Rev. Todd Smith
 3/27/2004: Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock
 3/28/1982: Rev. Kenneth Wheeler
 4/1/2006: Rev. Brent Halverson
 4/5/1992: Rev. Mary Martha Kannass
 4/6/1986: Rev. Susan Ruehle
 4/9/2011: Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland
 4/12/1981: Rev. Susan Lindberg
 4/25/1986: Deacon Alice Zwifel
 4/26/2013: Rev. Matthew James
 4/29/1984: Rev. Deborah Ohrtman

UPCOMING EVENTS

**2021 Conflict & Decision-Making
with Kathy Germann**
Mar. 27 & Apr. 24 | Online

2021 Synod Assembly
Apr. 30 - May 1 | Online

[milwaukee-synod.org/
events](https://milwaukee-synod.org/events)

Congregations and Ministers in Transition

as of March 8, 2021

Congregations in Transition

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; and "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:

- St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa (FT associate pastor)

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

- Ascension, Milwaukee (tri-lingual congregation - Hmong, Spanish & English) - Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim pastor & Pastor German Novelli, PT bridge pastor
- Bethlehem, Muskego (solo PT pastor) - Rev. Molly Doreza, PT interim pastor
- Capitol Drive, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Bill Mains, PT bridge pastor
- Christ the King, Port Washington (PT shared pastor) - Clare Sedlacek, PT bridge pastor
- Emaus, Racine (PT pastor, bi-lingual) - supply pastors for Spanish language service
- Faith/Santa Fe (PT pastor, bi-lingual) - Pastor Rony Reyes, PT interim pastor
- Living Christ, Germantown (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Michael Anderson, PT interim pastor
- Living Faith, Racine (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Bill Mains, PT interim pastor
- Living Hope, Saukville (PT shared pastor) - Clare Sedlacek, PT bridge pastor
- Lord of Life, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Carol Jeunnette, PT interim pastor
- Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - supply pastors
- Luther Memorial, West Allis (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, PT interim
- Our Savior's, Oconomowoc (senior pastor) - Rev. John Holm, PT transition consultant & Deacon Doug Kreckling, PT transition minister
- Reformation, Milwaukee (solo pastor) - Rev. Ron Ballew, PT transition pastor
- Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - supply pastors and Rev. Jon Briemeier, PT contracted pastor
- St John's, West Milwaukee (solo pastor) - Rev. Maren Hooper, PT interim pastor
- St Luke, Greenfield (solo pastor) - Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld, PT transition consultant
- St Matthew, Wauwatosa (senior pastor) - Rev. James Holmberg, PT senior interim pastor & Rev. John Holm, PT transition consultant
- St Luke, Sheboygan Falls (solo pastor) - Rev. Chuck Turbin, consistent supply pastor
- St Luke, Slinger (FT pastor) - Rev. Larry Harpster, PT interim pastor
- St. Paul, Kenosha (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Cindy Aasen, PT transition pastor
- St Paul, Random Lake (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Marilyn Borchardt, Rev. Dale Erickson, & Rev. Elizabeth Jaeger, consistent supply pastors

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Posted:

- Bethel, Muskego (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Molly Doreza, PT bridge pastor
- Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls (PT solo pastor) - Rev. David Patterson, PT interim pastor
- Our Saviors, West Bend (FT pastor) - Rev. Dan Ruen, FT bridge pastor

Candidate Name/s Submitted to Call Committee:

- Dr. Martin Luther Church, Oconomowoc (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Steve Samuelson, FT interim pastor
- Gethsemane, Brookfield (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Karen Natterstad, PT interim pastor
- Mt. Hope, West Allis (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor

Calls Extended (*=started the new call):

- Adoration, Greenfield (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Matthew Schlake-Kruse
- Incarnation, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Char Guiliani*
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine (solo pastor) - Rev. Matt James*
- Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine (FT associate pastor) - Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson*

Rostered Ministers in Transition

Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Changed Calls:

To the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

- Rev. Char Guiliani, from candidacy to called pastor at Incarnation, Milwaukee
- Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, from SE Pennsylvania synod to synod call to interim ministry at Luther Memorial, West Allis
- Rev. Robert Trendel, from Metro Chicago to GMS - retired

Within the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

- Rev. Matt James, from special call to LSTC, Chicago, to called pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine
- Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson, from called & shared pastor at Christ the King, Port Washington and Living Hope, Saukville to called associate pastor at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine

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

- Rev. Sheila Rawn, from St Mary, Kenosha to OLC
- Rev. Joshua Stibb, from Our Savior's, Oconomowoc to OLC
- Rev. Logan Vang, from Ascension Lutheran, Milwaukee to OLC

Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Retired:

- Rev. Carolyn Fredrikson, from St Luke, Greenfield to retirement
- Rev. Marilyn Miller, from Reformation, Milwaukee to retirement

Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Died:

- **Rev. Donald Haines** died on December 19, 2020. He retired after serving parishes in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and in Canada. In Milwaukee he served Florist Ave Lutheran Church from 1990-1994 and prior to that served at the Next Door Foundation from 1989-1990. Service information and obituary: <https://tinyurl.com/5yyp686m>
- **Rev. John Keller** died on December 21, 2020 at Luther Manor. Ordained in 1947, Rev. Keller served as a parish pastor, a chaplain, and as the President of Lutheran General Health Care System before his retirement in 1991. Service information and obituary: <https://tinyurl.com/yct5muep>
- **Rev. Kermit Lauterbach** died on December 26, 2020. He retired in 2001, having served All Saints Lutheran in Olmsted Falls, Ohio since his ordination in 1987. Prior to ordained ministry he was a teacher, a principal, and the Director for Christian Education at a number of congregations in Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio. Service information and obituary: <https://tinyurl.com/2v8e8zau>