

OFH Family Bike Ride is a growing family-friendly fundraiser that is supporting meaningful Synod ministries

In 2019, the Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride added its third bike ride location in the Racine/Kenosha area. We were blessed with great weather again for this year's ride, held on September 7.

THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS, RIDERS, VIRTUAL RIDERS, VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS FOR BEING A PART OF THIS YEAR'S AMAZING FAMILY BIKE RIDE!



Thanks to
**338 Riders, 113 Volunteers,
65 Congregations, 15 Virtual Riders**

Together we have raised more than \$100,000...
Toward our goal of \$110,000



(All numbers are subject to change as new data and donations are received. Look for our final announcement sometime in early October.)

Remember the Reason for the Ride: With support from generous donors like you, Outreach for Hope funds 20+ ministries, churches and centers to support and empower low-income families and neighborhoods throughout the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

SAVE THE DATE! September 12, 2020

The 2020 Family Bike Ride will again be held on the Saturday following Labor Day

Upcoming Events



Fall Leadership Conference
October 14-16, 2019
The Abbey Resort, Lake Geneva



Crossroads Anti-Racism Training
October 24-26, 2019
St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha



RIC Congregational Summit
November 2, 2019
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



5th Annual LCM Chili Cook Off
January 25, 2020
Mount Hope Lutheran Church, West Allis



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



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

More information: milwaukeesynod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 E-news/Google Group:
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 414.671.1212

 1212 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Understanding & Analyzing Systemic Racism Anti-Racism Workshop

The Greater Milwaukee Synod's Anti-Racism Team invites you to participate in the next workshop:

October 24-26

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2001 80th St. Kenosha, WI 53140

To receive more details or if you have questions, please contact either of the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Anti-Racism Team's Co-Conveners:

- Esther Rusch, 262-375-0868, erusch@juno.com
- Fred Thomas-Breitfeld, 262-352-7971, pastorfred81@gmail.com

To learn more/register:
milwaukeesynod.org/event/crossroads-training

Life Together

October 2019

Issue 13

Notes from the Bishop

If you have ever glanced at my Facebook posts in the late summer or early fall, you will know that my wife, Lynn, and I spend lots of time with monarch butterflies. My mother-in-law, who still lives on the Iowa farm that Lynn grew up on, began catching and tagging monarchs for the University of Kansas many years ago, and my wife has followed in her mother's footsteps. I go along for the ride.



Photo by Rev. Lynn Erickson

While most generations of monarchs live two to five weeks, the generation born at this time of the year is the migrating generation, and they live up to eight months. They are now in the process of flying south to the forests of central Mexico for the winter, arriving in early November and staying there until next March. The University of Kansas' Monarch Watch program has studied their migration patterns for decades by having "citizen scientists" catch, tag, and release the migrating monarchs, but we still don't understand how the great-great-great grandchildren of last year's monarchs know how to arrive at the same location in Michoacán, Mexico.

Recently, Lynn, who serves as one of the pastors at Ascension in Milwaukee, told me how she took some monarchs that she had caught to the food ministry distribution at the church. She invited some of the people present to tag them and then release them for their journey south. One woman became very excited by this opportunity, as she was from the area in Mexico where the monarchs spend their winters. Each time she released one of the butterflies, she said "Say hello to Mexico for me," as the butterfly was traveling to a place that she had not been to in many years. Somehow, through this fragile, beautiful, mysterious insect, she felt connected to her homeland, and it brought her joy.

I believe that we all long for connections, we all want to feel like we're a part of something larger than ourselves, something that gives our lives meaning, direction, and purpose. In these days when so much in our world seems to tear us apart and make us suspicious and fearful, I pray that all of our faith communities can be places that bring us together, to help us remember that we are connected, to God, to one another, to the world around us, to those places we may never visit and to people we may never meet, to those whose faith and love and sacrifice paved the way for us, and to the generations who will inherit this planet from us. Whatever we do, however we live, I pray we never forget that we are connected to each other.

Bishop Paul D. Erickson

October Resrouces

At the 2019 Assembly, our Greater Milwaukee Synod adopted a new Vision, Mission, Core Values and Practices statement that named INNOVATION as a central faith practice.

Use the resources on milwaukeesynod.org/innovation to lift up this faith practice in the month of October. These resources include:

- A one-page resource sheet that includes scriptures, hymn/song suggestions, books, videos, and discussion questions for your leaders,
- Videos, podcasts, articles, and other resources to talk about innovation with your leaders,
- Photo challenge: Post pictures of creative things your congregation is doing on social media using #GMSInnovation. Then, search for #GMSInnovation to see the creative things others are doing!

Innovation: Translating for a New Time

“I love to tell the story; ’twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”

– Refrain from “I Love to Tell the Story,” ELW #661

A couple of weeks ago, Dwight Zscheile from Luther Seminary wrote a provocative article entitled *Will the ELCA be Gone in 30 Years?* (Available at: milwaukeesynod.org/innovation). I am writing you today because I believe we can hear this article, and the data behind it, as a call to mission, not despair.

For years, we have all heard the script of denominational decline. Yes, the world is changing rapidly, and the culture surrounding our congregations doesn't support our institutional expressions of “church” in the way it once did.

There is good news. We are in good company! For 2000 years, every generation has told “the old, old story” in new, new ways. We are always called to translate the riches of the faith into a new cultural vernacular.

In some historical moments, this meant literally translating from one spoken language to another. Some of our congregations had to make the switch to worshipping in English; and you can bet that those present at the time would have seen this as a huge disruption. No doubt, many didn't like it at first. However, it was essential for communicating the Gospel. Now, we are called to translate, not into a new spoken language, but into a new cultural vernacular.

With every fiber of my being, I believe we can do this again. We are standing on the back of giants. Our ancestors in the faith have done this many times. We can do it too. Christ is with us.

I invite you to check out the resources on our website: milwaukeesynod.org/innovation

Use them to dream. Use them to invite the leaders in your congregation to dream. Together, let's continue to be creative in how we translate Christ's love for our friends and neighbors who are not coming into our churches. Let's continue to “tell the old, old story” in new, new ways.

— Rev. Matthew Short, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission



Congregations and Ministers in Transition

as of September 17, 2019

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)
- **Galilee, Pewaukee** (deacon)
- **Lord of Life, Kenosha** (solo pastor)
- **Nativity, Wauwatosa** (solo pastor)

Vacancy covered by a PACT

- **Ascension, Milwaukee** (bi-lingual co-pastor) – Rev. German Novelli, PT bridge pastor
- **Our Saviors, West Bend** (senior pastor) – Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld, PT interim pastor

Mission Exploration Team (MET) process:

- **Adoration, Greenfield** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim pastor
- **Bethlehem, Muskego** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Dean Willich, PT 1yr term call pastor
- **Capitol Drive, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Bill Mains, PT bridge pastor
- **Christ the King, Delafield** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Jim Holmberg, FT interim pastor
- **Emaus, Racine** (pastor, bi-lingual) – supply pastors for Spanish language service
- **Incarnation, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Vicki Watkins, PT bridge pastor
- **Living Christ, Germantown** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Jon Breimeier, PT interim pastor
- **Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee** (solo pastor) – supply pastors
- **Luther Memorial, West Allis** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT interim pastor
- **Messiah, Twin Lakes** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Melody Brink, PT 2yr term call pastor
- **Mt. Hope, West Allis** (solo pastor) – Rev. Michael Mueller, FT interim pastor
- **Our Savior's, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. John Holm, transition consultant
- **Redemption, Wauwatosa** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Alexander Jacobs, PT transition consultant
- **Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee** (solo pastor) – supply pastors
- **St. Paul, Kenosha** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Cindy Aasen, PT transition pastor
- **Vernon, Mukwonago** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. David Patterson, PT interim pastor

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Posted:

- **Advent, Cedarburg** (FT pastor) – Rev. John Holm, PT transition pastor
- **Bethel, Muskego** (PT pastor) – supply preachers
- **Christ the Servant, Waukesha** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Steve Clingman, FT interim pastor
- **Good Shepherd Trinity** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Carol Jeunnette, PT transition consultant
- **North Cape, Franksville** (deacon for YFM) – Rev. Karl-John Stone, PT bridge pastor
- **St. Luke, Waukesha** (FT associate pastor) – Rev. Elizabeth Baires, PT transition pastor

Candidate Name/s Submitted to Call Committee:

- **House of Prayer, Franklin** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor
- **Mt. Zion, Wauwatosa** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Josh Graber, FT interim pastor

Calls Extended (*=started the new call):

- **All People's Church, Milwaukee** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Lindsey Beukelman*
- **Bay Shore, Whitefish Bay** (FT pastor) – Rev. Sarah Stobie*
- **Peace, Burlington** (PT pastor) – Rev. Susan Bowen*
- **Spirit Alive!, Kenosha** (FT pastor) – Rev. Kevin Beebe*

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. Lindsey Beukelman, from candidate for call, to called pastor at **All Peoples Church, Milwaukee**
- Rev. Allison Johnson, from candidate for call, to called pastor at **Journey in Faith, Racine**
- Rev. Sarah Stobie, from SE Pennsylvania Synod, to called pastor at **Bay Shore, Whitefish Bay**
- Rev. Marcy Wieties, from candidate for reinstatement to the roster, to PT called pastor at **Emaus, Racine**
- Rev. Drew Yoos, from Northwest Washington synod to called associate pastor at **Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls**
- Rev. Sara Yoos, from Northwest Washington synod to called associate pastor at **Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls**

Within the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Jonathan Barker, from term called pastor at Grace, Kenosha to called pastor at **Grace, Kenosha**
- Rev. Susan Bowen, from FT chaplaincy to called pastor at **Peace, Burlington**
- Rev. Aida Muñoz, from term call associate pastor at All Peoples Church, Milwaukee to called pastor at **Redeemer, Hartford**
- Rev. Dr. Harvard Stephens, from two year term call pastor at Redeemer, Racine to one year term call pastor at **Redeemer, Racine**
- Rev. Tim Tahtinen, from called pastor at Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee to called pastor at **St. Marks, Cudahy**

From the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Walter Baires, from co-pastor at Ascension, Milwaukee to the South Central Synod of WI as the synod's Director for Evangelical Mission
- Rev. Carol Baumgartner, from OLC to interim ministry in the South Central Synod of WI
- Rev. Darin Wiebe, from called senior pastor at Our Saviors, West Bend to interim ministry in the South-Central Synod of WI

SAVE THE DATE

Together in Mission

February 15, 2020

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa

Mark your calendar now for our next Together in Mission event,

This annual event gathers leaders, pastors, and deacons from across our synod for a day of workshops, cluster time, and mission conversation. Workshops offered cover a wide range of topics to strengthen our work together in congregations, as synod, and as the wider ELCA.

Please watch for registration details in early December and spread the word to the people in ministry with you. Thank you!

Visit milwaukeesynod.org/vision for more resources for the other faith practices!