



# Greater Milwaukee Synod

1212 S. Layton Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215



Greater Milwaukee Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# Life Together

April 2019

Issue 11

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## Notes from the Bishop

One of my annual rituals each spring is to walk around the yard and take stock of how the various plants and shrubs made it through the winter, especially my raspberries. The bushes I have in our garden are descended from the ones at my grandparents' house, and they have survived several moves and a variety of winters. Though I know that raspberries are hard to kill, being rather weed-like in their tenacity, I still feel a spark of joy and excitement when I see the first buds appear, a sign that we will, once again, be enjoying sweet berries come July. This is for me a source of hope, that regardless of how much or how little attention I give them, no matter how harsh or how mild the winter is, these plants persist, life goes on, and God is in charge.



This hope sustains me as I consider life in our synod and its diverse ministries. Regardless of the strategies we use to organize our resources to strengthen and reshape our ministries, we need to remember that, ultimately, God is in charge. God is not done with us, and regardless of the challenges and obstacles we face, I am profoundly hopeful as we look to the future.

One of the ways I have experienced this hope recently is in the vibrant conversations we have been having around what God is up to in our midst. At last year's synod assembly, we began working on a renewed statement of the vision, mission, values and practices that we hold in common. We continued this work at the Together in Mission event in February, and we are receiving comments on the latest draft on our website ([milwaukeesynod.org/mission-statement-feedback](http://milwaukeesynod.org/mission-statement-feedback)).

This work is laying the foundation for another significant undertaking, the consideration of a synodical capital campaign/mission appeal. We have contracted with an outside consulting firm and crafted a document that lays out the possible priorities for a potential campaign, focusing on compassion, leadership, and innovation. We are conducting interviews with several dozen leaders this spring, and everyone who registers as a voting member to the synod assembly by May 1 will receive a copy of the prospectus via email and be invited to respond to a brief survey. We're simply trying to learn if this is the right time for such a campaign and if these are the right priorities, and we look forward to gathering your thoughts and insights.

Regardless of the decisions we make or the paths we choose, I am hopeful. Not because we're so smart or faithful or creative or bold, but because God the creator is in charge, Jesus is alive, and the Holy Spirit is on the loose, stirring us up and sending us out. Let's see where love leads us.

In Christ,  
Paul D. Erickson, Bishop

## Upcoming Events



### Synod Assembly

May 31-June 1, 2019  
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee



### Emmy Kegler Keynote Dinner and Synod Assembly Worship

May 31, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Italian Community Center, Milwaukee



### Churchwide Assembly ([cwa19.org](http://cwa19.org))

August 5-10, 2019  
Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee



### Healthy Boundaries for Healthy Leadership

September 17, 2019  
Location TBA



### Fall Leadership Conference (previously Fall Theological)

October 14-16, 2019  
The Abbey Resort, Lake Geneva

*New date, time and name!*

More information: [milwaukeesynod.org/events](http://milwaukeesynod.org/events)

### Mass Children's Choir forming for ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Young singers with unchanged treble voices, having completed 3rd through 8th grade, are invited to participate in a mass children's choir for the festive opening worship of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly held at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, on Monday, August 5. Under the direction of Karol Kinard Kimmell, the choir will participate in the service of Holy Communion with Presiding Bishop Eaton, singing selections throughout the service and helping to lead an assembly of over 1,500 people in song. Interested congregations, choirs, or individual singers may contact [worship@elca.org](mailto:worship@elca.org) or call 773-380-2554 for more information and to learn how to register. Registration by May 1 is appreciated.

## ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2019

We are delighted to be the host synod for the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly which will take place at the Wisconsin Center from August 5-10.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton writes, *“The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. Finding ourselves in Christ, the fifteenth Churchwide Assembly will be a time for us to be the living body of Christ guided by the Spirit and conformed to God’s will....When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God’s grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church.”*

**We need volunteers to fill many roles that will help to insure a smoothly running assembly event.** Volunteers can choose from many time frames and options including greeting visitors at the airport, guiding people to meals, monitoring hearings and doors, assisting with technology, ushering for worship and more. Our [CWA19.org](http://CWA19.org) website has a full description of each position and a registration form. We hope you’ll join us!

[CWA19.org](http://CWA19.org)

## Synod Assembly 2019

For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table

This year’s synod assembly takes place at the Italian Community Center from May 31 – June 1, 2019. We invite everyone (visitors and voting members) to join us for the Friday evening dinner at 5:30 p.m., featuring keynote speaker Rev. Emmy Kegler, and worship at 7 p.m. Tickets for dinner are \$30 and are available here: [bit.ly/2DxVovx](http://bit.ly/2DxVovx). A “pray”ground space will be provided for small children in the worship space and a dessert reception will follow the service. On Saturday we’ll work together from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in plenary sessions. Learn more about synod assembly on our website: [milwaukeesynod.org/event/2019-synod-assembly](http://milwaukeesynod.org/event/2019-synod-assembly).

### Ch-ch-changes

**“Where are the young people in the church?” “Why don’t young adults go to church?” “What can we do to get young people back into our congregations?”** . . . Have you ever asked or *been asked* these questions?

Sometimes younger people aren’t in our churches because they think their voices don’t matter. This year’s assembly is a chance to show them that their voices **do** matter.

### We took these steps to send this message

- We changed the time to avoid weekday/weeknight conflicts
- We added a youth or young adult voting member for every congregation
- We have invited young speakers (pictured)
- We keep our youth and young adult fee low
- Friday night is open to all

### We’re inviting you to take these steps:

1. Identify and invite a confirmed member of your congregation under the age of 31 to be an extra voting member at year’s Synod Assembly.
2. Invite **everyone** to attend Friday night.

### Why?

Synod Assembly is the one time every year where leaders from over 120 ministries gather to be energized for ministry and celebrate what God can do through all of us together!

We all know the world and the church are changing rapidly. The only way we’re going to learn our way into that future is together with people of all ages.

*“Most of the older people that I know say that having younger people around them is energizing. There is a different sense of vibrancy when everyone is present. It looks more like Jesus. This is the primary decision-making moment of the year and we need to reflect that.”*  
– GMS Pastor

### How?

Reach out to a youth or young adult under 31 and invite them to join you and us for Synod Assembly. Your extra voting member is only \$85!

**May 31-June 1, 2019**  
**Italian Community Center, Milwaukee**

More info: [milwaukeesynod.org/event/2019-synod-assembly](http://milwaukeesynod.org/event/2019-synod-assembly)



Rev. Emmy Kegler  
Savanna Sullivan



## Transitions

as of April 24, 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

- **Emaus, Racine** (PT pastor, bi-lingual)
- **Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor)
- **Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor)

#### PACT has begun

- **Living Christ, Germantown** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Jon Breimeier, PT interim pastor
- **Our Savior’s, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock, Consistent supply pastor

#### Mission Exploration Team (MET) process (preparation for completing an MSP):

- **Adoration, Greenfield** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim 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
- **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
- **House of Prayer, Franklin** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor
- **Incarnation, Milwaukee** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Vicki Watkins, PT bridge pastor
- **Luther Memorial, West Allis** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT interim pastor
- **Mt. Hope, West Allis** (solo pastor) – Rev. Michael Mueller, FT interim pastor
- **Mt. Zion, Wauwatosa** (FT solo pastor) – Rev. Josh Graber, FT interim pastor
- **North Cape, Franksville** (associate pastor) – Rev. Karl-John Stone, PT bridge pastor
- **Redemption, Wauwatosa** (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Alexander Jacobs, PT transition consultant
- **St. Luke, Waukesha** (FT associate pastor) – Rev. Elizabeth Baires, 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) – Rev. Maren Hooper, PT bridge pastor
- **Peace, Burlington** (PT pastor) – Rev. Sue Ruehle, PT bridge pastor
- **Spirit Alive!, Kenosha** (PT pastor) – Rev. Cynthia Aasen, PT interim pastor
- **St. Paul, Kenosha** (PT pastor) – Rev. Cynthia Aasen, PT interim pastor

#### Calls Extended (\*=started the new call):

- **Bay Shore, Whitefish Bay** (FT pastor)

### Rostered Ministers in Transition

#### Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Changed Calls:

To the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Lindsey Beukelman, from candidate for call, to called pastor at **All Peoples Church, Milwaukee**
- Rev. Joshua Evans, from candidate for call, to called associate pastor at **Unity, Brookfield**
- Rev. Allison Johnson, from candidate for call, to called pastor at **Journey in Faith, Racine**
- Rev. Chad Kline, from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, to called pastor at **Living Faith, Racine**
- Rev. Elizabeth Lee, from the South Central Synod, to called associate pastor at **Cross, Burlington**
- Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, from the South Central Synod, to called pastor at **St. Luke, Slinger**
- Rev. Paul Petersen, from the South Central Synod, to called pastor at **St. Mary, Kenosha**
- 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. Cindy Aasen, from OLC to synod call to interim ministry at **St. Paul, Kenosha** and **Spirit Alive!, Kenosha**
- Rev. Doug Andersen, from OLC to 1/2 time called pastor at **Zion, Ashippun** and 1/2 time shared pastor covenant with **Cross, Ixonia**
- Rev. Elizabeth Baires, from OLC to PT associate bridge pastor at **St. Luke, Waukesha**
- Rev. Brian Halverson, from term call pastor at **Mt. Hope, West Allis** to called pastor at **St. John’s, Brookfield**
- Rev. Jim Holmberg, from LSS Wisconsin to interim pastor at **Christ the King, Delafield**
- Rev. Lindsay Jordan, from called pastor at **Christ the King, Delafield** to called pastor at **St. Luke, Waukesha**
- Rev. Denise Mbise, from term call pastor at **Living Faith, Racine** to called pastor at **Trinity, South Milwaukee**
- Rev. Aida Muñiz, from term call associate pastor at **All Peoples Church, Milwaukee** to called pastor at **Redeemer, Hartford**
- Rev. Michael Mueller, from bridge pastor at **Living Faith, Racine** to interim pastor at **Mt. Hope, West Allis**
- Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse, from term call associate pastor at **North Cape, Franksville** to called pastor at **St. Paul, Milwaukee**
- Rev. Lester Spies, from called pastor at **Living Christ, Germantown** to called pastor at **Memorial, Glendale**
- Rev. Tim Tahtinen, from called pastor at **Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee** to called pastor at **St. Marks, Cudahy**
- Rev. Dean Willich, from OLC to term call pastor at **Bethlehem, Muskego**

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

- Rev. Patrick Keen, from called pastor at **Our Savior’s, Milwaukee** to OLC
- Rev. Jay McDivitt, from called pastor at **Christ the Servant, Waukesha** to OLC

#### Remembering Rostered Ministers Who Have Recently Died:

- **Rev. Ted Romberg**, a minister of Word and Sacrament, died on February 27, 2019. Pastor Romberg retired in 2004 after serving four congregations over forty years; he last served at St. Luke in Waukesha from 1983-2004. Following his retirement, he continued to serve both church and community. His faithful witness to the Gospel touched countless lives and we give thanks for his life and ministry. A Memorial service was held on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Waukesha. The obituary can be viewed at [www.churchandchapel.com/obituary/Ted-Romberg](http://www.churchandchapel.com/obituary/Ted-Romberg)