



Greater Milwaukee Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# Life Together

January 2019

Issue 10

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## Upcoming Events



**Lutheran Campus Ministry Chili Cook-off**  
January 26, 2019  
Mount Hope Lutheran Church, West Allis



**Reconciling in Christ Sunday**  
January 27, 2019  
Everywhere



**Candidacy Retreat**  
February 1-2, 2019  
Christpond Retreat Center, Random Lake



**Clergy Spouse Conference**  
February 1-3, 2019  
Country Inn & Suites, Iron Mountain, MI



**Together in Mission**  
February 16, 2019  
St. John Lutheran Church, Brookfield



**diakonia Retreat**  
March 23, 2019  
Mount Hope Lutheran Church, West Allis



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

*More info inside!*

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

## Notes from the Bishop

I realize as I write this that many congregations are in the midst of preparations for their annual meeting. This is an important event in the life of a congregation, giving chance for folks to take stock of where they've been and what they've done and highlight a few priorities for the year to come. While the synod's annual meeting, also called our assembly, is not for another five months, I thought it might be helpful for me to reflect a bit on 2018 and look ahead to 2019.

Let me begin, as I often do, with a word of thanks. I'm grateful for this call, for the team I have to work with in the synod office, and for the many partnerships we share, with the congregations and other ministries that make up this synod, the rostered and lay leaders who serve so well, and for our global companions. We're all in this together, and I am daily humbled and excited by all that God is doing in and with and through us all.

The most frequent situation into which we as your synod staff are invited has to do with transition in pastoral leadership, and I'm excited that we have been able to see more than 25 call processes to completion in 2018 alone, resulting in new pastors being installed in ministry. I recognize that, for many, the process used can feel long and cumbersome, but we have learned that investing the time to clarify a congregation's history and mission, to vet and match candidates, and to listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance is an investment worth making. We are also working to improve the process, and the feedback we received in a recent survey sent to selected leaders of congregations will help us. We are also looking for ways to guide congregations as they seek the best possible leader for their specific context, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We are also invited into congregations in times of discernment, and we recognize that such situations often lead to anxiety. So much in our world and in our church is changing, and people are wrestling with questions regarding finances, leadership, and mission. We in the synod office know that we don't and can't have all the answers to these questions, but we are willing to explore the questions with you and accompany you as you seek the best path forward. Much of this accompaniment is embodied in the Together in Mission event next month, described on the next page of this newsletter and open to everyone: pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. I hope we have a very strong turnout. We are also in the midst of crafting a synodical statement of our vision, mission, values, and core practices to guide us as we seek to be faithful to God's call on our lives.

Through it all, I am aware that God's Spirit is alive and well and moving in our midst. I'm grateful for your prayers, for your support, and for all the ways that you are sharing your gifts and passions as we discover how to be church together for the sake of the world.

In Christ,  
Paul



Give yourself a treat and sign up for the 2019 Outreach for Hope Lenten Devotions themed **Hope for the**

**Journey.** Avail yourself of these inspirational passages that enrich our lives, while gaining new insights about Outreach for Hope ministries.

Lent and the devotions begin on March 6, 2019.

Individual Readers: sign up to receive daily emails at [outreachforhope.org/subscribe/](http://outreachforhope.org/subscribe/)

Congregational Pastors: The full set of devotions will be available February 20 for distribution to your members. Visit [outreachforhope.org/lenten-devotions/](http://outreachforhope.org/lenten-devotions/) for resources you can use to invite member participation.

## Together in Mission Workshops

# Together in Mission

### Congregational Life

- The Work and Leadership of Church Councils
- Staffing for Mission & Ministry Impact
- Stewardship's Flip-side: Recognizing and Removing Obstacles to Generosity
- Being a Reconciling in Christ Community-Why? How?
- Interpersonal Communication Insights for Congregations
- Seeing the Congregation Through a Family Systems Lens
- Social Media for Your Church
- Leading with the Congregation's Spirituality

### God's People

- LGBTQIAA+-What Do All Those Letters Mean Anyway?
- Phones, Fears, & Faith-The Spiritual Life of Young Adults
- Why Not? Insights on Millennials BY Millennials
- FAITH6- Connecting Across Generations
- Ministry With and Among our Senior Community

### God's Mission

- What is God Calling Us to Be and Do as a Synod?
- Reimagining Church
- Hope for the Journey
- We are All Immigrants: God's Story of People on the Move
- Dwelling in the Word: the Bible Tells Us So (Scriptural Guidance for Racial Reconciliation Conversations)
- What's Old and New in Prison Ministry?

On Saturday, February 16, congregational leaders from across our synod will gather at St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield (20275 Davidson Rd.) for our second Together in Mission event. This day offers opportunity for mission conversation, learning, and fellowship with other people who are excited and challenged in the ministry we share in Jesus Christ. **All laypeople in our synod are invited to come, learn, share and grow in communion with others.** Coming together, God strengthens us for this work.

The day starts formally at 9 a.m., but the coffee and fellowship start at 8:15. Following an opening devotional time with Bishop Erickson, we will break out for workshops on a variety of ministry topics. Over lunch we will meet as mission clusters to explore the work in our neighborhoods. Following another workshop time in the afternoon, we will conclude with a final brief send-off gathering and end at 2:45 p.m.

To the left, check out this year's lineup of exciting and informative workshops.

Child care is offered; please see the notes in the registration information.

Early registration and price break end January 25.

We hope to see you and your fellow members and leaders at this year's Together in Mission.  
You won't want to miss it!

### Reviews from last year's inaugural event:

"I would recommend this event for a colleague, because of the energy, material covered, and overall quality of the event."

"I enjoyed the different workshops. It gave a more energetic approach to learning."

Descriptions of all workshops and registration can be found at [milwaukee-synod.org/event/2019-together-in-mission](http://milwaukee-synod.org/event/2019-together-in-mission)

# Transitions

as of January 14, 2019

### Congregations in Transition

#### Recent Vacancy:

(Interim/transition pastor has not yet begun)

- Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee (PT pastor)
- North Cape, Franksville (PT associate pastor)

#### Mission Exploration Process:

(no candidates received at this time) NOTE: "Transition Pastors" provide pastoral support and consistency to the congregation during a time of rostered minister transition, and do not lead a MET process. "Transition Consultants" help lead a MET process, and have limited pastoral leadership responsibilities. "Interim Pastors" provide pastoral support and lead a MET process. "Bridge Pastors" offer short term pastoral support until an interim or a called pastor begins.

- Adoration, Greenfield (FT pastor) – Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim pastor
- Advent, Cedarburg (FT pastor) – Rev. John Holm, PT transition pastor
- Capitol Drive, Milwaukee (PT pastor) – Rev. Bill Mains, PT bridge pastor
- Christ the King, Delafield (FT pastor) – Rev. Jim Holmberg, FT interim pastor
- Good Shepherd Trinity (PT pastor) – supply pastors
- House of Prayer, Franklin (FT pastor) – Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor
- Incarnation, Milwaukee (PT pastor) – Rev. Vicki Watkins, PT bridge pastor
- Luther Memorial, West Allis (PT pastor) – Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT interim pastor
- Mt. Hope, West Allis (FT pastor) – Rev. Michael Mueller, FT interim pastor
- Mt. Zion, Wauwatosa (FT pastor) – Rev. Josh Graber, FT interim pastor
- Redemption, Wauwatosa (PT pastor) – Rev. Alexander Jacobs, PT transition consultant
- St. John, Brookfield (PT associate pastor) – Rev. Karen Natterstad, PT transition pastor
- St. Luke, Waukesha (PT associate pastor) – Rev. Elizabeth Baires, PT transition pastor
- Vernon, Mukwonago (FT pastor) – Rev. David Patterson, PT interim pastor

#### Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Posted:

- Bethel, Muskego (PT pastor) – Rev. Maren Hooper, PT bridge pastor
- Peace, Burlington (PT pastor) – Rev. Carol Jeunnette, PT transition consultant
- Spirit Alive!, Kenosha (1/2 time at Spirit Alive! and 1/2 time at St. Paul, Kenosha) – Rev. Cynthia Aasen, bridge pastor
- St. Paul, Kenosha (1/2 time at St. Paul and 1/2 time at Spirit Alive!) – Rev. Cynthia Aasen, bridge pastor

#### Candidate Name/s Submitted to Call Committee:

- All Peoples Church, Milwaukee (FT solo pastor) – covered by current staffing
- Bay Shore, Whitefish Bay (FT pastor) – Rev. Molly Doreza, FT interim pastor
- Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls (FT associate pastor)
- St. Mark, Cudahy (PT solo pastor) – Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock, PT bridge pastor

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

- Bethlehem, Muskego (PT term call pastor) – Rev. Dean Willich\*
- Cross, Burlington (FT associate pastor) – Rev. Elizabeth Lee\*
- Cross, Ixonia (PT pastor) – Rev. Doug Andersen
- Journey in Faith, Racine (FT pastor)
- Living Faith, Racine (FT pastor) – Rev. Chad Kline
- Memorial, Glendale (FT pastor) – Rev. Lester Spies
- Redeemer, Hartford (FT pastor) – Rev. Aida Muniz
- St. John, Brookfield (FT senior pastor) – Rev. Brian Halverson\*
- St. Luke, Slinger (FT pastor) – Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe\*
- St. Luke, Waukesha (FT senior pastor) – Rev. Dr. Lindsay Jordan\*
- St. Mary, Kenosha (FT senior pastor) – Rev. Paul Petersen\*
- St. Paul, Milwaukee (FT pastor) – Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse\*
- Trinity, South Milwaukee (FT pastor) – Rev. Denise Mbise\*
- Unity, Brookfield (FT 3rd pastor) – Rev. Joshua Evans\*
- Zion, Ashippun (PT pastor) – Rev. Doug Andersen

### Rostered Ministers in Transition

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

To the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- Rev. Joshua Evans, from candidate for call, to called associate pastor at Unity, Brookfield
- 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

Within the Greater Milwaukee Synod

- 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. 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. Dean Willich, from OLC to term call pastor at Bethlehem, Muskego
- From the Greater Milwaukee Synod
- Rev. Timothy Singleton, from called pastor at Adoration, Greenfield to the Southwest California Synod

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

- Rev. Jon Breimeier, from synod call to interim ministry at Redeemer, Hartford to OLC
- Rev. Jennifer (Carlson) Olson, from FT bridge pastor at Unity, Brookfield to OLC

#### Rostered Ministers Recently Retired:

- Rev. John Holm, from a synod call to interim ministry at St. Mary's, Kenosha to retirement

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

- **Deacon Merle W Boos**, a retired Minister of Word and Service, died December 11, 2018, in West Bend, WI. Merle served at Churchwide within the Division for Outreach from 1969 to his retirement on 12/31/93. Prior to that ministry he served as a Lay Associate at Incarnation in Milwaukee. The service for Deacon Merle was held on December 15, at Trinity Lutheran Church, in West Bend, WI, where he was a member. We give thanks for the life and ministry of Deacon Merle Boos.
- **Rev. Howard Knox**, a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament, died on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 in West Bend, WI at the age of 99. Pastor Knox served congregations in Lancaster, Brookfield, and Kenosha, Wisconsin, also serving for three years as a camp director from 1967-1970. He retired in 1985, but remained active and involved as a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger, WI. He also served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1945 during WWII. The service for Pastor Howard was held on Monday, December 31, 2018, at St. Luke in Slinger. We give thanks for the life and ministry of Pastor Howard Knox.
- **Deacon Linda Schmidt**, a Minister of Word and Service, died on Monday, December 10, 2018, in Geneseo, Illinois. Deacon Linda was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry on September 10, 1988, by the ELCA. She served Zion Lutheran Church (Madison, Wisconsin) Wilmette Lutheran Church (Wilmette, Illinois), Zion Lutheran Church (Clinton, Iowa) St. Mary's Lutheran Church (Kenosha, Wisconsin) and First Lutheran Church (Geneseo, Illinois). Funeral services for Deacon Linda were held on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at First Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL. We give thanks for the life and ministry of Deacon Linda Schmidt.
- **Rev. Edwin Winters**, a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament, died on Sunday, December 23, 2018, in Brookfield, WI. The service for Pastor Ed was held on December 30, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa. Among his 48 years of ordained ministry, he served his final call as Chaplain at St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee. We give thanks for the life and ministry of Pastor Ed Winters.