

WHAT MATTERS September 12, 2018 . . .

News from Your Synod and Ministry Partners



Our Mission:
We care for, connect and equip the congregations of our synod to be the heart and hands of Jesus.

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA / 6401 Odana Road / Suite 20 / Madison, WI 53719 / (608)270-0201 / www.scsw-elca.org

BISHOP'S CONVOCATION 2018 For All Rostered Leaders and Spouses

Click on link to register:
<https://bit.ly/BishopsConvocation2018>

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 18 TO RESERVE A HOTEL ROOM!

Dates: Sunday, October 7 - Tuesday, October 9
Location: Abbey Resort, Fontana, Wisconsin

Schedule:

Registration: 4:00 pm Sunday, October 7
Banquet & Start of Event: Sunday, October 7 - 6:00 pm
Close: Tuesday, October 9 at noon

Each year, the bishop invites all rostered leaders in our synod and their spouses to participate in a few days of learning, collegiality, respite and fun! While we never use the word, "required," rostered are strongly urged to attend and congregational councils are encouraged to send their pastor(s) and deacon(s).

We are delighted to have with us, Dr. Samuel Giere, Professor of Homiletics from Wartburg Seminary.

About His keynote: "Incarnation, Subversive Faith, Public Word"

Relationships in our current North American political climate are frail. Trust is in worn thin. Trust in leadership. Trust in institutions. Trust in one another. While this erosion of trust is not a new reality, it has worn thinner and thinner over the last decade and is now approaching a breaking point. This extreme weathering of trust impacts how we are church and how we speak and hear the Word. When trust is so fragile, how can I trust the preacher? Is what she is saying true? Is this sermon simply more noise? Is Good News just well-intentioned fake news with candles? How do the unfiltered/unedited news stories spread via social media platforms impact the truth of the Gospel?

In this series of presentations, we will explore the proclamation of Jesus Christ in such a time as this. We will touch on the foundation of Christian proclamation in the incarnation of the Eternal Word, the trajectory of Christian proclamation as faith alone, and the bold and ticklish call to proclaim this radical Word, this radical faith in the public square... which includes each and every one of our congregations. The textual fodder for our explorations will come from weekly texts from Advent and Christmas 2018.

Planned Group Activities Available: Lake Geneva School of Cooking, Canopy Tours Ziplining, Studio Winery Cork and Canvas Private Painting Party, Lake Geneva Clue Room! See the brochure for all the details and try something NEW this year!

Bishop's Convocation

"Incarnation, Subversive Faith, Public Word"
Featuring: Dr. Samuel Giere

October 7-9, 2018

Abbey Resort
Fontana, Wisconsin



Fall Theological Conference
for Rostered Ministers & Spouses of the
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.





Hymn of Hope for Disaster Situations: Message from the Bishop

Good Afternoon Church,

As you know, I like to sing. As we are still dealing with the aftermath of the flooding in our synod, I found a hymn by one of the most prolific contemporary hymn writers around, **Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**. I share it with you as a resource as we continue in recovery.

“Oh God We've Prayed in Wind and Rain”

http://www.carolynshymns.com/o_god_weve_prayed_in_wind_and_rain.html

As we seem to be on the brink of another pending disaster for our siblings in the Carolinas and Virginia, we are reminded that we are not alone in our struggles due to weather calamities. Blessings as you continue to do recovery. Be careful to observe safe practices.

~ Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld



“We shall never achieve harmony with the land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations, the important thing is not to achieve but to strive.” Aldo Leopold

Thoughts from Rev. Cindy Crane, Director, Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

Many prayers for all who are experiencing displacement and loss because of the flooding throughout Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The immediate needs of many have been vast, and the long-term effects of how water has overcome certain areas are unknown. So much is out of our control, but considering that which humans can affect, we pause and wonder. Which public policies make it more difficult for the earth to absorb water. What are scientists saying about patterns that bring to light the impact climate change is having in the present? Some respond by pointing out that the earth has always been altering and that flooding is a part of life. Yet, based on what science teaches us, we can make needed changes even if we never achieve complete harmony with the land.

James instructs us to show no partiality based on economic status. We say that's what we'd like to do as a democracy as well, and yet money in politics has led to significant deregulation of environmental protections as a result of many government officials showing gross favoritism of corporations owned by wealthy donors. The good news is that we find an increasing number of groups claiming the value of tapping into renewable energy, that doesn't emit carbon dioxide emissions. Many individuals, businesses, secular and religious nonprofits, cities and counties are making grassroots efforts to change. Our advocacy on all levels from local to federal for our leaders to give less preferential treatment to those who steer us toward harming the earth is vital.

Show no partiality - how beautiful that is to experience and unlikely to 100% achieve. With all our imperfections, we need to try for impartiality, realizing that it can win out and that sins can be forgiven. Strive, knowing that God loves each of us and all of creation.

Learn more and sign up for advocacy alerts at: <https://www.loppw.org/>

***You are cordially invited to the Rite of Ordination for
Augusta Barnes***



***Saturday, September 15, 2018
2:00 pm
Bay Shore Lutheran Church
1200 E. Hampton Road
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217***

Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld Presiding

***Clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.
Augusta is new to our synod and will be serving at Luther Memorial in Delavan, WI***

**Will One of Your Youth Represent Our Synod
at the Next Leadership Summit?**

**Applications Are Being Accepted
Deadline: September 25, 2018**



Dates of Summit: November 1-4, 2018

Location: Camp Carol Joy Holling – Ashland, Nebraska <https://elcayouthministry.com/>

The ELCA Youth Leadership Summit is an annual gathering for high school youth identified as leaders and adult representatives from each synod from across The ELCA. Two youth in grades 9-12 and one adult per synod are invited to attend. This year Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will accompany our youth to the summit. All costs (including round-trip air travel from Madison Dane County Regional Airport) are covered for this event by our synod and the ELCA.

This summit focuses on leadership development through engaging speakers and thought leaders in key areas at the intersection of leadership and faith in daily life AND faith formation and building connections for high school youth in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Youth will be challenged to take home what they have learned to inspire action in their own synods and youth groups. The Youth Leadership Summit is a shared ministry between ELCA Youth Ministry and The SYMBOL Network (Synodical Youth Ministry Leaders).

The theme for the 2018 Summit is "Through Christ We Can" and will use Philippians 2:1-5 as it's scriptural base. The event will focus on young people's call to ministry for the sake of others and advocacy because of their faith. For our learning and networking times we will be joined by various ELCA ministries and staff including Advocacy, Young Adult Ministries, Justice for Women and Global Mission.

If you are a youth in grades 9-12 who feels called to attend this summit, please download an application on our synod youth ministry page at: <https://scsw-elca.org/ministries-and-partners/youthministry/> and return it to Rev. Steve Kottke in the synod office by September 25, 2018 to be considered. Rev. Kottke and Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld will be reviewing each application and will choose two youth to represent the synod at this year's Summit.

WHAT MATTERS MISSION MOMENTS!

Care for God's Creation Ministry

Last week we provided an update on what this synod team is doing to help us care for God's creation. This ministry is funded through your mission support and a portion of that is sent on to the ELCA for our shared work caring for God's creation. Thank you for your weekly offering to your congregation! This work is so important and in fact, Bishop Eaton shared this message recently addressing our call to care for creation.



A Statement from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Addressing our Call to Care for Creation

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) members pray and care for God's marvelous creation every day. We also join the global Christian community each Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 to mark the Season of Creation. This season starts with a World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation, an invitation to focus our worship, our stewardship and action on honoring God by honoring and caring for God's handiwork.

As members of the ELCA, we share a love and a responsibility for all that God has made. In our social statement "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice," we affirm that "made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth. God's command to have dominion and subdue the earth is not a license to dominate and exploit. Human dominion, a special responsibility, should reflect God's way of ruling as a shepherd king who takes the form of a servant, wearing a crown of thorns." We confess the ways in which we have been negligent in our

responsibility to God and to all of creation and commit ourselves to exercising our stewardship by upholding the integrity of creation and safeguarding those most vulnerable to environmental degradation.

On this year's World Day of Prayer, I am mindful that our warming climate is creating unprecedented crises for millions. These include increased food insecurity, forced migration, natural disasters, civil conflict and water scarcity. From across all communities most affected by climate change, women and girls are disproportionately affected. According to ACT Alliance, these communities suffer huge losses that extend beyond monetary losses to noneconomic impacts such as loss of lives, land, territory, language and culture. Our response to these losses has focused on the neglect and carelessness, both in private industry and in government regulation, that have contributed to these changes. An honest accounting also recognizes that we all participate, both as consumers and investors, in economies that make intensive and insistent demands for energy. We are part of the solution.

In September, the ELCA will mark the Season of Creation by taking a leadership role during the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. Together with The Lutheran World Federation and other partners, we will host a Talanoa Dialogue to accompany those most affected by climate change. The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change states: "*Talanoa* is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of *Talanoa* is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good ... sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling."

The focus of these dialogues will be "Loss and Damage" and "Just Transition" related to climate change. The former will explore the suffering that climate change is causing right now and seek new ways to learn from and accompany those most affected. The latter recognizes that we must also accompany those whose livelihoods are dependent on extractive industries, making sure they are not left behind during the transition to renewable energy sources. These dialogues will equip us in the planetary movement toward climate solutions with initiatives that reflect God's concern for the sufficiency and sustainability of all people.

Our ELCA ministries are making an impact as we as a church take hold of our common responsibility to creation and to God. We know that transitioning to lifestyles that eliminate the causes of global warming is critical and must be done now. In response to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly resolution "Toward a Responsible Energy Future," ELCA members answer the call to care for all of God's creation in our churches and homes through stewardship, education and advocacy. These efforts include establishing environmental

stewardship committees, building awareness around energy efficiency, evaluating investments in fossil fuels, and learning more about sustainable farming and development.

All who care for the earth and work for the restoration of its vitality can be confident in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us as we serve in concert with God's creative and renewing power and the indwelling Spirit of Christ to give us hope, courage and direction.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (prayer for stewardship of natural resources, ELW p. 80).

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Read the ELCA Social Statement: "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice,"
<https://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation>



PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES - A ministry of the ELCA

Portico offers a new online video series for Congregational Treasurers. The video links are below. They will eventually be on EmployerLink,

1. Welcome video: <https://vimeo.com/286898425/17550a772a>
2. Understanding Your Bill: <https://vimeo.com/283784085/b9c699d390>
3. EmployerLink Tour: <https://vimeo.com/283787408/1b2bcecb97>

Also, please share the following:

Resourceful Stewards Initiative

Financial wellness is a vital part of a healthy life. Ministers who are in a financially sound position experience greater satisfaction in their work and their relationships, and are more able to freely serve the church and its mission without being encumbered by financial anxiety.

Savings Matching Programs

The church is an active partner in addressing specific needs raised by rostered ministers, helping rostered ministers develop their personal financial and stewardship health. Two Savings Matching programs share financial resources with rostered ministers.

These programs match rostered ministers' contributions to a dedicated emergency savings account and/or increased contributions to their ELCA retirement plan accounts. Click below to learn about the programs, services and resources available to you as a minister or lay person! **Deadline to apply is October 14th** Go to resourcefuleservants.org for more info!





Caring for Veterans Community Clergy Training Program

Where: First Lutheran Church, Janesville, WI
612 N Randall Ave

When: Tuesdays from 12:00-3:00pm on
October 23rd & 30th, November 6th & 13th

About the training:

Members of the clergy with a heart for the care of Veterans and active duty service members in their community will gather together to learn more about warriors' needs and ways to serve and support them. We will view educational videos from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, engage in facilitated discussion, and meet with a VA chaplain and other community experts. Participants will strategize and work together to improve access to VA and community services; addressing

mental health issues, relationship problems, difficulties for the children of military families; lowering levels of substance abuse and homelessness; and improving physical health and well-being. Please join us for this important training.

Please RSVP by calling First Lutheran's office at 608-752-7434 x10 or by emailing office@flcj.org before October 16th so we can plan for food and materials. Please include any dietary restrictions.

Lunch is provided from 12:00-12:30

Module Schedule:

- October 23rd – Military Culture and the Wounds of War
- October 30th - Military Culture and the Wounds of War (Continued)
- November 6th – Pastoral Care for Veterans and their Families
- November 13th – Mental Health Services & Referrals and Building Community Partnerships

THE SYNOD NEEDS VOLUNTEER PREACHERS!

As you know, each week we hold Communion Worship in the synod office chapel and each week, we invite a different preacher. This is an opportunity that is open to all of our **Pastors and Deacons**, whether in an active call, or retired or on leave. Worship is held in an intimate setting in our little fireside chapel from 12:00 to 12:30 with brown bag lunch immediately following if you are able. We worship anywhere from 3 to 30. You will choose one ad-hoc day or can choose more if you desire, but if you are interested in helping in this way, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Carolyn Butts at 608-270-0201. Call Carolyn and make her day!



**Join Us for Worship In the Synod Office Chapel
Every Thursday at Noon – All Are Welcome!**

We gather for worship and holy communion on Thursdays. Each week a different preacher from our synod leads worship. Come to the table and be fed in body and spirit.

Brown bag lunch and fellowship immediately following if you are able at 12:30.

Our address is: 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison, WI 53719 Please join us!



SCSW DIAKONIA CLASS SIGN UP AND CALL OUT FOR A FEW MORE INSTRUCTORS THAT ARE NEEDED!

Instructors Still Needed for the Following Courses -

Madison & Evansville (Saturday mornings)

- * Faith in the North American Context - Madison and Evansville Instructors Needed
- * Christian Worship (Madison covered, Evansville Instructor Needed)



If you are interested in teaching, contact Diakonia Coordinator, Barb Zimmerman at 608-535-0264 or email her at: scswdiakonia@gmail.com.

If you are interested in taking classes, more information, along with registration form, can be obtained from the web site www.scsw-elca.org click on Ministries and Partners, Diakonia. You can also contact Linda Wulff at 920-210-2675 or by e-mail at scswdiakonia@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from prospective students and instructors!



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Come Fill Your Soul at the OYTL Retreat!

Lutheran Men in Mission -

"One Year to Live Retreat For Men"

September 21-23, 2018

MacKenzie Environmental Education Center, Poynette, WI

Register today – space is limited.

This retreat has been life changing for many attendees! Join with men of all ages seeking to follow the guidance of Proverbs 27:17.



Excellent kickoff for a small group of men from the same church or neighboring churches. For more information and to view participant testimonial videos: <http://www.lutheranmen.org/events>

Call or text LMM synod leader, Jim Schieble: (920) 763-3433 with other questions.

Holy Land Trip June 15-26, 2019 Registration is due by September 30!

The Holy Land is a place that conjures many images in our minds – from inspiring to confounding. Pastor Blake Rohrer of Midvale Community Lutheran Church has travelled there three times previously. This journey will be a pilgrimage, following in the footsteps of Jesus, seeing the lands of the Bible. Throughout the trip we will share group reflection and prayer. As meaningful as the holy sites will be, the unique encounters with the people who live there today may be just as moving. There will be good accommodations, delicious meals and expert guides. For a brochure and sign up information, click here: <https://gtd.org/post/pdfbrochure/190603.pdf>



If you have questions, contact Pastor Blake Rohrer at 608-238-7119.

Bridging Faith Communities Together

For Healthy Conversations About Alzheimer's and Related Dementias

Join us on
Saturday, September 29, 2018
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fellowship and resource tables at 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Program starts at 2:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church
312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI

FREE event, but registration is preferred.

Please contact Naveena Jaspal at (608) 263-8818 or jaspal@wisc.edu
to register OR register online at www.bethel-madison.org/memory.

Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you to our planning partners:



Featuring The "Amazing Grace" Chorus

Comprised of people living with dementia
and their caregivers and a program of the
Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute (WAI) Regional
Milwaukee Office

Guest Speakers



Pastor Mary Kay Baum
Minister and Board of Directors
Chair, Memory, Inc.



Pastor Anthony Wade
Second Baptist Church, Madison



Dr. Nathaniel Chin
Geriatrician, UW Health and UW
School of Medicine and Public Health



Ms. Gina Green-Harris
Director, WAI Milwaukee Regional
Office, UW School of Medicine and
Public Health



Pastor Stephen Welch
Interim Pastor, First Congregational
United Church of Christ, Ripon



Bethel Lutheran Church (Madson) is hosting a discussion on how faith communities can best serve and support families living with dementia. Age is the single greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. The risk doubles every five years beyond the age of 65. It is estimated that one in three families has a loved one with some type of dementia.

The program will include a brief presentation by Dr. Nathaniel Chin, UW Assistant Professor of Geriatrics, and a panel discussion that includes: ELCA Pastor Mary Kay Baum, who is experiencing mild-cognitive impairment, UCC Pastor Stephen Welch, who has conducted monthly dementia friendly church services for three years in Watertown, WI, Pastor Anthony Wade, who is serving at Madison's Second Baptist Church and Gina Green-Harris Director, WAI Milwaukee Regional Office, UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

Through a grant from Bethel's Foundation, the program will feature an up-lifting performance by the Amazing Grace Chorus. The chorus is an outgrowth of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute's (WAI) outreach effort in the African-American community in Milwaukee. Native Americans and the Hispanic and African-American Communities are twice more likely to develop cognitive impairment. While dementia has stolen some memories from the Amazing Grace Chorus, it hasn't taken their music. The chorus is an inspiring example of what it means to "preserve the essential portion of self that is encompassed by faith."

Following the program, Bethel's Saturday, 5pm service will be led by Pastor Stephen Welch who is currently serving as interim pastor at the First Congregational Church in Ripon, WI. The service will be adjusted to better engage those with cognitive issues, while worshiping with their fellow members. The service provides an opportunity to experience the minor accommodations that can be made to make a worship service more meaningful and inclusive for those with cognitive impairment. All are invited to the afternoon program and the worship service following.

Two Learning Events Brought to You By Your Synod's Racial Equity Ministry Team

These events are brought to you by the synod's Racial Equity Ministry Team. This team's programming has been received with enthusiasm. Please join us for this high quality programming that will leave you more informed and aware of how you are living out your faith.

"Heritage: What to Keep, What to Leave Behind."

One of the hardest things to do in life is to learn what to do with our upbringing - the ways we are connected to and learn from our life and development. Using music and prayer, Francisco Herrera will be walking with us through how he has answered this question in his own life, and how his undertaking has transformed him as an human being and as a follower and preacher of the Gospel.

Date: Sunday, September 16 / 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Place: New Life Church - 7564 Cottage Grove Road - Madison

About Our Speaker, Francisco Herrera

Before coming to Chicago [Francisco Herrera](#) studied classical music (viola and orchestra conducting) in his hometown of [Kansas City, Missouri](#) and then [Geneva, Switzerland](#). After feeling the call to ministry at his home church in Geneva, [The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva](#), he returned to the US to enter seminary in 2005, completing his M.Div. from [Chicago Theological Seminary](#) in 2012. Since beginning his Ph.D studies at [the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago \(LSTC\)](#) in Fall of 2013, he has also been developing his skills as a seminary instructor, both at [LSTC](#) and [the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest](#). And when he isn't doing any of those things, polymath and scatterbrain that he is, Francisco likes to write worship and devotional music, blogs at [www.loveasrevolution.blogspot.com](#), tweets at [@PolyglotEvangel](#), and travels the country as one of the central leaders of [#decolonizeLutheranism](#).

"American Genocides Project" Led By Theologian and Author, Dr. Craig Nesson!

Date: Sunday, October 14 Event / 4:00- 6:00 pm

Place: New Life Church - 7564 Cottage Grove Road - Madison

*Free will offering

One of the central factors for addressing systemic racism in this country involves dismantling the fundamentally flawed, conventional narrative used to interpret U.S. history. According to genocide theory, American history has been decisively marked by two genocides: 1) against the indigenous people of this continent and 2) against enslaved African people. The ELCA in assembly has adopted a resolution to repudiate the doctrine of discovery <http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Repudiation_Doctrine_of_DiscoverySPR16.pdf> as one step for addressing this history. The historian Edward E. Baptist in his book, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (2014) has documented how the "whipping machine" of slavery and its expansion was a decisive force driving the economic development of this country. Only right remembering can lead to repentance. What would be the meaning of reparations as a sign of true repentance?



Dr. Craig L. Nesson is William D. Streng Professor for the Education and Renewal of the Church, Academic Dean, and Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He teaches courses in the areas of contextual theology, pastoral theology, and theological ethics.



FESTIVAL CHOIR - CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Saturday, November 3 - 7:00 PM
First Lutheran Church
612 N. Randall Avenue
Janesville



Calling all Singers: Join us for a Once-In-A-Lifetime Musical Event!

Music to Move Our World is a community-building celebration of music, visual elements, and guest speakers, and features an adult and children's chorus accompanied by the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra. The program focuses on the concepts of Home and Community- both here in Southern Wisconsin and around the world. Music and other elements are used to paint a more complete picture of who we consider our neighbor, to soften the divisive barriers that have

historically isolated us from one another, and above all to illustrate the joy receive- and give- when answering our Christian call to reach out in love for one another.

All interested singers are encouraged to join our adult chorus. A meal and the choral music will be provided. All proceeds from the event support several charities and future similar events; participants are asked to consider a donation of \$10 to help cover music, meal, and the commemorative DVD which will be given to all following the event. Singers are encouraged to attend as many rehearsals as possible, which will be held on Thursday, October 18, Thursday, October 25, and Tuesday, October 30 at First Lutheran Church, 612 North Randall Avenue, Janesville, WI from 6:30-8:00pm. A dress rehearsal and dinner will be held at the church prior to the event on Saturday, Nov. 3, 3:00-6:00pm.

For more information, and to sign up for the Adult Chorus contact Jan Knutson, Choir Director at First Lutheran at jknutson604@gmail.com or (608) 921-6534.

Learn more about this creative use of First Lutheran's space in support of the arts and their community! <https://firstevents.org/world>

Film Series: History of Civil Rights Efforts and White Supremacy in the US and the World

September 29; 1:00 pm -- First Film (Free)

Lake Edge Lutheran Church - 4032 Monona Dr. Madison (Parking off of Hegg Ave.)

Our first film will be "A Son of Africa: the Slave Narrative of Olaudah Equiano." This powerful BBC documentary reconstructs the first influential slave narrative, the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, which helped rouse the conscience of Europe and America against the shame of slavery.

Equiano's story begins with his capture in West Africa in 1756 and recounts the horrors of the Middle Passage and everyday slave life on a Virginia Plantation. Slavery, he would observe, brutalizes not just the slaves but the masters and all of society. Resold to a British naval officer, Equiano learned to read and write, bought his freedom, married into English society and became a leading abolitionist. But it was his book, *The Interesting Narration of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*, which vividly demonstrated the humanity of Africans as much as the inhumanity of slavery.





COMMUNICATION MATTERS - [New Link for Synod News Sign Up!](#)

Keep Your Members Connected to Synod News! Please include this opportunity for your members to stay connected for our shared kingdom work by publishing the following text on your websites and in your newsletters. Thank you for your partnership!

Text: Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Media, Communications & Leadership Development, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters."

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Orfordville Lutheran Church's 150th Anniversary Celebration – Saturday & Sunday, September 29-30

Orfordville Lutheran Church is celebrating God's faithfulness to us for the past 150 years, and we invite all our siblings in Christ and partners in mission to rejoice with us. The public is invited to attend and join the celebrations taking place all weekend:

1. On Saturday, church leaders will host a historical tour of the church at 10 a.m. followed by a driving tour of the area.

2. An anniversary dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the church. The meal will be a buffet dinner featuring beef and ham. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Reservations must be made in advance. Please contact the church office at 608-879-2575. 3. A special anniversary worship service will be held Sunday at 9 a.m. The theme for our celebrating is "Blessed to be a blessing." Please visit the church's website for a complete schedule of events at <http://orfordvillelutheran.org/>. To learn more about the celebration, please contact the church office at office@orfordvillelutheran.org or 608-879-2575.

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Transforming the Face of Generosity - Monday, September 24 - Wednesday, September 26, 2018 Hilton - St. Louis, MO.

for Pastors, Lay Leaders, and Anyone wishing to learn more about

Stewardship in Today's Church Context

Keynoters that we all know and appreciate: Diana Butler Bass, Chick Lane and Larissa Kwang Abazia. Diana Butler Bass is author of "Grateful, the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks," Chick Lane is author of "Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation" and Larissa Kwang Abazia - Vice Moderator of the 221st Assembly of the PC(USA).

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity.

To register and for more information, visit (NOTE: This link has been fixed from last week's issue.) <https://presbyphl.org/events/stewardship-kaleidoscope-2018-transforming-the-face-of-generosity/>

This program comes highly recommended by our former Director for Evangelical Mission, Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe.

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Save the Date! Lutheran Campus Ministry Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Fall Social Justice Retreat

Friday, November 2 - Saturday, November 3 (with optional additional stay on Saturday night)

Students and staff in Wisconsin & Upper Michigan are cordially invited to participate in this year's LCM Fall Social Justice Retreat, co-sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry - Madison, The Corner House (LCM at UW -Milwaukee), and the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

This year's theme: Hungry for Change: Food Insecurity & Environmental Issues

Housing at The Urban Gathering Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Tentative cost: \$30 (+ extra \$15 if staying Saturday night)

Likely topics & activities include:

- Field Trip to UW-Milwaukee Student Food Pantry - Why is hunger an issue on college campuses? What are schools doing to help?
- Lunch at Tricklebee Cafe - What does a meal where all are welcome look like?
- Field Trip to Alice's Garden - How does growing our own food nourish our bodies and our connection to God's creation?
- Guests from Milwaukee's Lutheran Volunteer Corps will join us to discuss their food-related ministry
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Why should your students participate?

- To learn about issues facing our local communities, state, and nation
- To consider the Christian call to advocacy
- To get energized to participate in this year's midterm elections
- To meet other LCM Students from our region
- Get excited about ministries for Young Adults and participate in the LSM National Gathering in Memphis in December.

More Details & Promotional materials available soon.



Some of the Attendees from the 2017 Retreat!



Alice's Garden - a place to learn how we are connected to God's creation.



CONNECT & REFLECT!



2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING CELEBRATION & EVALUATION

in partnership with the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Sunday, September 30 from 4pm-7pm

@ Lake Edge Lutheran Church - Madison, WI

Dinner Provided (\$3 per person suggested donation)

Keep the Gathering energy going! As part of the ELCA Youth Gathering's ongoing efforts to grow in its mission of faith formation in teenagers, Gathering leadership are conducting a series of in-person listening sessions. We invite all youth & adults who attended the 2018 Gathering to join us in Madison for a time of reflection, conversation, and worship.

RSVP Online: <https://tinyurl.com/gatheringreunion>

CONTACT JASON XIONG AT SCSW.ELCAYG@GMAIL.COM FOR INFO!

PLEASE RSVP! Link: <https://tinyurl.com/gatheringreunion>

A Continuing Education Opportunity!

Staying Alive Spiritually. . . a two day retreat



October 29-30

Cedar Valley in West Bend, WI

This Retreat is targeted at Clergy and Ministers serving congregations. Certified Spiritual Director Holly Whitcomb will help us learn to balance the expectations of leading others in an authentic spiritual life, while maintaining our own spiritual life.

Time for learning, praying, solitude, fellowship.

Cost per person: \$275.00

8.0 contact hours

Please contact Pastor Sara Gillespie (St. Paul - Mayville) for more information. Sara.gillespie06@gmail.com



Lutheran World Relief In Gathering - Saturday, October 13 - 7:00 am - 11:00 am - Wisconsin Southern Railroad Yard

Attention all quilters and kit makers! This date just came in from our regional coordinator, Bob Topel.

The Lutheran World Relief In-gathering will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 7:00 am - 11:00 am

at the Wisconsin Southern Railroad Yard, - 1890 E. Johnson Street - Madison.

Watch What Matters for Additional In-gathering locations!

For instructions on boxing up your kits, please visit the Lutheran World Relief Website at:

<https://www.lwr.org> and click on

"Get Involved."

Positions in Our Synod

We are happy to help promote your positions. Please submit 100 words or less to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Synod Communicator, email: vickih@scsw-elca.org Please notify Vicki when the position has been filled so that we can keep this list current. Thanks!

Pianist and/or Choir Director (St. Martin's, Cross Plains)

Immediate opening for a pianist for 9:00 Sunday and special/seasonal services and an adult choir director; may be filled by one person or these positions may be held separately. **Pianist:** Organ skills welcome but not required. Pay is on per-service basis. **Choir Director:** From September through April, direct one rehearsal per week toward choir participation in worship three Sundays a month as well as special services. Pay is authorized for up to 7 hours/week. For full job descriptions or to submit a resume, please contact om@stmartinscp.org or call the church office, 608-798-2777. (09/12/18)

Chaplain, Triangle Community Ministry

Triangle Community Ministry is seeking a Chaplain who will be responsible for providing spiritual and emotional care to the residents living in the subsidized housing Triangle Community in Madison, WI. The Chaplain will offer a ministry of presence and foster spiritual healing and hope in the residents' lives, many of whom live with chronic health problems, and limited social, financial and health resources. Position is 24 hours a week. Candidates may send a resume to TCM Board President, Ginny Bores at virginiakb@gmail.com (09/04/18)

Keyboardist Position—McFarland Lutheran Church - McFarland, WI

McFarland Lutheran Church is seeking an organist/pianist to provide music for 2 Sunday worship services. This person would also accompany choir rehearsals one evening a week, and accompany choir performances on Sunday morning. The position is approximately 10 hours/week. Please contact Pastor Tim Dean at 608-838-3184 or tdean@mcfarlandlutheran.org for more information and to apply. (09/04/18)

Director of Music – St. John's Lutheran – Prairie du Sac

St. John's is seeking an individual who will serve as our organist and choir director. The position is 18 hours/week. Major responsibilities include playing for Sunday worship and conducting three choirs (two adult choirs and one youth choir). Principle instrument for Sunday worship is the organ. Send applications to St. John's Lutheran Church – 100 Oak Street, Prairie du Sac, WI, 53578. Contact Rev. Fred Rilling at fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org for more information. Full job description can be found at <http://www.stjohnssaukprairie.org/music-director/> (09/04/18)

New Life Church (Madison) Seeks Education Coordinator

The Education Coordinator is a key member of the New Life Church team. This is a part-time position, anticipated at 25-30 hours per week. This includes working Sunday mornings and occasional evenings on a rotational basis (with other office staff) to ensure that all services run smoothly. Specific office hours are to be determined. This position is responsible for coordinating internal education activities within the church, including the youth-based Family Faith Formation and other youth and adult programming. This position is also responsible for coordinating internal connections and ministries within the church. Questions or send resume to: newlifelc@sbcglobal.net (08/28/18)

New Life Church (Madison) Seeks Office Administrator

The Office Administrator is a key member of the New Life Church team. The Office Administrator is required to work in the church office Monday through Friday, with specific office hours to be determined. This is a part-time position, with anticipated 25 to 30 hours per week. This includes working Sunday mornings and occasional evenings on a rotational basis (with other office staff) to ensure that all three services run smoothly. This position is responsible for the daily operational management of the church office. Questions or send resume to: newlifelc@sbcglobal.net (08/28/18)

New Life Church (Madison) Seeks Outreach Coordinator

The Outreach Coordinator is a key member of the New Life Church team. This is a part-time position, anticipated at 10-15 hours per week, that will require regular office hours at the church. Specific office hours are to be determined. This includes working Sunday mornings and occasional evenings on a rotational basis (with other office staff) to ensure that all services run smoothly. This position is primarily responsible for the outreach programs of the church, including event scheduling, marketing, publicity, social media and website oversight. Questions or send resume to: newlifelc@sbcglobal.net (08/28/18)

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Reedsburg, Wisconsin Seeks An Organist

Organist will play two to three times per month for Sunday worship at 8 & 10 AM. The ideal candidate will possess some knowledge of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy. If interested contact the church office at 608-254-9763 or email office@sjrdb.com. (08/28/18)

ELCA Foundation is Searching for a Director of Gift Planning.

There are two key responsibilities for this leadership position: Through the **direct supervision** of a national staff of about 20 regional gift planners (coaching and managing), lead and manage a robust fund-raising program to identify, cultivate, solicit and steward prospective donors of current and planned gifts; and **Manage the business relationships** with ministry partner organizations through on-site visits. This position is located in Chicago and reports to the Executive Vice President of the Foundation. It requires about 30% travel, visiting regional gift planners, donors, and ministry partnerships.

Application, resume and cover letter should be [submitted through the ELCA job board](#). Inquiries about the position may be directed, in confidence, to [Gaye Lindfors of Significant Solutions, Inc.](#), the consultant assisting with this search. Link: gaye@significantsolutionsinc.com

Oakwood Village University Woods Is Looking for Volunteers - Can You Help?

Looking for volunteers to help in the following ways: Aviary Assistants to help take care of bird aviaries, and Oakleaf Gift Shop Cafe Cashiers to serve residents and other customers a few times a month Monday-Saturday late morning/early afternoon. A regular, ongoing commitment is needed to help but scheduling is flexible. Contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at (608)230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net for more information about how to help. (08/14/18)

St. Mary's Lutheran Church, 2001 80th Street, Kenosha, WI 53143 is seeking a Contemporary Worship Leader

(Part-time – 10 hours per week) The Contemporary Worship leader will provide leadership for the planning, development, administration, and implementation of the contemporary worship services at St. Mary's. The worship leader must be a skilled instrumentalist (guitar or piano preferred) who has the ability to work with and develop band members to reach their unique capabilities. Will work with the Contemporary Worship Planning team and the senior Pastor. Experience in sound, and visual technology is also required. To apply, contact Pastor John Holm at jholm@stmaryslutheran.org (08/07/18)

Organist Position at Skaalen Home, Stoughton, WI

Seeking organist, preferably with piano skills, for chapel worship services. Duties include traditional prelude/postlude music, responsive liturgy, and 2 hymns for our 30 minute Sunday worship service; monthly Wednesday morning communion services; short afternoon Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services; and Wednesday morning Lenten services. Position could be filled by one person, or shared by two. Especially need a regular Sunday morning musician. Skaalen Chapel has a large, formal chapel, with a quality Rogers organ and a well-maintained Kawai grand piano. Write to Pastor Jim Koza, Skaalen Home chaplain, if interested. jkoza@skaalen.com. September 1st, 2018, is our anticipated starting date. (07/24/18)

Oakwood Village

Several shifts and positions available at Oakwood Village for candidates to join our University Woods (West Side of Madison) senior living community as a Resident Assistant. Rewarding work making a difference in someone's life. What's it like to work at Oakwood – check out the video and see for yourself, <https://www.oakwoodvillage.net/careers>. Other positions in dining, marketing, etc. listed on the website. (07/24/18)

Financial Secretary - East Koshkonong (Cambridge)

The Financial Secretary will process the financial information for the East Koshkonong Lutheran Church in an accurate and timely manner, while ensuring proper accounting principles are applied. A complete job description is available at www.eastkoshkonong.org (07/03/18)

Coordinator of Middle and High School Youth Ministry - Bethel Lutheran Church (Madison)

Works with Director of Faith Formation, pastors and ministry teams to lead Confirmation, retreats, mission trips, service projects and community building. .8 to full-time, salaried position with benefits. Qualifications: BA in Education, Youth Ministry or related field; or equivalent. Christian with strong faith who is enthusiastic and creative in leading youth ministry. Demonstrated capacity to relate well to people of all ages. Apply by July 6, 2018. Send cover letter and resume to Jerry Buss: jerry@bethel-madison.org. Desired start date is August 1, 2018. Full position description at <https://www.bethel-madison.org/employment-opportunities> (07/03/18)

Part-Time Church Secretary – Shepherd of the Hills (New Glarus)

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is seeking an individual for six hours per week to provide a welcoming, confidential, and positive environment for all visitors to the church office. Main duties include preparing worship folders, the monthly newsletter, and maintaining church records. Excellent language skills and knowledge of Microsoft Publisher and Word are preferred. Please email the Rev. Gene Talley at revtalley@gmail.com for details. (05/30/18)

Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) Seeks National Coordinator

A key leadership position, and LPF's much-appreciated paid staff member. The ideal Coordinator has a **passion** to eliminate violence, inequality, and militarism, and a **commitment** to nonviolence. He or she will work with members to build **awareness** of peace issues, encourage member **involvement**, plan and lead peace **education, advocacy**, and **outreach** activities, develop **resources**, and nurture **leadership**. Applicants should send a **letter, resume**, and contact info for 3 or 4 **references to: Lutheran Peace Fellowship, 1710 11th Ave,**

Seattle, WA 98122-2420 or email: lpf@ecunet.org. For a full **Job Description**, see <https://www.lutheranpeace.org/articles/position-announcement/> and/or call: **206.349.2501** (05/22/18)

Part-Time Youth and Family Ministry Director – New Hope Lutheran Church (Blanchardville / Hollandale)

Seeking an individual gifted in working with youth and who values cross-generational learning and social opportunities to coordinate faith formation for youth and families. We are looking for an individual who has a heart for sharing God's love with all people. The desired candidate will work with the pastor, staff, and volunteers to plan and carry out faith formation experiences for youth and their families. Experience working in a church setting or in education is helpful. This position is 15 hours/week and while hours are mostly flexible, work on Wednesday evenings and Sundays is required. A full job description is available at newhopelutheran.info (10/12/17)

Wisconsin Council of Churches Employment Opportunities

<https://www.wichurches.org/resources/employment-opportunities/>

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At-A-Glance Future Synod Events:

Please see the **Congregational Events page on the Synod's EVENTS page** of the website for more events that will be hosted by congregations of our synod. Thanks! http://www.scsw-elca.org/congregational_events.aspx



- September 16** - Heritage: What to Keep, What to Leave Behind - Racial Equity Ministry Event - New Life Church (Madison)
 - September 21-23** - Lutheran Men in Mission One Year to Live Retreat - MacKenzie Environ. Ctr. (Poynette)
 - September 22** - Women of the ELCA Fall Women's Retreat - St. Matthew's New Life Church (Madison)
 - September 29** - LUAD Council Meeting - Burke Lutheran Church
 - September 30** - Connect & Reflect - Youth Gathering Celebration & Evaluation - Lake Edge (Madison)
 - October 6** - Care for God's Creation Event - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Madison)
 - October 7-9** - Bishop's Convocation - Abbey Resort, Fontana
 - October 13** - Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering - WI Southern RR Yard - Johnson Street (Madison)
 - October 14** - American Genocides Project - Racial Equity Ministry Event - New Life Church (Madison)
 - November 2-3** - Lutheran Campus Ministry of WI & Upper Michigan Social Justice Retreat
 - November 11-14** - First Call Theological Education - St. Anthony Spirituality Center (Marathon, WI)
 - 2019 - SYNOD ASSEMBLY - May 4 & 5** - Marriott Hotel & Convention Center (Middleton)
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Updates on Congregations in the Call Process and Rostered Leader Updates
Call process and roster changes are updated on the synod website monthly. Please keep these congregations and rostered leaders in your prayers.
Link: <http://scsw-elca.org/resources/callprocess/>

Prayers

- Refugee Resettlement Task Force:
- Rev. Tim Hansen, Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie

- Susan Stein, Member at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison

Pastors and Congregations in our Synod:

- Rev. Stephen Marsh and Rev. Katya Ouchakof, Pastors, and members of Lake Edge Lutheran Church in Madison
- Rev. Dean Kirst, Pastor, and members of Lakeview Lutheran Church in Madison

Neighboring Synods:

- Bishop Roger Gustafson and the congregations of the Central States Synod, ELCA

Churchwide Partners:

- Ms. Carmen Avram, Manager, Payroll, Office of the Bishop at the ELCA Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
- Rev. Cherlyne V Beck, Candidacy and Leadership Manager – Regions 4 & 6, Domestic Mission at the ELCA Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL

We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrate their anniversary of Ordination during this coming week:

- Gaylor Nelson, September 12, 2004, Retired, in Baraboo, duelingpreachers@gmail.com
- Charles Koester, September 12, 1982, Retired in Boscobel, pastorkoester53@gmail.com
- Richard Lund, September 15, 1991, Living in Chippewa Falls, rickgrahamlund@gmail.com
- Samuel Jackson, September 18, 1958, Retired, in Horicon, saj8382@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy McClurg, September 18, 1983, Retired, in Madison
- Connie Matye, September 18, 2005, Pastor, at Peace Lutheran Church in Belmont, cbmatye@gmail.com

We give thanks at this time for the ministry of those who celebrate their anniversary of Commissioning:

- None this week.

May these leaders continue to be blessed for service.

Like Us on Facebook and you'll share in awesome ministry by congregations in your synod, share great ideas and be inspired with selected scripture from your synod staff. **South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**



Remember, when you see this symbol, this is a news item that should be put in your congregational newsletters! Thanks for your partnership.

Share your news. If you have something you would like considered for publication in What Matters, send it to Communications & Event Manager, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, at vickih@scsw-elca.org.

Visit our website: www.scsw-elca.org



Following Jesus, who commanded his followers, 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,' and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA, strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability, while striving to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.