

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Synod Assembly



June 7-8, 2024

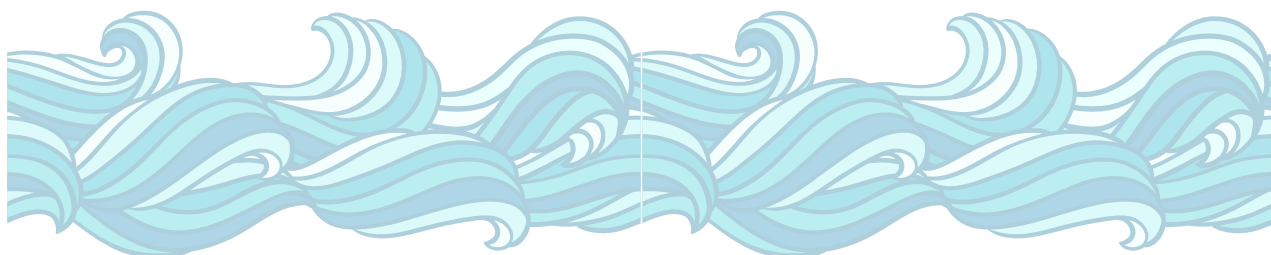
UW Eau Claire - Davies Center



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Assembly Agenda - Friday, June 7, 2024

8:30	Breakfast with the Bishops (Youth)	The Brewing Projekt
10:30	Registration	Davies Center - 1st Floor
1:15	Workshop #1: JUSTmove	Dakota Ballroom - 3rd Floor
2:30	Workshop #2: Journey Together	Dakota Ballroom
3:45	Recognition of Retirements & Anniv.	Schofield Auditorium
4:00	Opening Worship	Schofield Auditorium
5:15	Plenary 1; First Ballot	Schofield Auditorium
6:00	Dinner	Ojibwe Ballroom - 3rd Floor
6:50	Resolution #5	Ojibwe Ballroom
7:00	Recognition of Bishop Laurie	Ojibwe Ballroom
7:20	Result of First Ballot	Ojibwe Ballroom
7:25	Evening Keynote	Ojibwe Ballroom
8:15	Departure	

Assembly Agenda - Saturday, June 8, 2024

8:30	Morning Devotions	Ojibwe Ballroom
9:00	Plenary 2; Ballots 2 & 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bishop's Report• Bright Spot Awards• Resolutions #1 & #2• Ministry Partner Reports	
12:00	Lunch	Davies Center, 1st Floor
1:15	Plenary 3; Ballots 4 & 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELCA Churchwide Report• Ministry Partner Reports• Elections• Resolutions #3 & #4• Malawi Update	Ojibwe Ballroom
3:30	Results of Ballot 5	Ojibwe Ballroom
3:40	Response of the Bishop Elect	
4:00	Staff Introductions; Final Announcements	
4:45	Closing of the Assembly	
5:00	Adjourn	

Friday Afternoon Workshop Options

Workshop #1: JUSTmove; "Building an Anti-Racist Youth Group"

Facilitators: Joe Davis and David Scherzer

We all want our youth group to be a place where "All Are Welcome", but how do we make this happen? In this interactive workshop, JUSTmove (David Scherer and Joe Davis) will explore models for how to create more inclusive spaces so that we can reflect the diversity of God's kin-dome. Poetry, Music, and storytelling will all be a part of this engaging experience.

Workshop #2: Journey Together

Facilitators: Synod Youth Board, Outdoor Ministry, Campus Ministry

How can we encourage & galvanize the faith formation of young people? What are the current realities for youth and young adults? How and where are they finding meaningful connections with other people of faith? Hear from youth and adult leaders and learn how we can journey alongside young people with awareness and love.

Welcome & Thank You

Welcome everyone to the 2024 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Assembly! We are grateful for your presence and participation at this event.

Together we will gather around the theme "Water is Life," and consider Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well in John 4: "Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Thank You!

- UW Eau Claire and event staff for their work preparing the facility, food, and technology support needed for this assembly.
- EO Johnson for providing copiers for our office space.
- Portico Benefits for financial support of coffee and treats.
- Synod Council Members & Conference Deans.
- The Elections Committee, Rev. Sara Villarreal Bishop, Elizabeth Bartsch, Rev. Greg Kaufmann, Al Arndt, Rev. Erin Nelson, Madeline Leske-Oppedahl, Karyn Hullinger, Rev. Kurt Jacobson, and Sue Zahrbock for all of their work in preparing this assembly for the bishop election.
- Rev. Tanner Howard (Pilgrim - Superior) for serving as our assembly parliamentarian
- Tammie Delveaux, Rev. Katie Wagner, and Rev. Amy Heinz for their musical gifts and leadership.
- Apple River Conference for assisting with worship.
- Rev. Melinda Halom and Frances Skow for their work in assembling and embroidering the synod quilt, and Kathy Handrahan for sewing the decor fabric.
- ELCA Representative Deacon MaryAnn Schwab for your presence and leadership.
- David Scherer, Joe Davis, the Synod Youth Board, Lori Ruge-Jones, Suzi Orlapp, and Eric Klein for facilitating our Friday workshops.
- Childcare staff for their time, attentiveness, and commitment to caring for children during this year's assembly.
- Lynn Fering, Jennifer Bourget, Jean Morey, and all volunteers who are assisting with synod assembly and the bishop election process.

ELCA Churchwide Representative, Mary Ann Schwabe



Deacon MaryAnn Schwabe is the ELCA Executive for Synod Relations. From 2005 to 2014 she served as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Prior to her calls to the synod and churchwide staff, she served congregations as a deacon with a focus in church music, religious education, and family ministry. MaryAnn has a Bachelor of Music degree from Houghton College and a Master of Arts in Religion from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. A student of Bowen theory since 1993, she coordinates the ELCA Systems Academy which focuses on the application of Bowen theory in synods and congregational settings.

Mary Ann and her husband Rick have five adult children, corresponding spouses, and nine grandchildren.

Land Acknowledgement

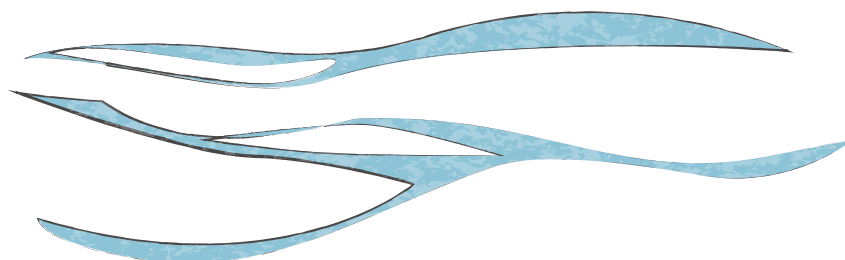
Let us acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples of the Council of Three Fires including the Ho-Chunk, Menomonee, Dakota, and the Ojibwe which includes the Bands of Red Cliff, Bad River, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, and St. Croix. Each of these Nations and Bands is unique and sovereign.

We are grateful to their ancestors for their deep commitment to caring for the land. They serve as a witness to the sacredness of all that the Creator provided. We are grateful for the words and actions of Native peoples living today as they honor their ancestors and continue to protect and preserve the natural world. Their vision for future generations is clear as they share their sacred teachings and traditions. The treaty of 1854 ceded these lands for non-Indigenous settlers. Those who dwell here are treaty people with rights and responsibilities to each other and to the land.

We reside on these ancestral homelands and have benefited from the rich natural resources and diverse flora and fauna of the area. The means by which we came to live in this place include violence, forced removal, and genocide. These acts of atrocity were committed by our ancestors against the ancestors of Native Americans in the name of God through the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny.

As faith community leaders, we reject the Doctrine of Discovery and actively seek to dismantle the systems of oppression that have normalized the dehumanization of Native American people. Jesus' life and ministry demonstrate how to resist such forces and stand beside those who are suffering. This is not easy; however, such is the way our faith guides us.

In this moment, as we gather across these ancestral lands, we are mindful of the historical and continued sacredness of the land in the hearts of our Native American relatives. And we recognize and honor the wisdom and resilience of our Native American relatives with whom we share this land.



Prelude

Tammie Delveaux

"Spirit of the Living God"
"God of Justice"

Processional Hymn

Baptized in Water

ELW #456

Welcome

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Land Acknowledgement

As we worship together, we at the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin acknowledge that we worship on the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Lac Courte Oreille people. A people that are still here, continuing to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage.

Thanksgiving For Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, saves, and sends us with love that lives forever.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the One who turned water into wine and met a woman at the well with living water.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. For Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Sprinkling of the Assembly

"Baptized and Set Free"

ELW #453

Prayer of the Day

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water – the waters of the earth, and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us; through Jesus Christ, source of living water. **Amen.**

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 16-21
Revelation 22:1-2

Gospel Acclamation

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW #172

Children's Message

Gospel

John 4:7-15

Sermon

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Song of the Day

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW #710

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Gracious God, you bless your people with a variety of gifts. Guide with your wisdom those voting members who will elect a bishop of this synod, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon the bishop nominees as they discern a new call in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

We are grateful for our siblings in Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, who exemplify God's wide welcome through the gift of hospitality, and we ask for your continued blessings on our partnership together.
God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you be reserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory. God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

God of all hope, I confess that there are times when I find it hard to hold on to hope – like I am lost or wandering. The problems seem huge and without solution. Often I dread each new day and wonder if I can take another step into the future without fear. Yet you have promised to be with me always. Do not abandon me now. Come to me by your Spirit and lead me to a new day of hope.
God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

(*Gifts received during worship at this assembly will be divided equally between Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry and the Synod Endowment Fund.)

Special Music: "Wade in the Water"

Assembly Choir
Director, Tammie Delveaux

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.
God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

Communion

Holy God, you make plenty for everyone, everywhere. But ever since the first human beings were created, we've had a hard time trusting this good news. Some do not have enough, while others steal and hoard and use more than is needed.

This meal helps us remember you are generous. And you made us to be generous. And together, all the people who receive Holy Communion make a big, generous body. This mass movement to your table is re-memorizing your body, putting us back together like puzzle pieces. This taste and sip of heaven interrupts our fear of scarcity with your promise to provide enough for all of creation and satisfy our whole lives.

You are manna from heaven,
You are the bread of life.
You are the widow's jar of flour,
You do not run out.
You are baskets of loaves and fish,
The feast that feeds thousands.
You are a deep well at midday,
The living water.
You are the Lamb of God,
You pour yourself out for all people.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

Communion will be received by intinction; all elements are alcohol and gluten free. Ushers will guide you to a station.

- "Goodness of God"
- "What a Beautiful Name"
- "Your Grace is Enough"

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and + grant you peace.

Amen.

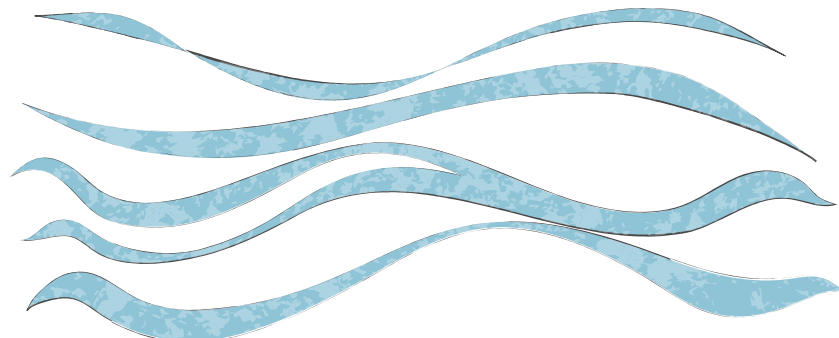
Sending Song

"Make a Difference"

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ walks with you.

Thanks be to God.



*Communion Liturgy from "Speak it Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together" by Meta Herrick Carlson.
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Opening of the Assembly

Please stand.

L: As in one body we have many members,

C: So we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

L: Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

C: I am there among them.

L: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

C: Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual up-building.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

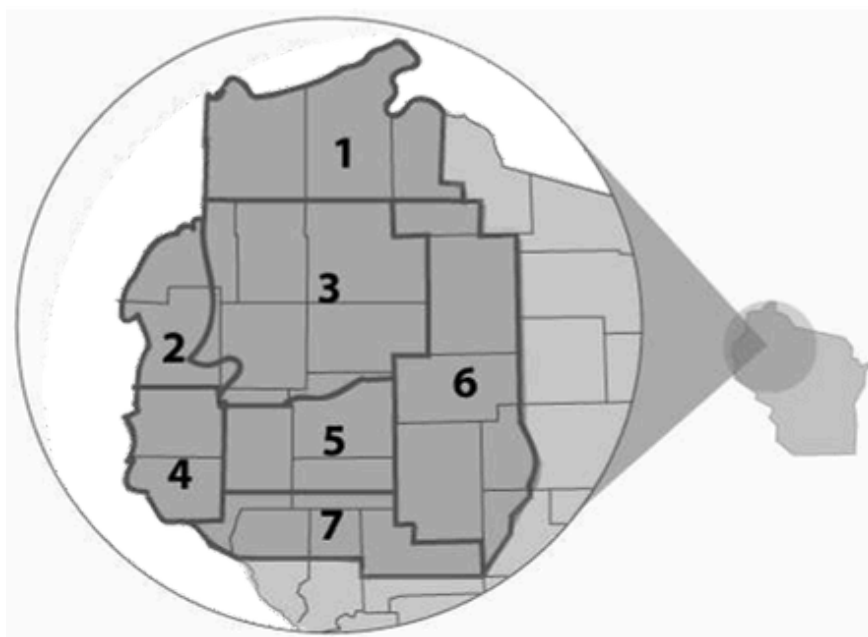
L: Let us pray: O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

L: I declare this assembly to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen





Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1. Lake Superior

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2. Apple River

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Rev. Angie Kutney
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715-000-0000
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5. Chippewa Valley

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7. Dairyland

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Lutheran
Durand and Mondovi
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3. Heart of the North

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*Walking together for the sake
of God's mission in the world.*

Synod Council

Council Officers

Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson, Bishop (2024)
Al Arndt, Vice President (2027)
Rev. Julie Brenden, Secretary (2024)
Rev. Peter Muschinske, Treasurer (2025)

Conference Representatives:

Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color (BIPOC)

Deacon Lidixe Montoya

Apple River Conference

Rev. Margaret Grant (2024)
Matt Keenan (2025)
Karalyn Littlefield (2026)

Chequamegon Conference

Lyle Roe (2024)
Carol Lekies (2025)
Rev. Amy Heinz (2026)

Chippewa Valley Conference

Arvin Solsaa (2024)
Julie Carr (2025)
Rev. Karen Behling (2026)

Dairyland Conference

Linda Talford (2024)
Rev. JonPaul Dragseth (2025)
Matt Hatleli (2026)

Heart of the North Conference

Rev. Joel Bacon (2024)
Ted Hakala (2025)
Janelle Thompson (2026)

Lake Superior Conference

Mary Meierotto (2024)
Rev. Rachel Sieja (2025)
Matt Dietsche (2026)

St. Croix Valley Conference

Marcia Lindseth (2024)
Rev. Annie Ladnier (2025)
Jacob Summerville (2026)

Youth Representatives

Gabi Amble (2025)
Adyson L'Heureax (2026)

Changes to the Roster

ORDINATIONS

Dan Shimon, ordained and called to serve First Lutheran, New Richmond

Ordained May 20, 2023

Katie Wagner, ordained and called to serve Trinity Lutheran, Lake Nebagamon

Ordained on May 21, 2023

Sarah Gunderson, ordained and called to serve Zion Lutheran, Superior

Ordained July 16, 2023

Tiffany Chipman, ordained and called to serve First Lutheran, Exeland

Ordained July 22, 2023

Al Aakre, ordained and called to serve Eidsvold and Svea Parish, Bay City

Ordained November 11, 2023

Andrew Thompson, ordained and called to serve Immanuel, Pepin

Ordained May 18, 2024

NEW CALLS WITHIN OUR SYNOD

Rev. Steve Dow, called to serve Ezekiel, River Falls

Rev. JonPaul Dragseth, called to serve Spirit, Eau Claire

Rev. Stephen Hilding, called to serve Christ, Menomonie

Rev. Tanner Howard, called to serve Pilgrim, Superior

Rev. Melissa Hrdlicka, called to serve Joy, Prescott

Deacon Jodi Lorenz, called to serve Bone Lake, Luck

Rev. Connie Monson, called to serve Bethesda and Immanuel in Bayfield and Cornucopia

Rev. Greg Ofsdahl, called to serve Peace, Pigeon Falls

Rev. Ladd Sonnenberg, called to serve Bethel, Hudson

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

Bethlehem Lutheran in Bay City
First Lutheran of Trempeleau Valley

Reverend Daniel Spies

RECEIVED FROM ANOTHER SYNOD

Rev. Steven Dow, transferred from Oregon Synod

Rev. Stephen Hilding, transferred from Grand Canyon Synod

Rev. Sarah Schaffner, transferred from Oregon Synod

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

Rev. Mary Albing, Lakeside, Webster

Rev. Sean Koos, Concordia, Superior

Rev. Bob Giese,

Rev. Rodger Prois, Salem, Shell Lake

SEMINARY INTERNS SERVING IN OUR SYNOD

Kristin Boland

Justin Arnold

Changes to the Roster

TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SYNOD

Rev. Randall Fett transferred to the South Dakota Synod

Rev. Amelia Houdek, transferred to the St. Paul Area Synod

Michael Pechman, candidate, transferred to the LaCrosse Area Synod

Rev. Mamy Ranaivoson, transferred to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Rev. Michelle Rowell, transferred to the Southwest Minnesota Synod

Rev. Karen Thompson, transferred to the St. Paul Area Synod

Rev. William Thompson, transferred to the St. Paul Area Synod

Rev. Kim Suhr, transferred to the Northeastern Minnesota Synod

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

(as of May 1, 2024)

Rev. Lowell Bolstad

Rev. David Behling

Rev. Amy Fondroy Eich

Rev. Mikayla Kopp

Rev. Erin Nelson

Rev. Kari Burke Romarheim

Rev. Peter Muschinske

RETIREMENTS

Rev. Valerian Ahles

Rev. Rick Biedermann

Rev. Mary Eide

Rev. Nancy Hanson

Rev. Tamra Harder

Rev. Peter Jonas

Rev. Gregory Kaufmann

Rev. Michael Knudson

Rev. Keith Ruehlw

Rev. Doug Steinke

DEATHS

Rev. Robert Berg

Rev. Robert Essa

Rev. Leila Haight

Deacon Diane Kaufmann

Rev. Michael Meier

Rev. Harlan Menk

INTERIM and BRIDGE PASTORS

(as of May 1, 2024)

Rev. Mary Ann Bowman, Luck, Luck

Rev. Julie Brenden, Trinity, Hammond

Rev. Robert Friese, Trinity Valley Parish

Rev. Ron Gerl, Shepherd of the Hill, Elk Mound

Rev. David Natzke, First Faith Valley, Centuria

Rev. Diane Norstad, Trinity and Georgetown, Cumberland

Rev. Peter Ruggles, First Faith Valley, Centuria

Rev. Jeffrey Smith, Christ, Somerset

Rev. Greg Wilcox, Our Saviors, Amery

SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTERS

(Currently Serving as May 1, 2024)

John Addison serving Faith, Grantsburg

Todd Ahneman, serving Barronett, Barronett

Steve Aldach, Our Saviors and Northfield, Hixton

Justin Arnold, serving English of Bateman and St. James Trinity of Fall Creek

Richard Bouton, serving First, Port Wing

Heidi Bragger-Kadinger, serving Independence, Independence

Scott Brown, serving Our Saviors and Grace of Pleasantville

John Brunclik, serving Grace, Our Saviors,

Jennifer Carey, serving Pilgrim, Superior

Monica Dejno, serving Chimney Rock, Strum

Deacon Darrel Diers, serving Zion, Neillsville

Matt Dietsche, serving Our Saviors, Iron River

Jill Fries, serving First, Stone Lake

August Hohl, serving Little Norway and S. Creek, Black River Falls

Shawnda Hora, serving Northwoods STaR Ministries in Ogema/Prentice/Brantwood

SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTERS

Bonnie Isaacson, serving Modena, Mondovi

Michael Isaacson, serving Drammen and Valley of the Shepherd, Mondovi/Eleva

Donald Knutson, serving Norton, Holden and North

Running Valley, rural Colfax

Barb Krug, serving St. Paul's in Medford and Our Saviors in Holway

Bruce Metcalf, Our Saviors, Bloomer

John Neddendurst, Moland, Mason

Luke Pederson, Trinity of Norden and Good Shepherd

Tom Potterton, serving the Lake Superior Conference

Gary Preston, serving Modena, Mondovi

Travis Rogers, serving Northwoods STaR Ministries

Jane Snowden, serving Partners in Faith, Cameron & Rice Lake

Micaela Stenner, serving Norton, Holden and N Running Valley, rural Colfax

Deb Strobl, serving Northwoods STaR Ministries, Ogema/Prentice/Brantwood

Loren Teig, Neighbors United in Christ

Janelle Thompson, Nathaniel, Bruce



Synod Staff

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Rev. Sara Villarreal Bishop
Synod Advocate for
Right Relationships
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Ordination Anniversaries & Retirements

25 years 2024:

- Rev. Debra Boynton
- Rev. Martin Halom
- Rev. Melinda Halom
- Rev. Gail Sowell
- Rev. Greg Ofsdahl
- Rev. Mark Woeltge

50 years 2024:

- Rev. Wayne Deloach
- Rev. Ron Gerl
- Rev. Larry Jorstad
- Rev. Vern Weeks

Retirements:

- Rev. Valerian Ahles
- Rev. Rick Biedermann
- Rev. Mary Eide
- Rev. Nancy Hanson
- Rev. Tamra Harder
- Rev. Peter Jonas
- Rev. Greg Kaufmann
- Rev. Mike Knudson
- Rev. Keith Ruehlow
- Rev. Doug Steinke

Well done good and faithful servants!

Bishop's Report to the Assembly

Water is Life, it moves and changes things along the way. A meandering river carves banks and contours that gradually change the shape of the land. This is my last synod assembly as bishop. I'm looking back over the last six years at the changing contours of this synod formed by living waters, the river life. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7. Here are some of the ways that the water of life has been flowing through and around the synod in the past year.

+7 Amazing Colleagues, the NWSWI Synod Ministers

I have been blessed to have worked with so many amazing pastors, deacons, SAMs and lay leaders over the last 10 years. I am particularly grateful for the synod ministers. We have been a true team, working together for the common goals to build up the body of Christ, congregations of this synod, so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for your good humor, dedication, and faithful service! Please take a moment to thank them. The most difficult part of finishing my term as Bishop will be ending my time working with these wonderful humans!

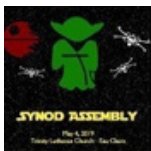


Liz Bartsch Randy Olson Laura Ramlow Diane House Lidixe Montoya Sara Bishop
Former Staff: Erin Nelson, Greg Kaufmann & David Behling

6 years of Synod Assembly Themes

Looking back over the past six years we celebrated the synod's ministry around these themes.

- 2019 - May the 4th Be with You-Trinity, EC-Star Wars Theme, light saber awards!
- 2020 - Building a Bigger Table-cancelled due to COVID
- 2021 - Justice and Joy-On ZOOM - Proverbs 21:15
- 2022 - Taking it to the Streets: A Public Church-Trinity, EC Hybrid-Wisdom-Proverbs 1:21-22
- 2023 - Rebound: From Worry to Wonder-in person at Bethany Rice Lake-Matthew 6:36
- 2024 - Water is Life-in person, UWEC-Isaiah 43, John 4, Revelation 22



122 Annual Reports to the Bishop out of 150 - 85%

Every year Pastors, Deacons and SAMs are asked to write an annual report to the bishop. This year I read and responded to 122. 85% of our leaders completed a report. Alongside the general questions about their physical, spiritual and emotional health and the vitality of the congregation I ask questions about their engagement with synod ministry and the teaching resolutions that were passed at the synod assembly. Over the last six years these teaching resolutions have made an impact in the ministries of our congregations. They have lifted up key justice issues, provided resources and encouragement for busy pastors, deacons and SAMs to engage in deeper conversations about these issues in the congregation.

From year to year we have seen incremental growth in awareness and engagements around these resolutions! This is in response to living out our baptismal promise "to work for justice and peace in all the world."

From reading the annual reports to the bishop, my overall sense is that most of our congregations, pastors, deacons and SAMs are hopeful and cautiously optimistic and mostly realistic about the future. There is slightly less generalized anxiety than in 2022. Most leaders seem to have more energy and identify their congregations as stable or thriving and growing. I too am hopeful and will commit to continue to pray for each of our leaders and congregations in the future!

Impact of the Teaching Resolutions over 6 years.

Resolution	Reported in 2023	Change/Impact	Link to the resolution
Land Acknowledgement	24% have LA; 7% would like to; 66% do not	Approved 2023	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Green Team	38% Yes! We have a green team	30% 2022; 9% 2021	GREEN TEAM
Racial Justice Training	47% 2023 attended or plan to attend training in the next 6 months.	46% yes, 2022	RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING
Creating wider welcome LGBTQIA+	43% Yes, we are RIC or having conversations 14% want information 43% not ready	37% in 2021	WIDER WELCOME, RIC

The Synod is committed to work on creating a wider welcome to LGBTQIA+ people, addressing racism, and right relationships with our indigenous neighbors and all of creation. The synod Justice Teams and Justice Newsletter-Just Love, Just Act is dedicated to raising awareness, providing resources and taking courageous action as allies for the marginalized in our communities. The synod staff read together the book, *Call to Allyship*, by Angela !Khabebe, and about 20 members of the synod participated in an 18 week anti-racism course lead by Lidix Montoya and Michelle Pride, "Troubling the Waters." The Care of Creation Team is collaborating with Northeast Minnesota Synod and the St. Paul Area Synod in the Eco Faith Summit.



7 travelers to Malawi from the NWSWI August 2023

Our trip to Malawi was bracketed by preaching at the cathedral and blessing children in Lilongwe to talking to victims and walking across the debris field caused by cyclone Freddy's rains and mud slide. We delighted in the Water of Life pumping the wells built with funds from the synod and walking along the quiet waters of Lake Malawi. This synod has been blessed by our commitment to developing relationships and accompanying our siblings in Christ of the ELCM.



30th Anniversary of the Synod Lay School

As waters begin to flow from rains high in the mountains down to the ocean, so our life flows on with highs and lows. Today we celebrate with joy the accomplishments of our synod's Lay School completing its 30th year in May! Hundreds have grown deeper in their faith in Jesus and knowledge about the Bible, theology and history through the two year basic course and continuing education. It has been a blessing to our synod in so many ways. It has evolved over the years and now forms the basic course



required of our Synod Authorized Ministers. I am grateful for the vision of those who began the Lay School and for the board, instructors and students past and present who have supported it through these 30 years and will lead it into the future. A special thanks to the current director, Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones.

2 Wells - Water is Life: Bishop's Initiative



As the water continues to flow on, so our life flows on, and we experience moments of sorrow as we grieve the death of important people in our lives. This year the synod mourned the death of those who have served faithfully. Especially, we grieve the death of former Bishop Bob Berg and Deacon Diane Kaufmann. Both engaged in the Lay school and both accompanied our companion synod the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi. I was honored to know these faithful servant leaders. In honor of both Bob and Diane I want to lift up the Bishop's Water is Life Initiative, a fund appeal to build two solar powered deep bore wells in Malawi. Please join me, former bishops Duane Pederson and Rick Hoyme, and Roxie Berg to raise \$40,000 for the Water is Life Initiative.

2 More Opportunities for Generosity

At this year's assembly there will be two other opportunities to give generously to support God's mission through the work of the synod.

1. Today, Tomorrow, Together: Synod Endowment Appeal. [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Today, Tomorrow, Together \(nswi.org\)](https://nswi.org)
2. Neighbor to Neighbor Latinae Ministry- [Northwest Synod of Wisconsin | Neighbor to Neighbor \(nswi.org\)](https://nswi.org) Deacon Lidix Montoya Mission Developer, building bridges between English and Spanish speaking community.

I am grateful for your generosity.



2 Congregations Closed their Buildings

On the one hand, finishing the work that God has given us to do is an occasion for celebration but closing the building that was the outpost for that work also brings sadness. This past year two congregations finished and closed their buildings, September 2023-Bethlehem near Eidsvold and January 2024-Trempealeau Valley near Taylor. Two church buildings closed and the remaining members were invited and welcomed into neighboring ELCA congregations so they can continue their ministry. Buildings close. Ministry continues. This year the endowment committee wrote a

resolution encouraging congregations that are finishing and closing their buildings to consider how they will continue ministry and leave a lasting legacy with their remaining assets. Finished Not Failed

30 Synod Authorized Minsters (SAMs)

I am filled with gratitude for the work of the Synod SAM Support Team and the SAMs who have served so faithful this past year. SAM Support Team members are: Randy Olson, Melinda Halom, Bethany Walker, Mike Isaacson, John Addison, Phil Ruge-Jones, and Bob Giese.

SAM	Congregation/Parish	Note
1. Addison, John	Faith, Grantsburg	Seminary
2. Ahneman, Todd	Barronette	
3. Aldach, Steve	Hixton, Northfield	
4. Arnold, Justin	Fall Creek, Bateman	Seminary
5. Boland, Kristin	Washburn	Seminary
6. Bouton, Richard	Port Wing	
7. Bragger Kadinger, Heidi	Independence	
8. Brunclik, John	Grace, Our Saviors	
9. Dejno, Monica	Chimney Rock	
10. Carey, Jennifer	Pilgrim	
11. Diers, Darrel	Pine Valley	
12. Dietsche, Matt	OS, Iron River	Seminary
13. Fries, Jill	Stone Lake	Seminary
14. Hohl, August	Spirit Creek, Little Norway	Seminary
15. Hora, Shawna	Northwoods Star, Ogema	

16. Isaacson, Bonnie	Modena	
17. Isaacson, Mike	VS, Drammen	
18. Knutson, Don	Colfax	Seminary
19. Krug, Barb	OS, St. Paul Medford	
20. Metcalf, Bruce	OS, Bloomer	
21. Nedden Durst, John	Moland	
22. Pederson, Luke	Good Shepherd, Trinity Norden	Seminary
23. Debbie Poirier	Bethel, New Auburn	
24. Potterton, Tom	Ashland	
25. Preston, Gary	Modena	
26. Snowden, Jane	Faith, Cameron; Trinity, RL	
27. Stenner, Micaela	North Running Valley	
28. Strobl, Deb	Northwoods Star	
29. Teig, Loren	NUIC, Amery	
30. Thompson, Janelle	Nathaniel	

9 Bright Spot Awards

Congratulations to the following leaders and congregations for winning the highly coveted synod Bright Spot Awards!

- Our Savior's Lutheran, Menomonie; RIC unanimous process
- Spirit Creek Lutheran name change
- Grace Lutheran, Eau Claire; property for housing homeless vets
- Zion, Our Savior's, Concordia, & Pilgrim Lutheran, Superior; supporting refugees from Afghanistan.
- Peace, Pigeon Falls and Ezekiel, River Falls; Solar Arrays


6 Ordinations June 2023-24

It was my great joy to participate in the ordination of six recent seminary graduates in the last year. They have been a blessing to the synod and sign of water of life flowing from our call in baptism to a call to ministry. Rev. Dan Shimon, Rev. Katie Wagner, Rev. Sarah Gunderson, Rev. Tiffany Chippman, Rev. Al Aakre, and Rev. Andrew Thompson! Welcome to the NWSWI.

Water is Life

Finally, a word of thanks to the members of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin! I have met so many of you in my visits to your congregations. Thank you for your prayers, trust, and encouragement throughout these past six years. I have been blessed and inspired by your faithfulness, creativity, and abiding hope in the promise of the resurrection through our Lord Jesus Christ. May we continue to work and serve together so that the next generation comes to know and love Jesus and all generations experience God's grace in their lives.

~ Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson



Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the water of life. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain that water the fields. Your waters are all around us: our life is born in you.

Lord, we remember and praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Guide and direct this assembly to seek and to do your will in all things. Especially today we pray for you to send your Spirit on these seven nominees for bishop and on this assembly as we prayerfully discern the next leader for this synod. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We Remember



Reverend Robert Esse, passed away, August 13, 2023. He was lovingly surrounded by family and cared for by staff at La Via Memory Care and Emblem Hospice in his last days. Robert will be remembered as a beloved and loving father and grandfather, dedicated pastor, engaged community member, and caring friend and neighbor. Robert was born in 1934 to George and Ruth Esse in Milwaukee, WI. At ten years old he became a farm boy when his family bought and moved to a farm outside of Valders, WI. Robert graduated from Valders High School, St. Olaf College, and Luther Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1960. He served as a pastor in parishes in Madison, MN, rural Montevideo, MN, Madison, WI, Glenwood City, WI and retired from ministry from First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. It was in the course of his ministry in Madison, WI that Robert met his beloved Mary J. Nesheim, a social worker with Lutheran Social Services. Robert and Mary married in 1968 and in their happy life together had three children.

Robert was a lifelong learner, full of curiosity. He expressed his love of history and beauty through being an avid reader, restoring and collecting antiques, world travel, gardening, attending classical music concerts and researching his genealogy. He loved to connect with people, whether it be spending time with his children and grandchildren, hosting friends at his home, visiting relatives or making conversation with strangers. Robert enjoyed volunteering with the Chippewa Valley Museum, the Vesterheim Museum during Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA and making and serving meals at a shelter for families who were homeless. In retirement he served as an interim minister for several years, spent a year teaching at a Lutheran high school in Slovakia, and became a "snowbird" in Arizona where he loved exploring and learning about the local history and culture and being involved in his church community. His deep devotion to his Christian faith was borne out in his pastoral work, his service to others, his charity, and his daily kindness.



Reverend Michael Meier, passed away, September 25, 2023. Michael was born on August 23, 1941, the fifth of six children to his parents Olga and Carl Meier in a log home on the family farm at the end of Meier Road in rural Spirit Township, Price County, Wisconsin. He attended nearby Liberty School and graduated from Rib Lake High School in 1958 at age 16, and enrolled that fall at Wisconsin State College-Stevens Point (now UW-Stevens Point) as a pre-law student. Midway through his freshman year he decided to shift his career objective toward ministry in the Lutheran Church. In 1959 he transferred his studies to Concordia College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was a pre-ministerial student. At Concordia-St. Paul he met fellow student Iona Emma Trapp and they were married in 1963. The marriage produced four children, Andrew, twins Peter and Mary, and Naomi. The couple divorced in 1979. Michael completed his B.A. at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne and enrolled in post-graduate seminary studies at Concordia Seminary.

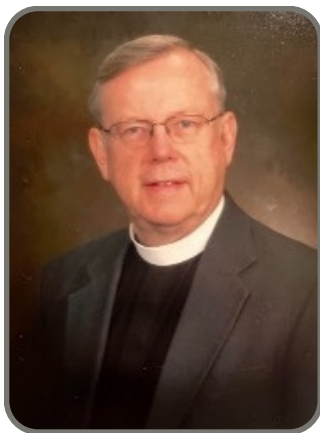
He served as a pastoral intern during 1965-66 at The Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Florissant, Missouri. He graduated from Concordia Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 1967 and received a call to serve as Lutheran Campus Pastor at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, Oregon. Michael moved his young family to Oregon and was ordained as a pastor in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at Zion Lutheran Church in Corvallis. In 1971 he earned a Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from OSU. He taught a New Testament Greek class for the OSU Experimental College. Michael and Anthonia Ethel "Toni" Udem Hass met through church ministry and were married in December, 1979. The following month, Michael took on a new role as Program Director for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Oregon. In 1981 Michael received a call to serve as Pastor at Sitka Lutheran Church in Sitka, Alaska. In 1991 Michael accepted a call to serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Region 1 Pacific Northwest congregations in Stewardship Education. In 2006, Michael retired from his position in Chicago, and for the following year served as an interim pastor at dual congregations of Zion Lutheran Church in Brantwood, and First Lutheran Church in Prentice, Wisconsin. From 2006 - 2019 Michael and Toni immersed themselves in the Spirit Township community. Following in his father Carl's footsteps, Michael served on the Board of Directors for Price Electric Cooperative. Michael and Toni together founded German Settlement History, Inc., which served as a historical and social resource for the surrounding community and a legacy that will likely bear good fruit for many years to come.

We Remember



Reverend Leila Haight, passed away, December 5, 2023. She was born October 2, 1932 in Ladysmith, WI to Oswald and Gretchen Lunde. She attended schools in Tony and graduated from Ladysmith High School in 1950. She married Loren Hennekens and they raised 6 children while farming in Rusk and Barron Counties. Lee helped on the farm, taught piano lessons, volunteered in 4-H leadership, and was very active in the church. When her children were in school, she attended Barron County Campus and then UW-Eau Claire graduating with BS and MS degrees in English and Reading. She taught at the WITC and for many years at Bloomer Middle School. After marrying W. Mark Haight, she continued to teach and volunteer at many community activities and church as well as traveling, gardening and baking. After Mark passed away, she attended divinity schools at Oxford, and in MN. She was ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1994 and served several local parishes. After retirement, she continued to be active with the church and enjoyed going on mission trips to warm

island nations, cooking and baking, gardening, reading, singing in community choirs, and served on numerous non-profit organization boards. She also loved to bake bread and other goodies, always had the coffee ready for neighbors and friends, lead Bible study. There were always free flowers and veggies in the summertime.



Reverend Robert Berg, passed away, October 19, 2023. Bob was born December 28, 1947, to Carl and Agnes (Johnson) Berg. He grew up in Strum, Wisconsin, graduating from Eleva-Strum Central High School in 1966. Bob graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1970 with majors in Psychology and Sociology. He married Roxanne Semingson on May 23, 1970. Bob served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1973. Following that he worked as a counselor for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Outreach Program, a program designed to help Vietnam era veterans. Bob graduated from Luther Theological Seminary-St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1979, and served as a pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Kintyre, North Dakota and St. Andrew's Lutheran in Zeeland, North Dakota (1979-1982); Trinity Lutheran in Cumberland, Wisconsin and Georgetown Lutheran in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin (1982-1990); and Chetek Lutheran in Chetek, Wisconsin (1990-1995). He was elected Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin in 1995 and served two terms until 2007. He then

received a call as Assistant to the President/CEO of Portico Benefit Services, responsible for health and retirement plans of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2007-2013). He later served as an interim bishop in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and interim and half-time Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Bob served on many church-related boards including, Board of Regents at St. Olaf and Augsburg Colleges in Minnesota, and Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, Arizona. He helped to establish and lead the companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, Africa, creating and supporting feeding centers for orphans, providing bed nets to fight Malaria, clean water wells, medical clinics, mobile health clinics, church buildings, parsonages, and motor and pedal bikes for clergy. Bob was a member of the American Legion and Lions Club. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, clock repair, wood working, and collecting and restoring antiques.



Deaconess Diane Kaufmann, passed away, April 12, 2024 surrounded by family and friends. Diane was born in Eau Claire, moved to Altoona at a young age and graduated from Altoona High School in 1969. She was a proud Altoona Railroader and stayed in touch with some of her high school girlfriends throughout her life. Diane married Greg Kaufmann in 1972, and graduated from Valparaiso University in 1973 as a Lutheran Deaconess. Diane served as a deaconess in St. Louis, MO, Granby, CO, and on the staff of the ELCA Northwest Synod of WI as the first Companion Synod Coordinator. She was a member of the 7th class of the Lay School of Ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. She also hosted 4 class members in her home and volunteered on its board for several decades. She spent many years working in both Brazil and Malawi, before retiring to care for her aging mother, Arlene Everson, and then help raise her granddaughter, Lauren. In 2004, Diane was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry (now known as Deacon) to serve as the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's first Companion

We Remember

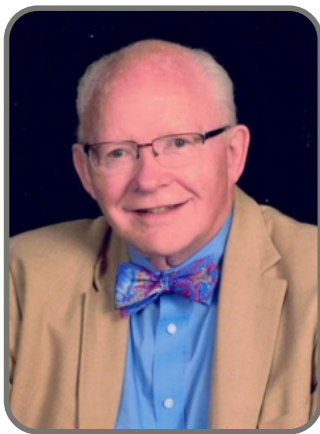
Synod Coordinator. Based on her years of work empowering others in sustainable agriculture, Diane was an early adopter of the Accompaniment Model and that has shaped how the ELCA Northwest Synod of WI relates to its companion church in Malawi to this day. Diane spent months out of every year from 2004 - 2011 in Malawi helping build this partnership in the Gospel.

Deeply passionate about racial and social justice, Diane spent her remaining years championing these issues both in her professional and personal life. One small example is her role as a volunteer driver for women who needed transportation to get to and from their "English as a second language" classes. Her adult children, Martin and Kalista, have continued her work both on the farm and with issues of justice and privilege. Diane was more than thankful that they both have followed in her footsteps, managing to find ways to serve others in the varied career paths they have chosen.

Throughout her career, Diane's leadership has been recognized by others. The following are shared to give a small glimpse into the varied ways she served God by serving others and the amazing creation:

The folders on the desktop of her MacBook Pro laptop tell it all. They were: Native Americans, Antiracism Training, Racial Justice Action Group, Sacred Ground, Drivers and Riders for English as a Second Language, Malawi, God's Holy Darkness, Knitting, and Pyoderma Gangrenosum (her leg wound).

All this because Diane said "Yes", led by her faith, serving others.



Reverend Harlan Menk, Harlen Dean Menk, 75, passed away peacefully in Louisville, KY, on April 23, 2024 following a battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He is survived by his two children, Rachel (Michael) Haboubi and Joel (Hanne Brolander) Menk, his four grandchildren, Andrew, Georgia, Alexandra, and Margaret Haboubi, and his older brother Bob (Jan) Menk. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harvey and Leona (nee Runkle) Menk, his wife, Georgia, and a stillborn daughter, Hannah. Harlen was born May 14, 1948 to Leona and Harvey Menk in Kiester, MN. He is a graduate of Mankato High School in Mankato, MN. Having always been devoted to education and ministry, Harlen went on to earn a bachelor's degree in children's education from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. After a few years of teaching elementary school, he received and answered the higher call to serve the Lord. He attained his Masters of Divinity from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN, to prepare him for his life of pastoral service. Following his

ordination in 1977, he served a dual parish near Birchwood, WI, pastoring Trinity Lutheran Church and Long Lake Lutheran Church. It was there that he met the love of his life, Georgia Solvie. They wed on June 7, 1980. Harlen's life was marked by a deep commitment to his role as a husband, father and grandfather. Shortly following the birth of their daughter, Rachel, Harlen and Georgia moved to Forest Lake, MN to serve Hosanna Lutheran Church before finally moving to Ellsworth, WI, to take a call at English Lutheran Church, where they welcomed their son, Joel, into the world. Much later, Harlen's life joy was multiplied by the blessings of his grandchildren Andrew, Georgia, Alexandra, and Margaret Haboubi.

Harlen served as pastor of English Lutheran Church for 25 years before retiring in 2010, two years after the passing of his beloved wife Georgia. In his tenure as pastor, he touched many lives and served as an exemplary faith and community leader in the Ellsworth area. He was a stalwart for public education and frequently advocated for its betterment through letters to the editor in local papers. In his retirement, he spent many hours volunteering in the music department at Ellsworth High School, and for the Democratic Party in Wisconsin. Harlen also had a deep love of music and travel. He found great joy singing with his friends in the Red Wing Singers and joined them for several international tours in addition to giving many local performances. He was a great supporter of classical music and loved attending and supporting the Minnesota Orchestra as well as the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra.

Following his retirement, Harlen became a faithful member of United Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN. In 2019, he moved to a condo in Louisville, KY, just blocks away from Rachel and the grandkids. His grandchildren gave him tremendous joy throughout the remainder of his life.

Rules & Procedures for an Assembly

The synod council, upon the recommendation of the bishop approved to recommend to the Synod Assembly the following Rules and Procedures for the 2024's Synod Assembly.

These Rules and Procedures will be formalized by the Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly on June 7.

A. Registration and Quorum

Registration shall close at midnight April 26. No registrations may be received after the deadline has passed. Voting members present will use green and red cards to vote. Pre-assembly VIDEO CONFERENCING forums for all voting members will be held April 29, May 2, May 6 to orientate participants, discuss resolutions and hear from the bishop nominees. The Quorum for the meeting will be one half of the number of eligible voting members. (An eligible voting member is a registered voter.)

B. Plenary Meeting Procedures

1. When an item of business is opened by the chair for discussion, those voting or advisory members wishing to speak must specify if they are speaking "for" or "against" the item under consideration by going to the microphone, identify themselves and their congregation, and indicate "for" or "against" the matter at hand.
2. Once recognized by the chair, each speaker will be given permission to speak so they can state their name and congregational membership. No person may speak more than once on an item of business until all others who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.
3. Speeches during debate shall be limited to two (2) minutes. Speeches will be made in alternating order between supporting and opposing views. Time will be kept by a designated individual. The chair will rotate speaking privileges between proponents and opponents of a measure.
4. The chair may recognize an individual(s) to provide pertinent background information regarding a resolution. Such speakers shall be limited to two (2) minutes.
5. Debate and discussion will be limited to 10 minutes for each resolution. At the end of 10 minutes the assembly will be asked to vote unless there is a motion to extend the discussion.
6. Any resolutions that remain at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8 will be directed to the synod council for action, unless the assembly votes to extend the meeting.
7. Roberts Rules of Order will be used to manage assembly proceedings according to the synod's constitution.

C. Motions

All brief motions must be written, and hand delivered or emailed to the synod secretary including the name and congregation of the person making the motion. When a member intends to bring a motion, the motion must be made and seconded, if applicable, before speaking to the issue. If a member speaks to a matter before bringing the motion, the motion will be considered out of order by the chair. Once the motion is properly made and seconded, if applicable, the member who made the motion shall have the privilege of speaking first in support of it, upon recognition by the chair.

D. Voting

1. In determining the outcome of a vote, only the yes and no votes shall be counted in determining the total number of votes required for adoption. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of the Synod Assembly. The Chair will allow for at least one (1) minute for voting to occur. Voting members will use a green card to approve, a red card to oppose a vote.

E. Privilege of Voice

Guests, other than voting members, may be accorded the privilege of voice by a majority vote. Voice shall also be granted to those persons designated by the Synod Council, as provided for in S7.23. of the Synod's Constitution.

We need at least $\frac{3}{4}$ majority to adopt these rules and procedures.

Notes:



Notes About the Bishop Election:

In addition to the bishop candidates nominated in advance of this assembly by our seven conferences, eligible Ministers of Word and Sacrament can be nominated from the floor at the appropriate time prior to the first ballot.

If there is no election on the first ballot, persons nominated may withdraw from consideration. This must be done as instructed before the deadline, 7:30 am on Saturday June 8, in the Centennial Room (320). If someone is nominated and does not withdraw in writing, their name will appear on the second ballot.

For those who are nominated from the floor of the assembly, the only opportunity to withdraw is after the first ballot.

Listed here are the names of the candidates for bishop that were nominated prior to assembly - those marked with a cross [+] have accepted a nomination for bishop. The remainder have officially withdrawn their names from consideration.

+ Rev. Chad Anderson
+ Rev. Karen Behling
+ Rev. Elizabeth Bier
+ Rev. Martin Halom
+ Rev. Diane House
+ Rev. Judy Kincaid
+ Rev. Kristina Weber
Rev. Sara Bishop-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Brice Bloxham-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Fred Hanson-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Libby Howe-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Lori Ruge Jones-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Greg Kaufmann-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Randy Olson-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Cheryl Peterson-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Jen Pockat-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Richard Skare-Withdrawal Received
Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith-Withdrawal Received
Rev. John Sutherland-Withdrawal Received



Biographical information, introductory videos, and recorded forum interviews from the current nominees are available on the synod website for you to read and view. They can be accessed using the following link or scanning the QR code above.

<https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2024>



Parliamentary Procedure

To accomplish this:	You say this:	Interrupt the speaker?	Is a second necessary?	Is it debatable?	Can it be amended?	Necessary vote?	Can it be reconsidered?
Introduce business	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Give further study	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes (Unless it has gone to committee)
Postpone discussion for stated period of time	"I move to postpone the discussion until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
End debate and amendments	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No (Unless vote is not taken)
Suspend consideration of an issue temporarily	"I move to table the motion."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Raise a question about noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No (Usually)
Call for an intermission	"I move we recess for..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Other motions to:	You say:						
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Reconsider an action	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	Yes	Yes	Yes (if motion to reconsider is debatable)	No	Majority	No
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Verify a voice vote by having members stand	"I call for a division"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Vote on a ruling of the chair	"I appeal from the chair's decision."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes
Protest breach of rules or conduct	"I rise to a point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote (unless it is unclear)	No
Avoid considering an improper matter	"I object to consideration of this motion."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3	Yes (if main motion was not considered)
Suspend rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No

Sample Ballot			
2024 Ballot-3 year terms (unless otherwise noted)			
Synod Council Members			
Apple River Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader		Heart of the North Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader	
Reverend Laurie Kenyon Woods		Reverend Sara Feld	
Chequamegon Conference Vote for one Lay Male		Lake Superior Conference Vote for one Lay Female	
Kaj Peterson		Mary Trettin	
Chippewa Valley Conference Vote for one Lay Male		St. Croix Valley Vote for one Lay Female	
Jacob Gapko		Kim Warren	
Dairyland Conference Vote for one Lay Female		Synod Council, Secretary Vote for one 4 year term	
Nancy Quarberg		Reverend Julie Brenden*	
*incumbent			

Sample Ballot			
2024 Ballot-6 year terms			
Consultation Committee Members			
Apple River Conference Vote for one Lay Male		Heart of the North Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader	
Sam Campeau		Reverend Michael Sparby	
Chequamegon Conference Vote for one Lay Female		Lake Superior Conference Vote for one Lay Female	
Irene Villareal		Kandee Rosburg	
Chippewa Valley Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader		St. Croix Valley Vote for one Lay Male	
Reverend Brad Peterson		Dan Bensen	
Dairyland Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader		St. Croix Valley Vote for one Rostered Leader	
Reverend Jennifer Hatleli		Reverend Al Aakre	

Sample Ballot	
2024 Ballot	
Churchwide Assembly Voting Members	
Apple River Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader	Apple River Conference Vote for one Lay Female
Deacon Jodi Lorenz	Karalyn Littlefield
Chequamegon Conference Vote for one Lay Female	Chequamegon Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader
Shelby Niskanen	Reverend Katie Anderson
Chippewa Valley Conference Vote for one Lay Male	Chippewa Valley Conference Vote for one Lay Female
Mike Hulett	Heather Day
Dairyland Conference Vote for one Lay Female	Dairyland Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader
Nancy Quarberg	Reverend Jennifer Hatleli
Heart of the North Conference Vote for one Lay Male	Heart of the North Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader
Ted Hakala	Reverend Tiffany Chipman
Lake Superior Conference Vote for one Lay Female	Lake Superior Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader
Mary Trettin	Reverend Katie Wagner
St. Croix Valley Conference Vote for one Lay Male	Dairyland Conference Vote for one Rostered Leader
Eric Klein	Reverend Kristin Kellaheer
	Reverend Lucas Ladrner
	Reverend Ben Nelson



Resolutions

The resolutions that were submitted by the deadline appear on the next several pages. They are:

- Resolution 1 Grace Driven Generosity for all Generations
- Resolution 2 Supporting and Celebrating Children and Young Families
- Resolution 3 2025 Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits
- Resolution 4 Operating Mission Plan
- Resolution 5 Honoring Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Resolution 1

Grace Driven Generosity for all Generations

WHEREAS, all Christians are encouraged to practice biblical stewardship (Deuteronomy 14:22,23) and give a tithe; and

WHEREAS, congregations are also encouraged to tithe and, with a spirit of overflowing joy (2 Corinthians 8:2) give generously; and

WHEREAS, there are times in the life of congregations when they receive significant gifts, estates, offerings, and may have opportunities to give an additional gift; and

WHEREAS, congregations, when they finish the work that God has given them to do and vote to move to holy closure, may choose to leave a legacy gift; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that individuals be encouraged to explore avenues of giving to the synod and discover ways they can leave a joyful legacy with a bequest through their will or estate plan, a gift from life insurance, an IRA, or other qualified retirement account, or a gift of real estate or other personal asset; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregational councils be encouraged to generously search ways to give a legacy gift of a tithe (or more) to the synod from special fund appeals, gifts from estates, offering for special celebrations like anniversaries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations. when they vote to move toward holy closure, consider a legacy gift to continue their ministry through the synod so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations and individuals consider a gift to the synod endowment fund to provide lasting ministry that benefits generations to come.

Submitted by Endowment Committee and Synod Council

Supporting & Celebrating Children and Young Families

WHEREAS, Holy scripture clearly instructs for the inclusion of children in the life of God's people (Deuteronomy 6:6-7), shows that Jesus was indignant at the disciples for rebuking children (Mark 10:13-16 and Matthew 18:13-15), and tells us that Jesus lifted up children as being the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:2-5); and

WHEREAS, we confess that Baptism "makes us members of the body of Christ, the Church," and is for all ages (The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament, 24); and

WHEREAS, we are entrusted with responsibilities in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, "to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer ("Holy Baptism" in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 228); and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Synod of Wisconsin acknowledges the vital role of supporting families by setting standards for providing medical benefit coverage to spouses and children of rostered leaders, family leave, and compassion leave (2024 Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits Resolution of the NWSWI); and

WHEREAS, it is expected for all rostered leaders to attend functions of the Synod, especially Fall Retreat, Winter Theological Conference, and Synod Assembly (S.14.25 and S.14.47 of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Statement on Our Calling in Education states that "[adults] also bear a particular responsibility to nurture the faith of the next generation" (14); and

WHEREAS, a priority area of the ELCA's Mission and Vision states, "A Welcoming Church: Engaging new, young and diverse people" with the goal: "Share the story of Jesus and the ELCA by engaging with 1 million new people as we grow the church together" (<https://www.elca.org/about/mission-and-vision>) and not welcoming children limits the voices brought forward by these exact people; and

WHEREAS, rostered ministers with children across our synod have faced criticism, reprimand, or have been asked to no longer bring their children to worship by their church councils or individual parishioners, thereby exhibiting a lack of understanding of a congregation's baptismal promises; and

WHEREAS, many of our church spaces are not conducive to the worship or faith-formation needs of children and young families, because they do not have safe, intentional, and welcoming spaces for children or offer volunteer or paid, well-publicized child care, and therefore limit the inclusivity and accessibility of church for children and young families; and

WHEREAS, our Synod events and gatherings are often held in these church spaces, and to provide tangible support to continue to encourage the attendance of rostered leaders and lay voting members of a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, the use of these spaces is needed; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Synod of Wisconsin affirms that the implementation of child care services for in-person events can be achieved within the current synod funding mechanism, (registration fees) without requiring additional funding from the synod budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation make every effort possible to support and celebrate children and young families being a full part of the life of a congregation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod will provide intentional, safe, nurturing, and well-publicized child care services for all in-person events such as Fall Retreat, Winter Theological, and Synod Assembly. The Synod will provide access to space conducive for children's needs such as play and rest, during any session hours, beginning with Fall Retreat 2024, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod will facilitate the formation of a Children & Young Family Resource Committee of lay and rostered leaders to oversee the provision of child care and provide resourcing and consultation with congregations on providing safe and nurturing spaces for children & young families.

Submitted by Rev. Annie Ladnier, Rev. Carolyn Staats, Rev. Paul Backstrom, Rev. Lucas Ladnier, Rev. Lucas Holsten, Rev. Ben Nelson, Rev. Melissa Hrdlicka, Rev. Peter Warren, Rev. Steven Dow, Rev. Jaime Brieske, Rev. John Sutherland, Rev. Ladd Sonnenberg, Rev. Kirsten Kellaher, Rev. Robert Dahm, Rev. Theresa Riewestahl, Rev. Julie Brenden, Rev. Rick Biederman of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

Resolution 3

2025 Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits

For Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Ministers of Word and Service, Lay Program Staff, and Support Staff

WHEREAS each year the Salary Standards Committee reviews and makes recommendations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin approve the salary standards provided in the on-line preassembly materials.

Forwarded on April 17, 2024 by Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council with recommendation for approval.

Resolution 4

Operating Mission Plan

WHEREAS, each year the Synod Council reviews and makes recommendations for the proposed financial mission plan; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the financial mission plan for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin be adopted.

Forwarded on April 17, 2024 by Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council with recommendation for approval.

OPERATING MISSION PLAN				
	CURRENT 1/31/2024 2023-24	AMENDED Synod Council 2023-24	Amended Synod Council 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26
RECEIPTS				
General Mission Support (Benevolence)	\$1,157,654	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Grants & Other Msc. Income	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	854	2,000	2,000	2,000
Assembly receipts over expenses				
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,168,508	\$1,212,000	\$1,212,000	\$1,212,000
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES (BASED UPON % OF Benev Rcvd)				
ELCA Churchwide Synod Benevolence	\$432,808	\$465,717	\$438,897	\$429,805
Seminaries	\$53,012	\$57,044	\$53,759	\$52,645
Colleges	\$8,111	\$8,728	\$8,225	\$8,055
Support-Wis Conf of Churches	\$4,676	\$5,031	\$4,741	\$4,643
Support-Twin Ports Ministry	\$470	\$506	\$477	\$467
Support-Public Policy Office	\$560	\$603	\$568	\$556
Support-Luth Outdoor Min.	\$435	\$468	\$441	\$432
TOTAL SUPPORT-PARTNERSHIP MINISTRIES	\$500,071	\$538,095	\$507,108	\$496,603
BENEVOLENCE REMAINING TO COVER SYNODICAL MISSION (SYNOD SHARE)				
	\$ 668,438	\$ 673,904	\$ 704,892	\$ 715,397
SYNODICAL MISSION				
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$81,000	\$81,000	\$81,000	\$81,000
Camping Ministry-Luther Park, Luther Point, Wapogasset and Amnicon	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Region 5 Support-Operations	\$3,896	3,900	5,158	5,158
First Call/Multi-Synod Educ.	\$1,660	1,660	1,660	1,660
	\$88,556	\$88,560	\$89,818	\$89,818
SYNOD COMMITTEES				
Candidacy	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Youth	\$1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Synod Council	\$1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS				
Bishop (Inc. housing allow.)	\$101,594	\$101,594	\$103,626	\$105,698
Synod Minister: Full Time	\$86,404	\$86,404	\$88,132	\$89,895
Synod Minister: 1/3 Time	\$20,953	\$21,814	\$22,843	\$23,300
Synod Minister for Communication	\$50,922	\$51,938	\$57,531	\$58,682
Synod Minister: Administration	\$61,939	\$61,939	\$63,178	\$64,441
Pensions, Health Insurance, etc.	\$128,900	\$135,000	\$149,313	\$152,299
Social Security-Reverends	\$15,985	\$16,035	\$16,417	\$16,745
Social Security-Deacon and Employee	\$8,217	\$8,520	\$9,234	\$9,419
Continuing Ed.-All Staff	\$4,361	5,600	5,600	5,600
	\$479,275	\$488,644	\$515,874	\$526,079

Resolution 4 (Continued)

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN - ELCA OPERATING MISSION PLAN

	CURRENT 1/31/2024 2023-24	AMENDED Synod Council 2023-24	Amended Synod Council 2024-25	Proposed 2025-26
TRAVEL				
Staff & Misc. Office, relocation exp.	\$19,238	18,600	18,600	18,600
	<u>\$19,238</u>	<u>\$18,600</u>	<u>\$18,600</u>	<u>\$18,600</u>
GENERAL OFFICE				
Supp./Post./Printing/Technology	\$9,976	7,000	9,500	9,500
Office Rent	\$11,200	11,200	11,200	11,200
	<u>\$21,176</u>	<u>\$18,200</u>	<u>\$20,700</u>	<u>\$20,700</u>
PURCHASED SERVICES				
Audit	\$11,000	10,700	10,700	11,000
Telephone	\$4,916	5,700	5,700	5,700
Dues, Registrations, Fees	\$1,378	1,500	1,500	1,500
	<u>\$17,293</u>	<u>\$17,900</u>	<u>\$17,900</u>	<u>\$18,200</u>
INSURANCE				
Automobiles & Umbrella	\$6,769	5,900	5,900	5,900
Worker's Compensation & Multi-peril	\$3,911	5,000	5,000	5,000
	<u>\$10,680</u>	<u>\$10,900</u>	<u>\$10,900</u>	<u>\$10,900</u>
RETURN TO RESERVE				
EQUIPMENT				
Transfer to designated & restricted accounts	\$21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Repairs, Equipment, Rental	\$8,220	7,100	7,100	7,100
	<u>\$29,220</u>	<u>\$28,100</u>	<u>\$28,100</u>	<u>\$28,100</u>
TOTAL SYNODICAL MISSION	<u>\$668,438</u>	<u>\$673,904</u>	<u>\$704,892</u>	<u>\$715,397</u>
NET SYNOD SHARE OVER/(UNDER) MISSION	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	<u>\$500,071</u>	<u>\$538,096</u>	<u>\$507,108</u>	<u>\$498,603</u>

Resolution 5

Honoring Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

WHEREAS, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson began her service to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin on January 9, 2014 serving as the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin for 4 years until 2018; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson's responsibilities as the Director for Evangelical Mission included accompanying congregations by way of education, dwelling in the Word, and spirit-led discernment regarding area strategies, stewardship, generosity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson was elected to serve as bishop at synod assembly, June 3, 2018, becoming the first woman to serve as bishop in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson's six-year term included the ordination of four Deacons (Ministers of Word and Service), and fifteen Pastors (Ministers of Word and Sacrament); and

WHEREAS, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson's leadership included thoughtful changes, adaptations, and resources for congregations, and provided care for pastors, deacons, chaplains, and congregational leaders as the synod was faced with the difficulties of the Covid pandemic in the years 2020, 2021 & 2022; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson consistently shared her belief that the inclusion of all generations is an essential component in the ministry we do together so that "the next generation will come to know and love Jesus;" and

WHEREAS, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson's vision for the synod included the establishment and encouragement of justice ministry teams, staff, and leaders who could do intentional education, training, and research in the areas of: Gender Equity, Racial Justice, LGBTQIA+ Rights, Hunger, and Creation Care which continue to evolve and thrive; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the 2024 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin in Assembly express its gratitude for the 10+ years of faithful service of Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson by standing in applause and recognition at this time.

Bright Spot Awards

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie - Pastor Heather Wigdahl & Pastor Sarah Miller

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is receiving a Bright Spot Award for their leadership through the Reconciling in Christ process. The educational process they led had many open and honest discussions. Along with lay leaders you crafted a congregational welcome statement that paved the way for a unanimous consensus around what could have been a divisive issue. This is a model for other congregations.

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church, Black River Falls - Vicar Augie Hohl

Spirit Creek Lutheran Church is receiving a Bright Spot Award for their leadership around changing the congregation's name. Vicar Augie and council members helped the whole congregation learn about their Ho-Chunk neighbors and realized that the congregation's name was an offensive slur to indigenous people. They made the difficult decision to vote to officially rename their congregation to Spirit Creek Lutheran. This is a model for our whole synod, encouraging us to find concrete ways to love our indigenous neighbors.

Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire - Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Grace Lutheran Church is receiving a Bright Spot Award for their leadership in working with Habitat for Humanity and creating housing for veterans in need in our area using a portion of Grace's building. Their leadership is a model for others in our synod to faithfully use church building spaces, and inspire us to look at unused or underused portions of our buildings and imagine ways to serve the needs of our neighbors.

Zion Lutheran, Our Savior's, Concordia, and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches, Superior - Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Pastor Sean Koos, & Pastor Tanner Howard.

Zion, Our Savior's, Concordia, and Pilgrim are receiving a Bright Spot Award for their leadership in collaborative ministry. These four congregations are being recognized for planning regular joint worship services and supporting a refugee family from Afghanistan. Their leadership is a model for other congregations in our synod to consider ways that they are stronger together and can accomplish more together than alone.

Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls and Ezekiel Lutheran, River Falls - Pastor Greg Ofsdahl and Pastor Steve Dow

Peace and Ezekiel are receiving a Bright Spot Award for their leadership in building solar arrays for their congregations; Ezekiel in 2021 and Peace in 2023. Both of their efforts are models for other congregations to consider how to care for God's creation and use renewable energy sources. The reduction of energy costs will benefit both congregations for years to come.



Closing of the Assembly

Leader: Jesus said, You will be my witnesses

All: **to the ends of the earth.**

Leader: I chose you and appointed you

All: **to bear fruit that will last.**

Leader: Remember, I will be with you always

All: **to the end of time.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**



Leader: Let us pray.

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: I now declare this assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Events

Daylily Dig (Fundraiser for Malawi)

July 12 & 26, 2024 9:00-1:00 each day

ELCA Youth Gathering "Created to Be"

July 16-20, 2024 New Orleans, LA

Installation of the Bishop

September 15, 2024

Lay School of Ministry

September 2023 - May 2024

Fall Ministry Retreat (For Rostered Leaders/SAMs)

September 29 - October 1, 2024 Trinity Woods

Young Adult Service Learning Trip

January 4-10, 2025 Puerto Rico

ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza

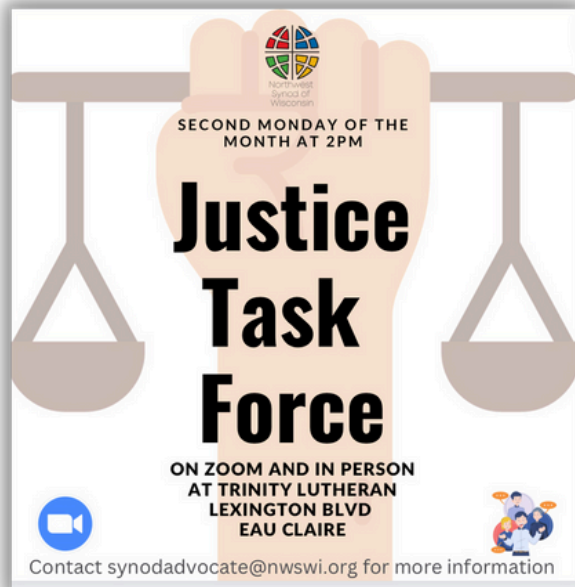
January 23-26, 2025 Louisville, KY


Synod Assembly

April 26, 2025

Notes:






NATIONAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2PM

Justice Task Force

ON ZOOM AND IN PERSON
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN
LEXINGTON BLVD
EAU CLAIRE

Contact synodadvocate@nswi.org for more information



THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
AT 1 PM

Care of Creation Task Force

ON ZOOM
CONTACT LUKE PEDERSON
SAM TRINITY OF NORDEN AND
GOOD SHEPHERD

[LINK ON SYNOD CALENDAR](#)

Contact synodadvocate@nswi.org for more information



Why Land Acknowledgement?


It's a real question
We can ask the question,
start the journey,
have conversation!

https://reconciliationcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CommunityActionToolkit_KitchenTable_for-ind_Aug13.pdf

Contact synodadvocate@nswi.org for more information



<https://www.elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy>

 **ELCA**

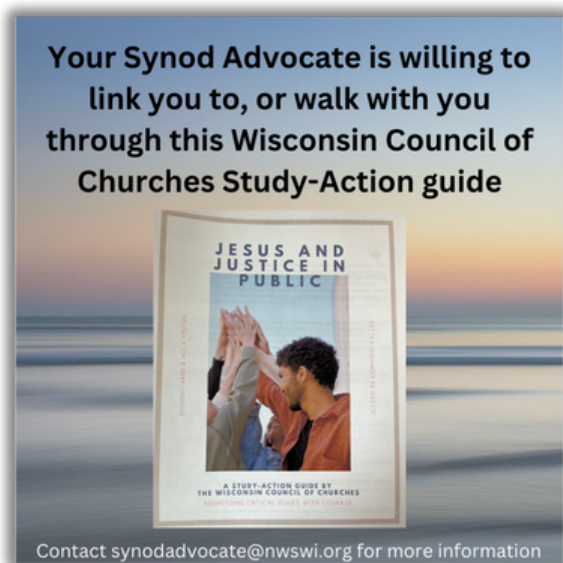
Civic Life and Faith
The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide...

[ELCA.org](https://www.elca.org)


A STUDY CURRICULUM ON CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

Your Synod Advocate is willing to link you to, or walk with you through this 6 session ELCA study

Contact synodadvocate@nswi.org for more information



Your Synod Advocate is willing to link you to, or walk with you through this Wisconsin Council of Churches Study-Action guide



A STUDY-ACTION GUIDE BY THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
ADDRESSING CRITICAL ISSUES WITH COURAGE

Contact synodadvocate@nswi.org for more information



 **Rev. Sara S.V. Bishop** (she/her)
Synod Advocate for Right Relationship
synodadvocate@nswi.org 715-681-0694
On the lands of the Ho-Chunk, Menomonie, & Ojibwe



Northwest
Synod of
Wisconsin

