Call and Notice of Synod Assembly

In accordance with Section S7.13 of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Constitution, I hereby call and give notice of the 2015 Synod Assembly which will take place at the Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing MI 48933, beginning with registration at 4pm on Sunday, the 17th day of May, 2015 and concluding on Tuesday, the 19th day of May, 2015.

Ms. Christine E. Allen, Secretary
# Table of Contents

## GENERAL INFORMATION
- Radisson Hotel and Lansing Center information (maps, parking directions) ........................................... 4-6
- General information ................................................................................................................................. 7-8
- Voting member criteria .......................................................................................................................... 8-9
- Assembly procedures ........................................................................................................................... 9
- Procedural Tips for Voting Members .................................................................................................. 10
- Proposed Agenda ................................................................................................................................. 11-14
- Guest speaker information ..................................................................................................................... 15-16
- Service Track Descriptions .................................................................................................................... 17-19

## STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS
- Report of the Bishop ............................................................................................................................... 20-32
- Greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton .................................................................................. 33-34
- Report of Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational and Leadership Excellence ......................... 35-36
- Report of Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop ........................................... 37
- Report of the Vice President .................................................................................................................. 38-41
- Summary of Synod Council and Executive Committee Actions ......................................................... 42-51
- Anniversary Recognitions ...................................................................................................................... 52

## SYNOD MINISTRY REPORTS
- Lay Ministry Training Program ........................................................................................................... 53
- Living Fire Ministries ............................................................................................................................. 54
- Committee on Church in Society ........................................................................................................ 55
- Global Mission Committee ................................................................................................................. 56
- Multi-Cultural Committee and Anti-Racism Team ........................................................................... 57
- Outreach Committee ............................................................................................................................. 58
- Seminary Scholarship Committee ........................................................................................................ 59
- Witness/Evangelism Committee ............................................................................................................ 60
- Youth Ministry Committee .................................................................................................................... 61
We Are Church

SHARED MINISTRY REPORTS

Candidacy Committee .............................................................. 62-63
Living Water Ministries ............................................................. 64
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan ........................................... 65
Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry ............................................ 66

REGION 6 MINISTRY REPORTS

Capital University ........................................................................ 67
Wittenberg University .................................................................... 68-69
Trinity Lutheran Seminary .......................................................... 70
ELCA Region 6 ............................................................................. 71
ELCA Region 6 Archives .............................................................. 72
Mission Investment Fund ............................................................. 73

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Instructions .................................................................. 74-75
Resolutions A and B ..................................................................... 76-77

NOMINATIONS

Nominating Committee Report ..................................................... 78-80
Nomination Form ......................................................................... 81-82
Nominee Bios ............................................................................... 83-107

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report ........................................................................ 108
Proposed 2016 Budget ................................................................... 109-110
Staff Resource Summary ............................................................. 111
Auditor’s Report .......................................................................... published separately
We Are Church

Radisson Hotel at the Capitol Lansing
111 N Grand River Avenue, Lansing MI 48933, (517) 482-0188

Lansing Center
333 E Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI 48933, (517) 483-7400
Lansing Center Parking

From the West:
Exit I-496, Exit 7A.
Left north on Grand Ave.
Parking at the corner of
Alagon St. / Grand Ave.
or corner of
Ottawa St. / Grand Ave.
Also below and behind
the Lansing Center.

From the East:
West bound I-496,
Exit 7A.
Right north on Grand Ave.
Parking at the corner of
Alagon St. / Grand Ave.
or center of
Ottawa St. / Grand Ave.
Also below and behind
the Lansing Center.
Parking and Meals

Valet parking is available at the Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol and paid parking is available underneath the Lansing Center. If you registered without meals, you may utilize nearby restaurants. Be mindful of the time allowed on the agenda and plan to be back when the next session convenes.

Onsite Registration and Credentials

Help us maintain a current credentials count by checking in at the registration desk upon your arrival. Voting members must have a white name badge to cast their vote. Registration will be closed after each credentials count until the next ballot has been cast. This practice ensures the number of ballots cast will not exceed the number of voting members announced in the credentials report. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Information Packets

Each congregation will receive an information packet; a few extras will be available. Assign someone from your congregation to retrieve the packet when they check in. Distribute the information to the appropriate leaders in your congregation.

Offerings

Offerings from North/West Lower Michigan Synod congregations and voting members will be received at the opening and closing worship services at synod assembly. Synod Council determined the gifts will be divided evenly to support two ministries:

**Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA**

Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, this five-year campaign will:

- Increase this church’s capacity to support congregational renewal and the planting of new congregations
- Form and support new lay, ordained and global leaders for mission
- Encourage and form lay youth and young adult leaders
- Support this church’s disability ministry
- Bolster our commitment to walk with global companion churches in shared witness
- Expand our efforts to address poverty and hunger

Through this campaign, we, as members of the ELCA and North/West Lower Michigan Synod, can expand our mission capacity and achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone. Through this campaign, we can do more to serve the needs of the synod and beyond.

**Lutheran Disaster Response** brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.
We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

To learn more about these offering designations and how your gifts will change lives, visit www.elca.org

Congregations are encouraged to bring their offerings in the form of a check made payable to the North/West Lower Michigan Synod,

Terminology: Synod Assembly and Voting Members

Voting members are not delegates as that term is understood or used in some political contexts. People are not sent as agents of a particular caucus, nor are they gathered to act as politicized delegates to a regional party convention. Rather, they assemble as duly selected members of this church with voting responsibilities for governance and elections on behalf of the synod.

The Synod Assembly is an assembly of the people of this church, some of whom have been chosen as voting members. They assemble together in worship and are nurtured in the faith through Word and Sacrament. Then in their deliberations, they seek the wisdom and guidance of God’s Spirit in the decisions and elections of the assembly. Therefore, we use the term “voting member” rather than the term “delegate.”

Voting Members per (S7.21,22)

Note: To facilitate the election process, voting members will be seated separately from visitors during the plenary sessions. You are encouraged to visit with others during meals and breaks.

The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:

- All ordained ministers shall register as clergy voting members.
- Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the ELCA, and diaconal ministers on the official lay roster of this synod shall register as lay voting members.
- All ordained ministers who are retired or on disability leave shall register as clergy voting members.
- All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the ELCA, and diaconal ministers who are retired or on disability leave on the official lay roster of this synod shall register as lay voting members.
- All ordained ministers on leave from call may register as visitors (without voting privileges) unless elected as voting members by their respective congregations.
- All associates in ministry, deaconesses of the ELCA, and diaconal ministers on leave from call may register as visitors (without voting privileges) unless elected as voting members by their respective congregations.
- Assembly visitors do not have voting privileges.
A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with less than 175 baptized members, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male, shall be voting members.

A minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with more than 175 baptized members, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male, shall be voting members.

Additional voting representation from congregations shall be apportioned according to the baptized membership report on the 2012 statistical reports (1000-1400: one additional voting member; 1500-2000: two additional voting members; 2000 or more: three additional voting members). These additional voting members shall be equally divided between female and male, except odd-numbered voting members, if any, may be either male or female.

Assembly Procedures

The Synod Council recommends adoption of the following procedures for the 2015 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly:

A. All resolutions will be referred to the Reference and Resolutions Committee. “This committee shall receive resolutions, formulate appropriate resolutions, and recommend their placement on the agenda for action by the Synod Assembly…” (S7.33.01.c).

Resolutions must come from a voting member, a congregation, a committee or an agency of the Synod. All resolutions not received for inclusion in the pre-assembly report must be reproduced by the maker in adequate numbers for all assembly participants following review by the Reference and Resolutions Committee.

B. All elections will be by ballot vote. “In all elections, except for the Bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number two for each vacancy unfilled.” (S9.08.)

C. Debate: Limited to two minutes per speaker. All speakers shall identify themselves by name and congregation/ministry/retired, etc.

D. All voting shall be by voice, voting cards or voting machines (once credentials are established).

E. Permission for rostered pastors of full communion partner churches, serving ELCA ministries under contract in this Synod, full voice and vote in all Synod Assembly proceedings. Permission for up to two lay persons, one male, one female, from our Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (The Christ Sudanese Congregation, Wyoming) to have full voice and vote in all Synod Assembly proceedings.

F. The subjects specified on the program as “order of the day” have been assigned to a particular hour of the day and shall take priority over any other item of business at that time unless changed by two-thirds (2/3) vote.
We Are Church

Procedural Tips for Voting Members

If you desire to speak:

- Go to a microphone and wait to be recognized by the chair
- The chair will seek to recognize alternate pro and con speakers on matters under debate (bring your green card to speak for, red card against, white card to make a motion or ask a question)
- When speaking, first identify yourself by name and congregation/city or ministry
- Remember that speaking time will be limited – be brief and to the point
- Refrain from personal attacks, questioning of motives, or otherwise casting aspersions on others present or not present
- You may speak twice on any issue under debate (unless limited by the assembly), but you may not speak the second time until all who wish to speak the first time have had the opportunity to do so

When you debate/speak:

- Direct all debate to the assembly through the chair
- Speak only to the immediately pending question, for example, a resolution, an amendment or main motion
- You may amend an amendment, but there may only be a primary and a secondary amendment under consideration at any one time
- You may speak briefly to an issue and then offer a motion if you wish; the chair will let you know if the motion is in order at the time, or if you must make the motion at another time
- The correct way to stop debate is to “Move the Previous Question,” or, move “that we stop debate and move immediately to a vote on the pending question” (“Calling the question” is improper); a motion to stop debate requires a 2/3 vote
- You have the right and responsibility to know at all times what motions or items are being debated and/or voted on; therefore, it is okay and encouraged, if you are not sure, to make an inquiry of the chair just what is under debate or to inquire as to what proper procedure might be

When voting:

- Except for voting on the credentials report at the opening of the assembly, you will use your voting machines (back up: voting cards or ballots) to vote; if another voting method is used, the chair will give you directions as to how to proceed
- If using voting cards, raise the proper voting card when asked by the chair, and keep it raised until the chair directs you to lower it
- If you disagree with the chair’s interpretation of the vote, you may move to have a counted vote
- Sit in the area designated for voting members
Sunday, May 17

3:00pm  REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN OPENS  Michigan Ave. Concourse
3:00pm  PRE-ASSEMBLY WALK THROUGH (Staff/Parliamentarian)  Bishop’s Conference Room

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:

4:00pm  CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE  Banquet Rooms
4:15pm  ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  Banquet Rooms
4:30pm  REFERENCE & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE  Banquet Rooms

(DINNER ON YOUR OWN)

6:15pm  FIRST-TIME VOTING MEMBER ORIENTATION  Banquet Rooms
(All Welcome)
6:15pm  REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN CLOSES
6:30-8:30pm  OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY – PLENARY SESSION #1  Banquet Rooms

Song

Welcome, Opening of the Assembly, Call to Order
Announcement of Resolutions Deadline – 9 PM at Registration Desk
Announcements
Orientation to Voting Machines
Introduction of Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian
Report of the Credentials Committee
*Adoption of Assembly Rules and Procedures
*Adoption of Agenda
Introductions
Interns
Candidates Assigned to our Synod
Rostered Leaders New to our Synod
Elections Committee

*7:00pm  “Paul’s Newly Discovered Epistle to the Mitten Synodians” – The Rev. Walter F. Taylor, Ph.D.

8:00pm  Synod Council Action item – Constitution & Bylaw Amendments
        Report of the Nominations Committee
        Nominations from the Floor

*FIRST BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS
*Report of the Reference and Resolution Committee
*Resolution A

Mission Moment

8:30-9pm  EVENING PRAYER  Banquet Rooms
9:00pm  DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS SUBMISSION

Monday, May 18

7:00  REGISTRATION RE-OPENS  Michigan Ave. Concourse
7:15-8:15am  BREAKFAST – Buffet  Banquet Rooms
8:30am  MORNING PRAYER  Banquet Rooms
8:30am  REGISTRATION CLOSES
8:45-10:00am  PLENARY SESSION #2  Banquet Rooms
        Call to Order, Announcements
        Report of the Credentials Committee
        *ELCA Churchwide Report (30 minutes)
        Greetings from Mission Partners (30 minutes)
        Mission Moment

10:00-10:15am  BREAK
10:15-11:30am  Visitors Meet with Dr. Walter Taylor  Meeting Room 104
10:15am-Noon  PLENARY SESSION #2 RESUMES  Banquet Rooms 1-6
        Song
        Call to Order, Announcements
Report of the Elections Committee

*SECOND BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS (if needed)

*Report of the Vice President
   Introduction of Synod Council

*Report of the Bishop

*Report of the Treasurer

*Presentation of the 2016-17 Budget

*Report of the Reference and Resolution Committee
   *Resolution B
   *Remaining Resolutions

Mission Moment

Sung Prayer for Lunch

12:00 BOXED LUNCH Pub

12:00n REGISTRATION RE-OPENS Michigan Ave. Concourse

1:15pm REGISTRATION CLOSES

12:30-5:00pm We Are Church – Three Tracks

#1 Practicing Our Faith:
   Around tables Banquet Rooms 1-6
   Worship Meeting Rooms 101-102

#2 Renewing Our Congregation:
   Gathering & Worship Meeting Room 201
   Kindred Groups Mtg Rm 101-104, 201-205

#3 Serving Our Community
   Gathering & Worship Gazebo

6:00-7:00pm DINNER Banquet Rooms

7:00pm RECOGNITIONS Banquet Rooms
   - Recognitions and Anniversaries
   - Acknowledgement of Lay Ministry Training Program Graduates
   - Greetings from Mission Partners
   - Mission Moment
We Are Church

7:45–9:00pm HYMN SING - Jonathan Rundman Banquet Rooms

Tuesday, May 19

7:00 REGISTRATION RE-OPENS Michigan Ave. Concourse
7:15-8:15am BREAKFAST – Buffet Banquet Rooms

Open Conversation with Synod Council

8:15am REGISTRATION CLOSES
8:30-10:45am PLENARY SESSION #3 Banquet Rooms 1-6

Song
Call to Order, Announcements
Report of the Credentials Committee
Report of the Elections Committee
*THIRD BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS (if needed
*Adoption of the 2016-17 Budget
Unfinished Business
Closing of the Assembly

10:45-11:00pm BREAK Banquet Rooms 1-6
11:00am HOLY COMMUNION Banquet Rooms 1-6

(LUNCH ON YOUR OWN)
We Are Church

The Rev. Walter F. Taylor
Trinity Lutheran Seminary

The Rev. Walter F. Taylor, Jr., is the Ernest W. and Edith S. Ogram Professor of New Testament Studies and Director of Graduate Studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, where he has served since 1981. Previously he was a parish pastor in Lincoln, Nebraska. He earned his B.A. at Midland Lutheran College, his M.Div. at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and his Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate University. He has also studied at Yale University Divinity School and was a Fulbright Professor at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1988-1989. During the Spring semester of 2009 he was a short-term missionary for the ELCA and taught at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt.

Professor Taylor has published 150 books, articles, chapters, reviews, and audio-visual materials, including his Paul, Apostle to the Nations: An Introduction (2012). He frequently speaks in congregations, at synod assemblies, and at continuing education events. He has been a proud clergy member of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod since its founding and is a frequent resource person for the synod’s Lay Ministry Training Program.

Wally’s wife Dyann is a Library Media Specialist with the Columbus Public Schools. Their son Rick is an urologist, and their daughter-in-law Camille is an obstetrician/gynecologist. They live in New Albany, Ohio, with their two daughters Amelie (five) and Lindy (almost two). Dyann and Wally’s daughter Jennifer for eight years was a pre-school teacher for the Chicago Public Schools, and their son-in-law James is an independent film-maker. In 2012 they relocated to Los Angeles. Jennifer is now teaching in Redondo Beach, and Jamey is exploring options in the film and television industries; his latest gig was “Dancing with the Stars.” They have one son, Wilder, who will be one on May 17—the opening day of the assembly!

The Taylors root for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Columbus Blue Jackets … and, yes, for The Ohio State Buckeyes when they are not playing Nebraska. They did, however, cheer for Michigan State in the men’s NCAA basketball tournament.
The Reverend Kevin L. Strickland, Director for Worship of the ELCA

Pastor Strickland was born and raised in Lexington, SC and is an honors graduate of Newberry College (Newberry, SC) with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy with a minor in History. He also obtained a Masters of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC).

Pastor Strickland served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran, Maryville, TN prior and has served at Incarnation Lutheran (Columbia, SC), St. Philip's Lutheran (Newberry, SC), Lutheran Church of Redeemer (Newberry, SC), and Mt. Tabor Lutheran (West Columbia, SC) in the area of youth and family ministry. Most recently, he served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Nashville, TN.

Pastor Strickland has served as chair of the Southeastern Synod ELCA Worship Team, President of the Board for Lutheran Services in Tennessee, member of the Southeastern Synod ELCA Immigration and Refugee Task Force, and the Southeastern Synod ELCA Synod Council. Pastor Strickland has served on various local non-profit boards and has a heart for justice and advocacy ministry.

Pastor Strickland is humbled and honored to have been called into the position of Director for Worship for the ELCA. He states, “It is a true joy for me to accept the call to this position and to work with brothers and sisters around the ELCA; in what is central to our mission: worship. Worship is at the heart of our mission as Christ church and provides an opportunity for us to be made whole and encounter the holy. Worship equips us to be disciples in this world, striving for justice and in doing so, we return often to the heart of our mission to be re-charged and fed.”
Monday Afternoon – Track Descriptions

Practicing Our Faith

“Entering the Sanctuary”

This spiritual retreat afternoon is for anyone who is interested in “Sprucing up their spiritual home.” It will be a time to slow down, step out of the ordinary, set aside distractions and enter into a quiet space.

During our time together we will learn about and experience Lectio Divina – an ancient practice of praying with scripture, a prayer of the heart or what today is called Centering Prayer, a gentle way of prayer that opens our hearts and our persons to the presence of God in Faith. We will also explore other helps to living in the presence of God, such as an imaginative use of mandalas (sacred circles of symbol & color) as a form of meditation & prayerful reflection, ending our time together with contemplative worship.

Participants will deepen their relationship with God, root themselves in the cross of Christ, and open themselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit as we seek to grow as faith-filled disciples and ambassadors of Christ.

Recommended Books that will be available that day:
- Truly Present: Practicing Prayer in the Liturgy by Lisa E. Dahill
- Life Together: Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening by Cynthia Bourgeault

Six Kindlers will be present:
- Tracy Teich
- Peggy Burns
- Mary Jo Clute
- Sharon Ross
- June Scarborough
- Shirley Moerdyk
We Are Church

Renewing Our Congregations

The world is changing and the church is changing with it. We can be bystanders or we can be leaders in change and renewal. In this track, participants will begin with inspiration for renewal and then have the opportunity to hear and share ideas for renewal in areas such as worship, service, faith formation, outreach, stewardship, and leadership. The track will culminate in a Eucharist Service of Renewal with ELCA Director of Worship Reverend Kevin Strickland.

Kindred Groups

Each person will have the opportunity to attend 4 kindred groups. The group leader(s) will have a short presentation and then lead sharing of ideas and best practices. The goal is for participants to come away with a wealth of ideas and the names of people and congregations where these ideas have been tried and who can be resources.

Signups for Kindred Groups will take place at Assembly registration.

1. Worship – Making worship a renewing and mission centered experience for multiple generations (Pastor Kevin Strickland) Offered 3 times

2. Faith Formation for the 21st century – new, effective, and creative ways the faith is being shared from one generation to the next. (Augsburg Fortress CEO Beth Lewis) Offered 3 times

3. The Changing World of Stewardship – what is working in getting the story out and getting people to respond to mission needs (Mission Support Table) Offered 3 times

4. Speaking With Boldness – How are congregations sharing the good news about Jesus as a part of their social ministry and outreach? (Witness/Evangelism Team) Offered 3 times

5. Churches That Make A Difference – introduction to Holistic Ministry and conversation about how mission and evangelism are at the heart of all we do as church. (Pastor Sue Hand) Offered 1 time

6. Outdoor Ministry as a tool for Renewal – conversations about how Living Water Ministries can partner with congregations for spiritual renewal and outreach. How can camping and retreats be a way for congregations to reach the unchurched. (C. J. Clark and Program Specialist Nicole McCarthy) Offered 3 times

7. Reaching Out in the Name of Jesus – conversations about opportunities for service through Lutheran Social Services of Michigan facilities and agencies. How Lutheran Social Services can be a partner with congregations for renewal and outreach. (LSSM) Offered 2 times

8. Reaching Youth and Young Adults – panel discussion of youth leaders and young adults about best practices and ideas that support youth and young adults in the 21st century. (Pastor Sarah-Friesen-Carper and panel of leaders) Offered 3 times
Serving Our Community

This year the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly will give us an opportunity to live into the service that God calls us to! On Monday, May 18th we will be able to focus on three distinct areas of serving: Caring for Creation, Caring for Others, and Caring for Ourselves. Before going out to our respective service opportunities, we will gather at the Gazebo outside the Lansing Center for a brief service of anointing and being sent. This will also be the space that we will gather to worship at the end of our respective service opportunities. Signups for serving opportunities will take place at Assembly registration.

_Caring for Creation_

_**Walk and Clean**_ – Care for your body as you walk the Lansing River Trail just outside the Lansing Convention Center. As you walk and take in the beautiful river scenery, you will be given gloves and bags to help clean-up and beautify God’s creation helping be good stewards of the land God has blessed us with, for the continued enjoyment of others, and helping keep this area clean and safe for the many animals and creatures who call it home. Limited to 20 individuals.

_Potter Park Zoo_ – Come to Potter Park Zoo – a short drive from the Lansing Center – and help continue to keep the grounds beautiful, clean, and safe for the many animals who call it home and for the many who come every day to witness God’s beautiful creatures! Limited to 35 individuals.

_Caring for Others_

_Off-Site Kitchen Clean-up_ – Working in Partnership with the City Rescue Mission of Lansing, volunteers will be able to come to this future off-site kitchen area to do some outdoor clean-up. Moving rocks and replacing those rocks with mulch. This will allow those who need it to use this area to be more welcomed and safe. Limited to 20 individuals.

_City Rescue Mission Upscale Thrift_ – Volunteers will work at the City Rescue Missions Upscale Thrift store performing tasks such as sorting, steaming, tagging, and folding of clothing items. This will be a great help to the staff at the Upscale Thrift Store. Those who use the thrift store can find affordable clothing and items for their families. Those who are cared for by the City Rescue Mission’s Women and Children Shelter have the opportunity to take items for free to clothe and care for their families. Limited to 20 individuals.

_Caring for Ourselves_

_Running Group_ – Come run the Lansing River Trail and take in the beautiful scenery. This group will be led by Rev. Jake Lehman (Trinity Evangelical LC of Kalamazoo, MI). Care for the bodies that God has gifted us with. Limited to 20 individuals.

_Biking Group_ – Rev. Bill Uetricht (First Lutheran in Muskegon, MI) is an avid biker and in the past, has invited other members of the Synod to go on bike rides. Join him as you bike the Lansing River Trail and continue to care for the beautiful bodies that God has gifted to us! NOTE: You must provide your own bike to participate in this event. Limited to 20 individuals.
Report of the Bishop

Since being called to the office of bishop, I return again and again to Joshua—the account of Israel entering the land of promise—and to Acts—the account of the church after Christ’s ascension. Last year, I reflected a bit on Joshua; this year, I find myself in Acts.

Periodically, especially when I need to laugh, I pull out the “plan” for our synod that I wrote by hand when I was Up North during the summer before I began as bishop. Leaders have visions, directions, plans—and I worked with a leadership coach to make certain mine was sound. I suspect the apostles were planning after they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12-26). Peter “stood up” as spokesman and leader; Matthias was elected to replace Judas and enrolled with the Eleven. I can see the apostles strategizing about how to take the good news to the streets. “We’ll go when we’re ready.” Then Pentecost brought the sound of rushing wind and the appearance of tongues of fire; the plan got stuffed in a drawer as the apostles found themselves preaching on the streets and figuring out how to pull off three thousand baptisms. Planning is certainly important. And the best part of being the church—and the most fun—is getting swept up in the Holy Spirit and hanging on for dear life.

My new favorite Bible verse is Acts 16:7: “When [Paul and Silas] had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.” It reminds me that, sometimes, the Spirit of Jesus says No to our plans. And, more than saying No, sometimes the Spirit of Jesus gets in the way of the church’s plans.

I am convinced that the Spirit of Jesus is saying No and getting in the way of church plans that measure “faithfulness” and “success” using yesterday’s yardsticks, doing everything we’ve always done in the way we’ve always done it—only harder—and expecting different results, and maintaining expressions of Christ’s Church for the sake of their survival. I regularly hear that the church is dying. No, yesterday’s church is dying. Or the Spirit of Jesus is saying No to it. With the Lutheran Confessions, we agree, “that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever.” And Christ’s Church will be breathing with new life.

At this assembly we participate in discerning what the Holy Spirit is blowing the expression of Christ’s church that is the North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA to be and become and where the Spirit of Jesus is not allowing our synod and the church to go. My written plan (the one stuffed in my drawer) says we are to decide mission directions at this assembly. The spirit of Jesus says, No. We’re not ready yet. As I talk to other bishops, casting the grand vision for the next chapter of the synod’s mission seems to be a last-third of a bishop’s first term or first-third of a bishop’s second term task. As a synod, we are faithfully positioning ourselves for renewed, vital mission so that we are ready every time the Holy Spirit blows. And we are getting swept up in the Spirit as we find ourselves proclaiming Christ in ways we never planned.
KNITTING THE MITTEN

In our work, Pastor David’s, Pastor Sarah’s and my greatest joy is to preach and preside across the synod as a visible expression of our unity in Christ. Please see the updated summary of the synod called staff’s congregational visitation. Our target is to visit every congregation by All Saints (Nov 1). I plan to visit every congregation personally by November 6, 2016—By design Peace in Gaylord will be last.

We continue to receive questions from congregations about why we are really visiting—to close the congregation or because there’s a problem—and pushback from a few rostered leaders questioning whether this is the best use of our time. Leadership experts call what we are doing “tending the soul of the institution” by highlighting what is core—for our synod, Jesus, worship, Word and Sacrament. Synod and congregations need to be reminded of who we are so that we can clearly decide what we are—and are not—doing.

Pastors David, Sarah, and I are privileged to view all that the congregations and ministries do from a gracious vantage point. As a synod we need to communicate all that we see and strengthen the connections between natural partners. I am grateful to our Outreach Committee for providing a grant for a mission storyteller. I am excited about the resolution from the Hunger Team asking us to discover and share how many people our synod feeds in a given period of time.

We continue a deployed model of serving our synod so that we can be out and about. The administrative staff and I work from St. Stephen in Lansing; this year the synod and congregation staffs have grown together, a gift for which I am grateful. The entire staff gathers in Lansing on Wednesdays for worship, staff meeting, mutual support, and, for the pastoral staff, attending to congregations in transition. Pastor Sarah works from Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo and Pastor David from Immanuel in Mt. Pleasant. Carrie Wygmans has an office at Faith in Grand Rapids for when she is not in Lansing. We continue to maintain desks at St. Matthew in Heron and Bethlehem in Traverse City; this summer I expect to work from a soon-to-be-empty pastor’s office at Advent in Lake Ann. I am grateful to these congregations for welcoming us into their facilities, all except our Lansing Office free of charge. We installed a new phone system, which I really do prefer phone calls to email.

In addition to “knittin’ the mitten” we are attentive to our interconnectedness with the ELCA, church-related institutions, and our ecumenical partners. Here I share five highlights.

1. I am delighted to welcome Sam Beals, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.
2. Based on economic, geographic, and mission considerations, the bishops of the Lower Peninsula are discontinuing the pattern of joint synod assemblies even as we are committed to a close collaboration; rostered leaders of the three Michigan synods will gather on Mackinac Island in September.
3. I am in the process of appointing someone to chair our synod’s observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
4. Trinity Lutheran Seminary restructured its board of directors so that our synod has one member appointed in consultation with the seminary president. President Rick Barger
requested that we appoint Pastor Fred Fritz, which our Synod Council did at its April meeting even as we thank Harold Sollenberger, Dr. Janet Weller, Pastor Thomas Pederson, and Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee for their faithful service.

5. National Youth Gathering: Julia Nelson, Diaconal Minister, is the Synod Day Director and has assembled a team to lead the day’s experience. I will be involved including leading worship with Pastor Sarah as Assisting Minister. Beth Mundweiler, our Synod Coordinator held five training sessions in March across the synod to help youth group leaders prepare for the event. I will also preach at the DAYLE event prior to the Gathering.

STAFF TRANSITION CONTINUED

This year, we welcomed Carrie Wygmans as Executive Assistant to the Bishop. Carrie is entrusted with events, including synod assembly, establishing processes and policies for our office, managing the roster, and providing me with direct assistance. I recently amended the Pulpit Supply List to reflect my theological perspective and approach; I am taking more direct responsibility in this area since, as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, teacher of preaching and worship, and your bishop, worship is my heart and so I take the privilege to “have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the synod and its congregations” (S.8.12) most seriously.

With synod council approval, I appointed Dawn Brackman as our synod attorney, in keeping with a recent constitutional provision. In point of fact, I made Dawn’s longstanding service to our synod and ongoing service to me official. The synod council also appointed Chelsey Satterlee synod communicator responsible for the weekly update, monthly newsletter and The Lutheran insert, as well as our webpage, twitter, and the “official” Facebook account. Sue Sprang was contracted as our mission storyteller.

Ann Stavros functions as our office manager and assists Pastors Friesen-Carper and Sprang. Margie Bauer spent much of this year staffing a renewed budgeting process, attending to the annual audit, and taking the lead on discerning faithful and permissible use of monies from the To Whom Shall We Go campaign. Cathy Satterlee committed to another year as the bishop’s driver—I quite literally could not do this without her.

Rebecca Bossenbroek and Sister Nancy Brousseau continue to lead their respective programs that equip the saints faithfully and expertly.

I have come to think of the work that our pastoral assistants do as being our “Away Teams” while I am confined to the bridge (Extra credit for those who get this reference!). As you will see in the next section, Pastor Friesen-Carper spent much of this year shepherding call processes and recruiting rostered leaders to our synod. Pastor Sprang secured ELCA grants for congregations and facilitated conversation among congregations about shared mission. Both pastors are committed to equipping congregations to carry the gospel to their communities by moving out of the pews and into the streets proclaiming, “The kingdom of heaven has come near to you!” Sarah and David are also committed to finding innovative ways to ensure the Lutheran proclamation of the gospel continues in every quarter of our state.
My bishop, now retired, invited me to understand that the staff’s job is not to assist me. My job is to support and empower them. I am better at this sometimes than I am at others. I am grateful for these leaders and for the privilege of supporting them; I ask you to join me in expressing appreciation to them as you have opportunity.

**RECRUIT AND RETAIN THE BEST PASTORS AND ROSTERED LEADERS FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS.**

Strengthening a culture of support, collegiality, accountability and compensation so that our rostered leaders are fulfilled in their calling and excited to be in the mitten is key to mission.

**CALL PROCESS: Since I began serving as bishop, the call process has constituted the bulk of our work as a staff. 22 congregations completed the call process, 16 congregations are currently in the call process, as many as 20 congregations may find themselves in the call process in the next 18 months. That’s half of our synod’s congregations.**

At the Conference of Bishops meeting in March, I participated in a very helpful conversation about the call process. Here are eight things I heard that ring true.

1. A belabored call process can drain the life out of a congregation and its mission.
2. The Ministry Site Profile isn’t for everyone. Some bishops are engaging call committees in conversation rather than paperwork so the bishop can prayerfully nominate a single candidate more quickly.
3. Framing the process as “hiring” is not helpful. Congregations are seeking a continuing mutual relationship with a pastor. Bathing the process in prayer and grounding it in Bible Study helps us to remember this.
4. Interim Ministry does not work for every congregation. Sometimes a transitional pastor appointed by the bishop who is, in time, available for call is a more salutary approach.
5. The days of congregations receiving multiple candidates have passed. Insisting on multiple names will slow the process, since bishops are often fortunate to be able to provide a single name. Call Committees are wise to quickly interview every name they receive. If they delay to act, the candidate is likely to be called to another congregation.
6. Interviews conducted frugally, compensation packages beneath synod guidelines, an unwillingness to work toward guidelines, and shaming a pastor for asking for guidelines make it harder for a congregation to retain or attract a pastor.
7. Pastors are attracted to congregations that genuinely want to be involved in their communities. Most pastors are already part of a loving church family; a congregation that describes itself exclusively this way is not likely to attract a pastor.
8. 3-4 people in a congregation mistreating and disrespecting a pastor often convince the pastor to leave. Often the majority of the congregation is oblivious. Expressions of appreciation and addressing unhealthy behaviors in the congregation go a long way to help pastors to stay.

**COMPENSATION:** I enjoyed reading and learned a lot from the Rostered Leader Reports that were submitted this year, especially about your joys and challenges. Here are some interesting statistics as of April 13:

- 73 rostered leaders submitted annual reports: 59 active or not under call, 15 retired.
- 45 active rostered leaders and 74 retired/inactive rostered leaders did not submit reports.

23
Compensation reported (not including rostered leaders in their first year of call):
- 32 (71%) received increased compensation for 2015 vs. 2014
- 12 remained the same
- 1 decreased
- 12 are above synod guidelines
- 23 are at guidelines
- 10 are below guidelines
- 7 did not answer this question
- 77% of called leaders who answered the question are at or above guidelines.

DEBT: I am very concerned about seminary debt and am working on a plan for addressing rostered leader indebtedness. A report from the ELCA indicates the average amount of total educational debt was $46,346. In order to pay off this amount of educational debt in 10 years, a graduate’s monthly payment would be approximately $550, which requires annual compensation of $66,000.

PASTORAL EXPECTATIONS AND BOUNDARIES: In response to requests from rostered, synod and congregational leaders, and following the example of other bishops, I wrote an exposition of Vision and Expectations, which is the ELCA’s code of ethics for rostered leaders. As I write this report, I am considering how to best make this report available.

MONEY

MISSION SUPPORT: We are working hard to claim our God of abundance by becoming congregations and a synod known for our generosity. Mission support to our synod is up slightly 2014 vs. 2013. Thank you letters and certificates were sent to congregations. Increased mission support coupled with attentive spending resulted in our ending the year “in the black,” even as we increased travel expenses and purchased new synod vehicles.

BUDGET: I am impressed by and grateful for the work the budget committee did to bring both the 2015 and 2016 budgets in line with mission support. The budgets reflect hard choices among priorities and reflect the most we can do with the mission support we all expect to receive. Where possible, the budgets encourage the use of designated funds so that ministries will not experience decreased funding. If mission support exceeds our projections, these budgets can be revised upward during the year.

MACEDONIA GRANT: We have additional funding to offer Preaching Stewardship again. ELCA wants to use this as a model. Surplus grant funds were used for resources to assembly voting members.

MY OWN LEARNING: I earned my Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising from the Lake Institute of the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, and attended a very helpful workshop at the March Conference of Bishops Meeting. I look for venues to share some of what I learned with our synod.
MICHI-LU-CA

The Living Water Board’s decision to sell Michi-Lu-Ca and the ensuing forums, conversations, and correspondence were among the most difficult things I have experienced in my 28 years of ordained ministry. People on all sides remain traumatized and grief-stricken. The many people throughout our synod who, while painfully acknowledging that we surrendered a holy space, sacred ground, and a touchstone of faith and community, hope and memory, agree that we had to do so to ensure the future of Lutheran camping ministry in Michigan hearten me. We will gather at Michi-Lu-Ca to remember and say good-bye on May 2. Bishop emeritus John Schleicher will preach.

DISABILITIES AND THE ELCA CAMPAIGN

Synod Council designated half of our assembly offerings to the Campaign for the ELCA and, at my request, for ministry with persons who live with disabilities specifically. This is a concern that affects me directly and deeply. You did a truly amazing thing calling me to be your bishop. My presence in congregations and the Conference of Bishops is subtly changing the church. I ask you to be generous and invite you to read my article, “Learning to Picture God from Those Who Cannot See” at http://ejournals.library.vanderbilt.edu/ojs/index.php/homiletic/article/view/3439. I’m told this article intended for preachers is also helpful to congregations.

Once again, I am including in this report a document related to the fact that I am legally blind, which I hope will both inform and power you and so make you a bit more comfortable. I developed this document for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where I served as a professor.

WEAR A HAT!

We will celebrate Pentecost at our Closing Eucharist on Tuesday morning. Since the hotel won’t allow tongues of fire, I exhort you to wear a hat that celebrates your baptismal calling as a child of God anointed with the Spirit. Your hat can be either your vocation or an avocation.

ROSTER REPORT

The report on changes in the roster is appended to this report. I am genuinely grateful that Carrie is gaining expertise in the ELCA’s roster policies and that I am transitioning away from direct responsibility for the roster. I genuinely apologize if there are errors or omissions. Please communicate them to Carrie and we will do our best to include corrections in my oral report to the assembly.

FINAL THOUGHT

Cathy and I are regularly asked if we miss Chicago, if we are settled, if we are happy. I am regularly asked if I miss the seminary and teaching, if I like being bishop, if I am happy. No. Yes. Yes. No. Yes. Yes.

I have been advised that it is arrogant to say this, because not everyone would agree. And so, I add a disclaimer. From my perspective, the call to be your bishop is the work for which God has been preparing me. It brings all my vocations—pastor, preacher, teacher, administrator,
We Are Church

consultant, and what we used to call “churchman”—together in one place. From my perspective, I have the best call in our church—bishop of the Mitten Synod.

Cathy and I love living in Michigan. We are thrilled to recognize people and have people recognize us, to visit congregations not for the first time, and to be told that you pray for us. We have found—and I tell pastors—it takes three years to feel at home. So we anticipate moving deeper and deeper into this gift of grace to which God, through you, has called us. Thanks!

“[Those who were baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done…” (Acts 2:42-43).

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

Indeed, Bishop Satterlee is Legally Blind

I assume that, for some, a bishop (teacher, scholar, administrator, ordained minister, someone who has power over you) who also manages a disability is a new experience. Over the years, students and colleagues have found the following “protocol,” which I originally developed for the permanent community of the Lutheran School of Theology, helpful. I share it in the hope that it will be helpful to you as well.

1. I am legally blind. I have less than 10 percent of normal vision with correction. I do not know what that means, since I have never seen “normally.” I am the expert on my vision and how it impacts my life and work. Bring all questions and concerns about my vision to me. Making assumptions and conclusions about my abilities and limitations without consulting me is inappropriate.

2. Since I cannot see faces, I know people by voice and appreciate being reminded of people’s names in order to match them with voices. When you greet me, tell me your name. My closest friends know and do this. When I know your voice, I will tell you. I only hold myself accountable to recognize my wife, daughter, and mother on sight.

3. Cluttered corridors and walkways can be hazardous for me, particularly when obstacles (chairs, dogs, furniture, construction) are placed unexpectedly. Please keep the hallways outside my office clear and do not rearrange or remove furniture from my office.

4. If you want to be certain that I receive information, use voice rather than email and provide hard copy rather than file attachment. I do not hold myself accountable for information posted on signs and bulletin boards.
5. Dr. Conrad Heyner, my ophthalmologist, determined that it takes me 22 times longer than average to read and write. I am therefore very disciplined in managing time. Last-minute assignments, unexpected delays or interruption of services, and changes in schedule can be particularly burdensome for me.

6. I read English text in standard font. I do not read cursive handwriting; someone reads it to me.

7. Tasks such as locating a library book on the shelves, working office machines, and filling out forms are difficult for me. I sometimes get frustrated that I cannot do these tasks. I may ask for help or suggest ways around these tasks. As far as possible, please be accommodating.

8. Pointing and giving directions such as “That way,” are not helpful. Try to be descriptive and concrete.

9. I will address questions and concerns about my disability directly. It is inappropriate to do it for me.

10. I will be consulted in order to determine ways that are most helpful both to me and the synod and church. It is inappropriate to unilaterally decide for me what and how much I can and cannot do.

11. I applaud and am deeply committed to our church’s mission of bringing the power of the Gospel to bear on issues of diversity related to race, gender, culture, and sexual orientation. At times, I find this limited understanding of diversity painful. I hope and pray for that time when the ELCA naturally counts persons who live with disabilities among the diverse voices that the church is called to struggle with and by which the church is blessed. In the meantime, I need to be disciplined in spending time in communities more attuned to issues of disability so that I will thrive in our church.

12. I am sympathetic to the appropriate use of technology in learning and worship. Since I do not participate and learn visually, I often experience this kind of class and meeting as a waste of valuable time; I also experience much technology-driven worship as personally exclusive. Please do not equate my lack of personal participation with antagonism toward the endeavor.

13. Address questions and comments about this protocol to me or to the appropriate administrative officer. Do not make comments to my family.

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D.
Bishop, North West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA
## Roster Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deaths</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>11/18/2014</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>Philabaum</td>
<td>1/14/2015</td>
<td>Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Installations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>Ballard</td>
<td>11/23/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Reformation, Clearwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger</td>
<td>Bauer</td>
<td>12/7/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Hope, Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paulette</td>
<td>Cummings</td>
<td>2/22/2015</td>
<td>Pastor - St Peter, Unionville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christin</td>
<td>Fawcett</td>
<td>10/30/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Good Shepherd, Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Foerster</td>
<td>2/22/2015</td>
<td>Pastor - Immanuel, Grand Ledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Keller</td>
<td>8/23/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Peace, Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Kuntz</td>
<td>6/7/2014</td>
<td>Associate Pastor - Calvary, Lansing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Kuntz</td>
<td>6/8/2014</td>
<td>Associate Pastor - St. Stephens, Lansing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>1/11/2015</td>
<td>Diaconal Minister - St. Thomas, Cheboygan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zachary</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>1/11/2015</td>
<td>Pastor - St. Thomas, Cheboygan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>Nye</td>
<td>10/23/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Leer, Posen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kjersten</td>
<td>Priddy</td>
<td>8/31/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Trinity, Battle Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Samuelson</td>
<td>4/26/2015</td>
<td>Pastor - Trinity, New Era</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellen</td>
<td>Schoepf</td>
<td>4/12/2015</td>
<td>Pastor - Faith, Okemos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connie</td>
<td>Sassanella</td>
<td>11/2/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - St. John, Saginaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travis</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>11/16/2014</td>
<td>Pastor - Peace, South Haven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On Leave From Call</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Luckey</td>
<td>3/15/2015</td>
<td>On leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James</td>
<td>Friesner</td>
<td>3/1/2013</td>
<td>Renewal of on leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Lynn</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
<td>9/6/2013</td>
<td>Renewal of on leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Bates</td>
<td>4/27/2015</td>
<td>On leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dawn</td>
<td>Donato</td>
<td>8/9/2012</td>
<td>Renewal of on leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>11/1/2012</td>
<td>Renewal of on leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Galen</td>
<td>Knutson</td>
<td>8/1/2014</td>
<td>On leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>Bjork</td>
<td>1/1/2015</td>
<td>On leave from call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Leaves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Hill-VanHorn</td>
<td>9/1/2008</td>
<td>Final Extension of family leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>Winchell</td>
<td>6/1/2013</td>
<td>Renewal of family leave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ordinations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>Ballard</td>
<td>11/1/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christin</td>
<td>Fawcett</td>
<td>10/30/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Keller</td>
<td>8/23/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Kuntz</td>
<td>6/7/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kjersten</td>
<td>Priddy</td>
<td>6/14/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consecrations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julia</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>12/13/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Resignations or Removed from Roster

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disability Leaves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Sorrels</td>
<td>9/6/2014</td>
<td>Our Savior's, Edmore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers In</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Bauer</td>
<td>9/7/2014</td>
<td>Sierra Pacific Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Blank</td>
<td>5/17/2015</td>
<td>Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Schoepf</td>
<td>4/14/2015</td>
<td>New England Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connie Sassanella</td>
<td>7/21/2014</td>
<td>Northeastern Ohio Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers Out</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Swix</td>
<td>7/1/2014</td>
<td>North Carolina Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Bessert</td>
<td>3/24/2015</td>
<td>SW Texas Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Montgomery</td>
<td>3/24/2015</td>
<td>Metro DC Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Powers</td>
<td>4/14/2015</td>
<td>St. Paul Area Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Bessert</td>
<td>5/14/2014</td>
<td>On Leave from Call</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Clapp</td>
<td>*11/18/2013</td>
<td>Leer LC, Posen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Helman</td>
<td>8/1/2014</td>
<td>Feast of Victory, Acme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Jenkins</td>
<td>11/1/2014</td>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Seminary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moe</td>
<td>7/1/2014</td>
<td>St. Paul, E. Lansing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Powers</td>
<td>*2/8/2014</td>
<td>Church World Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Schebor</td>
<td>9/1/2014</td>
<td>On Leave from Call</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Schroer</td>
<td>*3/18/2014</td>
<td>Hope, Rhodes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernice Sorrels</td>
<td>9/1/2014</td>
<td>Faith, Sidney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Twynham</td>
<td>9/30/2014</td>
<td>On Leave from Call</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calls Accepted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Grimm</td>
<td>5/20/2015</td>
<td>Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) - St. Paul Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Blank</td>
<td>3/22/2015</td>
<td>St. Luke's, Grand Rapids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Removed from Call by Congregational Vote</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Stephen (AKA Rock Pointe), Rockford</td>
<td></td>
<td>Voted to disaffiliate September, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace, Saginaw</td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed October, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not previously reported
## Synod Ministers Congregational Visitation Summary

**July 2013 - April 2015**

### BAY CONFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Au Gres</td>
<td>St. Paul (2)</td>
<td>SFC First Call; DES &amp; SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay City</td>
<td>Messiah (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach and preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>St. Matthew (2)</td>
<td>SFC CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Tawas</td>
<td>Grace (1)</td>
<td>SFC 1st Call Visit; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeland</td>
<td>Zion (1)</td>
<td>DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladwin</td>
<td>Christ the King (4)</td>
<td>CAS SFC DES (2) preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlette</td>
<td>Hope (2)</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland</td>
<td>St. Timothy (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland</td>
<td>Trinity (1)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; SFC Install; CAS preach; SFC call committee (Apr-May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Pleasant</td>
<td>Immanuel (3)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; DES (2) preach and preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhodes</td>
<td>Hope (1)</td>
<td>DES preach and preside; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose City</td>
<td>Prince of Peace (2)</td>
<td>DES preach (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Ascension (2)</td>
<td>DES &amp; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Faith (1)</td>
<td>DES preach; SFC (4/26) CAS (11/8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Our Savior (2)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Resurrection (2)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>St John (4)</td>
<td>DES, SFC, CAS (2) preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>Zion (2)</td>
<td>SFC and DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unionville</td>
<td>St. Peter (2)</td>
<td>DES preach (2) &amp; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vassar</td>
<td>Grace (1)</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS rally</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CAPITAL AREA CONFERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Peace (2)</td>
<td>CAS preach (2) &amp; install; SFC (8/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldwater</td>
<td>Reformation (1)</td>
<td>SFC installation; SFC (4/19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewitt</td>
<td>Christ United (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lansing</td>
<td>St. Paul (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach (2 - 6/14) &amp; call committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lansing</td>
<td>University (2)</td>
<td>SFC (2) preach &amp; install CAS (May 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Ledge</td>
<td>Immanuel (2)</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale</td>
<td>Trinity (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach (2 – 5/24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Immanuel (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach and install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>St. James (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC first call; SFC call committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Bethlehem (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Calvary (3)</td>
<td>SFC, DES &amp; CAS preach (2 – 6/21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Grace (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>Redeemer (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>St. Stephen (2)</td>
<td>DES preach/install; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason</td>
<td>All Saints (2)</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Center</td>
<td>Christ (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS (10/11/15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okemos</td>
<td>Faith (2)</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS preach; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Type and Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comstock Park</td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>CAS preach (2) &amp; preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmore</td>
<td>Our Savior’s</td>
<td>DES preach; SFC (8/23) call committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>St. Luke’s</td>
<td>CAS &amp; SFC preach; SFC call committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>CAS preach (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>SFC preach (2); exit interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
<td>CAS ordain &amp; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>SFC; CAS preach (2 – 6/28/15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudsonville</td>
<td>Bread of Life</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent City</td>
<td>Mamrelund</td>
<td>CAS (Nov 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentwood</td>
<td>Ascension/Holy Cross</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (12/6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockford</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC (6/28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>CAS &amp; SFC preach; SFC call committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparta</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>woodland</td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>SFC &amp; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Christ</td>
<td>CAS preach; consult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Christ Sudanese</td>
<td>CAS (2), DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Gethsemane</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JACK PINE CONFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Rapids</td>
<td>Immanuel</td>
<td>DES preach; SFC (5/3) CAS (June 14); SFC exit interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadillac</td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (7/26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake City</td>
<td>St. John</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; preside; SFC install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LeRoy</td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (8/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludington</td>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (8/2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludington</td>
<td>Emanuel</td>
<td>SFC and CAS preach; CAS (8/2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludington</td>
<td>Victory Trinity</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (8/2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed City</td>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>CAS mission support; SFC 8/16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tustin</td>
<td>Augustana</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (8/9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KALAMAZOO CONFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>Immanuel</td>
<td>SFC preach (2 – 8/30) &amp; First Call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baroda</td>
<td>St. John</td>
<td>SFC, DES, CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek</td>
<td>St. Peter</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>SFC preach (2 – 6/7); DES install; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine</td>
<td>Messiah</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>Savior</td>
<td>SFC &amp; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS (10/25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niles</td>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainwell</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>SFC preach; CAS (May 31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Type of Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>Lord of Life (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>Prince of Peace (1)</td>
<td>CAS consulted; SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Haven</td>
<td>Peace (2)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Saron (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Rivers</td>
<td>St. John (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STONY LAKE CONFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fruitport</td>
<td>Edgewood (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach &amp; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>First (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; DES installation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>Immanuel (1)</td>
<td>DES preach; SFC consult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>Our Savior (3)</td>
<td>SFC, CAS &amp; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>Samuel (1)</td>
<td>DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>St. Luke (1)</td>
<td>DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Era</td>
<td>Trinity (1)</td>
<td>SFC &amp; CAS (April 26) preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehall</td>
<td>Lebanon (0)</td>
<td>CAS conference gather; preach (June 7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNRISE CONFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpena</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>CAS preach and install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpena</td>
<td>St. Paul (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton City</td>
<td>Advent (2)</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheboygan</td>
<td>St. Thomas (3)</td>
<td>CAS preach; SFC &amp; DES preach &amp; install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylord</td>
<td>Peace (0)</td>
<td>CAS Chrism Mass (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herron</td>
<td>St. Matthew (1)</td>
<td>CAS congregation leaders; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millersburg</td>
<td>Trinity (0)</td>
<td>CAS congregation visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscoda</td>
<td>Hope St. John (1)</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (May 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posen</td>
<td>Leer (2)</td>
<td>CAS 3 visits; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers City</td>
<td>St. James (0)</td>
<td>CAS congregation visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers City</td>
<td>St. John (0)</td>
<td>CAS congregation visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce</td>
<td>New Life (2)</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; preside (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce</td>
<td>Spruce (1)</td>
<td>DES preach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRAVERESE CONFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Type of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acme</td>
<td>Feast of Victory (2)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Jordan</td>
<td>Evangelical (0)</td>
<td>CAS &amp; JS congregation visit; CAS (7/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk Rapids</td>
<td>Calvary (1)</td>
<td>DES preach; CAS (8/16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfort</td>
<td>Trinity (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach and preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grayling</td>
<td>St. John (1)</td>
<td>DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaleva</td>
<td>Bethany (2)</td>
<td>CAS (2 – 10/18) &amp; DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Ann</td>
<td>Advent (4)</td>
<td>CAS (2), DES, SFC preach &amp; preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manton</td>
<td>Trinity (2)</td>
<td>CAS DES preach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northport</td>
<td>Bethany (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach &amp; preside (2 – 8/23); SFC (5/31) SFC council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petoskey</td>
<td>Cross Christ (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach and preside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon</td>
<td>Messiah (1)</td>
<td>SFC preach and install</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suttons Bay</td>
<td>Immanuel (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach (2 – 8/30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traverse City</td>
<td>Bethlehem (1)</td>
<td>CAS preach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are church. As members in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are found by and abiding in Christ; we are God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacrament. Every week you gather in your congregations to hear God’s word and to share in the Lord’s Supper, to know Christ crucified and Christ risen. My hope and prayer is that through our spiritual practices and our worship we are drawn closer to and are more aware of the love of God shown through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

As we gather in Christ’s name at our synod assemblies, I invite you to pray, with me, for one another and the work we do together across this church. Remembering the words of the apostle Paul: “So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

In my international travels earlier this year, it became clear to me that the ELCA is part of the body of Christ that spans the globe and the centuries. When we consider issues such as the ecclesiology of a global church, or a unified Word and Service roster, or ministry to and with same-gender families, it is never, nor can it ever be, a conversation just among us.

This past fall, we entered the season of celebrating five years of our full communion partnership with the United Methodist Church. In late May, we join our Catholic sisters and brothers in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, which over the years has produced 11 substantial reports. We continue our work in strengthening all of our ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships.

We also are accompanying our brothers and sisters globally. We have visited with unaccompanied migrant children and families fleeing their homes in the Northern Triangle countries of Central America. Companions in the region have shared about their struggles, root causes of this migration and avenues for ELCA response. ELCA members, synod bishops and churchwide staff have borne witness to and talked about ELCA plans for strategic engagement.

Through The Lutheran World Federation, we work with refugees and internally displaced people in Syria, Cameroon, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Kenya, Jordan, Ukraine, Iraq and many other places. We have made significant progress in controlling malaria and treating Ebola. We are developing a social statement on the social issue of women and justice. These are just a few of the ways that we are church for the sake of the world.

This summer brings two wonderful events. Both the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit and the Worship Jubilee in Atlanta will give us an opportunity to ask: How is God calling the church 8765
West Higgins Road  Chicago, IL 60631-4101  800/638-3522  www.elca.org today, and what does God’s work mean for our service to our community and the world? These events will be a time for rich conversation, faith formation and renewal of worship for the sake of the gospel and for the life of the world.

Good progress continues to be made on the ELCA’s observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Two communication platforms recently debuted: www.ELCA500.org and the “ELCA Reformation 500” Facebook page. The theme for the 500th anniversary observance is “Freed and Renewed in Christ,” with the tagline, “500 Years of God’s Grace in Action.” This will also be the theme for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

You are invited to come to the “Grace Gathering” in New Orleans, which will be held concurrently with the Churchwide Assembly on its last four days, Aug. 10-13, 2016. The goals of the Grace Gathering are for personal renewal in faith, to be equipped for meaningful observances of the 500th anniversary, and to increase the number of ELCA members who will take part in service learning activities in New Orleans as part of the Churchwide Assembly. Please come!

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is off to a good start with more than $48.4 million in generous gifts and commitments toward the campaign priorities. This year we are seeking support for new and renewed congregations in The Campaign for the ELCA. The impact of the campaign will go far beyond the nearly $200 million goal. It will establish a strong culture of stewardship in which this church will be well-positioned to do God’s work in Jesus’ name throughout the world for decades to come. Thank you for your support and prayers for this good work.

This coming Sept. 13, we will continue our tradition of a dedicated day of service. “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

God’s blessings to you as you meet, discern, pray, vote, worship and sing together. This is a wonderful church, and I am honored to serve in it with you. Thank you for your faithful witness to the gospel.

God’s peace,

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
As Assistant to the Bishop my portfolio includes the following: Call Process, Candidacy, First Call Theological Education, supervising the Administrator of the Lay Ministry Training Program and Youth Ministry. In addition I work with the following committees: Church in Society, Ministry, Multi-Cultural and Christian Education. I find particular joy in being able to join so many of you for worship and

- Call Process: The Bishop’s report indicates the number of congregations in some phase of transition whether beginning with an interim pastor or preparing to install a newly-call pastor. I meet with each out-going rostered leader and Council for an exit interview and with the Call Committee to discuss the process and potential candidates and the interview process and am the staff person who walks through each step with the committee and congregation.

- Candidacy: The Multi-Synodical Michigan Candidacy Committee meets three times per year with representation from North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan synods, synod staff, bishops and a churchwide representative. We work with each person considering rostered ministry in Word and Sacrament and Word and Service guiding and evaluating them through a 4+ year process. Across the ELCA there are fewer first call pastors than there are sites which need a first call pastor and the shortage extends into other congregations as well. I encourage you to consider those whom you know who have gifts for ministry and invite them to consider seminary and public ministry in the ELCA.

- First Call Theological Education: Fully one-third of the pastors in North/West Lower Michigan are in their first call. Each first call pastor participates in 3 years of theological education including meeting with colleague groups, a mentor and an annual retreat. In addition the synod staff conducts a first year review with the pastor and members of the congregation. Each February and October the ELCA assigns recent graduates to regions and then synods. We received two first call pastors this year with whom we are very excited to work. This year we developed a rotation for an annual fall event for first-call leaders. Bishop Satterlee spoke at the first event on leading change in the congregation.

- Youth: We continue to work very closely with Living Water Ministry and Southeast Michigan Synod for youth ministry. We are very excited for the Youth Gathering in Detroit in July! Rise Up Together! Please see the Youth Ministry Report for further information.
In the past year I’ve been pleased to work with our Vice President, Sandy Schlesinger and the Executive Council on the updated Compensation Guidelines bringing our synod in line with other synods in our Region. I am also pleased with the work that the Lay Ministry Training Program Board of Governors did to redevelop the Handbook for the program. I’m also very excited about the process we have created for the call process.

It is a joy to serve the synod as Assistant to the Bishop, especially as we continue to look for ways to grow together doing God’s work with our hands.
Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission  
Rev. David E. Sprang

My fulltime service with the synod began on January 24, 2014, so I now have completed a full year in my new position. It has been an exciting time of learning and walking along with congregations in various aspects of mission and ministry.

Officially, as Director of Evangelical Mission, I am an employee of the ELCA, deployed to the territory of the synod to work with
1) New and Redeveloping Congregations
2) Congregational Renewal
3) Mission Support
and to share in the work of the synod committees with those responsibilities.

The ELCA pays my compensation and benefits and provides a grant for travel and expenses I need to serve the synod. This comes as a gift. In addition to those responsibilities, I work alongside the bishop in the areas of Boundaries, Lutheran Camps (Living Water), Campus Ministry, Global Missions, and Budget and Finance.

In the past year, I
bullet joined Bishop Craig Satterlee and Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper in congregational visitation - preaching and presiding in 37 congregations
bullet visited 10 church councils, consulting in the areas of mission/vision, and stewardship
bullet participated in and/or facilitated cooperative ministry conversations in Saginaw, Muskegon, North Kent County, Northern Michigan, Lansing, and Jackson
bullet facilitated the partnership support process for new and redeveloping congregations
bullet assisted in the call process in 6 congregations
bullet taught 4 Boundaries Trainings
bullet participated in 2 ELCA churchwide staff meetings and Redeveloper Training and Behavioral Interview Training.

All in all, I find this work to be exciting and challenging. Congregations are across the spectrum from being fearful to moving out boldly in mission. I see my task as helping congregations move along that spectrum toward the goal of boldly proclaiming Christ in the community and around the world. Please call on me to assist your congregation in its walk of mission and ministry.
As I complete my initial term as Vice President, I give thanks for this amazing opportunity to serve with other lay and rostered leaders whose lights shine boldly and brightly across our synod. As per the constitution, the primary focus within my elected position is to serve as chair of the Executive Committee and Synod Council. In addition to the bishop, serving with me as the “Board of Directors” for our synod between assemblies are:

- **Class of 2015**: Connor Ashley, Krissy Beetham, Zack Manning, Pr. Marcy Miller, Christine Mwanyika, Pr. Joan Oleson, Bill Trevarthen, and Linda Wicander
- **Class of 2016**: Christine Allen (Secretary), Dan Carter (Treasurer), Pr. Dennis Smith, Sandy Altman, and Peggy Burns
- **Class of 2017**: Diane Madej, Dan Smith, Bob Taylor, and Pr. Justin Walker

Each of these leaders has given their time and talents to lead within and on behalf of the synod. In particular, I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the Class of 2015 who complete their current terms of service on August 31, 2015 – their leadership during each of their terms is truly appreciated!

Areas of focus for the Executive Committee and Synod Council over the past year included . . .

- Hiring Ms. Carrie Wygmans as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop for Administration
- Appointing Ms. Chelsey Satterlee as interim Communications Director to lead synod communications and website management
- Appointing Ms. Dawn Brackmann as Synod Attorney to provide counsel to the bishop and Executive Committee
- Attending Synod Boundaries Training Workshop as a Synod Council
- Facilitating I/T upgrades (incl. phones, servers, workstations, laptops, etc.) for the synod staff and office
- Establishing 2015 and 2016 N/W Lower MI Synod Compensation Guidelines – including a process for issuing annual guidelines going forward for reference at Synod Assembly and by congregations during annual budgeting processes
- Leading performance reviews and compensation management for synod staff (called, support, and deployed)
• Partnering with, encouraging, and supporting Bp. Craig Satterlee, Asst. to the Bishop Pr. Sarah Friesen-Carper, and Asst. to the Bishop / Dir. of Evangelical Mission Pr. David Sprang as they carry out their strategic and constitutional responsibilities across the synod.

• Fulfill many other constitutional responsibilities including taking action on: roster changes, changes to synod and/or congregation constitutions, budget development and financial oversight, management of designated funds, appointments for open synod and board positions, changes to and/or creation of committees and task forces, synod assembly preparation and leadership, providing support for workshops and events across the synod, and so on . . .

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as vice president of the synod for the past four years. To be involved in our church at any level is a tremendous privilege and to work with and among you in ministry is truly a blessing in my life! I am in awe at the breadth and depth of the “good works” that take place across our synod, our region, and beyond each and every day. Our ministries and efforts (the lights that we shine) are important and are truly making an impact. Glory be to God!
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SATTERLEE Rev. Dr. Craig A., Bishop
Home Church: St. Stephen - Lansing
6-yr term, exp. 8/31/19 (first term)
North/West Lower Michigan Synod
2900 N. Waverly Road
Lansing, MI 48906
517-321-5066 (w)
517-897-2613 (c)
517-321-2632 (fax)
bishopcraigsatterlee@mittensynod.org

SCHLESINGER Ms. Sandy, Vice President
Home Church: Trinity - Midland
4-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (first term)
5804 Woodcliff Drive
Midland, MI 48640
989-859-7843 (c)
sjschlesinger@dow.com

ALLEN Ms. Christine E. (Chris), Secretary
Home Church: Trinity - Kalamazoo
4-yr term, exp. 8/31/16 (first term)

CARTER Mr. Daniel (Dan), Treasurer
Home Church: Faith - Grand Rapids
4-yr term, exp. 8/31/16 (first term)

SMITH Rev. Dennis, Member-at-Large
Home Church: Messiah - Constantine
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/16 (second term)

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

ALTMAN Ms. Sandy
Home Church: St. John - Grayling
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/16 (first term)

ASHLEY Mr. Connor
Home Church: Saron - St. Joseph
2-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (first term)

BEETHEM Ms. Kristina (Krissy)
Home Church: St. Thomas - Cheboygan
2-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (first term)

BURNS Ms. Peggy
Home Church: Feast of Victory - Acme
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/16 (first term)

MADEJ Ms. Diane
Home Church: Our Savior's - Muskegon
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/17 (first term)

MILLER Rev. Marcy
Home Church: Samuel - Muskegon
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (second term)

MWANYIKA Ms. Christine
Home Church: Faith - Grand Rapids
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (filling unexpired term)

OLESON Rev. Joan
Home Church: Saron – St. Joseph
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (first term)

SMITH Mr. Dan
Home Church: Zion - Cadillac
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/17 (first term)

TAYLOR Mr. Robert (Bob)
Home Church: Feast of Victory - Acme
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/17 (second term)

TREVARTHEN Mr. William (Bill)
Home Church: University – East Lansing
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (filling unexpired term)

WALKER Rev. Justin
Home Church: Peace - Holland
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/17 (first term)

WICANDER Ms. Linda
Home Church: Immanuel – Mt. Pleasant
3-yr term, exp. 8/31/15 (filling unexpired term)
Synod Council: 2014-15 Term

1 - Ms. Krissy Beetham
2 - Mr. Bob Taylor
3 - Ms. Peggy Burns
4 - Ms. Sandy Altman
5 – Mr. Dan Smith
6 - Mr. Zackery Manning
7 - Ms. Sandy Schlesinger
8 – Ms. Linda Wicander
9 - Rev. Marcy Miller
10 – Ms. Diane Madej
11 – Ms. Christine Mwanyika
12 - Mr. Daniel Carter
13 – Rev. Justin Walker
14 - Bishop Craig Satterlee (Synod Office)
15 – Mr. Bill Trevarthen
16 - Ms. Christine Allen
17 - Rev. Joan Oleson
18 - Mr. Connor Ashley
19 - Rev. Dennis Smith
We Are Church

Executive Committee Actions

**Motion EC14.09.02**
To recommend appointing Mr. Bill Trevarthan to fill the remaining one year of the Lay Male position and Ms. Linda Wicander to fill the remaining one year of the Lay Female position.
*Schlesinger/Second Smith*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.09.04**
To have Chelsey Satterlee serve as Interim Communication Director to be reviewed by the Executive Committee in June 2015.
*Schlesinger/Second Smith*
*Abstain Bishop Satterlee*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.09.05**
To recommend that Rock Pointe Lutheran Church in Rockford be allowed to keep their building in leaving the ELCA.
*Satterlee/Second Schlesinger*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.09.06**
To recommend that the Synod Council adopt 2015 compensation guidelines for ordained ministers with a minimum base salary beginning at $34,500.
*Schlesinger/Second Satterlee*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.12.02**
To recommend that the Synod Council receive and archive the updated constitution for Prince of Peace, Portage.
*Smith/Second Allen*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.12.03**
To recommend that the Synod Council approve the timing of anticipated sabbaticals for the synod staff to enable planning and ensure continued ministry and coverage of synod activities: Pr. David Sprang: summer of 2016; Pr. Sarah Friesen-Carper: summer of 2017, and Bishop Craig Satterlee: summer of 2018.
*Satterlee/Second Smith*
*Adopted*

**Motion EC14.12.04**
To recommend that the Synod Council approve extending On Leave from Call status for one (1) year to Pr. Dawn Donato, Pr. Thomas Montgomery, and Pr. James Friesner.
*Satterlee/Second Allen*
*Adopted*
Motion EC14.12.05
To recommend that the Synod Council approve a change of Roster Status to “Disability” for Pr. Aaron Sorrels.
Satterlee/Second Allen
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.06
Satterlee/Second Allen
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.07
To recommend that the Synod Council approve the listed changes from the Budget Committee to the 2015 Adopted Budget.
Carter/Second Smith
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.08
To recommend that the Synod Council approve the proposed 2016-2017 Budget for action at the 2015 Synod Assembly.
Carter/Second Smith
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.09
To recommend that the Synod Council appoint the following members to serve on the Synod Audit Committee: Christine Allen (2-year term; ends June 1, 2016); Marie Williams (1-year term; ends June 1, 2015); Angela Bennett (3-year term; ends June 1, 2017), and Steve Olson (3-year term; ends June 1, 2017).
Carter/Second Schlesinger
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.10
To recommend that the Synod Council approve expenditures of up to $7000 for recommended IT upgrades, including Workstations, Laptop computers, switches, routers, monitors, and other related equipment.
Carter/Second Smith
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.11
To recommend that the Synod Council approve the designation of 2015 Housing Allowances for Called staff—Bishop Craig Satterlee: $45,000; Pr. Sarah Friesen-Carper: $12,000.
Schlesinger/Second Carter
Adopted
Motion EC14.12.12
To recommend that the Synod Council approve 3% base salary increases for the 2015-16 fiscal year (beginning February 1, 2015) for administrative support staff and deployed staff.
Schlesinger/Second Carter
Adopted

Motion EC14.12.13
To recommend that the Synod Council approve the proposal from the Trinity Project Board regarding oversight and management of project funds remaining as of December 31, 2014 (estimated at $9000).
This includes:
1. Designation of any residual funds solely for expenses associated with outreach meal ministries occurring in the east side of Saginaw in and through congregations and ministries, including those of full communion partners, on the ELCA.
2. Appointment of the following members of ELCA congregations in Saginaw to the Trinity Project Fiduciary Oversight Team: Pastor Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City; Mark Oswald, St. John Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Melinda Klopfenstein, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw; and Ruth Sharper, St. John Lutheran Church.
3. Continued fiduciary oversight of residual project funds on behalf of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod by Messiah Lutheran Church of Bay City.
Schlesinger/Second Carter
Adopted

Motion ECC15.01.01
To approve the proposed Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities for Bishop Craig A. Satterlee.
Schlesinger/Second Carter
Adopted

Motion ECC15.01.02
To approve the proposed Definition of Compensation and Benefits for Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Sarah Friesen-Carper with responsibilities to be finalized in consultation with Bishop Satterlee.
Schlesinger/Second Smith
Adopted

Motion EC15.04.01
To recommend that Synod Council grant approval for Bp. Satterlee to appoint Dawn Brackmann as Synod Attorney at a retainer fee of $500 per month with additional billable hours as needed.
Schlesinger/Second Rev. Dennis Smith
Adopted

Synod Council Actions

Motion SC14.09.03
To appoint Mr. Bill Trevarthan and Ms. Linda Wicander to fill the remaining one (1) year of the vacant the Lay Male and Lay Female Synod Council positions.
Executive Committee
Adopted
Motion SC14.09.04
The Synod Council directs the Michigan Campus Ministry Board to provide their Mission statement and related goals, the metrics around those goals, and a summary of financials by individual campus for school years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 to date by April 1, 2015.
Smith/Second Schlesinger
Adopted

Motion SC14.09.05
That Rock Pointe Church in Rockford be allowed to keep their assets pending favorable Congregational and Synodical Mission review when they leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Executive Committee
Adopted

Motion SC14.09.06
That Pr. Deames be permitted to be available for call as pastor pending Bishop assessment of successful interim at Feast of Victory.
Walker/Second Taylor
Adopted with one dissenting vote

Motion SC14.09.07
To approve extending On Leave from Call status for one (1) year to C. Lynn Nakamura and Erin Hill-Van Horn.
Schlesinger/Second Burns
Adopted

Motion SC14.09.08
That the Synod Council adopt 2015 compensation guidelines for ordained ministers with a minimum base salary beginning at $34,500.
Executive Committee
Adopted

Motion SC14.09.09
That Synod Council designate one-half (1/2) of the 2015 Assembly offerings to the ELCA Campaign.
Smith/Second Burns
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.02
To receive and archive the updated constitution for Prince of Peace – Portage.
Executive Committee/Second Walker
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.03
To approve the timing of anticipated sabbaticals for the synod staff to enable planning and ensure continued ministry and coverage of synod activities: Pr. David Sprang: summer of 2016; Pr. Sarah Friesen-Carper: summer of 2017; and Bishop Craig Satterlee: summer of 2018.
Executive Committee/Second Dan Smith
Adopted
Motion SC14.12.04
To approve extending On Leave from Call status for one (1) year to Pr. Dawn Donato, Pr. Thomas Montgomery, and Pr. James Friesner.
Executive Committee/Second Dan Smith
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.05
To approve a change of Roster Status to “Disability” for Pr. Aaron Sorrels.
Executive Committee/Second Oleson
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.06
Executive Committee/Second Ashley
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.07
To support the planned changes to the Lay Ministry Program handbook as presented by Administrator of the program, Rebecca Bossenbroek.
The Rev. Dennis Smith/Second Madej
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.08
To approve the listed changes from the Budget Committee to the 2015 Adopted Budget.
Executive Committee/Second Burns
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.09
To approve the proposed 2016-2017 Budget for action at the 2015 Synod Assembly.
Executive Committee/Second Dan Smith
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.10
To appoint the following members to serve on the Synod Audit Committee: Christine Allen (2-year term; ends June 1, 2016); Marie Williams (1-year term; ends June 1, 2015); Angela Bennett (3-year term; ends June 1, 2017), and Steve Olson (3-year term; ends June 1, 2017).
Executive Committee/Second Madej
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.11
To authorize the Synod Staff to prepare a budget that reflects projected mission support for 2015 and 2016 fiscal years.
Satterlee/Second Burns
Adopted
Motion SC14.12.12
To approve the proposal from the Trinity Project Board regarding oversight and management of project funds remaining as of December 31, 2014 (estimated at $9000). This includes:

4. Designation of any residual funds solely for expenses associated with outreach meal ministries occurring in the east side of Saginaw in and through congregations and ministries, including those of full communion partners, on the ELCA.

5. Appointment of the following members of ELCA congregations in Saginaw to the Trinity Project Fiduciary Oversight Team: Pastor Andreas Teich, Messiah Lutheran Church, Bay City; Mark Oswald, St. John Lutheran Church, Saginaw; Melinda Klopfenstein, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw; and Ruth Sharper, St. John Lutheran Church.

6. Continued fiduciary oversight of residual project funds on behalf of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod by Messiah Lutheran Church of Bay City.

Executive Committee/Second Mwanyika
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.13
To approve the designation of 2015 Housing Allowances for Called staff—Bishop Craig Satterlee: $45,000; Pr. Sarah Friesen-Carper: $12,000.

Executive Committee/Second Madej
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.14
To approve 3% base salary increases for the 2015-16 fiscal year (beginning February 1, 2015) for administrative support staff and deployed staff.

Executive Committee/Second Oleson
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.15
To approve expenditures of up to $10,000 for recommended IT upgrades, including Workstations, Laptop computers, switches, routers, monitors, servers, and other related equipment.

Executive Committee/Second Walker
Adopted

Motion SC14.12.16
To approve forwarding the recommended 2016 Compensation Guidelines to the 2015 Synod Assembly for adoption.

Trevarthan/Second Mwanyika
Adopted

Motion SC15.02.02
To approve extending "On Leave from Call/Available for Call" status for one (1) year starting April 27, 2015 for The Rev. Clay Bates.

Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Pr. Dennis Smith
Motion Adopted
Motion SC15.02.03
To approve extending “On Leave from Call/Available for Call” status for one (1) year (final extension) starting March 1, 2015 for The Rev. James Friesner.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Ms. Peggy Burns
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.04
To approve extending “On Leave from Call/Available for Call” status for one (1) year from August 1, 2014 for The Rev. Galen Knutson.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Ms. Linda Wicander
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.05
To approve extending “On Leave from Call/Available for Call” status for one (1) year starting January 1, 2015 for Associate in Ministry Mr. Carl Bjork.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Pr. Justin Walker
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.06
To request continuation of “On Leave from Call/Available for Call” status from the ELCA Conference of Bishops for The Rev. Dawn Donato.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Ms. Diane Madej
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.07
To approve designation of The Christ Sudanese Congregation as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA. In addition, approve designation of David Atem, Abraham Mach, and Paul Mawut as their servant leaders.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Mr. Connor Ashley
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.08
To approve the appointment of the following persons as members of the 2015 Synod Assembly Nominating Committee in accordance with Section S9.03.01 of the synod constitution:
- Rev. Christina Bright, Committee Chair, Sunrise Conference (2nd year)
- Mr. C. J. Clark, Stony Lake Conference (2nd year)
- Ms. Kim Winchell, Bay Conference (2nd year)
- Ms. Elizabeth Bradfield, Traverse Conference (1st year)
- Rev. Travis Wilson, Kalamazoo Conference (2nd year)
- Rev. Julie Bailey, Bay Conference (1st year)

Ms. Sandy Schlesinger/Second Ms. Diane Madej
Motion Adopted
Motion SC15.02.09
To recommend that the 2015 Synod Assembly approve the proposed Assembly Procedures, reviewed and approved by the Synod Council and to be included in the 2015 Synod Pre-Assembly booklet.
Ms. Sandy Schlesinger/Second Pr. Joan Oleson
Motion Adopted

Motion SC15.02.10
That Synod Council amend the 2015 Synod Assembly offering designation approved in Motion SC14.09.09 to the following: one-half (1/2) of the 2015 Synod Assembly offering is designated to “Disabilities Ministries” within the ELCA Campaign – “Always Being Made New”.
Bishop Craig Satterlee/Second Ms. Linda Wicander
Adopted

Motion SC15.02.11
That Synod Council designates one-half (1/2) of the 2015 Synod Assembly offerings to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund.
Pr. Dennis Smith/Second Ms. Diane Madej
Motion Adopted, one dissenting vote

Motion SC15.04.02
To recommend that the Synod Assembly approve the updates indicated for the Synod Constitution for the paragraphs relating to Camp Board - S7.11.01 and S9.03.02, Camping Ministry - S11.01.07, and Committees - S11.01.03.
The Rev. Dennis Smith/Second Walker
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.03
Based on the recommendation of Rick Barger, President – Trinity Lutheran Seminary Board and pending Church Council approval of proposed amendments related to election of Seminary Board members, appoint the Rev. Fred Fritz to serve on the board for a term of service from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 with eligibility for re-appointment in 2016 to a second term.
Satterlee/Second Madej
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.04
To receive the Pastoral Expectations and Boundaries document prepared by Bp. Craig Satterlee.
The Rev. Dennis Smith/Second Burns
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.05
To recommend approval by the Assembly of the agenda as printed in the 2015 Pre-Assembly booklet.
Satterlee/Second Dan Smith
Adopted
Motion SC15.04.06
To approve the placement of the Rev. Ronald Bessert on the Retirement roster of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.
Satterlee/Second Taylor
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.07
To approve “On Leave From Call/Available For Call” status for the Rev. Amy Luckey.
Satterlee/Second Mwanyika
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.08
To approve extending “Family Leave status for one (1) year for Ms. Erin Hill-VanHorn and Ms. Kim Winchell.
Satterlee/Second Dan Smith
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.09
To approve the appointment of Mr. Paul Schmidt (Capital Conference) to the 2015 Nominating Committee in accordance with Section S9.03.01 of the synod constitution.
Schlesinger/Second Oleson
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.10
To appoint the following synod members to serve on the 2015 Synod Assembly Reference & Resolutions committee: Pr. Bill Uetricht, Chair; Pr. Erick Johnson; Pr. Betsy Kamphuis; Krissy Beethem (St. Thomas, Cheboygan); Harold Sollenberger (Faith, Okemos).
Schlesinger/Second Wicander
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.11
To appoint the following synod members to serve on the 2015 Synod Assembly Credentials committee: Pr. Kjersten Priddy, Chair; Pr. Chris Laughlin; Dan Smith (Zion, Cadillac); Carole Grimley (St. Peter, Battle Creek).
Schlesinger/Second Trevarthan
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.12
To appoint the following synod members to serve on the 2015 Synod Assembly Elections committee: Pr. Justin Grimm, Chair; Pr. Kent Lee; Pr. Dana Hendershot.
Schlesinger/Second Burns
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.13
To approve the 2016 Synod Compensation Guidelines as presented.
Schlesinger/Second Walker
Adopted
Motion SC15.04.14
To approve the recommended updates made by the Synod Budget committee to the 2015-16 budget.
Carter/Second Dan Smith
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.15
To recommend to the Synod Assembly the adoption of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget.
Carter/Second The Rev. Dennis Smith
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.16
To establish a new Mission Endowment Fund Committee in accordance with S11.01 and S6.04 of the Synod Constitution to oversee stewardship (i.e., handling and reporting) of all non-operating accounts of the synod, including but not limited to endowments, restricted and non-restricted and designated funds.
Carter/Second Taylor
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.17
That Synod Council grant approval for Bp. Satterlee to appoint Dawn Brackmann as Synod Attorney at a retainer fee of $500 per month with additional billable hours as needed.
Executive Committee/Second Ashley
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.18
To allow the Living Fire Ministries Advisory Board to send an annual scholarship fundraising appeal to individuals and congregations with members who have participated in Living Fire Ministries programs in the past.
Miller/Second Madej
Adopted

Motion SC15.04.19
As a follow-up to the original request made in September-October 2014 (SC14.09.04), the Synod Council again directs the Michigan Campus Ministry Board to provide their mission statement and related goals, the metrics around those goals, and a summary of financial by individual campus for school years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 to the synod office by August 14, 2015. If the information is not received, planned funding from North/West Lower Michigan synod will be suspended starting on September 1, 2015, until the information is received and determined to be satisfactory.
Manning/Second Ashley
Adopted with one dissenting vote

Respectfully submitted,
Christine E. Allen
Secretary, North/West Lower Michigan Synod
We Are Church

Anniversary Recognitions

Celebrating 25 years of Rostered Ministry

- The Rev. Denise D. Scheer
- The Rev. Gerald M. Ferguson

Celebrating 35 years of Rostered Ministry

- The Rev. Dan R. Johnson
- The Rev. David E. Sprang
- The Rev. Richard W. Bachman

Celebrating 50 years of Rostered Ministry

- The Rev. Bereley D. Niemi
- The Rev. Dean H. Beckwith
- The Rev. Wayne E. Buskirk

Celebrating 55 years of Rostered Ministry

- The Rev. Joseph D. McCormick

Celebrating 60 years of Rostered Ministry

- The Rev. Earl P. Merz

Congregations Celebrating Anniversaries

50 Years (1965)

- Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center
- Faith Lutheran Church, Sidney

125 Years (1890)

- Trinity Lutheran Church, Millersburg
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Suttons Bay
The Lay Ministry Training Program
Rebecca Bossenbroek, Administrator

The Lay Ministry Training Program equips, empowers and encourages leaders who long to grow in their faith, deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Word, and develop their capacity to serve in their congregations and communities. Congregations may commission graduates for specific areas of ministry with accountability to the pastor and congregation council.

Synod Assembly recognizes several participants who have completed the program requirements:
- Patrick Blanchard - Christ, Wyoming
- Bill Butchart – St Paul, Greenville
- Michelle Jablonski - Our Saviors, Muskegon
- Brian Schaidt - Gethsemane, Wyoming
- Mel White - Bethlehem, Lansing

The three-year process includes 12 two-day retreats and six skill days. We give thanks for congregations that hosted these events in recent months:
- Ascension, Saginaw
- Christ, Wyoming
- Bethlehem, Lansing

We appreciate professors who provide biblical instruction and pastors who offer leadership development training:
- Professor Walter Taylor - Trinity Lutheran Seminary
- Professor James Brownson – Western Theological Seminary
- Pastor Andreas Teich - Messiah, Bay City
- Pastor Reed Schroer - Retired
- Pastor Dennis Smith – Messiah, Constantine
- Pastor Jim Watson – Christ, Michigan Center
- Pastor Betsy Kamphuis – St Paul, Greenville

We value the support and guidance of mentors who attend the retreats and facilitate conversation and learning among participants:
- June Scarborough - Spruce, Spruce
- Patrick Blanchard - Christ, Wyoming
- Diane Madej - Our Saviors, Muskegon

We also thank the Board of Governors who guide and direct the program:
- Caroline Peterson, Chair - Trinity, New Era
- Craig Anderson - St. Paul, East Lansing
- Pastor Julie Winklepleck - Immanuel, Muskegon
- Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper - Synod Staff Liaison

The gracious support of administrative staff—Carrie Wygmans, Margie Bauer, and Ann Stavros—keeps the program organized behind the scenes. Thank you for your tireless efforts and attention to details!
Living Fire Ministries

We have been blessed once again with a wonderful year as the fire of God’s spirit spreads through the programs and opportunities offered through Living Fire Ministries. Again, I wish to thank Sister Nancy Brousseau for her fine leadership and enthusiasm for helping us deepen our prayer lives and relationship to God in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.

The living fire has expanded through eight persons who have received training by Sister Nancy to be “Kindlers” of the Spirit to assist with preparing and guiding Congregational Council Retreats. The Kindlers report that they receive as much as they give in meeting with congregations.

Sixty-two people have made a silent directed retreat since 2010. There were nine retreatants this year including eight ELCA seminarians. Thus we are equipping new church leaders with an in-depth experience of contemplative prayer. The Omena Women’s Retreat has become a time of learning, prayer and fellowship that people look forward to annually. This year there were 17 retreatants, filling Omena House.

The fifth Interfaith Program, entitled, “Beyond Coexist. Is It Possible?” took place in March, hosted by University Lutheran Church in East Lansing. These events continue to provide an opportunity to build bridges of understanding and friendship among the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish faith traditions.

Of course, the Spiritual Formation program continues. Eighty-four people have completed the first year of the program since Sister Nancy arrived in our synod. Twenty-two have completed the three-year program to become spiritual directors.

Thanks to Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas for launching our website at livingfire.info. You may check out our programs there and even purchase books!

I want to thank all those who have supported this ministry with their donations and prayers. We are at a point where we are hoping to provide scholarships for future programs through your gifts.

My time with Living Fire is drawing to a close. In the six years that I have been on the Advisory Board, we have helped introduce contemplative prayer and spiritual direction to many in our synod, igniting and renewing faith. I have been privileged to work with Sister Nancy and some very dedicated people to get this ministry off the ground. I am grateful to God, and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to fan the flame of inspiration through all who benefit from this ministry.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Marcy Miller
Chair, Advisory Board
For CIS the past year was one of both challenge and growth. We live in a time of great change – societal, political, economic and spiritual. Yet, it is a time of great opportunity for the Church to make visible God’s love. CIS’s goals for the year where carryovers from the previous years ---

- Focus on Mental Illness
- Focus on issues of Criminal Justice
- Focus on issues of Disability
- Focus on Public Education
- Focus on the Role of Poverty in our society, and the corresponding “Wealth Gap”
- Focus on Healthcare
- Focus on issues of the Environment
- Focus on issues of Sexuality

CIS also refocused on Hunger issues through the re-energizing of the Hunger Team, and sought to align its work more with the vision of Bishop Satterlee for social ministry.

During 2014 CIS continued to work to meet one of its primary functions and that is distributing financial resources, on behalf of the Synod, to those congregations who apply for special ministry project funds. The funds are provided in the form of “seed” grants, which, hopefully, allows for the project to be undertaken. However, the grants are not intended to provide ongoing resources for the project. As in the past, the Synod continues to encourage congregations to seek creative ways to do ministry.

CIS is well aware of both the ELCA’s and NWLM’s desire to become a more publically engaged church, church which will roll up its sleeves to do God’s work in the world especially the work of restoring and reconciling communities. A publically engaged church pursues justice and seeks peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Grounded in God’s love and forgiveness, a publically engaged church is well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all of its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

With this in mind CIS will continue to focus on the goals listed above. CIS also hopes to work more closely with those who have approached the Committee regarding women’s issues, and issues challenging our brothers and sisters of the LBGTQ community.

As always, CIS continues to seek new members, in addition to our present ones, who will bring energy and insight to the work of the Synod through CIS.

Submitted by CIS: Lois Neves, Doug Ogden, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Vern Tolles, Joan Herbon, Bonnie Johnson, Dennis Johnson, Randy Royalty, Miriam Bunge and Ken Ponds.
Global Mission Report

When people think of global mission, they typically remember stories of people going to far off countries to bring the gospel to people who did not know Jesus. Western mission societies abounded and offerings were received to make sure that the "heathens" would be saved. That world no longer exists. God worked through those faithful servants and the gospel took root all around the world. In fact, the church in the global south is growing at a much faster rate than the church that once sent those missionaries. Global mission is now global partnership as we recognize ourselves to be members of a global church.

The global mission committee works to remind us all of our part in that global church. We continue to support companion synod relationships with three partners: the Papua District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Papua New Guinea, the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in Honduras. The most active of those relationships continues to be with Honduras where we are involved in health ministries. Annual trips to Honduras enable us to see the work that is being undertaken and to provide some requested training for the individuals involved.

This summer a young woman from Honduras will attend the National Youth Gathering in Detroit because of a gift from St. Luke’s, Grand Rapids. In the past several years, young adults from Latvia and Papua New Guinea have served on the staff of Living Water Ministry. This program is organized by the outdoor ministry personnel at the ELCA and underwritten through the global mission budget. Occasionally, representatives from synods that are working with the same companions or in the same region, meet to see how we can be more effective in our work with our global partners.

The global connections in our synod are not limited to the work of the global mission committee. Five congregations had official missionary sponsorship covenants in 2014: Messiah (Bay City), Trinity (Grand Rapids), Mamrelund (Kent City), Resurrection (Saginaw) and Bread of Life (Hudsonville). Five others provided gifts for missionary sponsorships without a formal agreement: Bethlehem (Traverse City), Emanuel (Ludington), Faith (Saginaw), Peace (South Haven) and St. Matthew (Bridgeport). Their gifts underwrite the work of ELCA personnel serving churches around the world. Several of these covenants are with Ann Marie Klavano who serves in Papua New Guinea.

We believe that there are global projects underway of which we are not aware. We ask that you share that information with the global mission committee so that we can make others aware of this good work. We know of the work that Pastor Justin Grimm and the people of Advent, Lake Ann are doing in Guatemala. We know that the people of St Luke, Grand Rapids support the work of Pastor Matthew Riak and the Lutheran Prayer League to build a school in South Sudan. Tell us more!

Those of us who serve on the global mission committee are excited about the work that God is doing around the world. We pray that you join us in supporting the work of your ELCA in the many corners of God’s world that call us to partnership.
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee --- Anti-Racism Team Report

As in past years, the work of the Synod’s Anti-Racism Team, as a function of the Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee, continued in 2014.

A number of years ago, the Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee made a decision to pursue Anti-Racism work in order to fulfill its mandate of helping the Synod to become a truly multi-cultural church. It was felt that the only way to begin this work was to address the “elephant” in the room, and that was, is racism. An Anti-Racism Team was formed which over the years, through various means and activities, has pursued this endeavor.

2014 was a year which constantly called to our attention that “Race Matters”. And racism is alive and well within our society, communities and, unfortunately, in our churches. As a result the Team sponsored a Resolution which passed at the 2014 Synod Assembly calling for Anti-Racism training for all Synod clergy. Also, the Team continued to offer a 2.5 day training analyzing racism and its impact upon society and each one of us. One of the Team’s goals for 2015 is to continue to offer such training and to identify funding sources for such training which should allow more clergy participation.

Racism work is quite difficult, and, as always, the Team is challenged to re-energize itself and to wrestle with the best strategy to move the Synod towards becoming truly multi-cultural and anti-racist. One way the Team can re-energize itself is to welcome new members. If anyone has a heart for this work they are invited to join the Team.

Among the Team’s goals for the coming year are ---

- Identify funding resources which would allow more Synod persons to participate in anti-racism training.
- Pursue joint opportunities to work with the SEMI in anti-racism work.

Presently, members of the Team include Bruce and Sharon Brenn, Paul Nuechterlein, Bev Dirkin, Mike Kemper, Andrew Tengwall, C.J. Clark and Ken Ponds.
Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is one of the established committees of the synod. The mission of the committee is to assist the synod in developing new congregations, redeveloping congregations, and foster continued renewal among all congregations. To better connect with our ELCA counterparts, the committee will eventually be changing its name to New and Redeveloping Mission Table. This is one of three committees/tables that work directly with the Director of Evangelical Mission and compromise the Mission Table. The other two partner committees are Witness and Evangelism and Financial Support.

This year the Outreach Committee has:
- accompanied congregation already in the ELCA Partnership Grant process
- begun to walk along side of congregations new to the ELCA Partnership Grant process
- initiated a format for synodical renewal and outreach grants
- initiated a process for applying for Mission Endowment Grants
- supported David Daubert as the Fall Leadership Conference presenter by giving each participant a copy of his book *Living Lutheran: Renewing the Church*
- continued to support congregations ending the ELCA Partnership Grant process
- awarded grants to the synod supporting The Adult Catechumenate training and Mission Storyteller

Congregations ending ELCA Partnership process:
- 2014 - *Hope, Rockford (Additional synodical grant in December for $1500)
- 2015 - Advent, Lake Ann (Fully self-sufficient congregation)

Congregations continuing in the ELCA Partnership process:
- *Trinity, Battle Creek
- *Sudanese, Christ Lutheran, Wyoming (Moved from Congregation Under Development – to Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community – until new pastoral leadership can be developed)

Congregations new to ELCA Partnership process
- *Calvary/St. Stephens, Lansing – adding staff for Outreach – Pastor Laura Kuntz
- *Our Savor’s, Muskegon – entering redevelopment – calling redevelopment Pastor

Congregations Applying 2015
- Zion, Saginaw – Redevelopment Grant for Latino Ministry

Other grants
- Immanuel, Allegan – renewal and outreach
- Redeemer, Lansing – Ice Cream Social
Seminary Scholarship Committee

In 2003, the Synod Assembly of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod passed a Resolution (E) to authorize the development of a fund and a team to administer money for seminarians who are preparing for rostered ministry in the ELCA. The intent for the fund was to financially assist the non-tuition expenses that are about 2/3 the cost of seminary education.

As a result our synod has established two funds that are available to award students: Fund for Leaders in Mission (FFLIM) for tuition only and the Seminary Education Assistance (S.E.A.) for tuition or non-tuition expenses. The Fund for Leaders in Mission can be awarded to those in ELCA seminaries only.

Award recipients for 2014-2015 are:
- Rebecca Goche, student at Wartburg Seminary and Robert Bork, student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

We give thanks for the generosity of offering at the 2013 Synod Assembly and special offerings and individual gifts to S.E.A. We encourage congregations and individuals to continue supporting this important ministry.

The scholarship is intended to assist with those preparing for the whole church, so many of those we have assisted are serving in other synods. Those who have been recipients and are serving in our synod currently are:
- Pastor Aaron Werner—St. Luke’s/Grand Rapids
- Pastor Dana Hendershot—Immanuel/Mt. Pleasant
- Pastor Alex Steward—Immanuel/Allegan
- Pastor Rheanna Goodrich-St. Paul/Au Gres
- Pastor Chrisy Bright—New Life/Spruce
- Pastor Rob Schmidt-Zion/Freeland

Members: Pastor Scott Swix (chair), Pastor Scott Torkko, Pastor Andrew Tengwall, Pastor Justin Grimm, Pastor Sherry McGuffin, Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper (synod staff)
Witness/Evangelism Team Annual Report

The Witness/Evangelism Team has been working in two geographic regions in our Synod this year. In September we held discussions with the leaders of six congregations in the Sunrise Conference. We were hosted most graciously by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alpena. In January we were hosted, most graciously by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Muskegon, where we met with the leaders of three area congregations.

The discussion and presentations are concerning what does renewal mean to each congregation and assisting the congregational leaders in discerning which paths to choose as they strive for renewal. At this time, these nine congregations continue with their discernment period. Our Team is ready to provide education, resources and accompaniment on their selected paths.

“Pathways to Renewal” is available to the congregations in our Synod, either individually or in groups, such as the geographic groups with which we are working. If your congregation is interested in engaging this opportunity for using the Witness/Evangelism Team as trail guides as you explore your need for congregational renewal and selection of appropriate paths, please contact the Co-chairs of the Team or Rev. David Sprang regarding this process.

Other resources, such as materials for presenting “Dancing in God’s Amazing Grace” workshop at your church, are available under the “Mission” Tab on the Synod’s website (www.mittensynod.org).

Michael Holman is taking a break from the Team, as he pursues his path to ordination. Rev. Dennis Smith, Rev. Jim Watson (Co-chair) and Bev Dirkin (Co-chair), in coordination with Rev. David Sprang (Assistant to the Bishop) comprise the Witness/Evangelism Team currently. Resources are also available from other Synod Committees and Groups as the needs of each congregation are discerned.
We Are Church

Youth Ministry

The youth ministry of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod continues to partner with Living Water Ministries and Southeast Michigan Synod. In those partnerships, youth from all over Michigan participated in camping experiences, Leadership Training Schools, the Gathering, and the Bass Lake Festival. Both our bishop, the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Satterlee and the Rev. David Sprang participated in the Gathering in December.

The National Youth Gathering in Detroit is coming up - July 15-19! Many of our congregations are signed up and have spent the year preparing. Ms. Beth Mundweiler, our Synod Coordinator traveled the synod to help congregations get ready for this great event. Ms. Julia Nelson, Diaconal Minister, is the Synod Day Coordinator and has assembled a great team for our day, July 16th. If you have questions, please talk with one of the three of us.

Ms. Julia Nelson has also taken on the role of Practice Discipleship Coach for the synod. She is coordinating training events for youth ministry leaders across the synod. Training dates will be published on the synod website and I encourage any who participate in youth ministry to attend.

In this calendar year I look forward to working more closely with youth ministers across our synod, learning what great things are already happening, and how we can support one another in this important work. I give thanks for the gifted and faithful youth and youth ministers of this synod!

Respectfully submitted: Rev. Sarah Friesen-Carper
Southeast (SE) and North/West Lower (NWL) Michigan Synods
Candidacy Committee Report for 2014

The path to rostered leadership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a partnership between candidates, congregations, synods, seminaries, and the churchwide expression of the church. The Michigan Multi-Synodical Committee is the synodical partner for candidates from the two (Lower Peninsula) Michigan Synods.

The committee accompanies candidates in their journey toward becoming Ordained Pastors, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers. The Candidacy Committee encourages all members of congregations in both synods to identify, nurture, support and encourage persons who possess gifts for rostered ministry in the ELCA.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Entrance for Rostered Ministry

SE: Branden Hunt, Mark Fisher (TEEM), Victoria Lovell, Vera McEwen, Kevin O'Bryan, Karole Langset, Susanna Muzzin

Endorsement for Ordained Ministry

SE: Kelly Nieman-Anderson, Kathryn Zwicki

Removed Endorsement for Ordained Ministry

SE: Moose Flores

Approval for Ordination

SE: Kyle Merkle

NWL: Carl Ballard (TEEM), Rob Bork

At the end of 2014, there were 22 candidates preparing for ministries in the ELCA from the Southeast and North/West Lower Michigan Synods. There are presently 5 candidates who have been approved for rostered leadership and are either finishing their academic work or are awaiting placements and calls. These sisters and brothers in ministry need your prayers, as do the members of the Candidacy Committee who strive to faithfully serve in this process of professional leadership development.
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Officers:

Chair - The Rev. Joan Oleson (NWL)
Vice Chair - The Rev. Fred Fritz (NWL)
Secretary - The Rev. John Hitzeroth (SE)

North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

Ms. Shirley Moerdyk
Mr. C.J. Clark
Mr. Harry Moore
Ms. Diane Madej
The Rev. Matthew Titus
The Rev. David Dockweiler
The Rev. Rosanne Anderson
The Rev. Sarah Friesen-Carper (Assistant to the Bishop)

Southeast Michigan Synod:

The Rev. Colleen Kamke
The Rev. Tim Lentner
The Rev. Doris Mars
Ms. Maggie Priestaf
Ms. Lisa Beauvais
The Rev. Barry Osterbur (Director for Candidacy)

Trinity Seminary Representative: The Rev Dr. Cheryl Peterson (SE)

Region 6 representative: Marilyn Smith

There was one change in committee membership in 2014: the Rev. Rosanne Anderson moved from the SE MI Synod to the NWL MI Synod.

Submitted by: The Rev. John W. Hitzeroth, Secretary
Living Water Ministries experienced a seismic shift in 2014.

In late September of 2014, the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors, after careful consideration and discernment, voted to close Michi-Lu-Ca and list the property for sale. In the middle of October, prior to listing the property, a potential buyer emerged offering to purchase the land at above market value for the purposes of conservancy and nature preservation. That offer was immediately shared with constituents at 6 open forums where equal time was given for the presentation of the case for the closure of Michi-Lu-Ca, and for people to ask questions and/or make statements in response. These forums took place all over the state between October 16, 2014 and November 20, 2014.

After careful vetting of the offer presented for purchase, after the conclusion of all the scheduled open forums, and after intentional dialogue on two separate occasions with a representation of alumni deeply concerned about the decision to close, the board voted to accept the offer and proceed with the sale of Michi-Lu-Ca on December 19th, 2014.

The closure and sale of Michi-Lu-Ca was influenced by the realities of membership decline in our synods, geographic limitations, deferred maintenance burdens, and economic challenges. While extremely painful, this decision provides a viable path to sustainability as Living Water Ministries forges ahead in pursuit of its mission and vision.

The mission and vision of Living Water Ministries is below:

**Mission**

*Bringing together all of God’s children to experience Christian community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others.*

**Vision**

*Create communities centered in Christ to transform lives and the world.*

The mission & vision of Living Water Ministries is calling this organization to serve the church and world with programs focused on the formation of faith.

As we continue forward in this mission & vision, we take great joy in the preserved partnerships Living Water Ministries has with organizations creating opportunities for youth & families otherwise unable to attend our programs to now have transformational experiences of faith in the name of Christ. We also take great joy in offering strategic, valued, quality programming for our constituent congregations in an effort to augment faith formation efforts in local communities.

The path ahead is still wrought with obstacles in an ever-changing world; however Living Water Ministries now stands with stable footing to tackle those challenges proactively instead of reactively.
Working within our mission of “serving people as an expression of the love of Christ,” our work in 2015 is focused on attaining our key concepts:

- Promoting the dignity of all those we serve, serving the Whole person in their Natural setting within a robust Continuum of care

We maintain our focus on the external drivers which demand our response:

- Medicaid Expansion
- Medicare Reform
- Integrated Care Child
- Welfare Reform
- Demographic Shifts

Within our lines of service to children, families, senior adults, persons with disabilities and refugees, we work daily toward successful implementation of our Strategic Priorities:

- Leveraging Program Impact
- Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness
- Advanced Marketing, Branding and Sales
- Strengthening Technological Capacity
- Promoting Workforce Readiness

In our expectation of achieving greater impact for those we share in life, we continue to explore opportunities for growth. Expansion of our services in home care services for senior adults, foster care, refugee services for minors and affordable housing for the urban poor lend us the opportunity to impact lives at their most vulnerable.

Partnership with Church in Servant projects at Neighborhood House and Wayne County Family Center allow for physical improvements to facilities where we serve families and children. This collaboration will result in over $160,000 worth of renovations and many hands working together – including 40 young people from this summer’s ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit who will work at the Wayne County Family Center.

We are grateful to you – our church, our leadership, our donors and our staff for striving to achieve greater impact with those we serve.

Sam Beals
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry

Campus ministry is a central and vital part of Young Adult ministry in the ELCA. Here ministers have the opportunity to build relationships with young adults while they are open to new experiences, asking questions, naming and developing values that will shape their lives.

From ELCA.org: “The mission of campus ministry in the ELCA is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples… ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans… campus ministry bears witness to God’s amazing grace within the context of higher education… [and] strives to communicate the gospel in fresh ways.”

Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (MLCM) is a joint ministry of the Southeast Michigan and North/West Lower Michigan Synods of the ELCA. MLCM receives funding from ELCA and from the two Synods and distributes those funds to established campus ministries at Western Michigan University (Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministries, a stand-alone Lutheran-Episcopal partnership), Michigan State University (One Community, a Lutheran/Episcopal partnership housed at University Lutheran Church), and University of Michigan (Lord of Light Lutheran Campus Ministry). Our Cooperating Congregations program to fund campus ministries at other locations has recently been inactive. We also receive some funds from congregations and individuals.

MLCM is currently in the process of radically reinventing ourselves and how we go about fulfilling our mission. Reporting requirements from ELCA have changed drastically in recent years. Funding from ELCA has dwindled and each Synod has had to consider reducing our funding. As these trends continue, we realize that our customary pattern of substantially funding staff at the three established ministries will no longer be viable. We plan to find new ways of supporting campus ministry, ideally by fostering innovation, by using reporting mechanisms that are helpful and sustainable, and by finding new ways to fund existing and new campus ministries.

Campus ministry offers us a glimpse of the future of the whole church. This is not only because these young adults will grow to be church leaders, but also because at its best campus ministry is a laboratory for finding effective new ways to share the gospel and form us as followers of Jesus. With radical change comes radical opportunity for the radical grace of God to break into our lives and God’s world.

Rev. Andrew Tengwall, President
Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry Board
Dear Friends,

Capital University continues to strive to live out its calling as a Lutheran University. The number of Lutheran students has held steady for the past several years. More importantly, the values of Lutheran higher education continue to play an important part in the mission of Capital.

As dean of the Chapel, I am involved in the orientation experience for new faculty and staff. It is important to the university to bring an understanding of the vision of Lutheran higher education for our employees. In addition, we are continuing the tradition of a “Big Questions” retreat each spring, where faculty and staff engage in questions related to our calling.

I am pleased to see Chapel worship and other campus ministries continue to be an important part of the week for many of our students. In addition, I am delighted to open monthly faculty meetings with a meditation.

The partnership that we share with many congregations through the Partners in Education matching scholarship for our Lutheran students continues to be an important part of the financial aid packages that are available to Lutheran students.

I am always ready to accept an invitation to be with your congregation on a Sunday morning, or other times as my schedule allows. Please contact me at any time of the year to invite me in.

We are continually grateful for the support we receive from congregations in northwest Lower Michigan. Please let me know how Capital can support you.

In appreciation for our partnership, I am

Joyfully Serving Christ,

Pastor Gary Sandberg
Dean of the Chapel
gsandberg@capital.edu
614-236-7737
We Are Church

Wittenberg University
2015 Synodical Report

Firmly rooted in its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg continues to deliver a first-rate liberal arts education by living out its mission and values, challenging students to become responsible global citizens, to discover their callings, and to lead personal, professional, and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion, and integrity. Dedicated to providing high-impact collaborative learning experiences that foster wholeness of person and ensure student success both in and out of the classroom, Wittenberg continues to instill in its students the skills and confidence to make an impact on the world around them.

Wittenberg was pleased this fall to receive a NetVUE Program Development Grant for nearly $44,000 from the Council of Independent Colleges through the generous support of the Lilly Endowment. The grant program is designed to “deepen the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students.” The funding will help students thrive at Wittenberg, discover their callings, and find meaningful work to better the church and world through support for training, program development, retreats, speakers, and mini-grants.

Designed to encourage engagement, illustrate the power of vocation, and illuminate the mind around one’s purpose, Wittenberg’s inaugural SPARK Conference held Sept. 2014 offered engaging and creative workshops to inspire attendees to think critically about their potential. Initiated by the Office of Student Development, the conference welcomed featured presenters including Pastor John Morris ’83 as well as Andrew Steele ’10, co-founder of BLOOM Africa and Manager of Donor Relations for the ELCA, among other alumni, faculty and staff.

The University celebrated its tradition of teaching excellence as its own Elizabeth George, professor of physics, was named the 2014 Ohio Professor of the Year. Sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the U.S. Professor of the Year program is the only national program to recognize excellence in undergraduate education. Wittenberg continues to lead the state among four-year institutions in the number of professors receiving the coveted distinction, with three recipients in the past five years.

Wittenberg was proud to once again be recognized on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for 2014, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Last year, the University’s Hagen Center facilitated more than 40,000 hours of community engagement, including service, internships, work-study, community-based courses and research projects. Additionally, Wittenberg was recognized on the 2014 Interfaith Community Service Honor Roll, which recognizes institutions that demonstrate participation of campus and community faith-based organizations, including cooperation of faculty, staff and students of diverse faiths and secular perspectives in projects that tackle community challenges.
This year the annual Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium welcomed The Rev. Cheryl M. Peterson ‘86, associate professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and author of *Who is the Church? An Ecclesiology for the Twenty-First Century*, to deliver the address “Does the Church still matter? A Lutheran view on the Church’s relevance for today.” The University also welcomed The Rev. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA, as preacher for the annual Festival Choral Eucharist for Reformation.

University President Laurie M. Joyner is serving on the Executive Committee of the ELCA Council of College and University Presidents. The committee is moving forward a proposal to create a more robust association among the ELCA’s 26 colleges and universities as a way to strengthen the shared Lutheran identity, expand leadership development programs, share data across institutions, and increase the value of interfaith efforts.

Wittenberg continues to encourage Lutheran students to attend by offering scholarship opportunities, including the $80,000 Martin Luther Scholar Award, the Lutheran Scholarship Partners Program, and the half-tuition Lutheran Pastor/Church Worker-Parent Grant for dependent children of full-time rostered leaders serving a recognized call or of full-time lay church workers in recognized Lutheran ministries. The Wittenberg community cordially invites all members of the synod – both clergy and lay persons – to come to campus for worship services, athletic contests, and Wittenberg Series cultural events.
We Are Church

Report of Trinity Lutheran Seminary – Spring 2015

This year has been a time of hope-filled energy fueled by a reformation taking place at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Amidst much awareness of the ecclesial challenges facing the church as it shrinks in size and loses traction with a changing culture, the Trinity community believes that this is a great time to be the church. Our graduates who are sent out into the world in service to God’s mission claim such an outlook. From North America to the ends of the earth, this is a time ripe with promise and opportunity to re-story communities and the world with the good news and implications of the empty tomb that once held our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trinity is committed to unparalleled excellence. For a number of years we have been in service to a compelling mission – Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ’s church at work in the world. We also are now inspired by a vision where we hold ourselves accountable to be a premier seminary in the formation of authentic servant leaders who are healthy, vibrant, maturing, transformative, resilient and evangelical. Our vision is supported by attention to five pillars of excellence: Excellence in Formation; Excellence in Enrollment; Excellence in Ecumenism; Excellence in Impact in the World; and Excellence in Sustainability.

This vision is driving the reformation at Trinity as we make dramatic changes in organizational structure, the design and mission of the Board of Directors, and the deployment of our esteemed faculty. The pursuit of excellence is the driving force behind the bold curricula changes which now incorporate such innovations as the 2+2 model of formation for Master of Divinity students, and the requirement of Spanish for Ministry for all degree programs.

In the design of our curricula and in the choices we make, Trinity has not been guided by market driven questions, but by the single question: “How can we take what we do with excellence and make it even better?” Therefore, at a time of loosening requirements at many schools and the wholesale proliferation of distance learning, Trinity has stood fast in maintaining high expectations and in being judicious in the ways we can utilize the best practices of hybrid forms of distance and cohort learning.

Our vital signs are strong. In an age of falling enrollment at theology schools across North America, we experienced a slight increase in enrollment with the 2014-15 entering class. Early indicators already suggest that our 2015-16 entering class could be the largest in years. Our students report that they are attracted to Trinity for its missional innovations, for the quality of the faculty, for our emphasis on ecological justice and attention to global poverty, and—most important of all—for the idea that thrives at Trinity that a theologically formed and inspired person can change the world.

We are grateful for the widespread support we receive. Aware of the tremendous fiscal challenges our Region 6 synods face, we are grateful for the funding we receive from you as we are “your seminary.” We are also grateful for the support that we receive from our friends. Giving from individuals and congregations is at one of the highest levels in our history right now. Given the shortages in funding from other sources, this increased giving is much appreciated.

Why we do what we do. Trinity exists and we strive for excellence not primarily because we desire to have a fabulous seminary, though we do. It is also not principally because we want to have a renewed, relevant, and vibrant church, which is also a deep desire. The end game is the transformation of the world which God so richly loves. God has called us into this enterprise of preparing leaders who can heal and bless our troubled world with the great news of the gospel.

Submitted with gratitude, humility, and hope,

Rick Barger, President
Region 6 of the ELCA is comprised of six synods: Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, and Southern Ohio. The governance of Region 6 is overseen by a steering committee that includes the synod bishops and vice-presidents in Region 6.

The focus of regional work is making connections

- Connections among synods in the region
- Connections between synods and the churchwide expression of the ELCA
- Connections with institutions
- Connections with resources

The purpose of the connections

- Share information, ideas, and resources
- Implement programs shared between the synodical and churchwide expressions of the ELCA
- Support for those who are engaged in leadership roles in the synods
- Create a place for conversation and imagination

Our connections through Region 6

- Region 6 Archives where documents and records of closed congregations and other significant papers connected with the synods of Region 6 are cared for and made available for research and inquiry (see the Region 6 Archivist’s Report)
- Campus Ministries in the region are connected with support from and networks in the ELCA (see the reports from your synod’s Campus Ministry)
- Discernment, preparation for rostered ministry, assignment for first call, and first call theological education are enriched by their connections with the other synods in the region and with Churchwide (see the report from your synod’s Candidacy Committee and First Call Theological Education Leaders)
- Synod leaders who guide efforts in World Hunger, Global Mission, Companion Church Relationships, and Malaria Campaign carry this out in concert with and supported by colleagues across the region and with churchwide staff
- Gatherings and consultations to equip and encourage rostered and lay leaders, which in 2014 included a pilot partnership between Region 6 and ELCA Churchwide: We Are Church Together: ELCA Region Networks for Mission. Leaders from congregations across the region came together to explore how we might utilize existing relationships and experiences to support and expand the various ministries rooted here in Region 6. We welcomed Presiding Bp Eaton and synod bishops Gafkjen, Lohrmann, Allende, and Dillahunt. Thanks to Zoar, Perrysburg for providing space and hospitality extraordinaire for this event.

It remains a privilege to partner with both the synodical and churchwide expressions of the ELCA to support the ministry of our congregations in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and the lower peninsula of Michigan. Thank you for your partnership.
ELCA Region 6 Archives

The ELCA Region 6 Archives collects, protects, and shares Lutheran stories from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and the Lower Michigan peninsula.

Preservation - The Archives collects records that contain Lutheran stories from Region 6 synods, congregations, and other sources. Once received, records are processed into acid-free boxes, folders, photo sleeves, and other enclosures for better protection from deterioration. In 2014, the Archives received 57 accessions, including congregational histories, synodical records, and many boxes of congregational records. Thank you to everyone who sent records!

Transmission - The Archives shares Lutheran stories by providing research assistance. The Archives responded to 127 research inquiries in 2014! The Archives also inventories and catalogs records, enabling archival information to be found more quickly and efficiently for researchers.

Cooperation and Outreach - The Archives cannot collect, protect, and share Lutheran stories alone. In 2014, the Archives gave and received assistance in a variety of ways:

- During the 10th Annual Congregational History Campaign, the Archives offered research assistance, congregational history help, and celebration ideas to 46 congregations celebrating major anniversaries in 2014. The Archives also requested anniversary materials from congregations that celebrated anniversaries in 2013. Thank you to all of the congregations that celebrated anniversaries, wrote histories, and sent records to the Archives.

- The Archives addressed 19 advice inquiries—questions about celebrating congregational anniversaries, compiling congregational histories, organizing congregational archives, and managing records.

- Student workers Emily Seitz, Chris Boyd, and volunteer Rich Ferne were a tremendous help to the Archives by processing records, researching inquiries, and helping with other projects.

- The ELCA Region 6 Archives has a new Facebook page! Visit the ELCA Region 6 Archives at www.facebook.com/ELCARegion6Archives for helpful updates about records management, celebrating congregational anniversaries, writing congregational histories, and fun facts about Lutheran history!

- Did you know? The Archives has a web page in cooperation with Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Find out more about the Archives at: www.tlsohio.edu/elca-region-6-archives.

The ELCA Region 6 Archives is grateful for the support and cooperation of Region 6 staff, synods, clergy, congregations, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Your support is vital to the preservation of Lutheran history at the ELCA Region 6 Archives!

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Long Morehart, ELCA Region 6 Archivist
About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest loans to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is financially strong and stable, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of $661 million and net assets of $192 million at year-end 2014, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 29 percent—maintaining MIF’s position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

- At year-end 2014, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled $461 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods, and ELCA-related ministries totaled $464 million.

Investments and Loans in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod

As of December 31, 2014:

- 15 Mission Investment fund loans, with a balance of $5,341,535, are at work throughout the synod.


Enrique Rojas, Regional Manager
MIF Representative for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:
TEL 773-682-1793
EMAIL Enrique.rojas@elca.org
Resolution Instructions

Resolutions must be submitted electronically to carrie@mittensynod.org by Tuesday, March 31, 2015. Resolutions must come from a voting member, a congregation, a committee or an agency of the Synod. See below the worksheet and instructions on how to write a resolution.

- Any resolution not received by March 31, 2015 will not be included in the printed Pre-Assembly Report.

- All resolutions submitted by March 31 will be reviewed by the Committee on Reference and Counsel prior to the printing of the Pre-Assembly Report. That committee will consult with the maker(s) of the resolution if changes are required prior to the resolution's inclusion in the Pre-Assembly Report. The goals of this process of review and revision (if necessary) include guaranteeing that the resolution is germane to Assembly business and that it is in the proper format for consideration by the Assembly.

- There is no guarantee that resolutions submitted after the March 31 deadline will be considered for review and revision prior to the convening of the Assembly's Committee on Reference and Resolutions on the first day of the Assembly. Following that review, it is likely that the maker(s) will have to consult with the Committee, edit or revise their resolutions, etc., prior to receiving approval to run enough copies for distribution to the Assembly.

- As previously noted, all resolutions not received for inclusion in the Pre-Assembly Report must be reproduced by the maker in adequate numbers for all Assembly participants, but that reproduction should not occur until the resolution has been reviewed and, if necessary, revised in cooperation with the Committee on Reference and Resolutions which will present all resolutions to the Assembly.

**Format for Resolutions**

- Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 12 pitch font, one inch margins
- No bold type
- Capital letters are used only for the resolution title
- Title is centered
- Each “Whereas,” begins with a capital W and is followed by a comma.
- Each “Resolved,” begins with a capital R, is followed by a comma and is underscored.
- Resolutions must include, underneath “submitted by,” the name of a voting member who will be present during the assembly and available to respond to questions when the resolution is presented for discussion.
- The Committee on Reference and Counsel will request that the maker limit the number of “Whereas” and “Resolved” paragraphs to three each. There is a likelihood that resolutions with more than three “Whereas” and “Resolved” paragraphs will be returned to the maker for editing. (Note: other synods have stricter limits stated in their constitutions regarding the number of “Whereas” and “Resolved” paragraphs.)
General Guidelines

Resolutions need to:
- Pertain to the life and ministry of the synod
- Deal with matters of significance requiring consideration by the Assembly
- Be stated clearly, concisely and objectively
- Contain complete, accurate and documented information

Direction from the ELCA Office of the Secretary
- Any memorial or resolution directed to the ELCA churchwide organization that contains a funding mandate for the churchwide organization must be considered and evaluated by the Synod Council prior to submission to the Synod Assembly.
- Any memorial or resolution that asks for actions that are not consistent with the governing documents of this church are out-of order and, if adopted, are null and void.

Who may submit a resolution?
Resolutions must come from a voting member, a congregation, a committee or an agency of the Synod.

How do I write a resolution?
- A resolution should be stated clearly and concisely.
- The “Whereas” paragraph(s) of the resolution should state the reason for the resolution. Such reasons should be succinct and factual, not argumentative. Each reason should be given as a separate “Whereas.”
- The “Resolved” paragraph(s) of the resolution should clearly state the action desired, who is to implement the action, and who is to bear any associated costs. Each action should be given as a separate “Resolved.”
- Resolutions should be tested against questions such as:
  ✓ Is the information complete and accurate?
  ✓ Is this a matter that pertains to the purpose of the Assembly?
  ✓ Is this a matter of significance requiring consideration by Assembly?
  ✓ Can the action requested be appropriately and effectively implemented by the Assembly?

Structure of Resolutions

Whereas, ______________________________________________________________; and

Whereas, ______________________________________________________________; therefore be it

Resolved, that __________________________________________________________; and be it further

Resolved, that __________________________________________________________.

Submitted by,
RESOLUTION A – ELCA WORLD HUNGER 2016

Whereas, ELCA World Hunger is an unparalleled worldwide network of people responding to Christ's call to feed the hungry¹ and find him in the “least of these” as stated in Matthew 25:45 by addressing root causes of hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world through a comprehensive program of relief, education, advocacy, sustainable development, community organizing and networking by which people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty; and

Whereas, in 2014 congregations and individuals in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod gave $166,427 ($4.33 per baptized member) in support of ELCA World Hunger, placing our synod 34th of the 65 synods of the ELCA; and

Whereas, in 2016 the focus of the Campaign for the ELCA will be ELCA World Hunger; therefore be it

Resolved, that the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod be encouraged to make support for ELCA World Hunger a year round emphasis; and be it further

Resolved, that our synod and its congregations be encouraged to grow in their support of ELCA World Hunger and set a goal of $5.00 per baptized member for 2015 and $6.00 per baptized member for 2016; and be it further

Resolved, that the Campaign for the ELCA and its 2016 ELCA World Hunger theme be considered as a possible focus of 2016 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Michael Anderson
Rev. David Eidson
Rev. Bill and Lael Hoerger
Rev. Cheryl Johnson
Rev. Erick Johnson
Members of the Synod Hunger Team

1. It is estimated that 868 million people in our world are undernourished; 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty on less than $1.25 a day; and 49 million people in the United States – one out of every six people including 16 million children experience hunger or the risk of hunger.* Each year, 2.6 million children die as a result of hunger-related causes. **

*Statistics from the ELCA World Hunger web site: www.elca.org/hunger
** Bread for the World: www.bread.org
RESOLUTION B – LOCAL HUNGER MINISTRIES

Whereas, 49 million people in the United States, one out of every six people, including 16 million children experience hunger or the risk of hunger *, and one in six people in Michigan struggle with hunger and/or food insecurity **; and

Whereas, the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod are working generously in many ways to make the love and compassion of Christ known in their communities, including serving the hungry through food pantries, soup kitchens, community meals and other local hunger ministries; and

Whereas, Bishop Satterlee has been learning of these local hunger ministries in his travels around the synod and has requested the synod Hunger Team to let him know “how many people are being fed” through our congregations each year; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Synod Hunger Team gather these statistics, including photos and stories that congregations share, and present them at the 2016 Synod Assembly and post them on the World Hunger page of the synod website; and be it further

Resolved, that congregational leaders do their best to respond to the request of the Hunger Team for these statistics, stories and photos.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Michael Anderson
Rev. David Eidson
Rev. Bill and Lael Hoerger
Rev. Cheryl Johnson
Rev. Erick Johnson
Members of the Synod Hunger Team

* Statistics from the ELCA World Hunger web site: www.elca.org/hunger
** From Feeding America website: www.feedingamerica.org
Nominating Committee Report

Vacant Positions and Respective Nominees (listed alphabetically) as of 04/15/15

- **Synod Council**
  - Position A: Synod VP (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Sandy Schlesinger
  - Position B: Clergy Female (Please vote for two)
    - Rev. Jessica Hahn
    - Rev. Joan E. Oleson
    - Rev. Kjersten Priddy
  - Position C: Lay Female (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Margaret Sheffer
    - Ms. Linda Wicander
  - Position D: Lay Male (Please vote for one)
    - Mr. William (Bill) C. Trevarthen
  - Position E: Person of Color/1st Language other than English (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Christine Mwanyika
  - Position F: Young Adult (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Krissy Beethem
    - Ms. Molly Smith
  - Position G: Youth (Please vote for two)
    - Ms. Meredith Ablao
    - Mr. Connor Ashley
    - Mr. Kaleb Underwood*

- **Committee on Discipline**
  - Position H: Clergy Female (Please vote for two)
    - Rev. Julie Bailey
    - Rev. Connie Sassanella
  - Position I: Lay Female 6 year term (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Bonnie Skorma
  - Position J: Lay Female, 2 year unexpired term (Please vote for one)
    - Ms. Sandy Altman*
  - Position K: Lay Male (Please vote for one)
• Consultation Committee
  o Position L: Male (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Rev. Travis Wilson
  o Position M: Female (Please vote for one)
  • Living Fire Ministries
  o Position N: Clergy (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Rev. Rheanna Goodrich
    ▪ Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker
    ▪ Rev. Alex Steward
  o Position O: Lay (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Ms. June Scarborough
  • Churchwide Assembly
  o Position P: Clergy Female (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Rev. Chrisy Bright
    ▪ Rev. Rachel Laughlin
    ▪ Rev. Kjersten Priddy
  o Position Q: Clergy Male (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Rev. William Huether
    ▪ Rev. Zack Nelson
    ▪ Rev. Bill Uetricht
    ▪ Rev. Justin Walker
  o Position R: Lay Female (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Ms. Diane Madej
    ▪ Ms. Julia Nelson
    ▪ Ms. Kim Winchell
  o Position S: Person of Color/Primary Language other than English (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Ms. Christine Mwanyika
  o Position T: Lay Male (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Mr. Bob Hunt
    ▪ Mr. John Nelson
  o Position U: Youth/Young Adult (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Mr. Connor Ashley
We Are Church

o Additional Churchwide Assembly Positions (contingent on filling the initial positions in these categories)

  ▪ Position V: Youth/Young Adult (Please vote for one)
    ▪ Ms. Krissy Beethem

  ▪ Position W: Person of Color/Primary Language other than English (1 position; Lay or Clergy Male; Lay Preferred, Please vote for one)

*Paperwork not as of yet received*
Nomination Form

Currently, the 2015 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seeking names of individuals willing to serve. To fill current vacancies and meet the inclusivity requirements of our synod constitution, we are seeking nominees as shown on the following pages.

**Synod Council (9 positions)**
- Synod Vice President, 4 year term ________________________________
- Clergy Female (2 positions open), 3 year term ________________________________
- Lay Female 3 year term _____________________________________________
- Lay Male, 3 year term _____________________________________________
- Person of Color/1st language other than English, 3 year term __________________
- Young Adult, 2 year term _____________________________________________
- Young Adult/Youth, 2 year term _____________________________________________
- Youth, 2 year term _____________________________________________

**Consultation Committee (2 positions)**
- Clergy, 6 year term _____________________________________________
- Lay, 6 Year term _____________________________________________

**Discipline Committee (4 positions)**
- Clergy Female (2 positions open), 6 year term ________________________________
- Lay Male, 6 year term _____________________________________________
- Lay Female, 6 year term _____________________________________________

**Living Fire Ministries (3 positions)**
- Lay 2 Year Term _____________________________________________
- Clergy, 2 year Term _____________________________________________
- Clergy or Lay, 2 year Term _____________________________________________

**Churchwide Assembly (8 positions)**
- Clergy Female (2 positions open) _____________________________________________
- Clergy Male (1 position open) _____________________________________________
- Lay Female (2 positions open) _____________________________________________
- Lay Male (3 positions open) _____________________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Bio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State, Zip Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation/Vocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Pertinent Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregation/Ministry and Location (City)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past and Current Positions/Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchwide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please tell in 40 words or less what gifts and skills you bring to the position for which you are being nominated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permission and Authorization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominated by (pastor or congregation council president)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I hereby grant permission for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to print any and all information included on this form in the 2015 Synod Assembly booklet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature / Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Position A: Synod Council Vice President

Nominee 1

Name: Ms. Sandy Schlesinger
Address: 5804 Woodcliff Drive, Midland, MI 48640
Phone: 989-638-6994 (home); 989-859-7843 (cell)
Email: sjschlesinger@dow.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Quality Management System Director, The Dow Chemical Company

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: B.S. in Chemistry – St. Olaf College; The Dow Chemical Company – 31 years in Research, Manufacturing and I/S Project Management leading teams focused on analytical (lab) testing and/or quality assurance / quality system improvement initiatives.

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, MI (member since 1984)

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Church Council President (2003-2005); Church Council Secretary (2010 to 2013); 6th Grade Confirmation Lead Teacher (2000 to date); Adult Leader – Annual High School Mission Trip (2009 to date); Chancel Choir (1997 to date).

Synod: Synod Council Vice President (2011–2015); Provided overview of ELCA Council activities at Synod Council meetings (2005-2011).


Gifts and Skills: I bring gifts of organization, facilitative leadership, and communication to the position of synod vice president. I will continue to partner with others on synod council to clarify our purpose, alignment and oversight to appropriately guide / support the mission and ministry being led by the Bishop’s office, conference Deans, synod committees, and other task forces.

Position B: Synod Council Clergy Female

Nominee 1

Name: Rev. Jessica Hahn
Address: 69 Griswold St. Hillsdale, MI 49242
Phone: (517) 437-2647 (church)// (517) 607-9429(cell)
Email: pastorjessicahahn@gmail.com
Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: M.Div.: Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (2012); BA in Religion: Augustana College, Rock Island, IL (2008) Vicar/Intern & Senior Seminary Student, Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA; Assistant Residence Director & Community Advisor, Augustana College; Student Program Assistant, Center for Vocational Reflection, Augustana College; College Intern, First Lutheran Church, Moline, IL; Summer Intern, Iglesia Luterana San Francisco De Asis, Aurora, IL

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Former: Sunday School Director, Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA

Synod: Assisted in planning the 2015 Regional First Call Leadership Event. Beginning to make connections with other leaders and synod programs.

Churchwide: I am passionate about the ELCA World Hunger program, a supporter of ELCA Good Gifts, and try to remain educated and connected with churchwide news and events.

Gifts and Skills: I am passionate about ministry and gifted in administration and leadership. I am caring and compassionate, and interested in understanding multiple perspectives when making decisions. I enjoy getting involved in the details of church and synod life. I believe it is important to have synod leadership from all areas of the synod, and hope to more fully connect the far southeastern region with the rest of our synod. I feel a deep sense of call to serve on synod council and I am excited for an opportunity to become more fully involved in the church in this way.

Nominee 2

Name: Rev. Joan E. Oleson
Address: 614 Court Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: 616 890 0283 (cell)
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: M. Div., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH; B.A. Capital University, Columbus, OH; Alban Institute’s Seminar on Conflict Management (2000)

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Saron Lutheran Church (2007-present); Bread of Life, Hudsonville, MI
Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Pastor; Mission Developer; Christian Education Director

Synod: Synod Council (2012 – present); First Call Mentor (2014-present); Michigan Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee (chair, 2010 – present); Discipline Committee; Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry Board and Executive Committee (secretary); Nomination’s Committee (chair, 2002-2003); Witness/Evangelism Committee (chair, 1998-2000)


Gifts and Skills: I bring a commitment to life and service in the whole church. I have the ability to see the big picture and a willingness to struggle with difficult decisions. I have the experience of working on various synod committees.

Nominee 3
Name: Rev. Kjersten Priddy
Address: 2055 E Columbia Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Phone: 269-963-5356
Email: pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Master of Divinity – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (’12) Manager of Volunteer and In-Kind Services – N Street Village, Washington, DC (2005-2008)

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Trinity Lutheran Church – Battle Creek, MI (2014-present) Interim Pastor – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA (2012-2014)

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation:
Synod:
Churchwide: Copywriter for ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA Malaria Campaign

Gifts and Skills:

As a congregational pastor, one of my great interests is how we are church on a broader scale, how we work together to be Christ in the world. I bring curiosity for how ministry is done in different contexts.
Position C: Synod Council Lay Female

Nominee 1

**Name: Ms. Margaret Sheffer**
Address: 13165 Clintonia Rd, Portland, MI 48875
Phone: (231) 215-8988
Email: sheffer.1283@yahoo.com

**Experience**

Occupation/Vocation: Special Education Teacher
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Master's Degree in Reading
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St Stephen Lutheran, Lansing, MI

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

Congregation: At our former congregation, Immanuel/Muskegon, I served at various times as president, secretary, education chair and evangelism chair on the church council. I was also the directress of the Altar Guild and a Sunday school teacher. I worked on several committees promoting cooperation and planning activities with all the local ELCA churches. My husband and I were Habitat coordinators and I was the Action of LSSM representative. At our present congregation, I am the director of the Kids Hope program and serve as a mentor. I also teach Sunday school and serve on Altar Guild. I have been an assisting minister at both congregations and in Muskegon I visited shut-ins and gave communion. For several years, I was the president of our congregation's WELCA.

Synod: I served on the Synod Council for six years under Bishop Gary Hansen.

Churchwide: I was a voting delegate to the Triennial WELCA convention in San Antonio, Texas.

**Gifts and Skills:** I believe I am qualified to serve on Synod Council because I have a strong faith and a commitment to serving God. I also have the experience of previous serving on the council.

Nominee 2

**Name: Ms. Linda Wicander**
Address: 1413 Bruder Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 989 772 5589
Email: wican11c@cmich.edu

**Experience**

Occupation/Vocation: I retired in 2012 after serving for 13 years as Director of Business Student Services for the College of Business Administration at Central Michigan University. My responsibilities included shepherding our 4,000 undergraduate students through their college career, managing the college study abroad program, the college curriculum committee, and the undergraduate business degree committee. I also served as an
Academic Advisor and an Instructor in the Department of Management. I enjoyed 35 years working with college students of all ages and backgrounds. This experience serves me well in my role as secretary and board member for the CMU Wesley Foundation. I am the only non-Methodist (and Lutheran) member of a Wesley Board in Michigan. Being the only Lutheran with 40 Methodists committed to campus ministry gives me interesting ecumenical insights and perspectives on serving college students. I am passionate about working with college students. I am involved in Wesley activities including attending Sunday night dinners with the students and I taught a Lenten series at the Center this Spring. My involvement with Wesley also serves my home congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, which uses the Wesley center for Bible studies and meeting space for Lutheran students on the CMU campus. Immanuel is the only non-Methodist church to receive a Wesley intern that is funded by a grant from the United Methodist Church Young Clergy Initiative.

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: B.A. English, California State University Los Angeles, MBA, Central Michigan University. I am committed to life-long learning, taking classes at Central Michigan University and through our Synod. I have completed Old Testament, New Testament, Ethics and Morality in the Bible, Gender and Sexuality in the Bible, Christianity, Judaism, and Historical Jesus at Central Michigan University. My CMU classes have enhanced my classes through the Synod. I have completed the Spiritual Formation program. I will complete the Lay Ministry Training Program in September. I will complete Small Group Leadership as Spiritual Leadership in May. I am one of Sister Nancy’s “Kindlers,” a group of people trained to lead Congregation Council Retreats. I have made many friends across the Synod through my classes which has given me a very broad perspective on the Synod and our congregations. I have loved meeting our seminary professors and pastors who teach in the Lay Ministry Training Program.

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: I am currently co-chair of the Altar Guild and the Adult Education committee. I regularly teach adult education programs, for example, in Spring 2015 I taught a Lenten series on reflective Bible study and a class on women in the Gospels. I am an assisting minister. I am a founding member of the Women’s Book Group and I am record keeper and organizer for our monthly meetings. I am a member of the team that recruits and interviews CMU students to serve as interns at Immanuel. My past activities include: Church Council President, member of Church Council, chair of the Ministry with Each Other committee, chair of the Congregational Life Committee, and co-chair of the coffee ministry.

Synod: I am serving one year of an unexpired term on Synod Council. I enjoy being involved with the Synod, thinking about big picture issues, and learning more about the Synod and the ELCA. I would like to continue to serve the Synod and our congregations as we deal with challenges and opportunities facing us in the years ahead.

Churchwide:
We Are Church

Gifts and Skills: I am a strategic thinker who can develop and implement long term plans. I am organized, methodical and I have good follow through. I am a good listener, get along well with others, and am compassionate and empathetic.

Position D: Synod Council Lay Male

Nominee 1
Name: Mr. William C. Trevarthen (Bill)
Address: 4215 Red Cedar Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: Home (517) 349-7572, Cell (517) 281-2386
Email: Bill.trevarthen@gmail.com

Experience

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: As a volunteer, have served as a founding member and first president of The Michigan Festival, a statewide festival sponsored by the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University. Served as member and chairperson of the City of East Lansing’s Fine Arts Commission. Currently serve as board member and treasurer of The Michigan Center for Civic Education and as emeritus chair of The Museum Council, Michigan State University Museum. Graduated with high honors and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa from Michigan State University’s residential Justin Morrill College in 1972 with a major in English literature and criticism. Did graduate work in linguistics.

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): University Lutheran Church (ULC), East Lansing, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation: ULC Endowment Committee member, Social Action Team committee member, Co-coordinator of the Sunday Forum series at ULS

Synod: I am serving one year of an unexpired term on Synod Council

Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: Strong professional management skills, strong communications skills: much public speaking and writing, and, at MGTV, on-air work interviewing Michigan’s top politicians (Governors Engler and Granholm, Michigan's Supreme Court justices, etc.) I am fairly well-read in theology. Care deeply about my faith and the church

Position E: Synod Council Person of Color/Primary Language other than English

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Christine Mwanyika
We Are Church

Address: 3651 Vineyard Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: 616-901-9622
Email: Mwanyika41@yahoo.com

Experience
Occupation/Vocation: System Developer Analyst

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: M.Sc. in Computer Information Systems

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Church council member and Chair - Mission ministry

Synod: Synod council member
Churchwide: Voting member at Church wide Assembly in 2013. Attended minority meeting organized by Chicago office in 2005

Gifts and Skills: I am committed to working for the good of my synod and ELCA as a whole. Serving God and helping in fulfilling the mission and ministry of the church has always been my passion and I continue to pray to God for his direction and wisdom to serve and spread his word.

Position F: Synod Council Young Adult

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Krissy Beethem
Address: 5167 Riggsville Rd. Cheboygan, MI 49721
Phone: 231-818-9818
Email: kkbeethem@yahoo.com

Experience
Occupation/Vocation: Student
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Graduating High School in Spring 2015
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation:
Synod: Youth representative, N/W Lower Michigan Synod Council
Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: I have already been in many leadership and service roles in my school and community, and re-election for this position would be an excellent place for me to continue using the skills I have learned from those positions.

Nominee 2:
Name: Ms. Molly Smith  
Address: 1678 Ann St. Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 424-9323  
Email: molsmith@nmu.edu

Experience
Occupation/Vocation: Student at Northern Michigan University, Majoring in Elementary Special Education and a minor in Math Education

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Michi-Lu-Ca Camp Counselor (Summer 2013), Stony Lake Camp Counselor (Summer 2014), Living Water Ministries Day Camp Director, (Summer 2015)

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Christ the King Lutheran Church (Gladwin, MI) 
Living Water Ministries (New Era, MI)

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation: Christ the King, Gladwin, MI (Lay Minister, Reader, Youth Council Representative, Youth Group Head) 
St. Marks, Marquette, MI (Lay Minister, Reader, Musician)

Synod: Michigan Gathering Participant (4 years), Northern Michigan University Campus Ministries (Northern Great Lakes Synod)

Churchwide

Gifts and Skills: I am optimistic about the future, dedicated to my congregation, passionate about and proud of the ELCA’s work, and energetic about implementing future ideas. I am opinionated, but respect other’s ideas, showing God’s love in all my actions.

Position G: Synod Council Youth

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Meredith Ablao  
Address: 5224 Mapleridge Dr. Portage, MI 49024  
Phone: (269) 373-9241  
Email: m.ablao@gmail.com

Experience
Occupation/Vocation: Student (9th Grade), Babysitter, Catsitter
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: currently attending Portage Northern High School, musicals, forensics, Track and Field, active volunteering around town

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Prince of Peace, Portage, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation: Active youth member
Synod: work camps, Stony Lake, State Youth Gathering participant
Churchwide: National Youth Gathering participant

**Gifts and Skills:** I am 100% capable to bring lots of joy, compassion and acceptance. I believe I fit well for this spot because I work hard, listen actively and respect others.

**Nominee 2**
**Name:** Mr. Connor Ashley
**Address:** 9212 Amy Drive, Baroda, Michigan 49101
**Phone:** (269) 287-0366
**Email:** cashley1837@outlook.com

**Experience**

*Occupation/Vocation:* Full-time Student/Y.M.C.A Employee
*Education/Pertinent Work Experience:* Current Social Science Student/Future Political Science Major
*Congregation/Ministry and Location (City):* Saron Lutheran Church – St. Joseph

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

*Congregation: Church Council (2013-2015)*
*Synod: Synod Council (2013-Present)*
*Churchwide:*

**Gifts and Skills:** I take great pride in the fact that I was the first Youth Representative on Synod Council. In the past few years I have learned so much about the good work the church does, and I know I can continue to be a voice for our youth and young adult parishioners.

**Nominee 3**
**Name:** Mr. Kaleb Underwood

**Experience**

*Occupation/Vocation:*
*Education/Pertinent Work Experience:*
*Congregation/Ministry and Location (City):*

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

*Congregation*
*Synod*
*Churchwide*

**Gifts and Skills:**

**Position H: Committee on Discipline Clergy Female**
Nominee 1
Name: Rev. Julie Bailey
Address: 320 Storch St. Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989-574-5663
Email: Pr_julie@sbcglobal.net

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Ordained Minister-Ascension Lutheran Church/Saginaw


Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Ascension Lutheran Church/Saginaw

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Pastor, local ELCA ministry in Saginaw, Neighborhood House(LSSM)


Churchwide: Attended Churchwide Assembly in 2007 as a voting member

Gifts and Skills: As an active member in the church since I was ordained, I have seen first had the difficulties that continue with boundary violations by a pastor. I have high regard for this vocation, and believe God demands the best we have to give.

Nominee 2
Name: Rev. Connie D. Sassanella
Address: 915 Federal Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: 330-692-6194
Email: csallanella@yahoo.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: BA, Michigan State University; MDiv, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Columbus; STM, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. John Lutheran, Saginaw, MI 48607
Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights, OH; Martin Luther Lutheran, Youngstown, OH; Holy Trinity Lutheran, Salem, OH

Synod: Asst to the Bishop, Ohio District, ALC; 2 terms on Synod Council, NEO Synod, ELCA

Churchwide: 3 Churchwide Assemblies, Board of ALC Church in Society

Gifts and Skills: Experience in this area as an assistant to 2 bishops, on a camp board and as a parish pastor. Listening skills, strong sense of justice and commitment to the wellbeing of the church and safety for all.

Position I: Committee on Discipline Lay Female (6 year term)

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Bonnie Skornia
Address: 9551 Midland Rd. Freeland, MI 48623
Phone: Home- 989-695-2731, Cell- 989-245-6108
Email: abcdeskornia@sbcglobal.net

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Registered Nurse at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Saginaw, working on the acute care/telemetry unit.

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Registered nurse with a BSN since 1982. Former Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center (program of the CAN Council), child forensic interviewer and sexual assault examiner, expert witness in family & criminal court. Freeland School board for 18.5 years, president for 5 years.

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation: Past Vice President of Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland
Synod:
Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: I am passionate about my faith. I have a lot of experience working with teams, boards and conflict resolution. I love working with people. I am positive, personable and open-minded.

Position J: Committee on Discipline Lay Female (2 year unexpired term)

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Sandy Altman
Address:
Phone
Email

Experience

Occupation/Vocation:
Education/Pertinent Work Experience:
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City):

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation
Synod
Churchwide

Gifts and Skills:

Position K: Committee on Discipline Lay Male

Position L: Consultation Committee Male

Nominee 1
Name: Rev. Travis Wilson
Address: 06321 Blue Star Memorial Highway, South Haven, MI 49090
Phone: (269) 637-4104
Email: Pastor.traviswilson@gmail.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Masters of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH; Bachelor of Arts in Theology, Roanoke College, Salem, VA; During my studies in seminary, I also worked for Healthy Congregations, Inc. where I became a trained Healthy Congregations Facilitator and spent other time doing work in Family Systems Theory.

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Haven

Past and Current Positions/Activities
Congregation: Story teller, Confirmation teacher/guide, Technology Team member, Youth Director
Synod: Synod Assembly Visual Projection Technician, Worship and Music Committee Member
Churchwide:
Gifts and Skills: I bring the ability to listen attentively, engage in discernment, and to value and respect various backgrounds and viewpoints.

Position M: Consultation Committee Female

Nominee 1
Name: Rev. Rheanna Goodrich
Address: 215 E. Michigan Ave, Au Gres, MI 48703
Phone: Phone 248-231-7080
Email: rheanna.goodrich@outlook.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor


Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. Paul Lutheran Church – Au Gres

Past and Current Positions/Activities


Synod: Synod Worship Committee – 2014-Current

Churchwide: None

Gifts and Skills: I would bring a passion for connecting people with God on a spiritual level. I love finding ways that connect renewal and tradition in worship, service, and personal devotion so that people can encounter the transforming presence of our Lord.

Nominee 2
Name: Rev. Jessica Rivera-Walker
Address: 1250 Bentwood Court, Holland, MI 49424
Phone: 616-403-4660
Email: revjrw@gmail.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Parish Ministry: Pastor – Edgewood Lutheran Church: Fruitport, MI (current); Associate Pastor – Resurrection Lutheran Church: Gretna, NE; Youth and Family
Pastor – St. James Lutheran Church: Burnsville, MN. Chaplain Ministry: Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services: Grand Rapids, MI (current); Grace Hospice: Grand Rapids, MI; Hospice of Holland: Holland, MI; Alegent Hospital Network: Nebraska, NE; St. Johns Hospital: Maplewood, MN

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: BA in Youth and Family Ministry, Augsburg College: Minneapolis, MN; MDiv, Luther Seminary: St. Paul, MN; Year-long CPE Residency (4 additional units of CPE), St. John’s Hospital: Maplewood, MN; Youth INC, LLC – I worked with at-risk teens in a summer program in Omaha, NE

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Edgewood Lutheran Church (pastor): Fruitport, MI, Pine Rest Mental Health Services (chaplain): Grand Rapids, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Current: youth ministry, faith development, visitation, worship leadership, spiritual care. Previous: all of the above plus participation in task force on community mental health.

Synod: Current: Synod Worship Committee, Open Hearts Open Church, co-chair


Gifts and Skills: I am gifted in pastoral care, counseling, and worship leadership. I am creative, passionate, and dedicated to ministry that helps others to grow into their relationship with God and with each other. I strongly believe in the mission of Living Fire Ministries and welcome this prospect to serve.

Nominee 3
Name: Rev. Alexander Steward
Address: 243 N Main St, Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: 269-355-9565
Email: alexnsteward@gmail.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Trinity Lutheran Seminary, MDiv; Central Michigan University, B.S.B.A.
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Immanuel Lutheran Church, Allegan, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation:
Synod:
Churchwide:
Gifts and Skills: Have been serving Immanuel for over 2 years and have guided the congregation in their spiritual life. Personally, I am nearing the completion of the Spiritual Foundations course through Living Fire Ministries and am in postulancy in the Order of Lutheran Franciscans.

Position O: Living Fire Ministries Lay

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. June Scarborough
Address: 4300 Lakeshore Dr. Black River, MI 48721
Phone: 989-724-6187
Email: Jscarborough251@gmail.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Retired – Ford Motor Co. (Materials/Logistics Analyst and Project Manager)


Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Spruce Lutheran Church, Spruce, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Council Chairperson for Finance (2006-2008) and Worship (2010-current)
Synod:
Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: The LMTP has prepared me to assist in and/or lead a worship service and to be better equipped for other ministries of my congregation and our synod. The Spiritual Formation and Direction Programs (Living Fire Ministries Programs) have deepened my relationship with God. As I share these programs with others, they can grow in their relationship with God and to serve others.

Position P: Churchwide Assembly Clergy Female

Nominee 1
Name: Rev. Christina Bright (Chrisy)
Address: 9024 US-23 S. #7, Ossineke, MI, 49766
Phone: 989-464-8296
Email: cmbmsu@gmail.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor
We Are Church

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Healthy Congregations Facilitator Training, 2010; MDiv, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2008; B. A. Michigan State University, 2000. Pastor, New Life Lutheran Church, 2009-present; Supply Preacher, St. John (Philo) Lutheran Church, 2007-08; Intern Pastor, Augustana and Barronett Lutheran Churches 2006-07; Campus Minister, University Lutheran Church 2001-2004; Student Associate, University Lutheran Church, 1997-2000

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): New Life Lutheran Church, Spruce, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Choir, Red Cross Volunteer, Healthy Congregations Facilitator, Campus Ministry Board, Worship and Music Board, Choir, Praise Band Member, MSU Student Food Bank Volunteer; Council Member, Sunday School Teacher, Habitat Volunteer

Synod: Sunrise Conference Dean, Synod Nominating Committee, Synod Outreach Committee, National Gathering Synod Day Planning Team, LWM Strategic Planning, MI Gathering Team


Gifts and Skills: Having been involved in the church since a very early age, I love learning more about all of things the ELCA is doing. Attending Churchwide Assembly would allow to learn even more about the church I love and share the ways in which we all can God's work with our hands, feet, minds, hearts and voices.

Nominee 2

Name: Rev. Rachel Laughlin
Address: 6065 King Road, Bridgeport, MI 48722
Phone: 989-777-7017
Email: pastor@stmatthewsbridgeport.org

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI since Aug. 2010; Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Class of 2010; Wittenberg University, Class of 2006, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI - Pastor; Christ Lutheran Church, Roanoke, VA – Pastoral Intern, 2008-09; Brandon Oaks Lifecare Retirement (part of Virginia Lutheran Homes), Roanoke, VA – Chaplain Intern, 2008-09
Synod: NWLM Synod Worship Committee - Member since Jan. 2011- Chair since May 2014

Churchwide: Partners in Worship representative for NWLM since 2012

Gifts and Skills: A deep interest in the life of the wider church, a lifetime of involvement in the ELCA at congregational and synodical levels in a variety of places, a joy for sharing whatever I learn from my experience

Nominee 3
Name: Rev. Kjersten Priddy
Address: 2055 E Columbia Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014
Phone: 269-963-5356
Email: pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Master of Divinity – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (’12) Manager of Volunteer and In-Kind Services – N Street Village, Washington, DC (2005-2008)

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Trinity Lutheran Church – Battle Creek, MI (2014-present) Interim Pastor – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA (2012-2014)

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation:
Synod:
Churchwide: Copywriter for ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA Malaria Campaign

Gifts and Skills:

As a congregational pastor, one of my great interests is how we are church on a broader scale, how we work together to be Christ in the world. I bring curiosity for how ministry is done in different contexts.

Position Q: Churchwide Assembly Clergy Male

Nominee 1
Name: Rev. William Huether
Address: 109 E. Dowland St, Ludington, MI 49431
Phone: 231-843-4814/231-690-8184
Email: whuether@charter.net
Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Trinity Lutheran Seminary, M.Div; S.U.N.Y. Albany, B.A. Philosophy/World Religions; Rensselaer Polytechnic, B.S. Aerospace Engineering

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Bethany-Ludington; Victory Trinity-Ludington

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Trinity-Richmond, MI; St. Paul-Greenville, MI; St. Paul-Baltimore, MD

Synod: Conference Dean-N/W Lower MI; Bishop Search Comm.-N/W Lower MI; Synod Council-Delaware/Maryland Synod

Churchwide: Attending 5 National Youth Gatherings

Gifts and Skills: As a pastor of 27 years, my entire pastoral ministry has been in the ELCA. I believe I have some insight into what we need to improve. I.E. public relations, media and youth ministry

Nominee 2
Name: Rev. Zachary C. Nelson (Zack)
Address: 332 South Western Avenue - P.O. Box 57, Cheboygan, MI 49721
Phone: W: 231.627.3167 C: 612.203.0493
Email: pastorzack@sbcglobal.net

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor at St. Thomas Ev. Lutheran Church in Cheboygan, MI

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: University of Minnesota Duluth - B.A. 2008; Altru Health Systems(Grand Forks, ND) - Chaplain Intern - Summer 2010; Luther Seminary - Master of Divinity, 2013

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Hope Lutheran Church (Walker, MN) -Pastoral Intern (2011-2012); St. John's Episcopal Mission (Onigum, MN) -Pastoral Intern (2011-2012); St. Thomas Ev. Lutheran Church (Cheboygan, MI) - Associate Pastor (2013-2014); St. Thomas Ev Lutheran Church (Cheboygan, MI) - Pastor (2014-Present)

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: St. Thomas Ev Lutheran Church (Cheboygan, MI) - Pastor (2014-Present)
*See directly above for additional congregational experience

Synod: Member of the N/W Lower Michigan Synod's Outreach Committee (2014-Present)
Churchwide

**Gifts and Skills:** I'm eager to explore with St. Thomas, with our Synod, and with our Church as a whole how we may continue to follow our God's call to do God's work in this world in ways that are both meaningful and sustainable.

Nominee 3

**Name:** Rev. Bill Uetricht  
**Address:** 685 Curve Crest, Muskegon, MI 49445  
**Phone:** 231-744-1522  
**Email:** bill@firstlutheranmuskegon.com

**Experience**

**Occupation/Vocation:** Pastor at First in Muskegon  
**Education/Pertinent Work Experience:** I have a B.S. in political science from Capital and a Master's of divinity from Trinity Seminary.  
**Congregation/Ministry and Location (City):** First, Muskegon

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

**Congregation:** First (pastor)  
**Synod:** Former chair of Church and Society Committee, chair of nominating committee, representative to churchwide assembly about 15 years ago  
**Churchwide:**

**Gifts and Skills:** I am a thinker who is able to put my theological skills and experience in congregational life to work for the sake of wise and informed decisions. I have an open mind and a deep commitment to the gospel and to the well-being of the church and its ministry in the world.

Nominee 4

**Name:** Rev. Justin Walker  
**Address:** Peace Lutheran Church, 389 West James Street, Holland, Michigan 49424  
**Phone:** 616.834.1040  
**Email:** pastor@peaceelca.org

**Experience**

**Occupation/Vocation:** Pastor

**Education/Pertinent Work Experience:** MST University of Oxford: Oxford, England (Science and Religion); MDiv Lutheran Theological Seminary: Gettysburg, PA; B.S. Augsburg College: Minneapolis, MN (majored in Computer Science and Philosophy); Tutor/Instructor, Keble
We Are Church

College: Oxford, England (Theology); Instructor, Washington International Studies Council; Vicar/Intern, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church: Seattle, WA

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Peace Lutheran Church (Holland, Michigan)

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Previous: Church Council (Trinity Lutheran Church: Midland, MI); Education Committee Chair (Trinity Lutheran Church: Midland, MI)

Synod: Current: Synod Council Member (N/WLMS); Coordinator: "Come and See": The Early Church’s Way of Forming Faith in People – Immersion Event on the Adult Catechumenate; Synod Worship Committee; Synod IT Task Force, including “Access Current State” Team Leader; First-Call Theological Education. Previous: Synod Council (N/WLMS Youth Representative)

Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: Foremost, a listening ear and an open heart. After years away from Michigan, I am most happy to return to service in parish ministry and my home synod. I have never attended a Churchwide Assembly, but bring international experience with various denominations which will bolster my active participation.

Position R: Churchwide Assembly Lay Female

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Diane Madej
Address: 3564 Hiawatha Dr. Norton Shores, MI 49441
Phone: 231-670-0328
Email: Diane.madej@frontier.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Accounting contract work
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Graduated 1965 from Ferndale High. One and a half years at Baker College with emphasis on Accounting Associates.
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Our Savior's Lutheran, Muskegon

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Council member, Stewardship Chair, Evangelism Committee member, assisting minister, Lay Communion from the Assembly Treasurer from 1999-2005. Facilitator for adult Human Sexuality classes, Worship & Arts committee, member of Muskegon Metro Ministries, representing Our Savior's with Samuel Lutheran, St. Luke's and Immanuel in Muskegon

Synod: Elected to Synod Council May 2014. I am in my first 6 year term serving on the Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee
Churchwide: Attended 2013 Churchwide Assembly

**Gifts and Skills:** I am so proud to call myself a member of the ELCA for all we believe and all we do as God's hands. The last churchwide assembly was so awe inspiring and so educational that I would love to experience it again. Jesus is the center of my life and I love to tell the story. It has been a blessing to be a part of the Church, locally, synodical and churchwide, as I am surrounded by Christ centered brothers and sisters who are incredible examples of living out our call. I would love to meet more of my brothers and sisters at the assembly.

Nominee 2
**Name:** Ms. Julia Nelson  
**Address:** P.O. Box 57, Cheboygan, MI 49721  
**Phone:** w: 231.627.3167 c: 231.268.0426  
**Email:** julia.e.p.nelson.dm@gmail.com

**Experience**

Occupation/Vocation: Diaconal Minister of Word and Service Ministries serving as Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries.

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: 2013 Master of Divinity, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN; 2014 Summer Program Director, Michi-Lu-Ca Conference Center and Camp, Fairview, MI

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cheboygan, MI

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

Congregation: 2010-2013 Group Life Leader, Jacob's Well, Minneapolis, MN; 2011-2012 Interim Youth and Family Life Coordinator, Hope Lutheran Church, Walker, MN

Synod: 2015 Synod Day Director ELCA Youth Gathering Proclaim Story Day 2015 Practice Discipleship Coach

Churchwide:

**Gifts and Skills:** As a recently consecrated Diaconal Minister I bring fresh views and energy for networking and speaking on behalf of not only the synod, but the larger community of Word and Service rostered leaders.

Nominee 3
**Name:** Ms. Kim Winchell  
**Address:** 10514 Webster Rd, Freeland, MI 48623  
**Phone:** 989-3260-1960  
**Email:** kwinchelldm@aol.com

**Experience**
Occupation/Vocation: Diaconal Minister since 2005; currently on leave from call (family leave).

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: M.A. in Pastoral Ministry (2004); Diaconal Minister for Earthkeeping Ministries (synodical call), 2005-2013. Spiritual Director; experience in leading workshops, retreats; preaching, pulpit supply; writer (articles for Lutheran Woman Today; ELCA’s “Awakening to God’s Call to Earthkeeping” study guide). Participant/facilitator in several churchwide consultations on earthkeeping, and a participant in the initial churchwide consultation on the Word & Service “lay rosters” (a matter coming before the 2016 CWA).

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Saginaw [member]

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Worship assistant; worship leader; lector; preaching; workshop and retreat leader (in various congregations of our synod).

Synod: Church & Society Committee, 1992 to (?) 2006; offered a regular “creation care” display table at synod assemblies, 1992-2013; Diaconal Minister for Earthkeeping Ministries, 2005-2013; helped plan/lead a Winter Leadership Event (2008, Gracious & Green); helped plan the 2010 synod assembly, Caring for Creation: Urgency and Hope.

Churchwide: Facilitator for an earthkeeping consultation (2008); founding member, Lutherans Restoring Creation; writer for ELCA Outdoor Ministries “Keeping the Earth” curriculum; writer for ELCA Environmental Education & Advocacy Office’s Lenten worship series “Creation Waits With Eager Longing;” participant in 2009 ELCA “study trip” to Nicaragua on “climate change, poverty, and hunger” (and co-author of a study guide based upon that trip); voting member at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Gifts and Skills: Broad experience in synodical /churchwide contexts; a passion for justice, peace, and wholeness for Earth and its peoples, and for helping the church respond to the needs of the world. I bring gifts of understanding, compassion, deep listening, and prayerful discernment.

Position S: Churchwide Assembly Person of Color/Primary Language other than English

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Christine Mwanyika
Address: 3651 Vineyard Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone: 616-901-9622
Email: Mwanyika41@yahoo.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: System Developer Analyst
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: M.Sc. in Computer Information Systems
We Are Church

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Church council member and Chair - Mission ministry
Synod: Synod council member
Churchwide: Voting member at Church wide Assembly in 2013. Attended minority meeting organized by Chicago office in 2005

Gifts and Skills: I am committed to working for the good of my synod and ELCA as a whole. Serving God and helping in fulfilling the mission and ministry of the church has always been my passion and I continue to pray to God for his direction and wisdom to serve and spread his word.

Position T: Churchwide Assembly Lay Male

Nominee 1
Name: Mr. Robert W. Hunt (Bob)
Address: 1995 Driftwood Drive, Holland, Michigan 49424
Phone: Phone 616-218-0201
Email: hunt@hope.edu

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Grounds Manager of Hope College in Holland, Michigan

Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Sexual Harassment and Policy Educators Committee, member and advocate, Hope College; Board of Directors for the Arboriculture Society of Michigan; Chair of the Michigan Tree Climbing Championship Committee; Holland in Bloom Committee

Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Peace Lutheran Church in Holland, Michigan

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Church Council at Peace Lutheran Church, including President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary over the years; High School Youth Teacher; Properties Representative at Peace Lutheran Church; Active in Choir, Assisting Minister, Lector, church maintenance and outdoor property care

Synod: Voting Member to Synod Assembly; LORMM Board Member, 2 terms

Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: After serving on church councils in two states, being president of my congregation twice, and involved in outdoor ministry since I stopped wetting the bed (the criteria to go to camp for a week), I aspire to promote outdoor ministries and environmental...
Nominee 2

**Name:** Mr. John Nelson  
**Address:** 1991 S. Graham Rd, Saginaw, MI 48609-9710  
**Phone:** Home - 989-781-0853, cell - 989-284-0222  
**Email:** Jnelson1481@aol.com

**Experience**

**Occupation/Vocation:** Vice President and General Auditor (retired) Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI; General Auditor (retired) General Motors Corp.; Comptroller- several GM Divisions; Acting General Manager – Harrison Division of General Motors; Campaign Chairperson - UW of Western New York

**Education/Pertinent Work Experience:** Kalamazoo College, BA; Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, PMD

**Congregation/Ministry and Location (City):** Ascension Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI 48609

**Past and Current Positions/Activities**

**Congregation:** Current- President. Past- Treasurer, Member of the Board of Trustees, member of Church Council

**Synod:** Current – Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM); Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Chairman of Finance Committee, Chairman of Audit Committee, Interim Chairman of Investment Committee, Interim Chairman of the LSSM Foundation Investment Committee. Past- Synod- Acting Treasurer, Audit Committee Chair, Member of the Compensation Committee; have attended Synod Assemblies as either a delegate or a Guest of LSSM

**Churchwide:** Delegate- Church Wide Assembly- LCA mid 70’s; Attended Lutheran Services of America Annual Conferences for past eight years

**Gifts and Skills:** In reviews during my work life I was described as “having excellent leadership, organizational and communication skills with ability to made decisions based on data furnished. In addition, once a group decision is made demonstrates full and active support of the decision and the implementation of that decision”.

**Position U: Churchwide Assembly Youth/Young Adult**

Nominee 1

**Name:** Mr. Connor Ashley
Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Full-time Student/Y.M.C.A Employee
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Current Social Science Student/Future Political Science Major
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): Saron Lutheran Church – St. Joseph

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation: Church Council (2013-2015)
Synod: Synod Council (2013-Present)
Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: In the past few years I have served on my own Congregational Council and Synod Council and believe that representing our Synod at the next Churchwide Assembly is another way for me to serve my church

Position V: Additional Churchwide Assembly Youth/Young Adult (contingent on filling the initial positions in these categories)

Nominee 1
Name: Ms. Krissy Beethem
Address: 5167 Riggsville Rd. Cheboygan, MI 49721
Phone: 231-818-9818
Email: kkbeethem@yahoo.com

Experience

Occupation/Vocation: Student
Education/Pertinent Work Experience: Graduating High School in Spring 2015
Congregation/Ministry and Location (City): St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Cheboygan

Past and Current Positions/Activities

Congregation:
Synod: Youth representative, N/W Lower Michigan Synod Council
Churchwide:

Gifts and Skills: I have already been in many leadership and service roles in my school and community, and re-election for this position would be an excellent place for me to continue using the skills I have learned from those positions.
We Are Church

Position W: Additional Churchwide Assembly Person of Color/Primary Language other than English (Lay Male Preferred) (contingent on filling the initial positions in these categories)

Treasurer’s Annual Report
For Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2015
Submitted by Daniel L Carter, Treasurer

With God’s help and encouragement, the Synod continues to be in good financial condition. Our recently completed audit indicates that we have again made progress in improving our financial stewardship. Our Auditor’s Letter of Comments was consistent with the prior year and we had no material deficiencies. For the year, we enhanced our financial position by approximately $455,000 with most of this coming from a Restricted Gift to the Synod. Our Unrestricted Fund increased by approximately $8,000.

Condensed Financial Profile – Unrestricted Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue &amp; Support</td>
<td>$1,625,201</td>
<td>$1,693,548</td>
<td>($68,347)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>$1,617,401</td>
<td>$1,585,955</td>
<td>($31,446)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$ 7,800</td>
<td>$ 107,593</td>
<td>($99,793)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We continue to share 50% of our congregations’ Mission Support with Churchwide to help support the ministries of our larger church. This proportionate share totaled approximately $684,000 up just slightly from the prior year. We closed the year with an increase in net assets and our Mission Support from our Member Churches increased by $4,000, but this was substantially under budget.

With the help of our auditors we have continued to improve our financial management, oversight, and reporting system. Please review the audited financial statements. Note 1 includes an excellent summary of all of the Synod’s Programs. Note 10 provides additional details on the various categories of net assets and the respective designations or restrictions. Note 12 indicates that 90% of our resources were used to fund Program Services. Please notice that the Note Receivable and Mortgage Liability related to the Bishop’s home in Lansing have been paid off and are no longer shown on the balance sheet.

For the 2014 year we invested in our people, new vehicles, and in our technology infrastructure. After several years of not doing this, it was necessary for us to make these investments to help insure our sustainability. We still need increased support from our Member Churches in order to meet our greater needs. For the 2015 and 2016 years we have adjusted our annual budgets to align our mission to the resources that we can reasonably expect to receive.
The Synod manages its operation in a very dynamic environment but it is committed to maintaining a balanced budget.

Respectfully, I submit the Synod’s annual audit report and related financial information for your review.
### North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Proposed Budget 2016-17
Fiscal Year End 31-Jan-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>For 2015 Synod Assembly Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YE 1/31/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014-15 Past Year Final Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Support</td>
<td>1,471,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Revenue</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELCA Pooled Trust Dividend</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees - Leadership Events</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees - Synod Assembly</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synodwide Revenue - Special Gifts</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Reserved Funds</td>
<td>51,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,666,585</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Congregation Income</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Unrestricted Contributions</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,666,585</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELCA Agencies and Organizations</th>
<th>2014-15 Past Year Final Budget</th>
<th>2014-15 Past Year Actual Spend</th>
<th>2015-16 Current Year Budget</th>
<th>2016-17 Next Year Recommended Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELCA Churchwide Support</td>
<td>735,683</td>
<td>684,447</td>
<td>680,551</td>
<td>690,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital University and Wittenberg University</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Water Ministries</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran Social Services of Michigan</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Lutheran Campus Ministry</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6 Support</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>9,365</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>9,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Lutheran Seminary</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal - ELCA Agencies and Organizations</strong></td>
<td><strong>894,183</strong></td>
<td><strong>841,812</strong></td>
<td><strong>803,051</strong></td>
<td><strong>817,431</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>2014-15 Past Year Final Budget</th>
<th>2014-15 Past Year Actual Spend</th>
<th>2015-16 Current Year Budget</th>
<th>2016-17 Next Year Recommended Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian Education Committee</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church in Society Committee</td>
<td>26,400</td>
<td>20,940</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Committee</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Support Committee</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>7,162</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Mission Committee</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>4,701</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry Committee</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>37,931</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Committee</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>17,931</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach Committee</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>40,216</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witness/Evangelism Team</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,638</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Committee</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Committee</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,216</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal - Committees</strong></td>
<td><strong>172,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>133,441</strong></td>
<td><strong>133,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>136,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For 2015 Synod Assembly Action:
- A - 50.00% allocated to ELCA Churchwide
- B - used to offset Committee expenses
- C - expenses tracked in Ministry Committee
- D - includes general synodwide event income
- E - equal to 50.0% of mission support
- F - decrease aligned to a new bequest (restricted fund)
- G - incl. Synod Technology Task Force and synod communications
- H - incl. Stewardship Planning Group
- I - incl. Global Mission Partner support; Honduras Fund available
- J - incl. Candidacy; First Call; Interim Ministry; Lay Ministry; SAM; Leadership events; Response Team
- K - incl. Anti-Racism Team; 2014-15 spending offset by income cited in row 5; restricted funds available
- L - decrease due to new bequest (restricted fund)
## Synod Ministries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2014-15 Past Year</th>
<th>2014-15 Actual Spend</th>
<th>2015-16 Revised Budget</th>
<th>2016-17 Recommended Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Ministry Support</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Assembly</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>53,568</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Council</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>3,448</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal - Synod Ministries</td>
<td>79,000</td>
<td>57,016</td>
<td>74,000</td>
<td>74,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* m - incl. materials; technology; meals; lodging; speakers
* n - incl. synod council meetings, training, and retreats; other synod-wide events
* o - incl. Synod Called Staff (Bishop and Assistant); 2% increase planned
* p - incl. Synod Office staff; 3% increase planned
* q - incl. Lay Ministry Admin.; Driver for the Bishop; Living Fire Ministries Facilitator; Synod Communicator; 3% increase planned
* r - incl. Social Security offset for DEM
* s - incl. Computers; Printer; Server
* t - incl. Synod Office rent for Synod Office
* u - incl. Synod Attorney; Synod Auditors
* v - incl. Synod vehicles; office equipment and furnishings
* w - incl. synod vehicles; office equipment and furnishings

## Staff Salaries and Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Housing Allowances - Called Staff</td>
<td>142,200</td>
<td>133,700</td>
<td>137,711</td>
<td>142,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries - Administrative Support Staff</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>77,928</td>
<td>82,400</td>
<td>86,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries - Deployed Staff</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>47,748</td>
<td>66,710</td>
<td>68,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Allowance</td>
<td>16,693</td>
<td>16,319</td>
<td>16,048</td>
<td>16,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes (FICA)</td>
<td>10,710</td>
<td>9,361</td>
<td>11,407</td>
<td>11,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance, Disability, Pension</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>77,661</td>
<td>87,075</td>
<td>89,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Insurance</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,508</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal - Staff Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>381,603</td>
<td>367,740</td>
<td>409,351</td>
<td>424,661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop’s Discretionary Fund</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>2,345</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Equipment Purchases</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>9,014</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Lease (office space)</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>16,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Equipment - Maintenance</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>6,362</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>8,724</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>22,800</td>
<td>15,729</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipends</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>10,909</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Costs &amp; Moving Expenses</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>7,786</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel - Staff (professional rate)</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>34,144</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website/Network Maintenance</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,179</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal Administration</td>
<td>117,600</td>
<td>115,957</td>
<td>118,800</td>
<td>118,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total All Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total All Expenses</td>
<td>1,656,586</td>
<td>1,527,328</td>
<td>1,550,202</td>
<td>1,582,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income/Loss</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>28,960</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Purchases</td>
<td>(22,000)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(22,000)</td>
<td>(17,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add Back Depreciation - Non Cash Exp.</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Net Income/Loss</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28,960</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further Information on Synod Staffing
(status as of April 2015)

**Called Staff Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational and Leadership Excellence</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop</td>
<td>Full-time *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Annual Called Staff Salaries (including Housing Allowances)**

$223,902

*(includes compensation covered by ELCA Churchwide Organization)*

**Administrative Support Staff Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Status **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Assistant to the Bishop for Administration</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant (24 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Administrator (24 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Annual Administrative Support Staff Salaries**

$86,393

**Deployed Staff Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Status **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lay Ministry Training Program Coordinator (12 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Fire Ministry Facilitator (20 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver for the Bishop (24 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Communicator (15 hrs/wk)</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Annual Deployed Staff Salaries**

$60,385

* Compensation for the DEM is aligned to (covered by) the ELCA Churchwide Organization

** Weekly hours for part-time positions are estimated average values on an annual basis