



North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

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Saying Hello

About a year ago, I made the decision to begin semi-retirement when I concluded my ministry as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Lake City. At that time, I decided to continue as the contract pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manton. I also continued in my role as the Dean of the Traverse Conference and as chair of the Synod Response Team, a member of the Multi-Synodical Candidacy Committee, and co-leader with Pastor David Sprang for Synod Boundary Training. Prayerful discernment led me to these decisions.

As is often the case in our lives of faith, the Lord had another idea! When Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper resigned her call as Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational and Leadership Excellence effective July 31, Bishop Satterlee asked me if I would be willing to accept a call to be Assistant to the Bishop on an interim basis from July 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. This interim call would allow for, hopefully, a smooth transition with Pastor Sarah's portfolio and give ample opportunity to evaluate staffing needs and enter into an unhurried call process as needed. More prayerful discernment led me to accept the call. (It is always amazing how the Holy Spirit leads us as varying times in our lives!)

Over this next year, I will be serving approximately 35 hours a week in this call as Assistant to Bishop Satterlee. My portfolio will include Call Process, First Call Theological Education and pastoral presence in the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Conferences. I will also be synod staff liaison with the Youth Ministry Table, the Racial Justice Task Force, Living Fire Ministries and the Publicly Engaged Church Table and task forces. I will be working from the Grand Rapids Desk at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. We extend a grateful thank you to Pastor David Blank and the Congregation of St. Luke's for so graciously providing office space at St. Luke's.

A bit of personal history for those who might be wondering include the fact that I served in full-time ministry in the Roman Catholic Church for twenty years as Liturgist and Director of Music, Pastoral Associate and Pastoral Administrator. Over the past twenty-four years, I served St. Luke's Lutheran Church in New York City, Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Taylor, King of Kings Lutheran Church in Lake Orion, St. John Lutheran Church in Lake City and currently Trinity Lutheran Church in Manton.

We are in the midst of our five week "series" of Gospel lessons from Chapter 6 of John's Gospel where we reflect upon Jesus as the Bread of Life who nourishes and sustains us. Tucked in each of these five Sundays is the Epistle lesson from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians. In this letter, we, who are the church, are encouraged to understand both our unity and our diversity. Our unity comes in knowing that there is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God of all. Our diversity is expressed in our various forms of ministry.

I am blessed to be called to journey together with all of you as we live out our call to be church in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA. May we continue to grow in greater unity as we share the gifts for ministry that God has given us. May we also remember that we are fed and nourished on this journey by Jesus who is our Bread of Life.

Blessings and Peace,
The Rev. Rosanne M. Anderson
Assistant to the Bishop

Synod Finances

as of July 31, 2018

July Revenue and Support		Year to Date Revenue and Support	
Mission Support	\$ 103,547	Mission Support	\$ 661,267
Other	\$ 7,025	Other	\$ 829,411
Total	\$ 110,572	Total	\$ 750,678
July Expenses		Year to Date Expenses	
Support to ELCA	\$ 51,715	Support to ELCA	\$ 330,634
Other	\$ 71,529	Other	\$ 500,095
Total	\$ 123,244	Total	\$ 830,729
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0	Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (12,672)	Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (80,051)

Fall ELMM Retreats

Hebrews, James, and 1 Peter with Dr. Walter Taylor
September 28-29, 2018

As the Christian church continued to grow, it found itself in new witness settings that raised new questions. What does it mean to be faithful witnesses when enthusiasm is lagging, people are in need, or Christians are being rejected by their society? Hebrews, James, and 1 Peter provide models of how Christians are able to witness in such situations.

Daniel, Apocalyptic, and the Early Jewish Period; Revelation with Dr. Walter Taylor
October 26-27, 2018

Daniel was written in a difficult time in which the Jewish people were confronted with religious, political, and cultural annihilation. To understand Daniel, we need to quickly survey the history leading up to the writing of this book. Revelation has been frequently misused. It has been divorced from its historical setting and understood as a book of secret codes that program how God will act at the end of time. Revelation does tell us how the story will end: It will end with the defeat of all evil and with God united with God's people.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2mdx35n>

Register Now for Fall Events!

For the Living of These Days
September 15; October 27

The Publicly Engaged Church Table is sponsoring two events discussing the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Moderated by Pastor Erick Johnson, the event will consist of a presentation, a viewing of the video "Bonhoeffer" by Martin Doblmeier, and a Q&A session. Lunch will be provided. Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2Msrzix>

Refuge Lansing
September 9-12, 2018

Refuge Lansing: Stories of Resettlement in Mid-Michigan will be hosted by St. Stephen in Lansing. This traveling exhibit celebrates decades of refugee resettlement in Mid-Michigan. Join us Wednesday, September 12 for Synod Eucharist, lunch, and the viewing of the display and presentation. Contact the Synod Office to RSVP. Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2OOGlii>.

Autumn Leadership Event
October 15-17, 2018

Hosted by the Southeast Michigan Synod, this year's event is focused on wholeness and well-being and will feature Deacon Tammy Devine from Portico Benefit Services. Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2OlmjxK>

Discernment Retreat
October 26-27, 2018

Are you curious where the Holy Spirit might be leading you? Are you sensing a call to serve the church in a new way? Are you wondering about becoming a deacon or pastor in the ELCA? Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2KU7ULC>

Synod Eucharist

From July to September, the Synod Office Eucharist will move between the Synod Office in Lansing and the Samaritas Senior Living Center in Acme.

Worship will continue to take place at 11:30am on Wednesdays. We invite you to join us!

View the schedule for each week's location: <https://bit.ly/2KOkBHM>

For information on these events and more, be sure to read our weekly update emails and visit the events section on our website.

Congregations in Transition

Note: We include congregations on the public list when the called pastor or rostered leader completes her or his ministry in the congregation. Thus, congregations in which the pastor has resigned but is still serving are not listed here. We also do not post calls that are accepted until Bishop Satterlee signs the Letter of Call.

Bay Conference	Rev. Emily Olsen, Dean
Hope/Marlette (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Awaiting a candidate
Prince of Peace/Rose City	Jeff Bonn, Intentional Interim
Grace/Vassar (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Awaiting a candidate
St. Paul's/Au Gres	Supply Pastors/Exploring Cooperative Ministry with Grace/East Tawas
St. Timothy/Midland (part-time)	Gerald Ferguson, administrative pastor/ Entering cooperative ministry with Trinity/Midland
Trinity/Midland (part-time)	CALL ACCEPTED: Megan Crouch (MN), Installation 10/20, 5pm

Capital Area Conference	Rev. Gary Bunge, Dean
St. Stephen/Lansing	Erick Johnson, Interim/ Awaiting Candidates
Grace/Lansing	John Schleicher, Interim

Greater Grand Rapids Conference	Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas, Dean
Peace/Holland	Paul Kehnle, stated supply/ Interim arrangements in process
Mamrelund/Kent City	CALL ACCEPTED: Michael Conklin, Installation 9/23
Christ/Wyoming	CALL ACCEPTED: Justin Walker, Installation 11/4

Kalamazoo Conference	Rev. Kjersten Priddy, Dean
Messiah/Constantine	Tom Pederson, Interim/CALL ACCEPTED: Christopher Laughlin
Savior/Kalamazoo	Paul Neuchterlein, Interim
St. Paul/Three Rivers	Marleen Kinker resigning 9/2

Stony Lake Conference	Rev. Doug Ogden, Dean
Samuel/Muskegon	Chris Anderson, Interim/ Preparing MSP

Sunrise Conference	Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean
Peace/Gaylord	Gary Greiger, part-time interim/Preparing MSP
St. Paul/Alpena	Supply pastors/Preparing MSP

Traverse Conference	Rev. Rosanne Anderson, Dean
St. Paul's/Reed City	Matt Deames, Interim starting 8/15
Augustana/Tustin	Supply Pastors/Awaiting a candidate