



North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

517-321-5066

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Farewell

From the letter to the Ephesians in the first chapter: I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

I borrow words from Scripture because they express better than I think I may be able to how I leave the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. I do give thanks for you and I do remember you in my prayers. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve God's people in this synod. I am thankful for the relationships formed and grown. I am thankful for the learning and growing I have done. And I pray for you all, that you grow in love toward God and one another. That you are graceful toward one another and God's world. That you may be beacons of light and hope in a sometimes scary and anxious world.

People often ask what has been my favorite part of my work in the Mitten. My answer usually changes each time I'm asked because I have so enjoyed many parts. But when I'm pressed there are a few highlights. First, I would list working with our first call rostered ministers. The pastors and deacons who have joined this synod in the last 5 years (and in the years previous) are some of the best of the best. They are faithful, creative, earnest, funny, hardworking, and they love Jesus and his church. It has been a pleasure to work with them through call process and questions, as well as in retreat and learning settings.

Second, I would list call process. As Bishop Satterlee shared at Synod Assembly, more than 70 congregations have been through a completed call process in the last (almost) 5 years. Now, I do not take credit for all of those. But it is a joy to walk with congregations through the grief of losing a pastor, the anxiety of the unknown, to the joy of welcoming the new pastor. Installation services are particularly joy-filled!

Finally, I would name the Spiritual Leadership Retreat I planned over my sabbatical and then led with congregation councils in the last year. As the congregation's elected leadership, we tend to be pretty good at spending time on the business of our congregation. But we often forget to spend time asking for God's guidance, listening for the Holy Spirit's direction, or even just remembering why we do what we do: Jesus calls us to be his hands and feet, eyes and ears in the world. Seeing councils get excited for the spiritual side of their work and walking with leaders as they seek to be more spiritual in their leadership is truly a delight for me.

So thank you, North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Thank you for trusting me and growing with me. Thank you for calling me and sending me. My family and I will also carry a special place in our hearts for you.

The Rev. Sarah Friesen-Carper



This Changes Everything
ELCA National Youth Gathering
 June 27-July 1, 2018

Over the course of five days in Houston, TX, 30,000 Lutheran Youth from all over the United States gathered together for worship, learning, service, and fun.

Throughout the Gathering, groups spent time learning about different ministries of the ELCA, worshipping with their Synod, hearing from guest speakers, and completing service projects around Houston such as cleaning gravestones, planting flowers in parks, and working with children in local schools.

GIFTS AT THE GATHERING...

437 hair donations
 to Children with Hair Loss



1,248 units of blood
 donated from 987 donors

40,000 books
 donated at Blast Off for Books



200 grace bags
 and 100 kindness project rocks
 made by tAble participants

700 individuals attended
 MYLE and visited 13 service sites.



\$260,000 + raised for
 ELCA's Global Farm Challenge

Thanks to **31,242**
 registered Gathering participants!

#ELCAYG2018

Synod Finances

as of June 30, 2018

June Revenue and Support

Mission Support	\$ 105,699
Other	\$ 1,758
Total	\$ 107,457

Year to Date Revenue and Support

Mission Support	\$ 557,838
Other	\$ 82,504
Total	\$ 640,342

June Expenses

Support to ELCA	\$ 52,850
Other	\$ 67,153
Total	\$ 120,003

Year to Date Expenses

Support to ELCA	\$ 278,919
Other	\$ 428,565
Total	\$ 707,484

Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0
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Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0
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Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (12,546)
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Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (67,142)
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Save the Date for Fall Events!

Autumn Leadership Event
October 15-17, 2018

Rostered ministers are invited to save the date for the 2018 Autumn Leadership Event hosted by the Southeast Michigan Synod.

LARC Retreat
October 23-25, 2018

This year's retreat is titled "Memory & Hope: Ecumenical Dialogue Past to Future" and will be held at the Augustine Center of the Sacramenting Monastery in Conway, MI.

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

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>

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. Also in the session: Renewal and Vitality in our Congregations and Lay Evangelism Training with Rev. David E. Sprang.

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>

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)	Associate Pastor/CALL ACCEPTED: Megan Crouch (MN)

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	Justin Walker called to Christ/Wyoming
Mamrelund/Kent City	Matt Deames, Interim/CALL ACCEPTED: Michael Conklin
Christ/Wyoming	Polly Standley, Interim/CALL ACCEPTED: Justin Walker

Kalamazoo Conference	Rev. Kjersten Priddy, Dean
Messiah/Constantine	Tom Pederson, Interim/ Congregational Meeting 7/22
Savior/Kalamazoo	Andrew Tengwell called to Minnesota/Awaiting Interim

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

Sunrise Conference	Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean
Peace/Gaylord	Thomas Mammoser retiring 8/1
St. Paul/Alpena	Shirley Ross Jones retiring 9/1

Traverse Conference	Rev. Rosanne Anderson, Dean
St. Paul's/Reed City	Matt Deames, Interim starting August 2018/ Preparing MSP
Augustana/Tustin	Supply Pastors/Awaiting a candidate