



## North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

2900 N. Waverly Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48906

517-321-5066

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## Bishop Election

In all honesty, I'm glad the bishop election is over. Chairing the assembly while being available to be called as bishop turned out to be more than I imagined. I am therefore grateful to have had three weeks to slow down, catch my breath, and recharge; I'm thankful to have one more week with a friend that hopefully includes sailing on Lake Superior— please pray for good weather. I am grateful for the many people who worked hard to make the assembly happen, and for the many voting members who shared with me they experienced the Holy Spirit at work in everything we did. I am thrilled that Christ through our synod assembly called me to serve another six-year term as your bishop. I wholeheartedly agree with those who shared with me their amazement that God has so richly blessed our synod with an abundance of leaders; I am therefore even more humbled and honored to receive and accept your call. I am excited to have another six years in which together we might prayerfully participate in Christ's own work of reconciling the world to God's very self. Mostly, I'm eager to get back to work with the wind of the Holy Spirit at our back— full speed ahead.

The Living Stones initiatives will provide the shape and direction of our ministry going forward. I hope you were as impressed as I was with what those who described each initiative at the assembly had to say about them. In case you were unable to attend the assembly, I will summarize the Living Stones initiatives here.

(1) Reviving Congregations—18 congregations participating in REVIVE, a 2 year vitality program of workshops and retreats on worship, evangelism, stewardship, leadership development, community engagement, and cross-cultural conversation, developed specifically for our synod. The program launches in the fall.

(2) Raising Up Lay Leaders—75 congregational leaders will complete a retooled Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry (ELMM) program in four tracks: (1) Lutheran Bible study leader, (2) stewardship specialist, (3) community evangelist/catalyst, and (4) assisting minister. We are currently developing curriculum for these tracks.

(3) Raising Up Rostered Ministers—20 candidates for rostered ministry—pastors and deacons—from our synod are identified, accompanied, and supported. The last time I checked, 15 people are currently in the candidacy process.

(4) Addressing Educational Debt—Rostered ministers are relieved of some measure of theological education indebtedness as our Synod awards \$2000 grants, paid directly to their lending institutions. We awarded our first three grants at the assembly.

(5) Equipping the Saints—We offer quality continuing education. We want to maintain and expand our educational offerings for both rostered and congregational leaders.

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(6) Expanding Ministry with Youth, especially youth in smaller congregations, by providing an additional level of youth ministry, to build on the excellent events provided by Living Water Ministries.

(7) Coaching and Equipping Congregations to Expand their Welcome to all people. Hospitality, antiracism training, and Open Hearts, Open Church are all ways congregations can choose to refine and expand their welcome.

(8) Introducing People to Jesus—Our Synod remains vigilant to opportunities for synodically authorized worshiping communities. This is completely about helping people to know God's love for them in Jesus Christ.

9) Experiencing the love of Jesus in Latino and Native American communities on the territory of our Synod through listening to and learning from them. We long for and pray for opportunities to listen to and learn from people who live in our state but are not part of our congregations. Our goal is to behold the face of God in new ways.

(10) Accompanying and Assisting Struggling Congregations to realistically assess their sustainability and discern their future. Where desirable, help congregations to partner with neighboring congregations, both ELCA and full communion partners.

(11) Inviting Living Stones Givers—100 people (or combinations of people) make a three-year commitment of an annual designated "Living Stone" gift of \$500 to our synod for the Living Stones ministry initiatives. I am so very grateful to those who made this commitment at assembly.

I am mindful that I've laid out an ambitious to-do list. This summer, I'm hopeful for plenty of time at the cabin as it is there that God speaks most clearly to me, so that I can plan how to best accomplish this list. I welcome your thoughts and ideas, and mostly ask for your prayers.

As I anticipate beginning a second term as bishop on September 1, I recall what I said you could expect of me when I began six years ago. I will work hard and be available to you. I will listen to you and make an extraordinary effort to be present throughout the synod. I will tell you what I think, especially when that is what you ask of me. I take these words of Jesus seriously: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32).

And so, we begin again! I hope you are as excited as I am.

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

## Keep Things Going in the Summer

Everyone needs some rest and recreation in the summer. It is also a great time to keep the momentum of church going. Here are some fun and creative suggestions for the summer:

- Take church out of the building. Worship in the park, city amphitheater, or even on the church lawn. Be visible and invite the community.
- Make a special emphasis for prayer each week through the summer. Pray for mission trips, bible camp, churchwide assembly (August 4-10), VBS, Day Camps, the pastor's vacation, synod assemblies, and our companion trip to Papua New Guinea Aug. 27 – Sept 12.
- Tell the stories. Tell how the church is alive and active in the summer. Have the youth that go to Stony Lake Camp or on mission trips tell of their experience and how it affected their faith. Tell the stories of helping others.
- Hold events to invite the community. Block parties, kid's days, family days, or ice cream social. Use them as opportunities to build relationships with neighbors.
- Participate in community events. Every town has summer events. How can the church be visible and let people know about the church and its mission? Try a float or a booth. Be at the fair.
- Vacation Bible Schools, Day Camps, and more. Think about ways that the churches in your community can work together to make an impact on your community.
- No kids? Sponsor a local child to go to Living Water Ministries – Stony Lake Camp. Sponsor a local youth to go to Bridge Builders leadership week at Living Water Ministries.
- Make summer a time to experiment. Theme Sundays. Try a mid-week evening worship. Have faith stories as a part of worship. Do mission themes in worship. Try a special bible study. Hold bible study at new locations.
- Stay active with church PR on Social Media. Show people that the church can be fun and serve God in the summer.

Keep things going in the summer. Not everyone can participate in every event. And don't forget to make plans now for the fall so people can put significant events on their calendar.

The Rev. David E. Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission

### Synod Finances as of May 31, 2019

May Revenue and Support		Year to Date Revenue and Support	
Mission Support	\$ 114,039	Mission Support	\$ 469,734
Other	\$ 59,231	Other	\$ 93,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 173,270</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 563,108</b>
May Expenses		Year to Date Expenses	
Support to ELCA	\$ 57,019	Support to ELCA	\$ 234,867
Other	\$ 106,756	Other	\$ 331,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 163,775</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 566,454</b>
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0	Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 0
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ 9,495	Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (3,3346)

### "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 8, 2019. This day 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.

Access resources for planning, promotion, and more:  
<https://bit.ly/2IaW8tp>

### Addiction and Faith Conference September 20-22, 2019 Bloomington, MN

The second annual Addiction and Faith Conference will be held September 20-22 in Bloomington, MN. The conference is open to anyone interested in exploring the devastation of addiction and the remarkable role of faith in the healing process.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2KER4z8>

### Fall Theological Conference

October 6-8, 2019  
Mackinac Island

Rostered ministers and their spouses are invited to join colleagues from the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Southeast Michigan Synod for the Fall Theological Conference on Mackinac Island. Centered on the theme "Engaging Deitrich Bonhoeffer: Discipleship, Life Together, and His Theology of the Cross", the keynote speaker will be Rev. Matthew L. Becker, Ph.D., Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University.

This event will be held Sunday-Thursday, October 6-8, 2019 at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island.

Registration costs have been subsidized by "You Matter" funds, in lieu of a scheduled event this summer. All registrations must be mailed to the Northern Great Lakes Synod by August 31, 2019.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2Z7ae5B>

### LARC Retreat: Going Out Yet Not Knowing

October, 22-24, 2019  
Conway, MI

We live in the paradox of a culture that is more connected than ever before and yet more disconnected. The planners of the LARC retreat discern the Spirit is disrupting our ways of working to challenge and invite us to claim new opportunities. We seek a better understanding of the "Nones", "Dones", and "Spiritual but not Religious" who are nonetheless hungry for authentic spirituality.

Learn More: <https://bit.ly/2E9akAF>

### ELCA Global Teach

In partnership with various programs and companion churches around the world, the ELCA provides international opportunities for those interested in international service through teaching.

While teaching, volunteers grow in relationship with their host communities, immerse themselves in a new culture and way of life, and are transformed by their students, colleagues, and the experience of international service. Though helpful, an education degree is not a requirement for most Global Teach placements.

Positions are currently available in the Central Europe program.

Learn More:  
<https://bit.ly/2Ic8eCv>

## 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.

<b>Bay Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Emily Olsen, Dean</b>	<b>Kalamazoo Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Kjersten Priddy, Dean</b>
Prince of Peace/Rose City	Jeff Bonn, Intentional Interim/Interviewing	<b>Stony Lake Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Dean</b>
Faith/Saginaw	Supply Pastors/Revising MSP	<b>Sunrise Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean</b>
St. Peter/Unionville (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Interviewing	Peace/Gaylord	Gary Grieger, Interim/Interviewing
<b>Capital Area Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Gary Bunge, Dean</b>	<b>Traverse Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Scott Torkko, Dean</b>
St. Stephen/Lansing (part-time)	Erick Johnson, Interim/Interviewing		
Calvary/Lansing (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Discerning Future		
Immanuel/Jackson	Cheryl Johnson, Stated Supply/Interviewing		
<b>Greater Grand Rapids Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas, Dean</b>		
Peace/Holland	Clay Bates, Contracted through December/Revising MSP		
Immanuel/Big Rapids (part-time)	Dennis Smith, contracted through August/Discerning Future		