

# Bishop's Newsletter

September 2019



## North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

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## Beginning Again

I am humbled and honored to begin a second term as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and to serve as one of 66 bishops in the ELCA. As I did six years ago, I spent time this summer in prayer and reflection on how to most faithfully serve in this call. This time around, I had the benefit of experience, guided self-evaluation, and the perspectives of those who scheduled time with me to share their appraisal of my personality and ministry as bishop. Now it's time to move forward.

After much prayer and discernment, and in accordance with our Employee Handbook, I provided the Executive Committee my recommendations for a staffing plan that I believe best addresses the Synod's mission landscape—Living Stones, fewer call processes, changing expectations for routine Sunday visits in congregations by the bishop and assistants, and financial realities. This plan includes the Bishop, Director for Evangelical Mission, an Assistant to the Bishop, and assigning greater responsibility to the administrative staff. A synopsis of this model is posted on the Synod webpage (<https://bit.ly/2lJ3wn6>). The Executive Committee supports this plan.

Within days of our assembly and in keeping with churchwide procedures, the Domestic Mission Unit of our churchwide organization—the ELCA in Chicago—reached out to me to ascertain whether I desire Pastor David Sprang to continue as Director for Evangelical Mission, a churchwide position based in and serving our synod; I am pleased that Pastor Sprang will continue in this essential role.

The single Assistant to the Bishop will work closely and collaboratively with me in every area of synod ministry, in the same way that Pastor David Sprang and I work closely and collaboratively in the work assigned to the DEM. I am grateful that Pastor Rosanne Anderson has accepted the call to serve in this redefined position.

It is with thankful hearts that we bid farewell to Pastor Chrysanne Timm, who ended her call as Assistant to the Bishop for Synod Life on August 31. I am grateful for the gifts Dr. Timm brought to this synod and the ways we are stronger because of her service. Pastor Timm is currently in a call process. Please join me in praying for Chrysanne and God's people as they prayerfully discern whether the Holy Spirit is calling them to ministry together in service to the church and world.

Office Manager, Ann Stavros, and Executive Assistant, Renee Dixon, are working in tandem to carry out increased administrative responsibilities. The Lansing office is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 AM-3 PM. Director of Communications, Chelsey Satterlee, is undertaking a renewed communication strategy and helping me to develop the "public voice" many in our synod have requested and been waiting for. As Director of Finances, Rebecca Bossenbroek is taking the lead in developing financial policies we've determined will be helpful, as well as keeping the books. Cathy Satterlee continues to drive me, provide onsite support, manage my travel, and lend a hand whenever needed.

Convinced that Michigan is a place where God acts in new ways to fulfill long-standing promises, because so many within and outside the church need a concrete experience of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ, I ask our God to grant the staff and me grace so that everything we do somehow contributes to the proclamation of the gospel and empowers our congregations and leaders to prayerfully participate in Christ's own work of reconciling the world to God's very self. And so, even as I pray for myself and our staff, I am praying for you.

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

### "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday Sunday, September 8, 2019

#### St. John Lutheran Church Saginaw

St. John Lutheran Church hosted an outdoor food giveaway. Saginaw Metro Ministries provided the leadership for the food that was obtained from the Eastern Michigan Food Bank outreach. Students from Hemlock Middle School, members of ELCA churches, and the community staffed the giveaway, which served 100 households.



#### Lutheran Church of the Savior Kalamazoo

Lutheran Church of the Savior sponsored and served a meal at Ministry with Community, a day shelter for homeless persons and persons in transition periods. Many of their confirmation youth participated and they are now looking make it a regular mission of their congregation.



#### Hope Lutheran Church Plainwell



Hope Lutheran provided teacher care packages for new teachers in the Plainwell and Otsego school districts. They packed 40 reusable bags full of Kleenex, pencils, pens, glue, notebooks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, Ziploc bags, hand sanitizer, and bandaids.

The care packages will be delivered this week. All supplies were donated from congregations and a grant from Thrivent Financial.



Thank you to the congregations who submitted photos and descriptions of their work!

#### Christ the King Lutheran Church Gladwin

Members of Christ the King participated in multiple service projects around Gladwin.



### Synod Finances as of August 31, 2019

	Current Year		Prior Year	
	August	Year to Date	August	Year to Date
<b>Revenue</b>				
Mission Support	115,161	799,823	125,299	786,566
Other	7,718	110,514	823	91,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,879</b>	<b>910,337</b>	<b>126,122</b>	<b>877,625</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Churchwide Proportionate Share	57,581	399,912	62,649	393,283
Other	64,361	532,297	62,983	559,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,942</b>	<b>932,209</b>	<b>125,632</b>	<b>952,838</b>
<b>Net Assets Released from Restriction</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,156</b>
<b>Net Change to Fund Balance</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>(21,872)</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>(74,057)</b>

### Updated Model Constitution for Congregations

The newly amended Model Constitution for Congregations is now available! It is recommended that congregations review the adopted amendments for their constitution as soon as possible after each Churchwide Assembly to incorporate the required changes and to consider the recommended changes.

As a reminder, these amendments can be adopted at one meeting with a majority vote of those present and voting if they are in conformity with the model.

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

### Hurricane Dorian

Hurricane Dorian has hit with devastating force, causing major damage and a growing number of reported deaths in the Bahamas, and inundating the Carolinas with flooding and storm surge. Lutheran Disaster Response is keeping in touch with partners throughout these areas and will accompany impacted communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. Learn how you can help: <https://bit.ly/2CaDijB>

### ELCA World Hunger Resources

The new ELCA World Hunger resource packet will be arriving at all congregations soon! The packet is filled with resources to enrich the life of your congregation this Advent. If you would like additional copies of these resources, they are available to order or download on the ELCA website: [ELCA.org/Hunger](http://ELCA.org/Hunger)

### Upcoming Fall Events

September 20-22	Addiction and Faith Conference	Bloomington, MN	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2KER4z8">https://bit.ly/2KER4z8</a>
September 27-28	North/West Lower Michigan WELCA Retreat	Cadillac, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2kwjLDR">https://bit.ly/2kwjLDR</a>
October 6-8	Fall Theological Conference	Mackinac Island, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2Z7ae5B">https://bit.ly/2Z7ae5B</a>
October 11-12	Region 6 Discernment Retreat	Dundee, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZWc896">https://bit.ly/2ZWc896</a>
October 18-20	A Weekend with Emmy Kegler	Grand Rapids, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2lOYSUm">https://bit.ly/2lOYSUm</a>
October 22-24	LARC Retreat	Conway, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2E9akAF">https://bit.ly/2E9akAF</a>
October 26	Leading the Church's Song: A Day of Learning	Portage, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2kHBjMP">https://bit.ly/2kHBjMP</a>
October 29	Synod Boundaries Workshop	Muskegon, MI	Learn More: <a href="https://bit.ly/2XVmFDA">https://bit.ly/2XVmFDA</a>

## 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/Congregational Vote 9/15	<b>Stony Lake Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Dean</b>
Faith/Saginaw (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Interviewing	<b>Sunrise Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean</b>
St. Peter/Unionville (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Call Extended	Peace/Gaylord	Supply Pastors/CALL ACCEPTED: David Keller
<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/CALL ACCEPTED: Alex Aivers (LSTC) Installation 9/29	Bethany/Northport	Congregational Vote 9/22
Calvary/Lansing (part-time)	Supply Pastors/Interviewing		
Immanuel/Jackson	Cheryl Johnson, Stated Supply/CALL ACCEPTED: Rev. Kate Schroeder (PA) Installation 11/3		
St. Paul/East Lansing	Supply Pastors/Preparing MSP		
Grace/Lansing	John Schleicher, Contract Pastor/Preparing MSP/ Exploring Mission Partnership		
Peace/Charlotte	David Keller's last Sunday 9/29		
<b>Greater Grand Rapids Conference</b>	<b>Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas, Dean</b>		
Peace/Holland	Clay Bates, Contracted through December/ Interviewing		
Immanuel/Big Rapids (part-time)	Jack Ferra, Contracted beginning of October		