

MISSION MATTERS

Central/Southern Illinois Synod
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Reflections on 2017 ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering

The ELCA held its first ever Rostered Leaders Gathering in Atlanta, GA, August 7-10. The Rev. Paul Waterman, pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Carbondale shares his reflections.

In some ways, this gathering was like a church building; sacred space for people of God to gather, worship, sing, pray and praise God! We gathered for worship at the beginning and end of the gathering. The Rev. Thulie Beresford preached at the opening service and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached at the closing service. Each day began with morning prayer and a Bible study led by a seminary professor. On Tuesday evening, a hymn sing raised money for the Fund for Leaders.

In other ways, this gathering was more like a community center. On one level, there was an interactive center, a vendor's fair, and exhibitors. On another level, there was singing, dancing, and eating, where we had a banquet meal, recognition of attendees, and live music. And on multiple levels, there were affinity group meetings and breakout sessions; space and time designated for rostered ministers to connect and learn about a particular ministry. There were more than 50 breakout sessions, which provided a broad scope of topics and ministry opportunities.

Yet, in other ways, this gathering was more like a spa; time and energy devoted to being refreshed and renewed. The networking and sharing of ministry stories provided a therapeutic element, building bonds within the rostered ministers' networks. There were coffee breaks and healthy snacks to maintain energy throughout the 4-day event. Completing the spa theme, was the opportunity to receive free neck and shoulder massages in the interactive center.

As I reflected on the gathering during the drive home, I recognized the interdependence that rostered ministers have on one another. Strengthening bonds among our partners in ministry is good for the mind, body, and soul. Each person I met at the gathering brought their own particular gifts and skills—each was unique.

—The Rev. Paul Waterman

In their own words...



"As I watched my dad train firefighters, I knew that I wanted to save lives like my dad; however, during high school, I also felt the Holy Spirit begin to call me to ministry, as I noticed many young people who didn't have trusted adults to whom they could talk about their daily struggles.

After receiving a degree from Greenville College, Greenville, IL in Youth Ministries, I took a position at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Rockford, IL, and the pastor encouraged me to become commissioned as an ELCA Associate in Ministry. Eventually I was called to my present position at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL., where I serve on the ELCA roster as a Minister of Word & Service as a deacon.

Deacon Jason Fisher serves as the Director of Youth & Family Ministries at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Champaign, IL."

TOGETHER IN MISSION

CSIS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER



Tucker Good joins the synod staff as Administrative Assistant for Media, Communications, and Graphic Design. This is a new position that folds the former position of Coordinator of Communications and Networking, held previously by Pastor Bob Dealey, into a more broad-based media development and website management position.

Good is a 2016 graduate of North Central College (Naperville, IL), having double majored in Marketing and Jazz Studies. He is a Springfield native, and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield. Please send newsletters and congregational information to him at Tucker.Good@csis-elca.org

IMMANUEL, LINCOLN CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lincoln celebrated its' 125th anniversary on July 16, 2017. Bishop Roth preached at their worship service. Pictured right: The Rev. Candida Turner (center), Immanuel's pastor and members of the anniversary committee.



CSIS WOMEN OF THE ELCA TO HOLD BIENNIAL CONVENTION

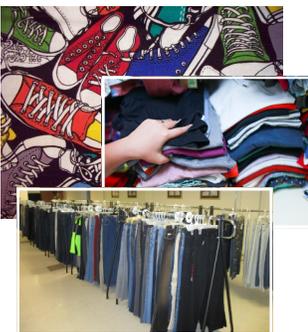
The synodical Women of the ELCA will hold its 2017 biennial convention at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center, October 20-21.

Guest speakers include:

- ◆ Ms. Judy Engebretson, who will portray Katie Luther;
- ◆ Ms. Rose Moser, chair of the Synod Global Mission team, who will give a presentation on her trip to Madagascar;
- ◆ Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards, the churchwide Women of the ELCA representative, who will share future plans; and
- ◆ Rev. Maggie Falenschek, event chaplain and Bible study leader.

For more information, contact Lynn Smith at (618) 549-4785 or by e-mail: lynnsmith42@gmail.com

The informational flyer is also posted on the synod website: www.csis-elca.org



TRINITY, OLNEY HOSTS FALL KIDS' MALL

As families gear up for kids to go back to school, more than 350 children (pre-school to 8th grade) participated in this year's Fall Kids' Mall at Trinity Lutheran Church, Olney, on August 12. Each child selected: a new pair of shoes; seven pairs of socks and underwear; three shirts; two pairs of pants; a bag of toiletries and a backpack. Grants and local cash contributions provided nearly \$20,000 in operating funds to purchase goods, which were distributed for free. The event was staffed by more than 100 volunteers, who purchased clothing before the event and assisted children with their selections. Back-packs were provided by the local Salvation Army.



Central/Southern Illinois Synod

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Mission Matters... is a synodical newsletter.

Synod congregations, agencies and institutions

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Please send comments, ideas, and/or suggestions to: Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org

