

CONFERENCE DEAN'S REPORTS

EAST CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Submitted by Rev. John Setterlund, Dean

Conference clergy and lay leaders met through the year on a monthly schedule. A variety of programs included: Professor Ray Pickett, LSTC, on the Gospel of Luke; Jane Otte, Marion, on the ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice; visit to the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, Urbana; Brian Souder, Champaign, on Faith in Place; and Rachel Bass, Champaign, on Yoga Meditation.

At the Conference Assembly in March, Bob Rasmus, Urbana, was elected Conference Dean, and Marilyn Dudley, Charleston, secretary. Continuing as vice-presidents are Elaine Olson and Jason Fisher, and as treasurer, Kim Johnson. The Assembly met the Synod's new Director of Evangelical Mission, Bob Dealey, as well as Bishop John Roth. The gathering was hosted by First Lutheran Church, Decatur, who introduced their on-going ministry of local hunger relief.

The annual Epiphany Day dinner was held at the Lutheran Church of Mahomet. The Conference's traditional supper at Synod Assembly is not planned this year, since too many people will be busy with special planning and leadership duties.

Twelve congregations constitute the East-Central Conference:

- Good Shepherd, Champaign
- Grace, Champaign
- St. Andrew's, Champaign
- Bethel, Danville
- First, Decatur
- Holy Cross, Decatur
- Mahomet, Mahomet
- Christ, Monticello
- Grace, Rankin
- St. John, Shelbyville
- St. Paul, Shelbyville
- St. Matthew, Urbana

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Submitted by the Rev. Ed Hudelson, Dean

The Northeast Conference consists of the 24 ELCA congregations located in Ford, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, and McClean counties. On the territory of our conference are also three Lutheran Nursing Homes supported by our congregations, Good Samaritan Home Flanagan, Good Samaritan Pontiac, and Prairieview Lutheran Home in Danforth, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Illinois State University in Normal.

Officers of the Conference are Pastor Edward Hudelson (Dean), Ms. Kim Albers (lay vice president), Pastor Trudy Foote (clergy vice president), Pastor Tom Krieger (secretary), and Mr. Vernon Veal (treasurer).

The Professional Leaders of the conference met on the third Thursday of each month from October through April except for the month of March when we had our Conference Assembly.

Programs included a presentation on sabbaticals, social services in a rural setting, Portico, youth ministry in the small church, geographical parishes, the Bishop's Colloquy and the opportunity to interact with Pastor Dealey, recently installed DEM.

The Conference Assembly was held March 10, 2013 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pontiac. Thanks go to the professional leaders and all members of our conference for the dedicated service they offer to our Lord Jesus Christ through the ministries of their congregations, the conference, and synod.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Submitted by the Rev. John Rothfusz, Dean

The Northern Conference consists of 26 congregations in the Peoria area and surrounding counties. These churches are served by 19 pastors under call, five interim pastors, and four with contractual arrangements.

The conference saw several pastoral transitions over the past year. Pastor Lane Knouse retired from service at St. Timothy, Wyoming and Lutheran Hillside Village. Pastor Andrew Nyren left Immanuel, Lincoln, to serve a new call in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And Pastor Barbara Ziah is retiring from her most recent service as an interim minister. Pastor Ryan Anderson was ordained on July 15, 2012, and installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran, Toluca.

Those serving as Interim Pastors within the conference are the following: Pastor Dennis Scoville at Our Savior, Pekin; Pastor Lisa Goodwin at St. John, Hartsburg; Pastor Richard Hanson as Interim Associate Pastor at St. Mark, Washington; Pastor Karen Norman-Rees at St. Timothy, Wyoming; and Pastor Tom Kamprath at Immanuel, Lincoln. Those providing interim ministry outside the conference include: Pastor Paul Balaban in Butte, MT; and Deacon Patrick Monroe at Zion, Liberty and Salem, Mendon.

Our Conference Youth Board draws together the gifts of several Youth and Family Ministers and numerous churches to provide exciting opportunities. The annual *Be Like Jesus* retreat draws in over 100 3-8th graders for a memorable weekend of service, music, and faith. The conference has also been working to organize *8 Days*, a cooperative young adult ministry for college-age students at Bradley University. They are largely unreached by existing churches.

The Professional Leaders of the Conference meet on the second Tuesday of the month for worship, study and fellowship. Topics since the summer have included a discussion of Synodically Authorized Ministry, an *8 Days* ministry update, an LSSI Update, the Bishop's Colloquy, a Portico presentation, and discussions on Avoiding Financial Messes in Churches, and Emergency Preparedness.

The Conference Spring Assembly was held on April 14 at Advent Lutheran in Morton. Jo-Ann Lambie was elected as Lay Vice President, and Pastor Steven Tibbetts was elected as Conference Secretary. The Conference budget directs \$5000 for the Conference 8 Days ministry, and \$2000 to support conference members going on the Synod Madagascar trip. The Northern Conference is an active, positive, and collegial place to share in ministry in Jesus' name. We are blessed to gather and strengthen one another for service to the Lord.

Northwest Conference

Submitted by Pastor Mike Thomas, Dean

The Northwest Conference consists of 19 congregations in Adams, Hancock, Scott, McDonough, Cass, and Morgan Counties. There will be a test on this later so please memorize that information.

This past year the conference clergy and Synodically Authorized Ministers met monthly for presentations and discussion. Topics at the meetings have been: The book "Lived Religion" (which examined the vast differences between the denomination individuals claim membership in and their actual faith practices and beliefs), Narrative Lectionary, Pastoral Authority (What is it? Do we have it? Is it being sold on Ebay?), Grief and Funerals (we did notice that the word "funeral" begins with "fun"), Care of Souls, and Baptism/Confirmation Practices. These items will not be on the test so you do not need to memorize them.

A conference wide pulpit rotation was held on April 7, 2013, and some of the conference congregations participate in a quarterly pulpit rotation as part of a cooperative effort to lift up mutual ministries.

In terms of additions, we welcomed Pastor Tony Metz to the conference. Tony serves at Luther Memorial in Quincy. We also welcomed and wish to thank Pastors Barb Ziah, Gary Sproat, and Paul Schwartzkopf for their faithful interim service to the congregations in our conference even though they are retired or live outside the conference boundaries. (What are the six counties the Northwest Conference has congregations in? See, I told you there would be a quiz!) Deacon Patrick Monroe continues to serve as an interim at Zion, Liberty and Salem, Mendon while living outside the conference as well. Dr. Larry Jahn completed the S.A.M. program, and was recognized at the 2012 Synod Assembly. Larry joins Mickey Paul, Shirley Arnold, Dan Wilson, Ron Schultz, David Poland, and Bryan Days as SAMs who provide worship leadership and interim ministry in the conference, and they are very much appreciated.

We experienced other transitions. We bid farewell to Pastor Adam Dichsen who accepted a call at Faith, Jacksonville. (Faith's previous pastor left and took a call somewhere, I just can't remember where right now.) Pastor Gayle Pope was ineligible for re-election and we thank her for her service and leadership as our Conference Dean since 2006. Mr. Wayne Fecht of Carthage transferred out of the Northwest Conference to the Church Triumphant. For those who did not know Wayne, one of the many ways he lived out his faith was he volunteered annually to provide a large covered trailer, to load, and to drive the Northwest Conference Lutheran World Relief Kits to Bloomington. Over the years Wayne transported tens of thousands of school kits, layettes, health kits, quilts, sewing kits, pounds of soap, and fabric so that in the name of Christ, those in need might be provided assistance and have hopes of a better life. Wayne was symbolic of what is at the heart of the Northwest Conference, 4,716 baptized children of God living out their discipleship of loving God and loving neighbor. (Well, OK, there are actually only 4,715, as there is this one guy in Macomb I'm not so sure about.)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Submitted by Rev. David Eidson, Dean

The Southern Conference is made up of 19 congregations across the large geographical territory that extends from Cairo in the south, north to Centralia, west to Chester, and east to Mount Carmel. We are currently served by, according to my count, twelve pastors in call, along with two pastors in interim service. We are grateful to Ms. Deb Rathert, Mr. John Rogers, Rev. Gary Ryden, and Rev. Dr. Richard Hertenstein for their faithful interim ministry this past year.

The current conference officers are as follows:

Dean, Rev. David Eidson, Salem of Jonesboro

Clergy Vice President, Rev. Gary Ryden, retired, Trinity of Olney

Lay Vice President, Mr. Larry Saler, Trinity of Olney
Secretary, Rev. Laura Kamprath, Saint Luke of Campbell Hill
Treasurer, Rev. Dr. Richard Hertenstein, retired, Salem of Jonesboro
Lay Representative to Synod Council, Judge Michael Mason, Salem of Jonesboro

We acknowledge the retirements of Rev. Ed Rowely and Rev. Gary Ryden, giving thanks for their years of faithful service. Rev. Laura Kamprath resigned as co-pastor of Saint Luke of Campbell Hill in order to accept a call to serve as pastor in the Wartburg Parish. Rev. Matthew Kamprath, co-pastor of Saint Luke of Campbell Hill, accepted a call to serve as full-time pastor of same congregation.

This past year saw the removal of Saint John Lutheran Church of Metropolis as they voted to leave the ELCA in a second vote and then join the NALC. Union Lutheran Church of Gila is closed but has yet to complete the distribution of assets process.

Members of the conference gather in March and September for assembly. Professional Leaders gathered together again this year for an overnight retreat held at Todd Hall Retreat and Conference Center in Columbia with Rev. Amy Zietlow as learning experience leader. Professional leaders continue to meet each month, with the exception of the summer months, for fellowship, worship, and learning experiences. A text study group meets twice a month at Epiphany of Carbondale. Those leaders unable to attend the Carbondale study engage in other community and cluster text study groups.

The conference continues to be a mission oriented conference with several congregations supporting ELCA missionaries. The conference mission spending plan provides needed funding to Trinity seminarian Brad Eidson who is currently serving as intern at Davis Lutheran Church of Davis, California, as well as ministries like Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Hospitality Houses of Chester and Vienna, campus ministry at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. A number of congregations provide funding to Marion Medical Mission.

We are extremely grateful for the faithful and diligent work of the people, both lay and clergy, throughout the conference which demonstrates a commitment to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

WEST CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Submitted by Rev. Glen VanderKloot, Dean

The West Central Conference consists of thirty-four congregations stretching from Columbia at the southern end of the Metro-St. Louis area, north to Springfield and Jacksonville, west to Batchtown, and east to Shumway and Altamont.

This past year Pastor Adam Dichsen was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville and Pastor Krista Stokke was installed as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Vandalia and Zion Lutheran Church, Loogootee.

At our Spring Assembly on March 3, 2013 at Zion Lutheran Church, Farmersville, the Conference heard from Evangelist Eli Suddart from Grace and Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria on ways to share our faith. The conference also donated 10% of our assets to Lutheran Social Services for ministry in our conference.

Our conference pastors meet in three clusters: The Springfield Cluster, the Metro-East Cluster, and the Central Cluster. There are text studies as well as meetings for planning and mutual support. The whole conference meets monthly during the school year with the exception of December.

Highlights this past year include the Bishop's Colloquy, Rev. Daniel Schwick from LSSI presenting the "Setting the Table" consultation process, Ms. Andrea Arey from Portico, presenting 'How to Maximize Your Portico Benefits.

Members of our conference are serving the synod in the following positions:

Synod Council:	Henry Harms, Diane Maertens, and Pastor Glen VanderKloot
New & Renewing Congregations	Pastor Jan Worms
Global Mission	Mary Plymire
SAM	Michael Foppe
Candidacy	Pastor Jared Parker, Karen Fifter and Pastor Glen VanderKloot (council liason)

We have a vacancy for a lay female on the Mission Support & Stewardship Education Committee.

We rejoice with St. Mark Lutheran Church, Belleville and St. George Episcopal Church as they celebrated the 30th anniversary of their ecumenical partnership on November 3, 2012

Officers for the coming year are Pastor Glen VanderKloot, Dean; Pastor Ken Tegtmeier, Clergy Vice President, Rand Burnette Treasurer and Pastor David Snyder, Secretary. The position of Lay Vice President is vacant.