



Northern Conference

2020 Report to Assembly

**Pastor Ryan Anderson, Dean
First English Lutheran Church
Peoria**

Congregations 24

Vacancies 4

Rostered Ministers under
under Congregational Call 15
in Specialized Ministry 4

On Leave from Call 2

Retired 20

Churches with a Contractual Agreement

St. John, Mt. Pulaski – Pastor Glen VanderKloot

First, Varna – Richard Joyce (SAM)

Churches with a Vacant Call

Immanuel, Lincoln Pastor Stephen Goodwin

St. Paul, Benson [supply]

St. Peter's, Glasford [supply]

Wiley, Ellisville [supply]

Clergy Transitions in the Last Year

• Farewell & Godspeed

- Pastor Candida Turner (On Leave from Call, returned to home state of Michigan)

- Pastor David Russell (to Interim ministry in another Conference)

- Pastor Steven Tibbetts (to Trinity, Godfrey)

- Pastor Karen Norman-Rees (to Hill Correctional Facility)

• Welcome

- Pastor Nathan Johnson (Called to St. John's, Toluca, installed October 20th, 2019)

- Pastor Becky Swanson (Called to Advent, Morton; installed on February 23rd, 2020)

- Mrs. Kristen Schmid, pastoral intern at Salem Peoria from Luther Seminary

- Pastor Mary Beenken (Called to Grace and Peace, Peoria)

- Candidate Nathan Johnson (in Call Process)

• Death

- Rev. Gary Schmidt (d. November 27th, 2019)

- Pastor Paul Park (d. September 29th, 2019)

Other Noteworthy Occurrences May 2019—March 2020:

Discussions During Monthly Northern Conference Professional Leader's Meetings

From August 2019 thru March 2020, clergy and church staff attending the regular conference meetings discussed the various adaptive challenges outlined in the Bishop's Sabbatical Report. These conversations also dipped into topics brought up during the 2019 Synod Assembly feedback process, and the ongoing work of the Synod Council in responding to that information. Pastors in the Conference will lead discussions at our regular meetings on: Congregational Vitality, How We Talk about Relationship w/God & Others, Rostered Ministry Language, and the Changing Context of Word & Sacrament Ministry. The discussions were fruitful.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 8th, 2019

Ninety (90) volunteers from Eight (8) congregations participated in four service projects sponsored by the Northern Conference and supported by Thrivent Financial Action Team Grants. The service projects, all held in the Peoria area, were: 1) indoor and outdoor cleaning/organizing at Proctor Recreational Center; 2) painting at Common Place; 3) bandage rolling and LWR care kit packing at Grace & Peace; 4) painting at the East Bluff Community Center Food Pantry. These projects were chosen to maintain some ELCA mission presence on Peoria's South Side neighborhood after the closing of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Forty-two (42) volunteers gathered at the end of the day to share a meal together at Proctor Recreational Center. Many other congregations in the Conference hosted their own service projects.

2020 Synod Assembly

The Northern Conference was on track to host the 2020 Synod Assembly in East Peoria, IL. Due to COVID-19, the assembly has been postponed until May or June of 2021. The Northern Conference is ready and delighted to host at that time.

Northern Conference Annual Meeting

Due to COVID-19 the conference annual meeting was postponed. We are planning to meet, via Zoom, in May 2020 in order to hold synod committee elections and to pass a budget, among other business. Results of this meeting will be reported to the Synod Office and the Synod Council after the meeting is held.

Conference Finances

2019-2020 Expenses have included:

\$2000 for Seminary Intern Support

\$1000 for Conference Youth Board

\$249 for hosting (lunch for Synod Council)

Receipts from the Fall 2019 Stewardship Drive \$3,308.00

Balance on hand as of January 22nd, 2020 \$6,304.99