

Southern Conference

Report to the Assembly

Pastor Marlin Otte, Dean

Retired

Congregations: 18

Congregations in transition:

Campbell Hill, St. Luke – Vacant

Centralia, Redeemer – meeting with St. John Episcopal Church, Rev. David Bauman

Mt. Carmel, Zion - Vacant, Nancy Johns, SAM

Mt. Vernon, Prince of Peace – Pastor Jan Worms, Interim

Olney, Trinity – Vacant, Chaplain James Mutayoba serving

Steeleville, Peace – Pastor Matthew Helfrich, Interim

Wartburg Parish (4 cong.) - Vacant (Peace, Chester & St. John, Bremen - Brian Moeller SAM and St. John's, Post Oak & St. Peter's, Wine Hill) – Mike Foppe SAM)

Walsh, Zion – Vacant

- Fall Conference Assembly was canceled. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused Professional Leaders to meet monthly virtually for support.
- March 7, 2021 Spring Southern Conference Virtual Assembly. Speakers: LSSI, Molly Arnoldt, Director of Development and ELCA Foundation, Tim Urness “Ministry of Funding Plan” and CSIS Bishop Roth and staff. Elections: Conference Treasurer - Joan Dotson, Peace Steeleville; Global Missions - K. Andrew West, Our Redeemer, Marion; SMJA - Julie Posth, Peace Steeleville (2nd); vacancies to be filled - Conference Secretary & Synod Candidacy Committee. Conference Budget remains the same for 2021-2022: \$3,200. Youth Scholarship Fund: \$3,788.50. Seminarian & SAM Scholarship Fund: \$2,523.92. Conference Dean shared history of Southern Conference since beginning of ELCA. Areas of ministry and the Mission Field remain the same but the churches and pastors to do this have been greatly reduced: 1988 Congregations - 28. 2021 Congregations - 18. Called Ordained Pastors: 1988 - 26. 2021 - 5. Only working together can we meet this need.
- We welcomed Pastor Matthew Helfrich as Interim at Peace, Steeleville In January 2021 Peace, Steeleville left the Wartburg Parish. We also welcomed Pastoral Intern Jacob Kreuger from Wartburg Seminary to Epiphany Lutheran, Carbondale
- We mourn the deaths of 3 Pastors this past year: Pastor Harold Weber, Zion Walsh; Pastor John Schmeling, Interim, Zion Mt. Carmel and Pastor Brian Gegel, who served all too briefly at St. Luke, Campbell Hill. Pastor Dennis Scoville was also mourned because he had served lengthy Interims in the Southern Conference: Anna & Jonesboro (uniting them as a dual parish) & the Wartburg Cluster.
- Our Redeemer, Marion and other conference churches celebrated the 35th Anniversary of Marion Medical Mission in 2020. ORL raised \$13,000 to support a MMM Field Officer. (Each Field Officer installs at least 100 wells a year and supervises all previous wells in their area.) ORL raised an additional \$11,000 to purchase 24 protected water wells at \$450 each. MMM exceeded their 2020 goal of 3,000 wells and put in 3,192 wells, providing clean water for 399,000 people!