



East Central Conference

Pastor Amy Zietlow, Dean

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Decatur

Report to Synod Assembly 2023



Congregations

St. Matthew, Urbana
Grace, Champaign
Good Shepherd, Champaign
St. Andrews and Campus Center
Lutheran Church of Mahomet
Christ, Monticello
First, Decatur
Holy Cross, Decatur
Bethel, Danville
St. Paul, Shelbyville,
Grace, Rankin

Pastor Paul Chapman
Pastor Chris Repp
Pastor Lynette Chapman, Deacon Jason Fisher
Vacant
Pastor Ron Poe
Pastor Julia Rademacher
Pastor Rita Augsburg
Pastor Amy Zietlow, dean
Pastor Ed Stone
Chris Edmonds, SAM, Tom Galyen, SAM
Vacant

East Central Officers

Dean
Vice Dean
Lay Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Pastor Amy Zietlow, Dean
Pastor Julia Rademacher, Vice Dean
Jason Fisher, Deacon
Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown
Pastor Lynette Chapman

Synod Committees

Synod Council
Adult Faith Formation
New and Renewing Congregations
Leadership Support
Global Mission
Mission Support & Stewardship Education
Candidacy

Lay female, Debra Peterson
Vacant
Clergy, Pastor Lynette Chapman
Deacon, Jason Fisher
Lay female, Mary Corkery
Clergy, Pastor Paul Chapman
Lay Male, Mr. Chris Edmonds,
Clergy, Pastor Ron Poe

The Conference meets monthly for fellowship and conversation. Our theme for 2023 has been “Acts of Service.” We have met for service projects at Willow Tree Mission in Monticello several times, including our Conference Assembly, for painting, drywalling etc. We’ve met several times to prayerfully discuss the synod visioning process. We give thanks for the conference congregations and clergy members who are supporting St Andrew’s Campus ministry members and Board during this time of transition.



Northeast Conference

Pastor Pete Hinrich, Dean St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gilman Report to Synod Assembly 2023

Congregations:

St. John	Bloomington	Pastor David Glesne – Senior Pastor Deacon Lyn Ahearn (Intern)
American	Bourbonnais	Pastor Patrick Jenkins
Zion	Clifton	Pastor Joel Brown – Contractual
St. Peter	Crescent City	Pastor Joel Brown
St. Paul	Gilman	Pastor Pete Hinrich
St. Paul	Roberts	Pastors Priscilla and Matt Gerdes
St. Petri	Flanagan	Pastor Brian Moeller
Servants United Parish		Pastor Richard Likeness

VACANCIES:

Servants United Parish		Pastor David Castner (Interim)
Immanuel	Colfax	Pastor Ed Hudelson (Interim)
Our Savior	Normal	Pastor Knight Wells (interim)
		Pastor Jennifer Hartwig-Brown (interim)
Our Savior	Bradley	Pastor Pete Hinrich, Contractual Interim
		SAM – Lynne Culkin
Pontoppidan	Elliott	Pastors Matt & Priscilla Geerdes, Contractual Pastors
St. Paul	Forrest	Pastor Paul Lellelid (Interim)
Trinity	Fairbury	Pastor Nathan Feig (Interim)
St. Paul	Pontiac	Pastor Wayne Shelksohn SAM Marcia Buchs

Officers:

Dean	Rev Pete Hinrich
Vice Dean	Rev Priscilla Geerdes
Secretary	Rev Joel Brown
Treasurer	Mr Larry Pfothhauer

Synod Council	Ms Cynthia Davis (from Conference elected) Mr Mark Harms (from Synod Assembly)
Candidacy	Rev Joel Brown Ms Dawn Likeness

Adult Faith Formation	Rev David Glesne
Global Mission	Rev Mauricio Viera
Leadership Support	Mr. Chuck Boutcher
Mission Support	Rev Patrick Jenkins
New and Renewing Cong	Rev Matt Geerdes
Social Mission/Justice	Rev Priscilla Geerdes

We met monthly from October to May. This year our conversations all focused on the nature and direction of the Synod as workers for Christ.



Northern Conference

Pastor John Rothfusz, Acting Dean
Faith Lutheran Church, Washington
Report to Synod Assembly 2023



Northern Conference Calls & Vacancies:

Congregations	22
Open Calls	6
Rostered Leaders	
Under Congregational Call	13
Word & Sacrament –	12
Word & Service -	1
In Specialized Ministry	4
On Leave from Call	1
Retired	20

Churches with a Pastoral Agreement

- St. Paul, Benson Rev. Joy Miller
- St. John, Mt. Pulaski St. John, Toluca Rev. Mauricio Vieira
- Wiley, Ellisville Rev. Karen Norman-Rees (once/month)

Churches with an Open Call

- St. Peter, Glasford Rev. Ray Barclay, pulpit supply
 - St. John, Hartsburg Rev. Stephen Goodwin, pulpit supply
 - St. Mark, Washington [Interim Associate Position vacant]
 - Bethany, Wenona [supply]
- Three Saints Parish
- St. Mark, Chillicothe, St Timothy, Wyoming
 - Rev. Ryan Anderson, Parish Administrative Interim
 - Rev. John Sipf, Congregation Councils, worship
 - Rev. Dick Wehrs, worship

Churches Closing First, Varna is merging into St. John Toluca
 St. John Lacon, part of the Three Saints Parish, has closed
 and members remain part of the parish

Rostered Minister Transitions in the Last Year

- Interims
 Pr. Lanny Westphal served St. Mark, Washington and moved on to another site
 Pr. Kendra Nolde served St. Mark, Washington until a new senior pastor was called
- Farewell and Godspeed
 Pr. Linda Strader resigned from the Three Saints Parish and took a call at St. John Lutheran, Springfield.
- Welcome to Pr. Scott Bacon, called as Senior Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran, Washington, and to Pr. Nancy Bacon, called as Pastor at Advent Lutheran, Morton. They began at these congregations on March 5.
- Ordination: Pr. Brett Gosteli was ordained on November 6 at First English, Peoria. He was called to serve at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL
- Deaths:
 Pr. Eimo Hinrichs, retired
 Pr. Lisa Goodwin, On Leave from Call, after serving at St. John, Hartsburg
- Other:
 Pr. Karen Norman Rees (specialized ministry) rejoined our conference as she took a new position as Chaplain at the Illinois River Correctional Center in Canton
 Pr. John Sipf ended his specialized ministry call as a Hospice Chaplain.
 Pr. Jim Lillie, retired for some time, moved to Hawaii.

Conference Professional Leaders Meetings

August 9	Salem, Peoria	Imagining Ministry Outposts	Pr. Elise Rothfusz
September 13	St. John, Toluca	LOMC update	Rob Gieraltowski
October 11	Trinity, Canton	Tech and Disability ministry	Pr. Micah Garnett
November 8	LSSI, Peoria	LSSI update	
December 13	St. John Bartonville	Bishop's Colloquy	
January 10	Zoom	Discuss ELCA Document	Pr. John Rothfusz
		Preaching and Teaching "With love and respect for Jewish people"	
February 14	Zoom	Dr. Wilhelm Chase, Chief Chaplain IL Prisons	
March 14	St. Paul, Benson	Northern Conference Youth Ministry – Ellen Koester	

Conference Assembly will be 2 p.m. April 23 at Lutheran Hillside Village in Peoria
 We will hold elections, including a new Dean, pass a budget, and continue our
 Synod Visioning Discussion

Northern Conference Text Study meets weekly at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, except when the Conference meets. Pastors from other conferences and other denominations are welcome to share with us for text study and mutual encouragement.



Northwest Conference

Pastor Richard Hertenstein, Dean
Faith Lutheran Church, Augusta
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Carthage
Report to Synod Assembly 2023



Congregations:

Faith, Augusta: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (contractual agreement)

First, Beardstown: Pastor Catherine Burnette

St. John, Bluffs:

St. John, Bluff Springs: Mary Lou Jannsen S.A.M.

Immanuel, rural Carthage: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (contractual agreement)

Trinity, Carthage: Pastor Rick Hertenstein (part time interim) Dave Poland S.A.M.

St. Peter, Coatsburg: Pastor Patricia Reep

Faith and Grace Parish: Pastor Jeff Corson

*Immanuel, Golden; Zion Liberty, and Salem Mendon

Trinity, Macomb: Pastor Youngshim Pitcher

Christ, Quincy: Pastor Daniel Grainger

Luther Memorial, Quincy: Pastor Brett Gostelli

Grace, Virginia: Pastor Adam Dichsen (part time interim)

Conference Officers:

Dean – Pastor Rick Hertenstein

Clergy Vice President – Pastor Jeff Corson

Lay Vice President – Ms. Debra Allwardt

Secretary – Pastor Daniel Grainger

Treasurer – Arlis and John Dittmer

Lay Synod Council representative – Ms. Cheryl Predmore

For 2022 through April of 2023 the Northwest Conference was served by 12 dedicated called and appointed leaders (10 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 2 Synodically Appointed Ministers) in our congregations.

During the year the professional Leaders (Rostered Word and Sacrament and Word and Service Ministers and those trained for Synodically Authorized Ministry) met via Zoom in four of the twelve months covering various topics. We also met in person for the Bishop's colloquy, A presentation by the LSSI Cornerstone Society, and a presentation concerning the Chaplaincy Program of the Department of Corrections of Illinois were also part of our renewed in person meetings. "Dwelling in the Word" remains an important part of each of our gatherings.

We rejoiced that Pastor Catherine Burnette, Faith, Beardstown, and Pastor Brett Gostelli, Luther Memorial, Quincy, were welcome additions to our conference.

We held Our Conference assembly on April 23 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Coatsburg. Pastor Patricia Reep welcomed us and led in worship. A discussion/presentation, "Butterflies' to Threads to?" or "Visioning Synod identity: Who are we? What are we doing? And What should we be about?" looked at the results of our last Synod assembly's Spirit led excursion from Baptismal waters to the myriad of ideas formed looking to the future. The discussion led us to continue the wondering of where the Holy Spirit is leading our congregations, conference and especially our Synod.

We elected the following people to continue serving through the Synod Committees:

Synod Candidacy Committee Rostered Word and Sacrament Representative– 3-year term,
Pastor Gayle Pope;

Synod Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee Representative – 3-year term,
Pastor Patricia Reep;

Synod Mission Support and Stewardship Education Representative – 3- year term,
Pastor Youngshim Pitcher.

We pray and give thanks for all who are called to share their gifts in any way in the communities we serve.



Southern Conference

Pastor Marlin Otte

Retired

Interim: St. John Lutheran Church, Campbell Hill
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Steeleville
Report to Synod Assembly 2023



Congregations: 16

Congregations in transition: 10

Campbell Hill, St. Luke Lutheran– Vacant, Pastor Ed Breed interim

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

DeSoto, Mt. Calvary Lutheran – Vacant, Paul Copeland, SAM

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

Mt. Vernon, Prince of Peace Lutheran – Vacant, sharing their facility with 1st Presbyterian

Murphysboro, 1st Lutheran – Vacant, Paul Copeland SAM

Steeleville, Peace Lutheran - Vacant

Wartburg Parish (3 cong.) - Peace Lutheran, Chester - Vacant; St. John's Lutheran, Post Oak
and St. Peter's Lutheran, Wine Hill – Michael Foppe SAM.

Churches with Called & Ordained Clergy: 6 Congregations with 5 clergy

Anna, Mt. Moriah Lutheran and Jonesboro, Salem Lutheran - Rev. Mark Hasty

Carbondale, Epiphany Lutheran - Rev. Brian Coffey

Marion, Our Redeemer Lutheran - Rev. Kim Lee-Brown

Metropolis, Lutheran Church of the Cross - Rev. David Deem

Olney, Trinity Lutheran – Rev. Kathleen Boland

Conference news:

We welcomed Paul Copeland, SAM to serve Mt. Calvary, DeSoto and First Lutheran, Murphysboro. We said farewell to Interim Pastor Matthew Helfrich at Peace Steeleville and welcomed Pastor Ed Breed as Interim to St. Luke Campbell Hill.

St. John, Bremen and Zion Walsh have left the ELCA and joined the LCMC.

We mourned the death of retired pastors Rev. Gerald Kissel & Ruth Kissel and Rev. Ray Heilener.

The 2022 Fall Assembly was a wonderful International Mission Fair, September 25 at Our Redeemer, Marion. There were booths with speakers from many different nations, indigenous materials, music, dance, food and international worship. Rev. Wayne Shelksohn and Bishop Roth shared about our companion synods in Madagascar and the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM).

Spring Southern Conference Assembly will be Sunday March 26 at Salem Jonesboro.

We rejoice with Marion Medical Mission that they were able to install 3,855 protected water wells in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and for the first time, in Mozambique. Those wells serve an estimated 382,000 people (229,200 children). Since 1990, MMM has installed just under 50,000 wells serving over 5 million people. As it says in the cement on the top of every well: "Glory be to God!"



West Central Conference

Pastor Greg Busboom, Dean
St. John Lutheran Church, Springfield
Report to Synod Assembly 2023

*"You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).*



The West Central Conference is comprised of twenty-seven congregations running from Springfield on the north end of the conference down to the congregations of the Metro East St. Louis area on the south, with congregations flanking both the east and west sides of the I-55 corridor. In addition, we have rostered leaders serving in specialized ministry at Meridian Village in Glen Carbon, a ministry of Lutheran Senior Services; the Taylorville Correctional Center; and, HSHS Hospice of Southern Illinois.

In October, we met for our fall gathering at Meridian Village in Glen Carbon. Meridian Village is a senior living community operated by Lutheran Senior Services. Pastor Gerhard Kraus, a pastor in our conference, serves as the chaplain at Meridian. The gathering included meaningful worship led by Pastor Kraus; an online presentation by tech guru, author, and Lutheran pastor Ryan Panzer on the topic of the role of technology in ministry in light of the COVID pandemic; and, a tour of Meridian Village.

In December, we gathered at Faith Lutheran Church in Jacksonville for our annual Bishop's Colloquy. The gathering included worship, conversation with Bishop Roth, and lunch. The gathering ended with a visit to the largest Advent calendar in the state of Illinois!

On January 6, we resumed our annual Epiphany Gathering at the home of Pastors Stefan and Cynthia Munker in Litchfield. Great food, great fellowship, and great Gluhwein were enjoyed by all. We concluded the gathering by sharing in Holden Evening Prayer.

In February, we gathered on Shrove Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran in Hillsboro for our Conference Assembly. Following a delicious pancake and sausage supper, voting members and guests shared together in worship, followed by a guided conversation around the eight

threads emerging from the 2022 Synod Assembly. It was a hope-filled conversation. In the business portion of the assembly, the conference voted to give a gift of \$3600 with \$1200 going to each of the following recipients: Lutheran Disaster Response for Middle East Earthquake Relief, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, and the Bible Schools of our companion synods in Madagascar.

We are looking forward to our spring gathering that will take place in May at St. John's Lutheran in Springfield at which Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metro Chicago Synod will lead us in a presentation on the topic "Preaching the Spirit with an Eye toward Pentecost." And, as usual, we look forward to enjoying some sort of social gathering as a conference at the upcoming synod assembly in June.