

Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Assembly

Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN

June 9-10, 2023

Table of Contents.

General Information.....	2
Keynote: Matt Bloom, PhD.....	4
Rev. Kevin Jacobson.....	5
Dakota Road Music.....	6
Proposed Agenda.....	7
Proposed Rules of Procedure.....	8
Table of Parliamentary Terms.....	12
Celebration of Ordination	13
Congregation Anniversary.....	14
Roster Changes	15
Presiding Bishop Report.....	16
Presiding Bishop Report Español.....	17
Synod Staff Reports.....	18
Report of the Synod Nominating Committee	22
Report of Synod Secretary.....	26
Resolution 23.01.....	28
Report of the Synod Treasurer.....	29
Report of the Endowment Committee.....	30
We Remember.....	32



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General Information.

Prior to attending the Assembly there are a few things you can do to better prepare yourself as a voting member. Please read on for important information that will make your voting member experience, and this Assembly, a success.

Guidebook App.

Our mission is to continually strive to be better stewards of God's creation. Downloading the **Guidebook App** will not only provide all Assembly information in one organized location, but it will also significantly reduce the amount of printed materials. In the **Guidebook** you will find the agenda, workshops, worship information, election ballot, 2025 Proposed Budget, 2024 Proposed Compensation Guidelines, and much more. **If you are a voting member it is important to note that voting will take place in the app itself.** All Assembly information will also be available on the Synod website. (www.swmnelca.org)

Assembly Hearings.

There will be three Zoom Meetings prior to the actual Assembly. They will take place the week of May 22-25. **All voting members are encouraged to attend all three hearings.** This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding the 2025 Proposed Budget and 2024 Proposed Compensation Guidelines. The Assembly Orientation will provide directions for you to download and find materials in Guidebook; a practice session on voting; and more valuable information.

- + Monday, May 22 at 7 pm: 2025 Proposed Budget.
- + Tuesday, May 23 at 7 pm: Assembly/Guidebook Orientation.
- + Thursday, May 25 at 7 pm: 2024 Proposed Compensation Guidelines.

Registration links for these sessions will be emailed to voting members.

Registration.

Registration will open at 8:30 am. on Friday in Lund Center. YOU MUST REGISTER WHEN YOU ARE ON-SITE. Upon registering you will receive a name badge, (which is also your meal ticket), additional voting materials, and more. GAC staff will also be available to check you into campus housing for those who reserved it.

Voting at Synod Assembly.

Due to extreme cost, and in attempt to keep registration costs low, the devices previously used for voting are no longer an option. Therefore, voting for Synod elections will take place within Guidebook. Voting members will be also given voting cards (red, green, white) for voting when only a majority is needed. Please download the Guidebook app prior to attending the hearings and Synod Assembly. *If you need further assistance in regard to voting, contact Tammy Schacher or Kristin Bakeberg in the Synod Office.

What to Bring.

Necessary materials are available in Guidebook and on the website. Materials will also be broadcast on the screens in Lund Center.

- Smart device/laptop.
- Worship Offering.
- Sweater or coat for plenary sessions.
- Water bottle and/or coffee mug.
- Personal items, toiletries if staying on-site. (Bedding & towels are provided but you may want to bring your own sleeping bag.

Name Tags.

All white name tags designate voting members. Visitor/Advisory members have a colored name tag to identify themselves. Please wear your name tag at all times. It ensures you are a registered member, and it is also your meal ticket.

Seating.

Voting members and advisors will be seated at designated tables in the plenary session. **ONLY voting members are allowed to sit on the plenary floor during sessions.** Visitors will be seated in the balcony of Lund Center. Seating in this manner helps the Elections Committee during the business session of the Assembly.

Offering.

Thank you for the offerings you will share during this Synod Assembly. Synod Assembly offering is an important component of our budgeted support and, received with other gifts, allows us to support a number of ministry partners. High priorities among these right now are Lutheran Campus Ministry, Luther Seminary, and Shalom Hill Farm. In this time especially, we are grateful for the way these partners train, prepare, support, and renew current and future lay and rostered ministers. How can you be a part? *Congregations* are encouraged to send a gift of \$1 per baptized member; Voting Members will give this offering during worship on **Friday** afternoon. *Individuals* also may share personal gifts. Please make checks payable to: *Southwestern Minnesota Synod*. Thank you for your prayers and your generosity that allow us as a synod to support ministry partners like these.

Workshops.

Workshops will be held in Beck Hall on Friday. There will be two sessions: 11-11:45 and 12:15-1 pm. There is a 30-minute break to allow time for members to pick up a box lunch/beverage and enjoy a small break. Feel free to bring your lunch along to the second workshop session. A listing of workshops/descriptions can be found in the Guidebook and on the Synod Assembly webpage.

Displays.

More than twenty ministries/organizations/vendors have signed up to bring a display! Please set aside time to walk through the display area in Lund Center and learn about each one.

Care of Creation.

Our synod is continuing to grow in its commitment to a greener future. Here is how you can help at Synod Assembly:

- Download the Guidebook instead of printing the entire PreAssembly Book.
- Bring your own travel mug for coffee and/or water.
- Recycle. Bins will be available at the Assembly.

Photo Release.

Synod staff members will be taking photos at the Assembly. Photographs, video, and electronic images will be used by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for promotional purposes and Synod communications. If you have a concern about this, and would like to opt out, please contact Tammy Schacher at the Synod Office.



Matt Bloom - Keynote Speaker.

Director for Global Service • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For 25 years Matt Bloom was a tenured professor at the University of Notre Dame. He recently changed roles so he can devote his time to bringing the vast esoteric body of research on wellbeing to a wider audience, and to working with his co-founders and team at Ritual.

Matt's research focuses on the wellbeing of helping and healing professionals. Matt and his WorkWell team have studied how people find and live into deeply meaningful work, the joys and sorrows they face, and the factors that help make that work life - enriching instead of life-depleting. In his more recent work, Matt explores the spiritual dimensions of work and wellbeing.



Matt is currently working on two books. ***Wise Wellbeing Practices*** presents the wide range of wellbeing practices that have emerged from cutting-edge science. Mindfulness meditation is just one of many great practices, and in this book, he hopes to provide people with resources they can use to create personalized practices that fit neatly into their lives.

A Savage Yes describes the results of a 15-year study on people who feel “called” to their work. It chronicles the experiences of over 200 people and offers insights for people who want to find ways to make their work experiences more meaningful.

Matt received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. Before becoming a professor, he was a consultant for Arthur Young and a financial advisor for Shearson Lehman Brothers. At Notre Dame, Matt taught classes on design thinking and innovation to undergraduates, MBA students and a variety of work organizations.

Matt lives in the mountains of Lost River West Virginia with Kim and their English Shepherds, Blaze and Ember. His son, Nicholas, holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University and works as a human-centered design specialist at the National Archives. His other son, Keaton, is an architect in Manhattan, New York where he and his wife, Maira Fonseca, a dermatologist, are parents to Matt and Kim's first grandchild, Mateo.

One of Matt's passions is backcountry hiking, so he loves going “off the grid” on backwoods trails whenever he can. He also enjoys gardening, rock climbing, and writing.



Rev. Kevin Jacobson – ELCA Representative.

Director for Global Service • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Kevin Jacobson considers himself a “Lifelong Lutheran”. He grew up in Blair, Wisconsin deeply rooted in school, church, and community. In 1978, Kevin graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. He followed his dream of being a 5th grade teacher and then a 1st grade teacher in Whitehall, Wisconsin. After several years teaching he served 3 years as a Peace Corps Volunteer, an elementary school teacher-trainer at ZorZor Rural Teacher Training College in Liberia. Following his theological studies at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, he was ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and was called to serve as an ELCA missionary in Papua New Guinea, first for 3 years at Balob Teachers College in Lae and then for 6 years as lecturer and chair of the Religious Education program at the University of Papua New Guinea, Goroka. These years were formative in shaping Kevin’s passion for how the Lutheran Church engaged in mission and ministry in the world.



From 1997 – 2007 Kevin served in the ELCA Global Mission unit in the Lutheran Center in Chicago, as Director for Global Mission Education. While in Chicago he continued to emphasize the push for a deeper understanding of the accompaniment model for mission and developing community with global mission advocates across the church and nation while encouraging congregational engagement in God’s global mission. From 2007 - 2017, Kevin was called to serve as congregational pastor and work in leadership training and development with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, South America. While in Suriname his primary engagement was in providing pastoral leadership in the ELKS and facilitating educational opportunities for both future ordained and lay leadership throughout the church. Pastor Jacobson rejoined the ELCA Churchwide staff in 2017 and now serves as Director for Global Service. He is honored to be representing the ELCA at this year’s synod assembly.



Dakota Road – Special Music.



Dakota Road - has become known nationally for their stirring original music and playful performance style. They craft powerful stories of life and faith woven in colorful musical styles ranging from acoustic ballads to rocking anthems. Their songs of faith and love, hurts and hopes are shaped by a passion for justice and a vision for the church, the neighborhood, and the whole world to be peace-filled welcoming places. Their songs touch people of all ages and walks of life. Individually and as a band Dakota Road has released over 20 recordings with many of their songs being sung all across the U.S. & beyond. The band members are Hans Peterson, Larry Olson, Karol Baer, Christel Brosi, Scott Jibben and Al Berven.

Pr. Hans Peterson



Born and raised in Alaska, Hans began his life in the Midwest at Luther College. Since graduation he toured with a musical group to West Africa, worked as a youth director/worship leader, and served homeless men in a Catholic Worker House. Hans' passion for the church as a welcoming place led him to United Seminary in the Twin Cities where he completed a master's in theology and arts. As a singer/songwriter he ventures out solo and with the Dakota Road band, playing piano and acoustic guitar. Home is now in Jordan, MN where he teaches music and private lessons at St. John's School. Hans lives with his spouse, Heidi, on her family's farm with their two boys. When he is not leading people in song, he might be weeding the garden, picking berries, tapping sugar maples, or harvesting hazelnuts. In all that he does, Hans prays and works for a world where all creation is seen as sacred.



Larry Olson & Karol Baer have been partners in music and life for over 25 years. Together, they bring a playfulness and passion for music that is expressed in rich & diverse songwriting and powerful vocal arrangements. Their songs come alive with stories of rural roots, ponderings of parenthood, stirrings from our global family and journeys of faith. Together and with their band Dakota Road they have released over 20 recordings with many of their songs being sung all across the U.S. & beyond.

Proposed Agenda – (Abbreviated).

Friday, June 9

8:00 am.	Registration open: Lund Center.
11 – 1:00 pm.	Workshops: Beck Hall.
11 – 11:45 am.	Workshop Session 1.
11:45 – 12:15 pm.	Lunch/Transition: Outside Beck Hall. (grab a box and beverage)
12:15- 1:00 pm.	Workshop Session 2.
1:00 pm.	Break/Transition to <i>Christ Chapel.</i>
1:30 pm.	Worship: Christ Chapel.
2:40 pm.	Break/Transition to <i>Lund Center.</i>
3:00 pm.	Sliding into Plenary: Lund Center.
3:15 pm.	Plenary Session 1: Lund Center.
6:00 pm.	Dinner/Banquet: Evelyn Young Dining Room
7:30 pm.	Recess.

Saturday, June 10

7:30 am.	Breakfast: Evelyn Young Dining Room – <i>for those staying on campus only.</i>
8:00 am.	Registration: Lund Center.
8:30 am.	Siding into Plenary: Lund Center.
8:45 am.	Plenary Session 2: Lund Center.
11:15 am.	Closing Worship: Lund Center.
	Closing of Assembly.
	Adjournment.



Proposed Rules of Procedure

A. Agenda.

The agenda and rules of procedure shall be presented and adopted at the beginning of the first plenary session of the Synod Assembly. Once adopted, neither document may be amended except by a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly. Any additions to the agenda, after adoption by the Assembly, shall require a two-thirds vote to add the new item of business to the agenda.

B. Rules of the Assembly.

Right to Speak:

- I. Lay voting members elected by congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod and accredited to the Assembly by their proper registration with the Credentials Committee.
- II. All Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service under call on the roster of this synod.
- III. Persons on the roster of this synod who are retired or on leave from call (who are not otherwise a voting member of the Assembly).
- IV. Executives of ministry institutions or agencies that serve in partnership with the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.
- V. Lay members of the Synod Council and Conference Chairpersons.
- VI. Officers of the ELCA, executives of the various units, offices, and commissions of the ELCA, synod members serving on Churchwide boards and committees, and synod members serving boards of institutions and agencies that serve in partnership with the synod.
- VII. Youth representatives who are accredited to the Assembly by their proper registration with the Credentials Committee.
- VIII. Pastors of other denominations who are serving congregations of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

Right to Vote:

- I. Voting members elected by congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod who have been accredited to the Assembly by proper registration with the Credentials Committee.
- II. All rostered ministers under call on the roster of this synod.
- III. Retired pastors on the roster of the synod serving in interim ministries in congregations of the synod during the time of the Synod Assembly.
- IV. Retired and on leave from call rostered ministers who have been accredited to the Assembly by proper registration with the Credentials Committee.
- V. A rostered minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA serving in a congregation during the time of the Synod Assembly.

- VI. Lay members of the Synod Council, including officers and Conference Chairpersons who are properly registered with the Credentials Committee.

Point of Order: Any member may submit a “point of order” to the chair and may, if necessary, interrupt a speaker for that purpose.

Making a Motion: Once recognized by the chair to make a motion, the speaker will state their name and congregation membership and then state the motion using: “I move that...” Once the motion is made, if there is a second, the voting member will have three (3) minutes to speak in support of the motion.

Speaking During Discussion: If a voting member wishes to speak to a pending matter, they will approach a microphone, with the appropriate color card, on the plenary floor. Once they are recognized by the chair, the speaker will state their name, home congregation and whether they favor (green card), oppose (red card), or are asking a clarifying question (white card). All speeches shall be limited to no more than two (2) minutes; and a voting member may address a topic no more than two times. Speeches will alternate between those speaking for (green card) and against (red card) the pending matter. Those who have spoken once to a resolution shall not speak again to the same resolution until all others have had the opportunity to speak once, except when invited by the chair to respond to questions of clarification. Second speeches shall be limited to one (1) minute.

Amendments to the Motion: When a motion brought before the Assembly does not receive ready acceptance by all voting members, a proposal to modify the wording of the motion can be made by the following; “I move to amend the motion on the floor.” This will require a second. Then, a majority vote is necessary to pass the amended motion.

Withdrawal of a Motion: Any motion or amendment may be withdrawn by permission of the Assembly or the person who originally made the motion.

Previous Question: To move (call) the previous question is to bring the Assembly to an immediate decision as to whether debate on a motion should cease. It is not debatable. If adopted, the Assembly proceeds, without further debate, to vote at once on the pending question(s). A two-thirds vote is required to close debate.

C. Supplementary Rules.

Resolutions: By decision of the Synod Council, the following regulations will be observed with regard to resolutions: Only Assembly resolutions received by the Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee and at the synod office at least 60 days prior to the Synod Assembly will be considered at the Assembly with the exception of the following:

- A. Resolutions coming from Conference Assemblies must be at the synod office and in the hands of the Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee chairperson no later than four (4) days following the Conference Assembly and at least 60 days prior to the Synod Assembly.
- B. Resolutions that are the direct result of the Assembly’s response to items that are listed on the Assembly agenda.
- C. Resolutions that address issues of such an immediate and urgent nature that they clearly cannot be postponed until the next Assembly.

Authority is granted to the Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee to determine whether a given resolution qualifies for Assembly consideration according to the provision outlined above, and a two-thirds (2/3) majority Assembly vote shall be required to override the decision of the Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee.

A background statement, not to exceed one page, and outlining both pro and con arguments relative to the resolution should be provided by every individual or group that presents a resolution for Assembly action. This background statement should be separate from the resolution itself.

The Synod Assembly Resolutions Committee will receive all submitted resolutions and prepare them for consideration by the Assembly. In this preparation, the committee's goal shall be to assist the Assembly in focusing on significant matters, having helpful and efficient discussion, and taking appropriate action. In pursuit of these goals, the committee will strive to respect the intent of those who submitted the resolution to the Assembly.

Committee work on resolutions may include but is not limited to the following: editing for accuracy, clarity, brevity, and internal consistency and for appropriate form and process; editing for fidelity to the synod's governing documents, including its Statement of Faith; abbreviation; editing and supplementing of background information including reference to prior Assembly actions. The committee may choose to consult the author and/or submitters of a resolution concerning an edit, but the committee itself has final authority to alter a resolution.

In addition, the Resolutions Committee may also ask authors and/or submitters to combine two or more resolutions with similar foci in order to enhance clarity of the authors' voice and/or the submitters' intent and preserve helpful and efficient discussion on the Assembly floor while reducing redundancy.

For resolutions submitted with background information, such history must be concise and support a clear solution to a concern or problem. Background information should not be only a repetition of a given problem. Authors and submitters of resolutions should ensure that roughly 40 percent of their resolution (including background information) should deal with the details of the particular problem, while about 60 percent should address a solution. Preference will be given to resolutions which call for a specific solution to a problem or concern.

For each resolution, the committee may recommend a particular action to the Assembly and, if it does so, shall give a rationale for its recommendation. Recommendations will normally be given only for reasons related to process and not for reasons related to content. In exceptional circumstances the committee may make a recommendation related to the content of the resolution. When it does so, the background information must include a numerical record of the committee's vote on the recommendation.

No resolutions will be accepted at the Assembly except those growing out of Assembly business or of such an urgent nature that they obviously cannot be postponed until the next Assembly. Such resolutions will be allowed until 5:00 pm on the first day of the Assembly.

The order that resolutions will be brought to the floor will be determined by the presiding officer based on the urgency of the resolution and the time available for debate.

As Assembly resolutions are introduced for consideration and debate, the Synod Secretary will eliminate the reading of the "Whereas" clauses and only read the "Be it Resolved" clause of the resolution.



D. Nominations and Elections.

Elections: In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. (S9.02)

- I. Approval of the Nominating Committee report shall constitute nomination of the persons named in the report for the respective offices and positions.
- II. Additional nominations by voting members of the Assembly shall be made at the time of the Nominating Committee Report. Candidate information for each nominee shall be presented in writing to the Secretary on forms provided by the Nominating Committee. The nomination must specify the exact position for which the nomination is being made (that is, the number of the office or position in the Nominating Committee report). The person making the nomination must certify that the nominee meets the requirements of the position and consents to being nominated.
- III. No additional nominations shall be accepted after approval of the Nominating Committee report and the close of additional nominations.
- IV. Unless otherwise required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod or the ELCA, a simple majority shall be required for election (except as provided in rule #5 below for alternates to the at-large Churchwide Assembly voting member positions). If no candidate receives a majority of votes for a particular position on the first ballot, the two candidates (plus ties) with the highest number of votes shall be on the second ballot. In those instances where more than two candidates continue to the second ballot, a simple majority is required for election on the second or any subsequent ballot. Balloting will continue with the two candidates (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes continuing to the next ballot until one candidate receives a majority.
- I. The Synod Secretary will cast a unanimous ballot for all synod positions where there is only one name on the ballot.
- II. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the Assembly.

E. Miscellaneous.

- I. No printed materials of any kind may be distributed or posted within the assembly hall except by the Synod Assembly Planning Team, and only following authorization granted by the assembly manager.
- II. Cell phones, laptops, and other wireless devices must be on silent mode in the assembly hall. Calls are not allowed in the assembly hall.
- III. A motion to adjourn is debatable.
- IV. The chair, at any time, may declare a recess of the assembly for purposes of addressing technical issues.
- V. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly.



Table of Parliamentary Terms

To accomplish this:	You say this:	Interrupt the speaker?	Is a second necessary?	Is it debatable?	Can it be amended?	Necessary vote
Item of business	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Give further study	"I move to refer the matter to committee..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone discussion for stated period of time	"I move to postpone the discussion until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
End debate on amendments	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
Suspend consideration of an issue temporarily	"I move to table the motion."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Other motions to: You say:						
Request Information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Reconsider an action	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Verify a voice vote	"I call for a division."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote
Limit or extend time in debate	"I move to...."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3

Celebrations

We thank the following ministers for their years of faithful and committed service.
We thank the following ministers for their years of faithful and committed service.
They are a gift to God's Church.



2022 Anniversaries

10 yr Anniversaries

Rev. Levi Bollerud
Rev. Michael Carlson
Rev. Joel Gueningsman
Rev. Gwendolyn Hermanson
Rev. Amy Juel
Rev. Jeanette McCormick
Rev. Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt
Rev. Paul Shumaker

25 yr Anniversaries

Rev Barbara Peterson
Rev Troy Pflibsen

50 yr Anniversaries

Rev. James Boyce
Rev. John Malm
Rev. Donald Reisig

2022 Retirements

Rev. Eugene Alms
Rev. Joyce Capp
Rev. Marcille Jensen
Rev. Philip Quanbeck.

Rev. David Hall
Rev. Cynthia Hopp
Rev. Kathryn Skoglund

Rev. David Wall
Rev. Lori Wold
Rev. David Nelson
Rev. Mari Thorkelson

2023 Anniversaries

10 yr Anniversaries

Deacon Beverly Baseman
Rev. Anthony Christoffels
Rev. Stephanie Christoffels
Rev. Angela Denker
Rev. Denise Fossen
Rev. John Gabrielson
Rev. Carolyn Pflibsen
Rev. Shannon Wachter

50 yr Anniversaries

Rev. Charles Christensen
Rev. Darrell Jodock
Rev. Dean Johnson
Rev. Carlton Nelson
Rev. John Smith

25 yr Anniversaries

Rev. Ellen Munter
Rev. Pari Bailey
Rev. Trevor Bailey
Rev. LaDonna Ekern
Rev. Marianne Zitzewitz
Rev. Naomi Mahler
Rev. Yolanda Denson-Byers
Rev. Rebecca Sullivan
Rev. Janice Nairn
Rev. Rebecca Thomas

60+ yr Anniversaries

Rev. Robert Moritz (60 yr)
Rev. Eugene Anderson (61 yr)
Rev. Marlan Johnson (61 yr)
Rev. Alvin Lewis (63 yr)
Rev. Alan Schmidt (63 yr)
Rev. Arlen Stensland (63 yr)
Rev. Charles Anderson (63 yr)
Rev. Paul Idstrom (64 yr)
Rev. J David Nelson (64 yr)
Rev. Paul Dumke (69 yr)
Rev. Earl Peterson (70 yr)

2023 Retirements

Rev. Darby Lawrence
Rev. James Bump
Rev. Stephen Cook
Rev. Bobbi Bell

Rev. Ronald Nichols
Rev. Scott Fuller
Rev. Allen Campbell

Rev. Marie Eckberg
Rev. Dan Belgum
Rev. Wayne Kopitzke

2022 Congregation Anniversaries

75th Anniversary

Our Savior Lutheran, New Ulm

100th Anniversary

Bethany Lutheran, Lake Crystal

Gethsemane Lutheran, Foley

125th Anniversary

First Lutheran, Lafayette

Maynard Lutheran, Maynard

150th Anniversary

Bergen Lutheran, Granite Falls

Bethlehem Lutheran, Hills

Borgund Lutheran, Madison

Buffalo Lake, Willmar

Calvary Lutheran, Willmar

Hemnes Lutheran, Minneota

Hope Lutheran, Minneota

Immanuel Lutheran, Starbuck

Kviteseid Lutheran, Milan

St Olaf Lutheran, Odin

Trinity Lutheran, Walnut Grove

2023 Congregation Anniversaries

75th Anniversary

Our Saviour Lutheran, Canby

Central Lutheran, Fairfax

100th Anniversary

Peace Lutheran, Cosmos

125th Anniversary

Grace Lutheran, Cokato

Our Savior Lutheran, Westbrook

150th Anniversary

Sillerud Lutheran, Balaton

Gethsemane Lutheran, Dassel

First Lutheran, Litchfield

Salem Lutheran, Montevideo

Hope Lutheran, Big Lake

Glendorado Lutheran, Princeton

Rock Valle Lutheran, Echo

Hawk Creek Lutheran, Sacred Heart

Hadley Lutheran, Hadley

Bethel Lutheran, Porter

First Lutheran, Saint James

St John Lutheran, Winthrop



Roster Changes in 2022 & 2023

New to the Synod

Rev Steve Peterson – Retired
 Rev Michael Mannisto – SC Synod of WI
 Rev Peter Bauck – CentraCare, St Cloud
 Rev Erika Buller – Vinje, Willmar
 Rev Michael Buller – Kerkhoven, Kerkhoven
 Rev Ted Carnahan – Our Savior's, Jackson
 Rev Chris Culuris – First, St Peter
 Rev Heather Culuris – SW MN Synod Staff
 Rev Jake Dyrhaug – Living Water, Sauk Rapids
 Rev Sarah Larson – Resurrection, St Joseph
 Rev Darby Lawrence – Retired
 Rev Andrew Evenson – OLFC
 Deacon Sarah Kretschmann – GLLM
 Rev Linda Wimmer – Zion, Appleton

Transfer Out

Rev Maggie Berndt-Dryer – EC Synod of WI
 Rev Steve Bovedam – NW MN Synod
 Rev Marlene Elmstrom – SPAS
 Rev Nikoli Falenschek to MAS
 Rev Ronald Nichols to NW Synod of WI
 Rev Aaron Holmgren to SPAS
 Rev Bill Klavetter to SE MN Synod
 Rev Angela LaMoore to NE MN Synod
 Rev Paul Lutter to MAS
 Rev Steven Olson to MAS
 Rev Jennelle Cuning to SE MN Synod
 Rev David Severtson to NE IA Synod
 Rev Kat Tigerman to NE PENN Synod
 Rev Justin Tigerman to NE PENN Synod

Ordinations

Deacon Jill Davis – Jan 16, 2022
 Rev Janet Adams – Feb 19, 2022
 Rev Jon Wendt – March 12, 2022
 Rev Jeremy Hallquist – May 7, 2022
 Rev Susan Christianson – May 22, 2022
 Rev Charles Shingledecker – July 9, 2022
 Rev Sherri Larson – July, 30, 2022
 Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson – Aug 8, 2022
 Rev Paul Bravinder – Aug 21, 2022
 Rev Sarah Jones – Oct 22, 2022
 Rev Allison Peterson – Nov 19, 2022
 Rev Austin Krohnke – Dec 3, 2022
 Rev David Nelson – Dec 10, 2022

First Call Period – 3 Years

Rev Janet Adams – Trinity, Madelia
 Rev Paul Bravinder – Mount Hermon, Annandale
 Rev Susan Christianson – Swedlanda/St Paul, Hector
 Rev Peter Keomanivong – Reborn Lao, Waite Park
 Rev Jeremy Hallquist – American, Worthington
 Rev Sarah Jones – Peace, Cosmos
 Rev Austin Krohnke – St Stephen, Marshall
 Rev Sarah Larson – Resurrection, St Joseph
 Rev Sherri Larson – Ebenezer/Tripolis, Kandiyohi
 Rev David Nelson – United, Lake Lillian
 Rev Gretchen Pierskalla – Zion, Arlington
 Rev Allison Peterson – Clear Lake, South Santiago
 Rev Hans Peterson – River of Hope, Hutchinson
 Rev Charles Shingledecker – Christ, Hendricks
 Rev Jon Wendt – St Matthew. Wabasso
 Rev Sarah Jones – Peace, Cosmos
 Rev Matthew Garavalia – Scandian Grove, St Peter
 Deacon Jill Davis – Allina, Hutchinson
 Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson – Belgrade Parish

Future Ordinations

Chad Duffy – June 25, 2023
 Mort Meyenburg – July 22, 2023



“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).

Dear siblings in Christ,

We know the gospel changes lives and that God’s power and grace are real and at work today. Together we are called to bear God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world. What if we could make God known to more people? To the child who’s never heard of Jesus? To young adults who are trying to make sense of the world? To older adults who often feel lonely and isolated?

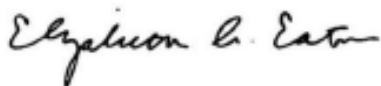
Our purpose – “to activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love” – is an expression of our calling and our longing for others to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. We live out our purpose through worship and service, in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and our collective work as church together.

Many of you have wondered why we set a goal to reach one million new, young and diverse people. We believe that each of us is made in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus on the cross, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Our focus on young and diverse people is not exclusive but an acknowledgment that younger and more diverse people are disproportionately missing from our pews and gatherings. We are challenging one another to reach out across differences of all sorts to meet our neighbors.

Setting a goal to engage with one million is a way for us to know whether the work we are doing is, in fact, reaching new people. It encourages us to work together to be a church that cares about the world around us and is effective and faithful in responding to God’s call.

Join us on this future-focused journey to widen our welcome and break down the barriers that keep people from engaging with the church. Together, we can help people experience the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

In Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Jesús se acercó entonces a ellos y les dijo: –Se me ha dado toda autoridad en el cielo y en la tierra. Por tanto, vayan y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, enseñándoles a obedecer todo lo que les he mandado a ustedes. Y les aseguro que estaré con ustedes siempre, hasta el fin del mundo” (Mateo 28:18-20).

Queridos(as) hermanos(as) en Cristo:

Sabemos que el evangelio cambia vidas, y que el poder y la gracia de Dios son reales y están obrando hoy. Juntos somos llamados a llevar la palabra creadora y redentora de Dios a todo el mundo. ¿Qué pasaría si pudiéramos dar a conocer a Dios a más personas? ¿Al niño que nunca ha oído hablar de Jesús? ¿A los adultos jóvenes que están tratando de entender el mundo? ¿A los adultos mayores que a menudo se sienten solos y aislados?

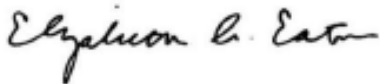
Nuestro propósito —activar a cada uno de nosotros para que más personas conozcan el camino de Jesús y descubran la comunidad, la justicia y el amor— es una expresión de nuestra llamada y nuestro anhelo de que otros conozcan el amor de Dios en Cristo Jesús. Vivimos nuestro propósito a través de la adoración y el servicio, en nuestras congregaciones y comunidades, a través de nuestras vocaciones individuales y nuestro trabajo colectivo como iglesia juntos.

Muchos de ustedes se han preguntado por qué fijamos la meta de alcanzar a un millón de personas nuevas, jóvenes y diversas. Creemos que cada uno de nosotros está hecho a imagen de Dios, redimido por Jesús en la cruz y lleno del Espíritu Santo. Nuestro enfoque en las personas jóvenes y diversas no es exclusivo, sino un reconocimiento de que las personas más jóvenes y diversas están desproporcionadamente ausentes de nuestras bancas y reuniones. Nos estamos desafiando unos a otros a avanzar a través de diferencias de todo tipo para conocer a nuestros vecinos.

La meta de comprometernos con un millón es una forma de saber si el trabajo que hacemos está, en efecto, llegando a nuevas personas. Nos anima a trabajar juntos para ser una iglesia que se preocupa por el mundo que nos rodea y que es eficaz y fiel en su respuesta al llamado de Dios.

Únase a nosotros en esta jornada concentrada en el futuro para extender nuestra bienvenida y romper las barreras que impiden que las personas participen en la iglesia. Juntos podemos ayudar a la gente a experimentar la diferencia que la gracia y el amor de Dios en Cristo hacen en todas las personas y la creación.

En Cristo,



La Rvda. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Obispa Presidente
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América

Rev. Heather Culuris - Synod Minister



Julian of Norwich, a renewer of the church who lived in England in the late 1300s and early 1400s once wrote: “Be a Gardener. Dig a ditch. Toil and sweat. And turn the earth upside down. And seek the deepness. And water plants in time. Continue this labor. And make sweet floods to run, and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink and carry it to God as your true worship.”

These words were written in times of great change and upheaval in the world and church, a time of war and a time of the plague. Yet Julian’s words, even today, remind us of the importance of our daily work to plant and nurture life around us, in our communities, in our churches, in the places where we call home. Her words remind us that our daily labors matter to our world and to God. This is an echo of our own Lutheran belief of vocation, that all that we do in our lives, big and small, can be a way of serving and worshiping God.

As I think about this past year, serving as your synod minister for Equipping Leaders, it feels as if Julian’s words speak to the work I do with the congregations and people of our synod. The work of Candidacy, preparing people for ministry in the church, is a daily work of planting seeds, tending to growth, nurturing the fruit that is growing, and celebrating as new leaders are ready to serve the church. Our Candidacy committee is a steady, faithful, encouraging group of people who are committed to raising up and supporting those who are pursuing seminary studies and preparing for ministry.

Call process in our synod continues to move forward slowly, but steadily. It is an honor to work with congregations as they discern their future and the pastor that will be a good match for their future ministry. Julian’s words remind me that each small step, each interview, each call vote completed, each installation is part of tending God’s garden here in this part of Minnesota.

Also as part of this call for Equipping Leaders, I have been a part of many opportunities to nurture and equip our leaders through Fall Theological planning, online ZOOM trainings for lay and rostered leaders, presenting workshops at the fall Roadshow events, coordinating boundaries trainings. It has been important also to connect with our rostered leaders and congregations through being present at worship in congregations and at conference meetings as I am able.

In conclusion, it is my hope that we can continue as a synod to encourage and equip, support, and build up the gifts for leadership in our congregations and those leaders who serve them. Thank you for the ministry you do, tending God’s garden in your congregations and communities.

Pastor Heather Culuris

Synod Minister for Engaging Leaders
2023 SW MN Synod Assembly Report

Rev. Naomi Mahler - Synod Minister

I started in this position in November 2022 following Rev Stephen Cook, who retired. I still feel so new in my position that it is challenging for me to know what to report. So first, I am grateful. I am grateful that I get to be a companion on the journey of faith and ministry with you. I am grateful for all the ways the congregations of this synod are working faithfully to share the good news of God's love with the world. I am grateful for how we are working to embody the word to our communities.



I would also like to report that I am learning. I am learning all what my role entails. I am learning the specific ins and outs of the call process, the financial systems of the synod, and about our companion synod relationship which are the three primary foci of my work. I am also learning about the whole synod- all of you - who make up our 229 congregations. What are your joys and challenges? What are the wonderful ways you are doing ministry in your contexts? What are your dreams for the future and your laments about the past?

I get asked a lot, "How do you like your new job?" My answer is "I love it and I find it challenging." I love this work because I love God, God's church, and the work we are called to do together. I see congregations worshipping, learning, and serving together. I also see congregations faithfully trying to discern how God is calling them; trying to get a glimpse of what the best way to do ministry will be in the future.

But some days this work feels challenging because I desire to see the church renewed and yet the work of change is hard. That work is hard because we do not always know exactly what it is we should be doing in a world that is so rapidly changing. It is hard because of grief for things we have had to let go. It can also be hard because sometimes we do not want to try something new and let go of what served us in the past.

So, I hope we can be grateful and keep learning together as we go into the future. May we be renewed as we learn how best to serve and do ministry together for the sake of the world. God loves us and calls us to share that love in the world; there is no greater gift.

Pastor Naomi Mahler

Synod Minister for Equipping Congregations
2023 SW MN Synod Assembly Report

Rev. Troy Pflibsen - Director for Evangelical Mission

I am grateful for the privilege to serve with you in several ministries that seek to embody the Word.

- + Faithful Innovation seeks to embody the Word by inviting congregations and leaders into the formative questions of “where have you seen God” and “how can we join in God’s activity.” From these formative questions congregations and leaders embody the Word as they develop experiments that move them into inspired, adaptive change.
- + Coaching seeks to embody the Word through equipping and supporting coaches and connecting them with congregations and leaders who want to focus their gifts and energy more deeply.
- + Anti-Racism Team seeks to embody the Word through training and resources that push against racism.
- + Hunger Team seeks to embody the Word by continuing the Word’s ministry, feeding people.
- + Generosity Team seeks to embody the Word by helping congregations and leaders to wrestle with “why” and to name, gather and share all that God has given.
- + Generosity Partnership with GSB seeks to embody the Word by resourcing congregations and leaders as they wrestle with the “why” and to name, gather and share all that God has given.
- + Strategic Planning and Generosity Planning for Small to Mid-Sized Congregations seeks to embody the Word by connecting the work of “why” with the work of generosity. This combination helps congregations to develop both a direction for their mission and the resources to support this mission.
- + Congregational Vitality seeks to embody the Word providing various resources that help to enliven and strengthen congregations and their leadership.
- + SAWCs and Strategic Ministry seek to embody the Word in ways very specific to their community and context. It might be ethnic specific. It might be intentional work in the midst of the marginalized. These ministries in our SW MN synod are Reborn Lao Lutheran, House of Grace, and Iglesia Paz Y Esperanza.
- + Area Collaborations seek to embody the Word as congregations and leaders more intentionally become the Word for each other.



Thank you again for the privilege of working with you as together we seek to embody the Word in this place, at this time, as a called, gathered, and blessed community. It is together in all the ways listed above, and so many more, that we embody the Word for each other and the world.

Shalom,

Pastor Troy Pflibsen

Director for Evangelical Mission

2023 SW MN Synod Assembly Report

Rev. Nikoli Falenschek, Youth Ministry Coordinator



Hello, my name is Nikoli Falenschek, and I am the new Youth Ministry Coordinator for the synod! I feel so privileged to continue Sister Sarah Hausken's work supporting children and youth ministries across our congregations and to be welcomed into the incredible work the LYO Board (Lutheran Youth Organization) has been doing. My work only just started at the beginning of this calendar year, but already it's been so much fun.

My work has two main parts: first, I work closely with the LYO Board to assist in their work planning the Junior and Senior High Gatherings. If you were not aware, the LYO Board is an elected group of both high schoolers and adults (fifteen high schoolers and ten adults) who gather regularly to deepen their faith, develop leadership skills, and think creatively about how best to serve the youth of our synod. Each year, the youth representation is elected at the Senior high gathering and the adults are appointed by our synods many conferences.

The other part of my work deals directly with your ministry site! As a pastor myself, I know how valuable a personal connection with both the synod and ministry peers can be. I am here to help those connections flourish. We have lots of opportunities for both our lay and rostered youth ministry leaders to be in relationship with each other, learning from each other's wisdom and supporting each other in the hardness of this work. If you have not yet had a chance to plug into these connections, please get in touch with me as I would love to learn more about you, your ministry site, and how I can best support your ministry.

I'm still very new to this work but am so grateful to be here. The Southwestern Minnesota Synod is my home synod. I grew up in Becker at Faith Lutheran and remember attending gatherings and synod assemblies while in high school. The strong SW MN synod youth ministry and my congregation's youth ministry are a large part of why my faith is still an important part of my life, not to mention the ways these spaces had prepared me for the kind of leadership to which I'm now called as a pastor.

Thank you for all you do and all you are, both in your ministry and outside of it. Blessings be on you, your ministry, your families, and friends, and all else that is right and good in your life.

In Christ's Peace,

Nikoli Falenschek

Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Report of the Synod Nominating Committee



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The following biographical data, with names listed alphabetically, is provided for all synod-related positions for which there are elections at the Synod Assembly.

1. SYNOD COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT – lay person.

Lay female.

a. **LOKENS GARD, MARIA L.**

1. Scandian Grove, Saint Peter.
2. Senior Manager, Scholarship America.
3. Degrees in Business and Interior Design.
4. In my current position at Scholarship America, I am called on to lead meetings in many different capacities. I facilitate sessions with clients, peers, my team members, using Teams, Zoom, and GoToMeeting formats. I rely on my knowledge of parliamentary procedures when leading the groups, and I keep things moving quickly. This knowledge came from my years in 4-H and lots of practice!
5. Going into a new position requires an open mind to new ideas, and change leadership. Any help and guidance from a network of current and past Vice Presidents is vital to a successful term. I welcome the chance to meet with others who can answer questions, give advice, and be supportive. I find it very easy to jump on a chat group to ask for guidance or help - experience is the best source of information.
6. As an active member of my congregation, I see how our church is trying to keep up with relevance, membership, benevolence concerns, and current economic issues. I hope to bring my gift of positivity, compassion, and compromise to the committee. I love to brain-storm ideas, think of new ways to look at the issues, and listen to others' thoughts. God's plan involves everyone!
7. 1) Synod Treasurer of SW MN – WELCA: 2017 - current, 2) President of Church Council – Scandian Grove Lutheran Church: 2001-2005, 3) President – Nicollet County Historical Society: 2015-2019.

2. SYNOD COUNCIL TREASURER – lay or rostered person.

Lay male.

a. **HAINES, BOB M.**

1. Bethel, Willmar.
2. Sr. Accountant/Shareholder.
3. MBA in Finance, University of MN; Bachelor's degree, Concordia College.
4. I would share key financial concepts as understandable insights to guide the Staff/Council/Assembly membership in their understanding and decision making. I would do this by providing context for the information, focusing on the most important data and indicators, describing basic examples, sharing this information in multiple ways, and anticipating common questions. My experiences with both Church and Non-profit Boards will be useful.
5. I thoroughly prepare for Board meetings. I focus on the organization mission with a forward-looking view. I have extensive experience as an Executive Committee member for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, Bethel Lutheran Church, and the YMCA (Willmar). Am willing to engage in conversation

at the Board & Executive Committee level, but unless asked, speak only when I have something relevant to contribute.

6. 1) CFO for United FCS (12 offices), 2) VP of Finance & Administration for Ridgewater College, 3) Board member & Treasurer for: YMCA (Willmar), Green Lake Lutheran Ministries & Bethel Lutheran Church.

3. SYNOD COUNCIL SECRETARY – lay or rostered person.

Rostered female.

a. ZASTROW, REV ANN

1. First, Pipestone.
2. Pastor.
3. MDiv.
4. I have served as the Synod Secretary for the past 5 years (one year filling a vacancy, then a 4-year elected term). Prior to that I was on the synod council for 3 years, so I have a lot of institutional memory, knowledge of both recent history and how things work. I have great attention to detail and communicate well both speaking and writing. I know a lot about the synod and its people and resources, having been a pastor in the synod 9 years.
5. I listen deeply and have used my voice (as a pastor) to ask questions, give suggestions or ideas, and contribute to conversations on topics that impact the synod council and the synod. With my history on both synod and executive councils, I can help remember and research how things were done in the past, and if they were successful or not. I have a good working relationship with Bishop Dee and members of the synod council.
6. 1) Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Pipestone; Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne; Big Grove - Crow River - Grace Parish, Belgrade, 2) Classroom Teacher, 3) Province Office (Sigma Alpha Iota, music fraternity).

4. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – rostered male.

Rostered male.

a. MCKEE, REV DON

1. Our Savior's, Montevideo.
2. Pastor.
3. B.A. in Business Administration and Religion, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN; MDiv from Wartburg Seminary; Clergy Coaching, Luther Seminary; Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising.
4. In my opinion, it is always about mission. Mission inside the congregation and synod and outside the congregation and synod. There are many missions we can focus on.
5. I am an out of the box type thinker. I like to consider and think about what we might do and how to do that. I am organized and I am also a good administrator.
6. 1) Pastor in three congregations in our synod, 2) Synod Call Committee and Synod Council, 3) Internship Supervisor and TEEM Mentor.

5. SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – lay female.

Lay female.

a. PETERSON, EMILY

1. Bethlehem, Saint Cloud
2. Assistant Principal
3. BA in secondary education and English, MS in curriculum and instruction.
4. I would like my congregation to focus its energy on ministries that best fit with its mission which is to worship, pray, learn, give, and serve.

5. I will continue to contribute as I have in the past by volunteering during worship, joining in the worship music team and choir, participating in community service opportunities, and other ministry activities.
6. 1) Sauk Rapids – Rice Education Association Building Representative, 2) Dean of Students at Little Falls Community Middle School, 3) Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

6. **SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – youth.**

Youth.

- a. no nominee at time of printing.

7. **SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – youth.**

Youth.

- a. no nominee at time of printing.

8. **SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE – lay male – 1 year term – renewable.**

Lay male.

- a. no nominee at time of printing.

9. **CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – lay female.**

Lay female.

a. **PIERCE, KRISTIN**

1. Peace, New London
2. Lawyer
3. J.D.
4. I am very familiar with employment and other legal issues.
5. 1) Vice President of Church Council – 1 year, 2) Secretary of Church Council – 2 years, 3). Church Council member – 6 years.

10. **CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – lay male.**

Lay male.

a. **LOSETH, RICK**

1. Vinje, Willmar
2. Clinical Social Worker - Retired
3. M.A.
4. Community involvement, environmental stewardship, deepening faith of members.
5. Willingness to try 'new' things in ministry.
6. 1) Clinical Supervisor for 25 mental health and social work staff, 2) Vinje Council President – 2 years, 3). Part of a team that developed synod boundary trainings and helped facilitate for a number of years.

11. **DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – rostered female.**

Rostered female.

a. **ULLAND – KLINKNER, REV KATHLEEN**

1. Our Savior's, New Ulm
2. Pastor
3. Master of Divinity
4. I would like to see my congregation's energy and focus be on these three things: children and youth, outreach in our community and beyond, and building a community that is safe and welcoming to all.
5. My gifts include experience, compassion, energy, and an eagerness to grow and learn in my calling.

6. I am the senior pastor at Our Savior's and have served on a variety of synod and community committees.

12. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – rostered male.

Rostered male.

a. CARLSON, REV MICHAEL

1. First, Sauk Centre
2. Lead Pastor
3. B.A. Concordia College, MDiv. Luther Seminary
4. Our ministry focus at First is on those who have been turned away and off by church and religion. We want to be a congregation that those who were turned away want to turn to today. We see ourselves as a church that is in position to help other congregations in different ways, helping to further expand the reaching out to those who have been turned off.
5. Listening and Seeing are two things that I believe strongly in. We can't identify the problem if we are not looking, and we can't fix the problem if we don't listen to one another and engage in meaningful discussion so that we can all come to a unified solution to the issues at hand.
6. 1) Served twelve years on the Willmar Public School Board of Education – twice as the Board Chair, 2) Synod Council x2 (Currently serving), 3). Served on the Bishop Election Task Force.

13. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – rostered male.

Rostered male.

a. CULURIS, REV CHRISTOPHER

1. First, Saint Peter
2. Pastor
3. M.Div. – St John's School of Theology; BA – Biology – University of Colorado.
4. Our congregation has just adopted a five-year strategic plan framework that will guide our ministry for the time period 2023-2028. Our three priorities are: providing programming and services for all demographics, engaging, and collaborating with the community, and having a solid financial position to carry out our ministries. We hope this framework will help us to grow as a congregation and serve the needs of our community.
5. I bring over 20 years of ordained experience serving congregations in the ELCA ministering in four different synods in Pennsylvania and Minnesota. I work collaboratively with others in a creative and collaborative spirit.
6. 1) Pastor, First Lutheran Church – St Peter, MN, 2) Chair of the Conference of Deans – Southeastern MN Synod, ELCA, 3). First Call Theological colleague group leader.

14. SYNOD COUNCIL – Crow River Conference – 3-year term – rostered male.

a. EVENSON, REV THOMAS – First, Litchfield

15. SYNOD COUNCIL – Lac qui Conference – 3-year term – lay male.

a. no nominee at time of printing.

16. SYNOD COUNCIL – Prairie Conference – 3-year term – lay person.

a. no nominee at time of printing.



Report of the Secretary – Rev. Ann Zastrow

The report of the Synod Secretary brings forward proposed changes to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution. The first set of changes are non-required amendments that will align our constitution with Model Constitution for Synods. These changes were approved by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Also included is a Continuing Resolution added by the Synod Council.

PART 1.

Whenever the secretary of the ELCA officially informs synods that the Churchwide Assembly has amended *non-required* provisions within the *Constitution for Synods*, the synod constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly.

PROVISION	AMENDED PROVISION Inserted words are <u>underlined</u> . Removed words are struck out .
S7.14	One-half <u>One-third</u> of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
S7.22	This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, <u>provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of consistent with</u> †S7.21.e. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
S7.24	Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until <u>the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless</u> replaced by the election of new members <u>for a special synod assembly</u> , or until they have been disqualified by termination of <u>congregation</u> membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
S7.26	The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for: [...] c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church <u>as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.</u> [...] f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
S.11.10	GENERAL PROVISIONS.
S14.13.	The pastor (a) shall keep accurate <u>parochial</u> records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
S14.15.	Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of <u>his or her</u> ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S14.34.	Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
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PART 2.

In a meeting on November 22, 2022, our Synod Council approved a change in the Continuing Resolutions of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution (noted in the table below). Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a two-thirds vote of the SW MN Synod Council and requires no further action of the SW MN Synod Assembly. Presented for your information only.

S7.22. A22	Retired rostered ministers, or those designated disabled or on leave from call, on the roster of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod may serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with +S7.21.
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RESOLUTION 23.01

Whereas, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) officially informed synods that the 2022 Churchwide Assembly amended *non-required* provisions within the *Constitution for Synods*; and

Whereas, all existing language in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution has been editorially corrected to reflect the CWA 2022 non-required language; and

Whereas, amendments that are *not required* may be adopted by the SW MN Synod Assembly on a majority vote of one Synod Assembly; therefore be it

Resolved, that the following changes be adopted:

PROVISION	AMENDED PROVISION Inserted words are <u>underlined</u> . Removed words are struck out .
S7.14	One-half <u>One-third</u> of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
S7.22	This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, <u>provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of consistent with</u> †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
S7.24	Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until <u>the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless</u> replaced by the election of new members <u>for a special synod assembly</u> , or until they have been disqualified by termination of <u>congregation</u> membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
S8.42	The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for: [...] c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church <u>as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.</u> [...] f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
S.11.10	GENERAL PROVISIONS.
S14.13.	The pastor (a) shall keep accurate <u>parochial</u> records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
S14.15.	Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of <u>his or her</u> ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
S14.34.	Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of <u>his or her</u> ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Submitted by the Southwestern MN Resolutions Committee.

Report of the Synod Treasurer – Chuck Engebretson

January 2023 Financial Position & Fiscal 2023 Operating Results

Financial Position

- Combined Net Assets of the Operating Fund and Operating Reserve Fund at January 31, 2023 (the end of fiscal year 2023) totaled \$930,905, down from \$1,058,964 at January 31, 2022 (the end of fiscal year 2022), comprised primarily of cash and investments, less current obligations (\$330,210), including routine payables and the Synod's Fiscal Agent Liability of \$94,813). The Synod's liquidity continues to be adequate.
- Synod investments at January 31, 2023 totaled \$2,531,138 (\$667,820, and \$1,863,318, for the Operating and Endowment Funds, respectively). This year, the Operating Fund and Endowment Fund of the Synod have experienced significant month-to-month volatility and finish the year with net decreases in market values. Though leaving the Synod with year-to-date net value decreases and an almost \$300k year-to-year swing, January showed a much-needed recovery. The yearly comparison follows:

<u>Gain (Loss)</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Operating Fund	(\$64.8k)	\$ 31.8k
Endowment Fund	(\$128.0k)	\$ 73.9k
Total for Synod	(\$192.8k)	\$105.7k

- To demonstrate how investment values had increased before the net decreases of fiscal year 2023, the Operating Fund's ELCA Foundation investment of \$500,000 in 2019, shows a January 31, 2023, value of \$654.2k, almost 31% above the amount invested.

Results of Synod Operations

- The year-to-date net Operating Fund **loss** of \$128,058 reflects a very small **positive** variance of \$1,342 [The budgeted deficit for all of FY 2023 is \$129,400.].
- Mission support from congregations, typically the most significant component of Operating Fund revenue, for 2023, at \$1,749,175, **exceeded budget** by \$49,175, and **the previous year's total** by \$9,229. As hoped, late-in-year mission support from congregations repeated the giving pattern of the previous year. For fiscal year 2023, 26.6% of total mission support was provided in the last two months. The corresponding prior year percentage was 26.4%.
- Other significant variances for the year include:
 - Registration fees and program expenses stemming from cancellation of the Synod Assembly.
 - Personnel expenses, reflecting late-in-year filling of certain positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Engebretson

Synod Treasurer

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21

This Bible verse reflects the sharing of gifts that donors have given to the SW MN Synod. These gifts make up the SW MN Synod Endowment Fund. We are thankful for these generous gifts and the donors who have given them. Through their generosity, we can do God’s Work with our Hands together now, and in the future.

ENDOWMENT FUND CATEGORIES

As of December 31, 2022, the Endowment Fund had a combined balance of \$1,767,700.16 across the following eight categories:

- General/Undesignated Fund - grants for synod partners/congregations
- Global Missions - grants for global missions (i.e. South Africa)
- Mission Enhancement - grants toward innovative ministry
- Debt Reduction - grants for pastoral educational debt reduction
- Youth Ministry - grants for Synod youth ministry programs/events
- American Missions - grants for American Missions
- Pension Equity - grants for enhancing rostered minister’s pension
- Ministry Scholarships - grants for seminarians

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Each year the Endowment Fund Committee reviews the SW MN Synod’s investments and makes a decision on how much of the fund will be distributed to enhance the ministry across the SW MN Synod. In the last four years (2019-2022), \$235,700 has been distributed across the Fund’s eight categories. For 2023, the distribution amount has been set at \$70,000.

CONGREGATION MISSION GRANTS

Using the distributed amount from the General/Undesignated Fund and the Mission Enhancement Fund, the Endowment Fund Committee has created a Congregation Mission Grant program to help congregations and ministry partners in funding projects to which they are passionate. In the last four years (2019-2022), 54 grants have been awarded for a total of \$79,602. These Mission Grants are open to any congregation in the SW MN Synod that is planning a new ministry initiative or expanding an existing outreach ministry. The Endowment Fund committee is especially interested in proposals that involve partnerships with other faith communities or other organizations in the community.

2023 MISSION GRANT APPLICATION

For 2023, the Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that \$26,700 is available for Congregation Mission Grants. The grant application is available on the SW MN Synod website www.swmnelca.org/grants. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2023. Grant applicants will be informed of their grant status by August 15, 2023, with funds available for distribution upon receipt of a signed agreement. The final report is due by November 30, 2024.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Endowment Fund Committee or serving on the committee, please feel free to contact any of the committee members. The committee can also answer questions about grant applications, available resources, or how to donate to the Synod Endowment Fund.

Jim Branstad (jimbranstad@gmail.com); Pastor Anthony Christoffels (pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com); Chuck Engebretson (engechas050@charter.net); Caren Johnson (johnson49@charter.net); Steve Joul (sjoul@communitygiving.org); Pastor Tim Larson (tlarson@charter.net); Pastor Naomi Mahler (naomi.mahler@swmnelca.org); Wendy Seefeldt (werk@xtratyme.com)



We Remember.

Rev. Robert E. Mader



Rev. Robert "Bob" E. Mader, age 86, Sartell, MN died Sunday, December 13, 2020, at Edgewood Assisted Living, Sartell, MN.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 11:00 AM at Atonement Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Funeral arrangements were made by Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud, MN.

Bob was born July 14, 1934, in Melrose Park, IL to Edward and Adeline (Blasius) Mader. He graduated from Joliet High School, Joliet, IL; Joliet Junior College, Augustana College of Rock Island, IL, and seminary. On December 29, 1957, Bob was united in marriage to Patsy "Pat" R. Johansson in Marinette, WI. Bob received clinical chaplaincy training from Charlottesville Medical Hospital in Charlottesville, VA. He was ordained in 1961 in Seattle, WA. Bob served three churches in Virginia and then was called to Faribault State Hospital as head chaplain where he served for 10 years. He was then called to the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, MN where he served as chaplain for 20 years. Bob also served two churches in Murdock, MN and two churches in Carlton, MN. After his retirement Bob worked with training his dogs - shepherds and rottweilers. Bob was a member of Atonement Lutheran Church and the College of Chaplains.

Survivors include his wife, Patsy "Pat" Mader of Sartell, MN; daughters, Laura Slaughter of Benson, MN; and Deborah Mader of Faribault, MN; adopted daughter, Paula Baker of St. Cloud, MN; brother, Wayne (Kathy) Mader of Annandale, MN; three grandchildren, David (Heather) Flannigan, Karri (Allen Johnson) Bahr, and Jammie Huffman; and one great grandson, Michael.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Linda Huffman, and granddaughter, Julie Huffman.



Rev. William “Bill” Miller



William Wayne “Bill” Miller, 74, died on Tuesday, August 31st of pancreatic cancer at home surrounded by his family. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred. A scholarship fund has been established at Peace Lutheran Church in New London for second career seminarian students. Arrangements are with Harvey Anderson Funeral Home in Willmar. www.hafh.org.

William W. Miller was born May 22, 1947, the oldest son of Alfred and Florence (Holme) Miller. He grew up on the family farm south of Sauk Centre, MN. He attended a country school until 9th grade when began his studies at Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN. He was there through high school and two years of college, a year at monastery, then transferred to SCSU with a Bachelor of Science Degree in music education. In 1975 Bill earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Choral Conducting from the U of M.

Bill married Mary Elizabeth Kleber on December 30, 1972, in St. Cloud, where they met when he was the organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. After two years in St. Cloud, they moved to New London where Bill became the choral music director at New London-Spicer Schools. They made their home in New London for 36 years where they raised their three boys: Jeffrey, Matthew, and Mark. After 17 years of teaching and also serving as organist at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar, he became the Lay Minister of Music and Prayer at Peace Lutheran Church. During this time, Bill decided to pursue a degree in second career Pastoral Ministry from Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary and Luther Seminary. He accepted the call as pastor at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church where he was Ordained in Word and Sacrament on July 31, 2011, and served for 6 ½ years, prior to his retirement. Still wanting to share ministry, Bill became one of the chaplains at Bethesda Grand in Willmar, a position he held for 3 ½ years.

From 1971-1990 Bill also was the accompanist and assistant for the MN All-State Lutheran Choir, which he looked forward to and enjoyed each summer.

Bill was known for being a faithful servant of the Lord, compassionate husband, dad, teacher, mentor, pastor and friend with a playful humor and boisterous laugh. He loved much, including watching sunsets by the lake, listening to, and feeding birds, playing cards especially Cribbage and Hand and Foot, being in control of the TV remote, and eating favorite foods like his wife’s spaghetti, BBQ ribs, goulash, and of course blueberry pie. He loved spending time with the family, going to restaurants, day dates at the movie theater, and going for coffee and pie with his friends. He was respected, admired, and loved by so many and will be greatly missed.

Surviving is his wife, Mary, of New London; sons and daughters-in-law: Jeff and Anna of Mapleton, ND, Matthew and Danielle of Eagle, CO and Mark and Tina of Otsego; and five grandchildren: Caris, Asher, Ava, Lincoln, and Quincy. Also surviving are his sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Doug Ewing of Grasonville, MD and Bonita Springs, FL; his sister-in-law, Pam Miller of Lebanon, TN; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alfred, mother Florence, and his brother and sister-in-law, John, and Julie.

*Let us hold Mary and the Miller family in our prayers as they grieve, mourn, remember
and give thanks to God for the promises we know in Christ Jesus.*

Rev. Gordon L. Syverson



On Monday, August 3, 1936, Gordon Lee Syverson began his earthly journey. He joined a large farming family in a small white house in Hill River Township in rural McIntosh, Minnesota. His days as a youth were filled with play with his siblings and chores around the farm. He started his life-long love of learning and reading while attending Lindsey Schoolhouse through 8th grade, continuing his education at McIntosh High School, completing high school at Crookston AC. His college years were an example of his willingness to try new things and experience new places. He attended the Bible Institute of Minneapolis, Concordia College-Moorhead, and completing at Augsburg College-Minneapolis. He loved history, philosophy, religion and studied these all of his life. While in Minneapolis, he met and fell in love with Christine Frantsen of the Minot, North Dakota area. They married August 24, 1958. To this loving marriage, three children were born--Naomi, Rhonda, and Michael.

Following his college years, he attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. He followed where God called him even when it did not always make sense to others. An adventure during Seminary was his internship year in Camrose, Alberta, Canada. The four years of seminary were full years---working full-time, attending classes, a new marriage, and a baby. So, following his graduation from Seminary, he took a break and taught high school for two years at Sioux Valley School District in Jackson County, Minnesota.

June of 1966, Gordon was ordained at Vernes Lutheran Church in rural McIntosh. He began serving East and West Zion Lutheran Churches in rural Starbuck, Hancock, and Benson, Minnesota. His selfless dedication to God and God's church were evident throughout his ministry beginning in Starbuck. He loved great worship, singing the hymns of the church with gusto, teaching---particularly about Martin Luther--, and being with God's people. He welcomed all without regard to their life circumstance, was tolerant and patient, was generous with his time and resources. His deepest desire was to make a difference in God's world. His farming roots were evident by raising sheep, growing a large garden, and simply being able to be outside in nature smelling fresh mown hay or watching the crops grow. Gordon served East and West Zion until 1993. While at Starbuck, his wife Christine died after a four-year struggle with a rare auto-immune disease. This was a devastating season in his life and the life of the family.

In 1993, Gordon accepted a call to Dunnell, Minnesota to Immanuel and Union State Line Lutheran Churches, as evidence of his devotion to rural and small community ministry. He married Loretta Tollefson on December 28, 1993. While he was at Dunnell, he began his love of bicycle trips, making many over the next years. In 2002, his daughter, Rhonda died from a two-year battle against a rare cancer. This was the second grief-filled time for him and children. He retired from Dunnell in 2008 and moved near to his childhood home in rural Fosston.

Gordon loved conversations with a wide variety of people and moments of quiet reflection, both with a cup of coffee and cookie in hand. He was proud of his Norwegian heritage. He could out eat most of those gathered at table with him...especially potatoes of any shape or size or any recipe. He loved being around family for reunions or games following a meal. During his "retirement", God was not done with him yet. He was a powerful, solid, and skilled preacher. So, he was leading worship and preaching as pulpit supply most Sundays, traveling about Northwest Minnesota. He was invited to serve Calvary Lutheran-Winger, Immanuel Lutheran-Bejou, and Our Savior's Lutheran-McIntosh, which he did faithfully until his death. When his pastoral skills and abilities were needed, he always said "yes." This was especially true to be with a family after the death of a loved one. He brought the message of the power of the resurrection of Jesus to all.

Gordon entered the church triumphant on November 25, 2021, surrounded by his children who lovingly sent him on his way towards God. Gordon was a humble, devout, selfless, and hopeful disciple of Jesus. His desire to make a difference in this world for each individual will continue on through all those he touched throughout his 55 years of ministry and life of 85 years.

Gordon's legacy includes those who love him dearly--daughter Rev. Naomi Garber and her husband Greg, son Michael and his wife Joanna and daughters Amy and Allison, brother Norris, sisters Mary and Faith, son-in-law Keith Levinski, his four-legged companion-Shiloh and many, many family and friends.

He was preceded in death by wife-Christine, daughter-Rhonda, siblings-Alvira, Clara, Ardith, Francis, Anola, Edwin, Alan, and Rupert.



Rev. Heidi Jo Hagstrom



Heidi Jo Hagstrom was born Oct. 13, 1955, in Cokato, Minn., to Stan and Shirley Hagstrom. She died Nov. 26, 2021, in Buffalo, Minn. Heidi was always proud and grateful to be the daughter of a grocer/butcher and an English teacher. She was baptized Dec. 10, 1955, at Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church, where she was also confirmed, married, ordained, and remembered at her funeral on Dec. 3.

Heidi graduated from Dassel-Cokato High School in 1974 and Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., in 1979 (major: music; minor: religion). Between her sophomore and junior years of college, she was chosen to be part of a Concordia outreach team that served six months in American and Western Samoa.

In 1980 she married Ken Hauan. Along with their beloved bulldogs, they lived in three Minnesota communities where Heidi served as parish worker/Christian education director: Trinity Lutheran in Montevideo 1979-82, Calvary Lutheran in Willmar 1982-84, and First Lutheran in Bemidji 1984-87

Heidi and Ken moved to Bloomington, Ind., in 1987. He pursued graduate studies and she worked part time at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, the Indiana University Conference Bureau, and served as a board member of the Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In 1992, she and Ken divorced, and she returned to Cokato to live with her family and help care for her mother, who Heidi credited with teaching her “the divine art of dying.” Also that year, Heidi moved to St. Cloud to work as director for educational conferences at the conference bureau of St. Cloud State University (SCSU). Toward the end of her tenure at SCSU, she and friends established The Odyssey Group, LLP, a full-service meeting management company.

In 1997, Heidi moved to Chicago to work as associate director, then director, of the ELCA Youth Gathering, shepherding gatherings in St. Louis (2000), Atlanta (2003), San Antonio (2006), New Orleans (2009 and 2012) and Detroit (2015). The ELCA Youth Gathering is the largest gathering of high school youth, and also the largest gathering of adults, in the ELCA. Under Heidi’s leadership the gathering re-established itself as a premiere faith-forming event for high school-aged youth based on service learning.

During her years at the churchwide offices in Chicago, Heidi, a lifelong learner, earned a certificate as a spiritual director, and in her final years there she began her studies at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, graduating as part of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program in 2018.

Following her father’s advice to “invest in a place, give gifts to a place,” in 2015 she moved to the prairie of Southwest Minnesota to serve Fields of Grace Lutheran Parish, Lafayette. She was ordained Sept. 23, 2018.

This three-point parish made up of Swan Lake, First and Bernadotte Lutheran Churches is where she was able to enjoy country living that she cherished: open spaces and neighboring farms, her own chickens (and fresh eggs!), a bountiful garden, her cats, and people who share her Swedish heritage. At a benefit held after she retired in October 2021, parish representatives praised her preaching and her singing voice. That same month she moved to Buffalo to live with her sister Tracy and family and bring to completion two of her favorite roles: sister and auntie.

Although Heidi was featured soloist in many choirs, she described herself as a “blender” because she was often positioned in such a way as to temper two stronger voices. That same tempering characteristic was evident in her work as a leader. She

always had a clear vision, but empowered others as she drew out and showcased their gifts. She took to heart the advice of a spiritual director who told her the job of a good leader is appreciation.

She spent a lifetime doing just that and advocating for others—in high school and college by sharing her musical talent in nursing homes, to those with disabilities and the incarcerated, and later in life as an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, especially after Ken came out to her as gay. Heidi had a heart for those who were disenfranchised and misunderstood.

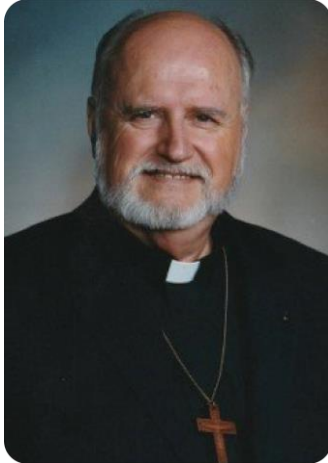
Heidi is survived by Tracy Hagstrom Durant (sister), Tom Durant (brother-in-law), Greta Dahl (niece), Elaina Beecher (great niece), Ken Hauan (former spouse), Dennis Dahl and Jenni Johnson (former brother-in-law and girlfriend), Danish exchange sister Birthe Bjerger (Jens); Primus cousins—Patty Miller (Steve), Penny Pastornosro (Anthony), Jayme Sherman; Lois Jeanne Neubauer (aunt), and Neubauer cousins – Debbie Finley (Ed), Brad Neubauer (Sue), Bruce Neubauer (Carolyn), Brian Neubauer (Tami); adopted Larson/Landin family.

She was preceded in death by Stan and Shirley Hagstrom (parents), Frank and Clara Arndt (grandparents), Axel and Jenni Hagstrom (grandparents), Marge Rider (cousin) and Mary Wagner (cousin).

+ Rest eternal, grant her, O Lord, and light perpetual shine upon her. +



Rev. Harold Lewis Peterson 1937-2022



Harold is survived by his sister Lorraine Peterson Linhardt, children Mark (Cheri) Peterson, Joan Peterson, Tim Peterson, and John (Linda) Peterson; grandchildren Erin (Eric) Fauzie, Kyle (Kristen) Ruopsa, Kelly (Andrew) Gilb, Matthew (Tessa) Peterson, Jordan Peterson, Amara Peterson, Luke Peterson, and great grandchildren Hailey and Levi Kriesel, Oliver Fauzie, and Lincoln Gilb. He was preceded in death by his parents Mauritz (M.B.) and Jessie (Lewis) Peterson, wife Dolores (Jorgenson) Peterson, sister Jean Mae Peterson, brother Lawrence Peterson and daughter Jennifer Ann Peterson. They lovingly welcomed him to the banquet table by the grace of Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God on that merciful, glorious day.

He was born on May 26, 1937, in Madelia. At the suggestion of his father, Harold courted and married his high school sweetheart Dolores on Aug. 24, 1957, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hanska, MN. They were a very active couple, especially in youth ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church. The two led youth group trips to a Lutheran Youth Convention in Miami, FL where they listened to the immortal words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and to Washington D.C.

He wore many hats in his lifetime. He worked with his father and brother where together they ran M.B. Peterson and Sons Trucking in Madelia, MN. He was also an insurance agent with his father and came back to trucking again later as it was still in his blood. In 1972, he moved the family to Dassel, MN to start a new life on their 6-acre country home. His father would remark during visits there that they lived on Noah's Ark, as they seemed to have two of every animal. He had a time when his best friend was a beautiful, full-blooded Irish setter dog by the name of Patrick Aloysius McQue, Mack for short. Mack traveled the country with his human companion. They created countless stories of their journeys together as best friends. As the children got older, Dolores began to travel the country and the world again with Harold. The two also travelled to Norway, Canada, Guyana, and the Cayman Islands.

Harold had always carried with him something an English teacher from his Madelia High School days had told him; he should become a minister. At the age of 60, he and Dolores sold virtually everything they had and enrolled in Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. On his graduation day, when he was announced as the first graduate, the entire graduating class stood for an ovation honoring him with respect for his accomplishment. From there he moved to western Iowa near Red Oak for his first call as a pastor to preach the Good News of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Years later, he finished his call as a full-time pastor for 2 small parishes near Sumner, Iowa. In retirement, he continued to service area churches in Minnesota of all denominations as was his gift from God late in this life.

*"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.
No one can snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28 NRSV)*



Rev. William Cowan 1938-2022



Rev. William (Bill) Cowan died June 6, 2022, at Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, MN at the age of 83 years.

Pastor Bill was born December 30, 1938, in Minneapolis, MN to Walter and Esther Cowan. He was baptized June 9, 1940, by his father's uncle, Rev. Ole Akre. He graduated from Patrick Henry High School, Minneapolis, MN. He then attended Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, graduating in 1963 with a degree in Philosophy and History. He enrolled at Lutheran School of Theology, Rock Island, IL graduating in 1967. Bill was ordained on June 1, 1967, at the LCA Synod convention, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN with the Rev. Melvin A. Hammarberg presiding.

His first call was to Immanuel Lutheran, Proctor, MN (1967-1974). He served at Zion Lutheran, Ortonville, MN (1974-1978). He was awarded a fellowship in clinical pastoral counseling at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, KS and then became area administrator for Lutheran Social Service in Grand Island, NE (1979-1985). Bill did graduate work at Kearney State College, Kearney, NE, graduating with a MS degree in 1985. In 1986 he returned to MN and went to work as Counselor for Lutheran Social Service of MN, St. Paul, MN.

He also had a private counseling practice. In his counseling position he developed a variety of programs and workshops for the church such as adult and teenage depression and suicide, parenting, alcoholism, stress, pastoral diagnosis, and marriage enrichment. He trained four congregations in a group using the Befriender program. It was exciting for him, as well as for them. "The Word becomes Flesh when the love and care of God is experienced in caring for one another in the congregation."

It was in Rock Island, IL that Bill, as a 2nd year seminarian, met his future wife, Beverly, a freshman at Augustana College. They were married on August 20, 1986, in Maywood, IL. They had two children, a son, Brian William, and a daughter, Britt Rachelle. Bill immensely enjoyed reading, particularly history, as well as going for coffee with friends, playing poker with his psychologist friends and sharing life with Bev and his children and grandchildren of whom he was extremely proud.

At the time of his retirement he was employed by Cigna Behavioral Health, managing mental health care. He retired on April 12, 1998. While in retirement he did pulpit supply for several churches.

In June of 2017, Bill was honored for the 50th anniversary of his ordination at the Southwestern MN Synod Assembly.

Pastor Bill is survived by his wife, Beverly; son Brian and his partner Amy Alt; daughter Britt (Art) Galen; grandsons Noah and Gabriel Galen; granddaughter Anaiah Galen; sister MaryAnn Jordan; brother Lawrence (Larry) and sister-in-law Nancy Cowan and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Esther Cowan; sisters Shirley and Betty Cowan; brothers Wayne and Walter, Jr.

A Celebration of life was held on August 25, 2022, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel, MN with Rev. Janine Olson officiating. Rev. Stephen Cook, Synod Minister brought greetings from the Southwestern MN Synod. Accompanist for the service was Barb Froemming.

Rev. Gloria Jean Anderson 1951-2022



Rev. Gloria Anderson passed away on July 25, 2022, in St. Louis Park, MN.

Rev. Anderson was born on December 31, 1951, in Grand Rapids, MN to Donald and Janet Brown. She was baptized by Rev. Maynard E. Stokka (pastor 1950-1954) and confirmed by Rev. Gordon W. Bordine (pastor 1959-1966) at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Remer, MN. After graduation from high school she enrolled at Concordia University, Moorhead, MN, graduating in 1974 with a B.A. in English and German. She then attended the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, graduating in 1992 with a M.A. in Learning Technology.

Prior to ministry, Gloria taught school at Gary Public School, Gary, MN (1974-1984) and St. Francis Public School, St. Francis, MN (1984 to 1999) as a teacher of English, German, and Dramatic Arts. Her students and parishioners remark on her as a light, inspiring their own careers and paths. It was common for lives to improve when Gloria was nearby; taking students under her wing in their moments of need and counseling parishioners, helping them find real world solutions to problems.

In 1994, she enrolled at Luther Seminary graduating with a M.Div in 1999. She was ordained on June 27, 1999, at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Remer, MN by Rev. Steven McKinley and began her first call at St. Olaf Lutheran, Devils Lake, ND. Pastor Anderson served as Interim at Faith Lutheran, Avoca, MN and Christ Lutheran, Slayton, MN (2004-2005). In November of 2005, she was called to Christ the King Lutheran, New Ulm and served as pastor (2005-2007). She then was Interim pastor at Christ Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN (2007-2008); Grace Lutheran, Luverne, MN (2008-2010); She served as pastor at Our Savior's, Chokio, MN (2010-2017). She retired on June 16, 2018.

Rev. Gloria Jean Anderson (Brown) inspired learning and healing in others throughout her life. Her family remembers Gloria's skits that she would write and perform for holidays as well as time spent in the woods with her sisters with nature proving a prominent inspiration. She and her daughter, Maren, co-wrote and illustrated a children's book for her grandson, August. She treasured her vacations with her sister Kathy, often near sea or woods and loved supporting her nieces and nephew in their dreams. Full of dreams herself, she longed for a cabin in the woods where she would have certainly baked iced molasses cookies and prepared thoughtful and delicious meals for her family. She was always a lover of birch trees and Northern Minnesota for walks, exploration, and inspiration. While serving in Southwestern Minnesota, she fell in love with the Pomme de Terre, Morris, MN, where she would take daily respite in hikes.

When we dream or tell a story, Gloria will be there, taking in the meaning and cheering us forward. She will certainly be present in the autumn leaves and the quiet of winter, she will be in the flowers of spring and a ripple on the lake in summer. All will miss her smile and support but will always find her when we are in nature.

Gloria is preceded in death by her father, Donald Oliver Brown, grandparents Freda and Walter Lilyquist, Edna and Bill Brown, and brother-in-law, Jeff Wylie.

Gloria is survived by her daughter, Maren Elizabeth (Anderson) Marks; grandson August Andrew Marks; mother, Janet Brown; sisters Kathleen Milton-Wylie, LuAnne (Scott) Johnson and Cindy (Bruce) Mensing. Her nieces and nephews, Kirsten (Jason) Gustafson, Jenny (Chad) Dewhirst, Jeff (Kelly) Wylie, Marissa Johnson, Janna (Maria) Johnson, Nicolee Mensing and Kory Mensing. Gloria is godmother to Candace Lilyquist, Kirsten Gustafson, and Kory Mensing. Her grand nieces and nephews, Brandon Morgan, Arica Reesman, Rhae Reesman, Zack Dewhirst, Cameron Gustafson, and Tanner Wylie.

A celebration of Life was held at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, Remer, MN on August 27, 2022, with Rev. Linda Nicklason, officiant, and Bishop Dee Pedersen, who represented the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Eulogist was Maren Marks; pianist was Maxine Miller. Honorary Urn bearers were Candice Lilyquist, Kirsten Gustafson, Marissa Johnson, Kory Mensing, August Adrew Marks, Dennis Lilyquist and Gary Nicklason.

A simple gathering in a local nature setting for friends of Gloria, Maren, and Gloria's sisters was held in late September 2022.



maggie and milly and molly and may

*maggie and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach (in play one day)*

*and maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles and*

*millie befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;*

*and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles and*

*may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.*

*For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)
It's always ourselves we find in the sea.*

E. E. Cummings



Rev. Charles F. Lindgren 1931-2022



Rev. Charles Frederick Lindgren passed away on September 23, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society in Waconia, MN at the age of 91.

Pastor Charles was born on June 22, 1931, east of Lyons, Burt County, NE to J. Sephus and Hannah (Bring) Lindgren. He was baptized on July 5, 1931, in the family home at the foot of his mother's casket before her funeral at First Lutheran, Oakland, NE by Pastor M. J. Laure. Left motherless at nine days of age, he was cared for by his sister, Alice, during the summer, then, in September of 1931, Dr. and Mrs. Harry W. Benson cared for him at their home in Oakland, NE until he was one. At that time he returned to his father's home.

Charles moved with his father and family to a farm north of Lyons, NE in 1943, and to a farm in Walthill, NE in 1944. He was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran, Walthill on April 13, 1946, by Pastor J. G. Werner. He attended Viles and Jefferson rural schools near Lyons, NE and entered Walthill High School, graduating in 1948. Charles attended Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, MN and Luther College in Wahoo, NE. He graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS in 1953 with a B.A. degree.

It was while he was at Bethany College that he met Marjorie Cederberg and they were married by Rev. Carl Cederberg and Rev. Clifford Lindgren at Bethel (formerly Enne) Lutheran, in Laing Township south of Hendon, KS. They shared 69 years together. They had three children; Cheryl, Timothy, and Daniel.

In 1953, Charles entered Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, IL. On October 14, 1954, he enlisted in the U.S Army and served with medics until September 28, 1956, which included one and one-half years in Giessen, Germany. He received the Army Occupation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. After being discharged from the Army, Charles and Marg lived for ten years in Hernden, KS where they farmed.

Returning to seminary in 1958, he served his internship in Des Moines, IA. On June 18, 1961, he was ordained at the Augustana Synod annual convention in Seattle, WA by President Malvin H. Lundeen. His first parish was at Prentice and Westboro, WI (1961-1966). Charles and his family then left for the mission field of the World Mission Prayer League in Bolivia, South America (1966-1968). They returned to the United States and served the following churches; Good Shepherd and Evangelical Lutheran, Niobrara-Lindy, NE (1968-1970); Grace/Red River Lutheran, Hallock, MN (1970-1973); First, Salo, MN and Bethel and First Lutheran, Roseau, MN (1973-1978); Our Saviors and Trinity Lutheran, Viborg, SD (1979-1988); Holy Shepherd Lutheran, Haven, KS (1988-1993); Zion and St. John Lutheran, Hanover, KS (1993-1996). Pastor Lindgren retired on July 31, 1996.

Charles and Marge built a home in Hendricks, MN on a lake near Marshall, MN. During retirement he served as interim pastor in Porter, MN; Astoria, SD; Madison, Lake Benton, Wabasso, Lucan, Milroy and Garvin, MN. He also did numerous pulpit supply at various churches. Charles enjoyed gardening, fishing, and golfing as well as spending time with his family.

After a fall on June 2, 2022, he needed more assistance with his daily care and became a resident of the Good Samaritan Society in Waconia, MN where he passed away.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie, Gaylord, MN; Cheryl Lindgren, Gaylord, MN; Timothy (Kay), Brookings, SD; Daniel (Lisa), Monument, CO; grandchildren Nathaniel (Ashley) Lindgren, Sioux Falls, SD; Jesse (Lucas) VanLeeuwe, New Ulm, MN; Joseph and Thomas Lindgren, Monument, CO; great-grandchildren Lorelai and Jensen VanLeeuwe, New Ulm, MN and Lincoln, Logan and Maverick Lindgren, Sioux Falls, SD; a sister Marilyn Fuchser, Pender, NE and many nieces and nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents J. Sephus and Hannah Lindgren; siblings Linnea (Vernon) Young; Alice (James) Gill; Clarence (Alice); Rev. Clifford (Jackie); Paul (Evelyn); and Evelyn (Ralph) Carlson; brother-in-law Dale Fuchser.

A Memorial service was held on October 1, 2022, at American Lutheran, Gaylord, MN, with Rev. Paul Kratzke officiating. Rev. Heather Culuris, Synod Minister of the Southwestern MN Synod brought greetings from the synod. Pianist was Patty Uecker. Memories of Pastor Charles were given by members of his family. Military honors were presented by the Manthey-Asmus American Legion Post #433, Gaylord, MN. Inurnment at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery, Oakland, NE.

*Jesus Christ, Lord of life, we love you and adore you.
Jesus Christ, Lord of life, we praise your holy name.
Jesus Christ, Lord of life, we humbly bow before you.
We worship and give you glory.
We raise our voice in joy and praise.*

Written by Charles Lindgren

*"We are not in the land of the living headed to the land
of the dying... but we are in the land of dying headed
to the land of the living."*

Attributed to Larry Moody.



Rev. John A. Peterson 1935-2023



Rev, John Alden Peterson passed away on January 4, 2023, in Buffalo, MN at the age of 87.

He was born on June 3, 1935, to John J. and Inez Caroline Hanson-Peterson in Cherokee, IA. John spent his earlier years proudly assisting his father in the family grocery store in Avoca, MN. In May of 1953, he graduated from Slayton High School where he was the starting quarterback for his school's football team and was well known as the class jokester.

John attended Mankato State College, Mankato, MN (1953-1954) He then joined the United States Marine Corps and served from June 1, 1954, to June 1, 1956. While serving in the Marines, John was befriended by a Chaplain who encouraged him to enter the Ministry. After his service in the Marines, John attended and graduated with a B.A. degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, where he met the love of his life, Lynda Lou Hedbom-Peterson. John and Lynda were married on June 21st, 1959

and served God together through nearly 60 years of marriage. They had two children Jerome and Joy.

John and Lynda moved to Rock Island, Illinois where he completed his Seminary education graduating from Augustana Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 1963. He was ordained on June 6, 1963, by Synod President Dr. Leonard Kendall officiant at the LCA Minnesota Synod convention, He did postgraduate studies at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in pastoral counseling (1970-1973 part-time).

John served as new mission pastor at Bethany Lutheran, Roseville, MI (1963-1967); new mission pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran, Austin, TX (1967-1969); Bethesda Carlton/Elim, Barnum, MN (1969-1973); Church of the Master, Brooklyn Center, MN as Associate pastor (1973-1978) and as Co-pastor (1978-1987); Evangelical Lutheran, Cokato, MN (1987-2000). Through his years of service in pastoral ministries, he held the titles of Bureau of Prisons Chaplain, Missionary, Visitation Pastor, Hospice Chaplain and was honored with Pastor Emeritus of Gethsemane Lutheran, Dassel MN. John retired on August 1, 2000. In 2013, he was honored for 50 years of ministry at the Southwestern MN Synod Assembly and John was awarded as the 2015 Volunteer of Wright County along with his wife Lynda.

Throughout John and Lynda's marriage, they never backed down from an adventure whether it was the Holy Land, Jerusalem, or exploring their homelands of Sweden, and Norway. The pair even took on ziplining in Duluth, MN and flying in a hot air balloon in their 70s.

Family meant the world to John, including attending every sporting event, choir, band concert, and play that he could attend. John's grandchildren will always remember the many hours spent on the jet skis, boating and in the hot tub alongside their Lake Washington, MN home. And, with his later-in-life four-wheeler rides.

John's infectious laugh and sense of humor will constantly ring through the heads of those that had the privilege to know him. He was well-liked by those he met due to the constant positivity and gratitude he shared with others. John always expressed his independence with the gravely statement, "I'm a Marine! I can do it."

John was a true disciple of Christ in every aspect of his life. Tack skå du ha (many thanks) for the many PRECIOUS MEMORIES.

John is survived and missed by his children, Jerome John (Kathy Jo) Peterson, Joy Roxanne (Gary) Marschel. Forever cherished and remembered by his grandchildren; Brianna (Austin), Christian, Charlie, and Angelyn. His brothers Ronald (Rose), Dennis (Karen), and their families. He will be missed by many loved ones and special friends.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Lynda, and his parents John and Inez.

A Celebration of Life was at Gethsemane Lutheran, Dassel, MN on January 12, 2023, with Revs. Janine Olson and Timothy Wheatley officiating. The Homily was a sermon written by Pastor John entitled, "On Eagle's Wings." Accompanist was Barb Froemming. Jon Benson was the soloist singing, "On Eagles Wings" as well as "Children of the Heavenly Father." Rev. Troy Pflibsen, Synod Minister of the Southwestern MN Synod brought greetings from the synod. Remembrances were given by Rev. Bill Kallestad and a scripture reading by Rev. Steven Olson.



Rev. Irven Arthur “Bud” Nelson 1930-2023



Irven Arthur Nelson, 92, of Brooklyn Park, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2023, surrounded by his family.

Irven “Bud” Nelson was born August 3, 1930, at Midway Hospital in St. Paul, MN, the son of Irven and Esther Nelson. He was baptized on February 13, 1931, by Rev. Constant Johnson and confirmed on October 22, 1944, by Rev. Erland Borg both at St. Paul Lutheran, St. Paul, MN. He attended Central High School, St. Paul, MN. Bud was active in the church youth group and from a young age felt called into ministry.

He attended Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN, graduating in 1953 with a B.A. in English Literature. He then enrolled in Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, IL, graduating with a B.D. in 1957. Bud was ordained on June 23, 1957, at the Augustana Synod convention in Omaha, NE by President Oscar A. Benson.

He was united in marriage on July 24, 1953, to his childhood sweetheart, Carol Leaf in St. Paul, MN. They were blessed with four children; Raquel, Rebeca, Debora, and Andres.

Following seminary, Bud and Carol spent one year learning Spanish in Costa Rica (1957-1958) and served the Augustana Board of World Missions, Minneapolis, MN as missionaries (1957-1963) in Uruguay, South America (1958-1962, 1964-1967). Upon returning from the mission field, he served for two years as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Division for World Mission and Ecumenism of the Lutheran Church in America in New York City, NY.

Bud also served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Astoria, OR (1963-1964); Bethel Lutheran, North Minneapolis, MN (1970-1986); and Salem Lutheran, Omaha, NE (1986-1990).

He retired on November 1, 1990, and he and Carol moved to Sartell, MN. In retirement he served as interim pastor at Trinity and West Lake Johanna Lutheran, Brocton, MN; Faith Lutheran, Spicer, MN and Celebration Lutheran, Sartell, MN. He then served as Outreach Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Master, Brooklyn Park, MN (2009-2010). He also served as the Southwestern MN Synod representative on the Region 3 Multicultural Ministries Committee and helped to develop strategies for multicultural ministry involvement for congregations and the synod.

Pastor Nelson was honored at the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in June of 2017 for 60 years of ministry and again with his 64th anniversary in 2021.

Bud was devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, deeply loved his wife, and cherished his family. He was gentle, caring, and fun-loving. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, baseball, reading, classical music, astronomy, archaeology, and travel.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents Irven and Esther Nelson, brother Eugene, sister-in-law Betty Nelson and brother-in-law Fred Voigt.

He is survived by his wife Carol; sister Joan Voigt; children, Raquel Nelson; Rebeca (Kevin) Norwood; Debora (Daniel) Swanberg; Andres (Kathy); grandchildren Carolyn (Rodolfo) Querales; Samuel (Heather) Swanberg; Nathan (Ingrid) Reep; Joel (Sonia) Nelson; Levi (Amy) Swanberg; Jonah (Nicole) Nelson; Jon (Lauren) Nelson; Josh (Maggie) Nelson; Joseph Nelson and great-grandchildren Eli, Caleb, Lexi, Nels, Camila, Nora, Aravis and Anders.

A celebration of life was held on March 25, 2023, at Lutheran Church of the Master, Brooklyn Park, MN with Pastors Dan Haukes and Eldon Wegscheid officiating. A welcome was given by his son Andres Nelson. Organist was Leslie Gilyard, who was the organist where Bud served as pastor at Bethel Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN. Sam Swanberg, grandson, gave memories from the family. Scripture readings were given by grandchildren, Carolyn Querales; Joshua Nelson and Nathan Reep. Inurnment of ashes will be at a later date.

"I have been crucified with Christ, It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...." Galatians 2:20
(Bud's favorite verse)

King of All Kings - Irvan A. Nelson, July 2015

*He's the King of all Kings
Creator of all things
My Master, My Shepherd, My Lord.*

*He's the reason I live,
And my life I do give
To Him the Great Living Word.*

*He is God's Only Son,
The Bright Holy One,
Who suffered on Calvary's tree;*

*In His self-giving grace
He died in my place;
What a Beautiful Savior is He!*

*Then what will I do
To witness for You
Who gave Yourself freely for me?*

*I'll proclaim Your free gift;
My voice will I lift
In praise and thanksgiving for Thee.*

*O Divine Lord of all,
I'll answer your call,
And tell of your death on a cross.*

*Foul death could not win!
Love conquered our sin,
And victory overcame loss!*

*All hail to You my King;
Your triumph forever I'll sing.
And through all of my days
Your great name I'll praise
For the Grace and Love that You bring.*



