



Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

Assembly theme highlights Reformation pastor and organizer

by Marcia Hahn

In a recent online forum hosted by the Northeastern Iowa Synod, three retired bishops shared some of the qualities that they think people should look for in a bishop. Piety, stewardship, integrity, teamwork, courage, vision, faithfulness, passion, servanthood and administrative skills were named, among others.

Voting members for this year's Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will consider those qualities and more as they prepare to elect a bishop on June 12. The Assembly's



Johannes Bugenhagen by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1532

"Celebrating Renewal" theme will set the tone with its focus on Johannes Bugenhagen, parish

pastor of the Reformation, who is regarded for his leadership qualities as a church administrator and is a model for Lutheran bishops of today.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Lohrmann, associate professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage for Wartburg Theological Seminary, will present the Assembly keynote about Bugenhagen, who is sometimes called the organizer of the Reformation.

"Bugenhagen organized for the sake of the gospel and was good at putting ideas into practice," Lohrmann says. "He connected money with mission, and that is still important for us today."

Lohrmann, who has written several publications about Bugenhagen and the Reformation, says he became interested in Bugenhagen when he started a Ph.D. program in Reformation history.

"I wanted to know more about the pastors of the Reformation and how their ideas were being put into prac-

One of Bugenhagen's great skills was how he connected faith of the heart with how to live it out every day.



Martin Lohrmann

tice, and Bugenhagen proved to be a great person to study," Lohrmann says. "It helped me get to know the teamwork side of the Reformation and how the leaders worked together to solve problems. They showed how faith and good works go together in the Lutheran tradition."

>> Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Assembly theme highlights Reformation pastor and organizer
- 3 New and Changing Guidelines
- 6 Generosity
- 8 Men's Ministry
- 9 Congregations
- 10 Prayer Calendar

RESPECTED PASTOR, ORGANIZER, FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

Bugenhagen was a priest and a teacher at a monastery school in the northern part of Germany when he became interested in the Reformation. He had read Martin Luther's *Prelude on the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* and wrote to Luther, who in turn sent Bugenhagen his book *On the Freedom of a Christian*.

"Bugenhagen got so excited he moved to Wittenberg to learn more," Lohrmann says. "At 35 years old, he became a student again."

In Wittenberg, Bugenhagen became Luther's colleague, friend and pastor, and was part of Luther's team translating the Holy Bible from Greek and Hebrew to German. Bugenhagen was a skilled teacher and pastor, and in just two years he became the lead pastor in town. He was promoted to Doctor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg, where he went on to ordain a generation of Lutheran pastors.

Lohrmann says that one of Bugenhagen's great skills was how he connected faith of the heart with how to live it out every day. Bugenhagen developed a "common chest" to organize church finances so that some funds would be used for salaries and building maintenance, and some for mission to help the poor and fund schools and health care.

"It was a very detailed financial system for making sure churches were doing ministry with commitments to the social good so that

people were not going hungry," Lohrmann explains. "People would have money they needed for salary and firewood, and for town doctors and schools."

Bugenhagen outlined for churches how to set up schools for basic literacy and math, how to pay for the schools, what to look for in teachers, and why setting up schools is good for society to prepare young people to take over.

"He had a very well-rounded 360-degree approach to establish education for citizens."

Lohrmann says that Bugenhagen was so good at organizing, he would sometimes leave Wittenberg to help establish the Reformation in other places, including Denmark and Norway. He helped form the church of Denmark in Copenhagen, where he installed the church's first bishops and crowned the King and Queen of Denmark.

Bugenhagen's leadership demonstrated that church and faith is something people can live out in their daily life and in their institutional life to take care of the community.

"That's why it is so important to have good preaching," Lohrmann says. "The church puts good things in our hearts so that we can share it and change how we live together as communities in the world."

Lohrmann notes that Bugenhagen is also known for his intimate knowledge of the Bible. He really listened to the stories of the Bible

and used Luther's translation of the Bible to create a version in a dialect of Northern Germany.

"We can see how familiar Bugenhagen was with God's story and with God at work in this world," Lohrmann says. "He helps us remember that when we know the Bible, we know who God is for us, how God has worked in the world in the past, and how God is working in the world now."

"If you know Jesus well, it is enough, even if you know nothing else. But if you do not know Jesus, whatever else you learn is nothing."

— Motto of Johannes Bugenhagen."

Throughout his ministry, Bugenhagen encouraged church members to love and to be compassionate. He was supportive and pastoral to Luther when he would occasionally get down about things. After Luther's death, Bugenhagen helped care for Luther's widow and children. Bugenhagen, along with his colleague Philip Melancthon, worked together to be faithful to Luther's legacy to keep the church going.

"Other Lutherans criticized how they did it, but they worked with integrity," Lohrmann says. "Bugenhagen went through hard times, but he always tried to be faithful to the Gospel and to the well-being of the church."

Learn more about the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly at www.neiasynod.org/2021-synod-assembly.

An Update on New and Changing Guidelines

NEW CDC GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONS TO CONSIDER

As we all live into the new CDC guidelines issued on May 13, congregational leaders and rostered leaders are starting to review their practices for worship and for other programs. In good Lutheran fashion we all are asking: What does this mean? The guidelines are straightforward for a number of settings in our lives—no masks needed if you are fully vaccinated. The guidelines remind us to be watchful in larger groups or settings where we are in close quarters with a group where we wouldn't know if the others are vaccinated or not—think grocery store, for instance—but so far the guidance for faith-based communities hasn't been updated by the CDC.

You've been working through your policies for many months now through the pandemic. You've been resourceful, careful, and thorough, and I believe you have made responsible and wise choices in your settings. As we slowly move out of our more strict policies toward more of what we remember pre-pandemic, I encourage you to be patient, take your time with changes, and work together for the benefit of all, especially the most vulnerable.

I am repeating my encouragement to you to get vaccinated if you aren't already. This will protect us and those we come in contact with, to a great extent. Getting vaccinated is a wonderful way to show your neighbor you care about them, as well as care for your own health. Having many people vaccinated has brought us to this point of being able to gradually rejoin our former lives. Let's keep that trend going by taking advantage of

the opportunities to get vaccinated. It does make a difference.

Masking is a wise choice in settings where there is a large crowd (indoors) and not adequate ventilation or distancing. Masking is also a good idea in settings where you don't know if folks are vaccinated or not. We do have more freedom now in regard to wearing masks. Please exercise this new freedom carefully.

I continue to keep you all in my prayers, and trust God's faithfulness to us in all ways.

NEW EDITION OF 'DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE'

Since the early days of our existence as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we have had guidelines for how we will interact with and behave toward each other. Often these have been recognized as guidelines for ordained/rostered ministers, but in fact they are for all congregations and they apply to all members of the Body of Christ who identify as ELCA Lutherans, as well.

Over recent months the existing *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* have been under review by the Discipline Committee of the ELCA. A number of drafts have been reviewed by the ELCA Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and others. At its April 2021 meeting, the ELCA Church Council passed the newest version of this document. (The entire document is available on the ELCA website, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod website). So it is timely for me to mention this new version here for your information, lay and rostered alike, and to encourage you to review it and take its message to heart. The "message" is

expressed in this paragraph near the beginning of the document:

"When the gift of relationship with God and our neighbors is violated or used inappropriately, there is a need for accountability and just action. It is in this context that we, as a church body, establish guidelines for our conduct, actions, and ways in which we communicate with one another. These guidelines are necessary as we "continue in the covenant God made with us" in our baptism to ensure that all people, and the church in particular, are protected from harmful or inappropriate actions, speech, communications, or other misconduct. As church, we must abide in a context that holds ourselves, and one another, to account for the sake and care of the whole church."

I like several things about this paragraph and its description of why we would as a church have need of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* of ourselves. I specifically like the description of our relationships to one another as a gift from God, which sets the framework for the document. I am reminded that through baptism, we are made family, siblings in Christ, and therefore in relationship with one another. We talk about our church relationships with words that echo that understanding: "My church family," "Our family's pastor," "Our Church Home"



Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl

>> Continued on page 6

Tri-Synodical Fall Conference to meet in person and online

Leading in Difficult Times
Sept. 20-21, 2021

Registration is open for the 2021 Tri-Synodical Fall Conference set for Sept. 20-21. Rostered ministers from the three Iowa ELCA synods are invited to join this two-day conference about leadership during difficult times. Keynote speakers will be the Rev. Eric Barreto, the Rev. Jack Shitama and the Rev. Phil Hirsch, executive director of the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit.

The conference will be offered both in-person at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines and live online. The committee will monitor COVID-19 trends to determine if it's possible to safely gather in September. If it's not safe to gather, the event will be held online only.

Registration is \$65 per person regardless of in-person or online attendance. Registrants will be able to change registration from in-person to online, depending on COVID-19 protocols as they are comfortable. Because of meal and facilities planning, the last date to change registration will be Sept. 1. A block of rooms has been reserved for a reduced rate at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines.

To learn more and to register, visit <https://seiasynod.org/fall-theological-conference>.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021

ELCA congregations from across the country will join in service projects for "God's work. Our hands." Day of Service set for Sunday, Sept. 12. The ELCA website offers numerous resources, promotional items and ideas for service projects to help others during this time of COVID.

One idea that congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod may want to consider is building a Little Free Pantry with grant money available from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Leland. (Read more on page 7.)

Find more ideas and resources at www.elca.org/day-ofservice.

REGISTER FOR WIYLDE

July 23-25, 2021

Registration for the Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE) is open through Thursday, July 15. The event will take place July 23-25 at Ewalu Bible Camp near Strawberry Point with the theme, "Leading in the WIYLDE."



High school youth from ELCA congregations are invited to attend WIYLDE to learn how to become future leaders of the church. This year's WIYLDE will focus on leadership skills that students can use in their congregations and beyond. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 23, and includes group teaching and discussions, games and campfires. WIYLDE will conclude Sunday, July 25, with an 11 a.m. worship service, which parents are encouraged to attend. The event will follow the same COVID precautions and guidelines that Ewalu will have in place for summer camp.

The \$60 registration fee per student includes lodging, meals, and a T-shirt. Congregations are encouraged to contribute \$30 toward that fee. To learn more and to download the registration form, visit www.neiasynod.org/wiylde.

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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Send news for the July/August 2021 issue to Marcia Hahn by June 21. We welcome story ideas related to the theme, "Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation."

Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated for use in synod congregations and organizations, with credit to the *Star* newsletter.

Please notify the synod office with name and address changes. To receive an electronic version of the *Star*, rather than paper, send your request to hahnm@neiasynod.org.



www.neiasynod.org

Online Synod Assembly begins at 8 a.m. June 12

Saturday, June 12

More than 350 people are registered for the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, which will take place online Saturday, June 12, beginning at 8 a.m. Visitors can view the event live on the synod's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/neiasynod.

The one-day assembly will include the election of a Bishop, along with reports, videos, worship and prayers. The theme will be "Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation," with the Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann giving the keynote, "Gospel Organization: The Church Leadership of Johannes Bugenhagen." Lori Fedyk, treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will serve as the churchwide representative and will preside over the election of the Bishop.

The Assembly will include designated time to honor the 50/40/10 milestone anniversaries of the ordination of women, women of color and people in same-gender committed relationships. In addition, there will be special recognition of former Bishop Steven and Ruth Ullestad and Linda Hudgins, former assistant to the Bishop. The assembly will also recognize ordination anniversaries, including the Rev. Dr. Joelle Colville-Hanson, ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission, for her 35th ordination anniversary.

JUNE 10 ORIENTATION FOR VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members will participate in the assembly by logging in to the LUMI technology platform, which

Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

will enable them to vote, speak and access documents during the assembly. Voting members can practice using the LUMI technology at a "Test Your Tech" rehearsal session Thursday, June 10, between 5 and 7 p.m. A LUMI representative and help desk volunteers will be available to answer questions. An email with the link to join this session will be sent to voting members.

Each voting member will need to use a desktop or laptop computer with a microphone and speaker to participate in the assembly. Cell phones and iPads will not be fully supported with this technology. A video giving an overview about how the LUMI technology works is available for voting members to view on the synod assembly web page.

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Log-in for the synod assembly begins at 7 a.m. on June 12. The assembly officially starts at 8 a.m. with the keynote address, followed by a worship service and the first plenary session. The first ballot for the bishop election should take place around 9:30 a.m., followed by the second plenary session. The report of the first ballot should be available around 11:30 a.m.

The afternoon schedule includes plenary sessions, voting, reports, videos, and prayers. The bishop election continues until one nominee receives the required majority of votes. A

draft schedule of the assembly can be downloaded from the synod assembly web page.

RESOURCES, FORMS, LIVE UPDATES

Check the synod assembly web page, www.neiasynod.org/2021-synod-assembly, for updates, resources, forms, pre-assembly reports, videos, voting results and other items related to the assembly.

Follow live updates and voting results on Facebook, www.facebook.com/neiasynod, and Twitter, <https://twitter.com/neiowasynodel-ca>, with the hashtag #NEIA21.

VIDEO OF ASSEMBLY WORSHIP SERVICE

An expanded version of the synod assembly worship service will be available for congregations to use in their June 13 worship services, if they wish. The service features the sermon by Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl and special music.

The video will be available Thursday, June 10, to download from the synod's Sermon Video Library at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a9rH7N65s2IGdfVWKZ6PJoV6noHxZ1sX>. A transcript of the service will also be available.

People will also be able to view the video on the Northeastern Iowa Synod YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel/UC1k-lpf_a7V5ihPs6CZgczg.

Love + Sharing = Gospel is Shared

Earlier, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Waverly gave a special gift to the Northeastern Iowa Synod allowing us to offer small grants to help other congregations who were not online to acquire new technology to continue to share the Gospel during the pandemic. These grants have been used to purchase FM transmitters for "parking lot church," cameras for live streaming, and copyright license to keep everything legal.

This is an excellent example of one congregation acting out of Christian love to share their abundance to help other congregations share the Gospel.

Love + sharing = Gospel is shared.

Recently, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Leland gave their Lenten offering to the Northeastern Iowa Synod so we could administer grants to help other congregations build and install "Little Free Pantries." This is a second example

of one congregation acting out of Christian love to help other congregations do great ministry, and thereby share the Gospel.

Love + sharing = Gospel is shared.

Mission Support is the exact same gift, only on a larger scale. Congregations give Mission Support out of Christian love to the Northeastern Iowa Synod so that the synod can, in turn, support Lutheran Social Services in Iowa, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Luther College, Wartburg College, congregational grants, the truly global ministry of the ELCA, and synodical ministry close to home. Because of Mission Support, the Gospel is shared, along with Christian love and an understanding of the abundance of God's grace and love.

Love + sharing = Gospel is shared.

Thank you for your love, for your sharing, and for making ministry

happen near and around the world.

— *Pastor Mark A. Anderson*
Assistant to the Bishop



GIVE TO SYNOD MINISTRIES

Gifts to the Northeastern Iowa Synod Annual Fund or Fund for Leaders support ministry together in ways that could not be done alone.

MAIL CHECKS payable to the Northeastern Iowa Synod, with the memo indicating which fund you would like your gift to support, to: Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, PO Box 804, Waverly, IA 50677-0804.

DONATE ONLINE at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/generosity or use this QR Code.



An Update on New and Changing Guidelines
<< Continued from page 3

and so on. Deeply rooted relationships are anchored together at the Cross of Christ in our congregations, binding us to one another as families of faith. And, like most families, we will, from time to time, run amuck with each other, find ourselves at odds with each other, develop negative patterns of speaking about one another, act totally inappropriately with or to one another, and so on.

The message of these guidelines is not that those times of disagreement or discord should never arise in

church, for we know we are human wherever we are on God's earth, so our humanness is bound to lead us into hard times with each other from time to time. The message of these guidelines is that, in those times of difficulty, we commit to handling ourselves in these ways: "...to ensure that all people, and the church in particular, are protected from harmful or inappropriate actions, speech, communications, or other misconduct."

These guidelines provide guidance for us as leaders, members, and con-

gregations to live out the expectations of our faith with one another, and the world—"To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God," as Micah 6:8 reminds us. We help ourselves to be more accountable in our lives of discipleship with documents like these, "to continue in the covenant God made with us at Baptism."

I look forward to hearing from you after you review the document, if you would like to discuss it further.

— *Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl*

New grants to help congregations set up Little Free Pantries

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Leland has given the Northeastern Iowa Synod nearly \$600 to help congregations in the synod set up "Little Free Pantries" in their communities. This money will be shared as grants to congregations to defray the cost of building and installing a Little Free Pantry. Already, 18 congregations and ministries have established 19 Little Free Pantries in this synod. These containers allow congregations and community members to "leave what they can and take what they need," including food, personal hygiene products, and school supplies.

The Little Pantries allow people to give and take anonymously 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A note that someone left in a pantry in this synod shows how important these pantries can be to people's lives. (See box.)

Information about the pantries, including building plans, can be found at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/hunger.

To learn more about how to access or contribute to this grant, please contact Pastor. Mark A. Anderson, assistant to the Bishop, at andersonm@neiasynod.org.

Why am I Here?
It is winter dark. The kind of dark that happens in mid-winter. The entire world is sleeping. Everyone but me. I'm going to a parking lot to creep to a box like a teenager on a scavenger hunt. I am hunting – but my goal isn't something from a list made by one of my friends. I'm literally hunting for food for my family.
I don't have the skills I need for this kind of hunting. I have always provided for my family. That was before.
Now my pay is cut in half and I can't afford to pay the mortgage and the utility bills and buy food. We've done the normal things to cut down: Fancy coffee is a thing of the past. Clothes come from Thrift stores. We use the library for books, videos, and music. Much of our food comes from the Dollar Store – it's more affordable, but it isn't the healthiest. A trip to Aldi's is a treat because we can afford a package of chocolate sandwich cookies.
But these economy measures aren't enough. I have to figure out how to get something high sugar for my diabetic son. This isn't a treat – if his glucose goes low, he could die without something high in sugar like juice or hard candy or syrup. I have to buy soap, toilet paper, hygiene items. The stuff you can't do without. We make too much to qualify for government benefits and the stimulus payment only goes so far.
I don't want the neighbors to know I am failing.
On this night, my heart is as dark as the sky. I make my way to the magic box of love to gather food to supplement our cupboards. Juice and apple sauce. Canned milk, pasta, chicken, and tuna. Some canned vegetables. Peanut butter and whole grain crackers. My son will be safe. I can make pasta casseroles. We can all have healthyish snacks of peanut butter and crackers.
My heart isn't as dark as it was. There is a glimmer of hope there now. I can get through another week.
I know there are a lot of people like me. Hiding in the dark so no one knows.

WELCOME SEMINARY GRADS



Todd Burrichter earned his master of divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in May 2021. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Dubuque. He served as an intern at St. John's and Hauge Lutheran, Decorah. His wife is associate director of marketing for Northeast Iowa Community College. They have two children. Burrichter has accepted a call to St. John, Nashua, and will be ordained June 13.



Tyler Hoey earned his master of divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, in May 2021. He has a bachelor's degree in religion/religious studies from Wartburg College, Waverly. He served as an intern at St. Peter Lutheran, Loganville, Wis. His wife is the development and marketing coordinator for Camp Ewalu. Hoey is seeking a call.

Bishop Installation

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 25, for the installation of the new Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The event will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City and will be livestreamed on Facebook.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be present to install the new bishop, who will be elected at the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on June 12.

Watch for more details this summer.

Men's Ministry offers new resources and groups

Men of all ages are invited to join in some upcoming Lutheran Men in Ministry (LMM) events offered in person and online, including new Bible studies, book discussions and a men's retreat.

PROJECT TWELVE

Resources offered through the LMM's Project Twelve aim to help men become better fathers, husbands and leaders. Jim Rathe, facilitator for the Northeastern Iowa Synod's Men's Ministry Network, says the resources can be used individually or in a group setting, and many of them are geared for younger men. For example, the "Fathering in 15" self-study series offers 15 online sessions of 15 minutes each to help men manage their life and build healthy relationships with their children and their mother. Topics include fathering skills, work-family balance, managing money, child discipline and more.

"Men can do the sessions at their own pace to help them become better parents and to learn how to get through issues they may be struggling with," Rathe says.

LIFELINE BIBLE STUDY

Written by 13 men from five denominations involved with Project Twelve, the online Lifelines small group bible study series has been described as Christ-centered conversations dealing with issues critical to men.

"This study was developed for guys like us," Rathe says. "It is based on the Master Builder Bible with study questions reworked to pertain to current things that are happening in men's lives so people can relate to the studies better and think about them differently."

The men's group from Rathe's con-



gregation, Grace Lutheran in Tripoli, will meet Monday evenings in June for the six-week Lifelines Bible study. If other men's groups from the Northeastern Iowa Synod would like to participate, Rathe says he is available to help set up additional Lifeline sessions through Zoom.

ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION

LMM's weekly book discussion group meets online on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. "We usually read two chapters a week and discuss them," Rathe says. "The books have been really good and thought-provoking about church and what is going on today."

Rathe says about 10 men from across the U.S. have been participating through Zoom each week, including three from the Northeastern Iowa Synod. He invites men to join the book discussion in June to read and discuss *The Query* by Larry Moeller. The book is a collection of stories the author gathered from encounters with strangers when he posed the question, "What is the reason for the hope that is within you?"

"Larry Moeller lives in Tennessee, but he is a Northeastern Iowa Synod native from the Buck Creek area and is a graduate of Iowa State University," Rathe says.

Men wanting to join the book discussion can purchase the book online and use the book discussion group link on the synod's Men's Ministry web page.

ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREAT

Men of all ages are encouraged to

mark their calendar for Nov. 5 – 7, 2021, when an in-person "One Year to Live" retreat will take place at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point. The "One Year to Live" retreats were on hiatus during the COVID pandemic, but they are starting up again this summer at various locations across the country.

This 45-hour spiritual boot camp is an opportunity for men to reexamine their life and priorities, make decisions for their future, and discover together how God has equipped them to live. Registration information for the November retreat will be available this summer.

To learn more about these ministries, visit the synod's Men's Ministry Network web page, www.neiasynod.org/ministries/mens-ministry, the Lutheran Men in Mission website, www.lutheranmeninmission.org, or contact Rathe at jlrtreat@gmail.com.

OBITUARY

Deacon Vera Poppen died May 18, 2021, at the age of 98. She was commissioned as an associate in ministry on June 12, 1985. She served as a Christian Day School Educator at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Waverly until her retirement on May 1, 1989.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 1, at St. John Lutheran in Clarksville. She is survived by two children. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Gary Poppen, 601 Pine St., Reinbeck IA 50669.

For the complete obituary, got to: www.redman-schwartz.com/obituary/vera-poppen.

JUNE EVENTS

- 1 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 3 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom Meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 3 Youth Ministry Network, Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 3 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 Noon
- 6 Synod Council, Zoom Meeting, 5-6:30 p.m.
- 10 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly "Test Your Tech" Online Rehearsal, 5-7 p.m.
- 12 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, Virtual Event, 8 a.m. (Log-in starts at 7 a.m.)
- 14-15 Synod Office Closed
- 15 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 17 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 Noon
- 19 Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Convention, St. Paul's, Waverly, and Online

JULY EVENTS

- 1 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom Meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 1 Youth Ministry Network, Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 5 Synod Office Closed, Independence Day
- 6 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 20 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 23-25 WIYLDE (Wholly Iowa Leadership Discipling Event), Ewalu, Strawberry Point
- 27 Church Council Presidents, Zoom Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST EVENTS

- 3 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 5 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom Meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 5 Youth Ministry Network, Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 5 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 Noon
- 6 Candidacy Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 17 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 19 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 Noon

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom Meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 2 Youth Ministry Network, Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 6 Office Closed, Labor Day
- 7 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 12 "God's Work. Our Hands." ELCA Day of Service
- 18 Synod Council Meeting
- 20-21 Tri-Synodical Conference, West Des Moines
- 21 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 25 Installation of Northeastern Iowa Bishop, Trinity Lutheran, Mason City

THANK YOU FOR GOING PAPERLESS

To receive an electronic version of the *Star* newsletter instead of a paper version, send an email to hahnm@neiasynod.org with the subject: Online Only.

ORDAINING

Todd Burrichter, Calmar, Calmar, June 13

INSTALLING

Rev. Calvin P. Konop, St. Peter, Dubuque, pending
Rev. Todd Burrichter, St. John, Nashua, pending

INTERVIEWING

Decorah, First
Decorah, Luther College, college pastor
Elma, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)
Grundy Center, American
Iowa Falls, Bethany, Rev. Darby Lawrence, interim
Mitchell, Faith; Nora Springs, St. Luke; Osage, Rock Creek and St. John (Cross Roads Lutheran Parish), (staff)
Ridgeway, Peace, Orleans and Madison (Ridgeway Parish), Rev. Jim Scaife, contract interim
Story City, St. Petri, Rev. Scot McCluskey, interim
Tripoli, Grace, Rev. Megan Graves, interim
[Waterloo, Our Savior's*](#)

SELF-STUDY

Allison, St. James
[Charles City, Messiah*](#)
[Chester, United*](#)
Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland
Denver, St. Peter
Dysart, Zion
Frederika, St. John
[Hawkeye, Trinity*](#)
[Janesville, Messiah, Rev. Dave Powers, contract interim*](#)
Jewell, Bethesda, Rev. Adam Starrett, interim
[Mason City, St. Paul, Rev. Matthew Muters, contract*](#)
Ryan, Peace and Dundee, St. John (Unity of the Cross Lutheran Parish), Rev. Rhea Evanson, contract interim
[Sumner, St. Peter \(Richfield\) and Waucoma, St. John \(Stapleton\)*](#)
[Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*](#)
[Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Susan Weier, contract interim*](#)
[Waterloo, St. John \(Bennington\)*](#)
[Waterloo, Trinity*](#)
Waterloo, Zion
West Union, Zion, Rev. Duane Miller, interim

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Thomas Martin, retired
Rev. Dawn Pederson, transferred to Southeastern Iowa

**Part-time Call*

PRAYER CALENDAR

JUNE 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		First, Dows 1	Rev. Roy J. Ott, Osage 2	Holy Trinity, Dubuque 3	Rev. Howard W. Wolfgram, Maynard 4	St. John's, Dubuque 5
Rev. Wayne T. Ellingson, Decorah 6	Rev. Dr. Lynn I. Banderob, Marion 7	Rev. Brian C. King, Cedar Falls 8	Rev. Kyle Barton, Waverly 9	St. Matthew, Dubuque 10	Rev. Thomas E. Martin, Kensett 11	Rev. Melissa Bills, Decorah Rev. Daniel W. Hanson, Hampton Rev. G. Kim Wills, Hampton 12
St. Peter, Dubuque 13	St. John, Dundee 14	Rev. Conrad E. Rolland, Rolland 15	Zion, Dysart 16	Middle East Peace Rev. Katherine E. Rodriguez, Denver 17	Rev. Jay R. Ilten, Holy Cross Rev. Derek G. Rosenstiel, Dubuque 1 8	Deacon Lisa Kammerer, Cresco 19
St. Peter, Eldorado 20	Elgin, Elgin 21	Ms. Michelle Van Riper, Waterloo 22	Highland, Elgin 23	Rev. Joel R. Dahlen, Mason City 24	Rev. David A. Anderson, Lakeville, Minn. Rev. Michael A. Last, Mason City Rev. Irving L. Sandberg, Roseville, Minn. 25	Rev. Robert R. Hetrick, Waterloo 26
Bethany, Elkader 27	Hope (Littleport), Elkader 28	Rev. Dennis E. Frank, Maynard 29	Rev. Dr. Brian A. F. Beckstrom 30			

JULY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Rev. Clarence H. Baalson, Clear Lake 1	Rev. Joelle Colville-Hanson, Waterloo 2	Rev. Jerry L. Laehn, Grinnell Rev. Audrey A. Lukasak, Circleville 3
Rev. Wayne H. Hagen, Owatonna Rev. Lance Kittleson, Saint Ansgar Rev. Dr. Alan T. Wicks, West St Paul 4	Mrs. E. Ann Philippi, Dubuque 5	Zion (Clayton Center), Elkader 6	Mrs. F. Geraldine Lee, Decorah 7	St. Paul (Maple Leaf), Elma 8	Rev. Charis Combs-Lay, Cresco Rev. Linda A. Johnson Prestholt, Manly Rev. Kim W. Smith, Shell Rock Rev. Edgar A. Zelle, Waverly 9	St. John, Farmersburg 10
Rev. John D. Sorenson, Dubuque 11	St. John, Frederika 12	Peace (Clayton), Garnavillo 13	Rev. John H. Sorenson, Sumner 14	St. Paul, Garnavillo 15	Rev. Daniel J. Flucke, Greene Mrs. Marietta G. Norris, Lake Mills 16	Middle East Peace Rev. Matthew G. Muters, Mason City 17
St. Peter, Garnavillo 18	Faith (Miller), Garner 19	Rev. Lynn Bergren, Waverly 20	St. Peter, Greene 21	American, Grundy Center 22	St. John's, Guttenberg 23	St. Paul, Guttenberg 24
St. John, Hampton 25	St. Paul, Hampton 26	Rev. Susan L. Friedrich, West Union 27	Grace, Hanlontown 28	Trinity, Hawkeye 29	St. Timothy, Hudson 30	Immanuel, Independence 31



Good News

June 2021
Volume 34
Number 6

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

From the President

I can't believe it has been almost 2 years since we were together in Waverly at Wartburg College for our SWO Gathering in 2019. I sure hope to see you this year! Things will be different. We will gather for a half day event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. We are limited to 50 people in person, but can have many more join us virtually via Zoom. Not so sure about technology? It's ok, maybe you have a friend or family member that can help you out. Or if you are not quite ready to travel the distance but want to gather with us, maybe you or your church would be willing to host a "viewing" party with nearby neighbors. The possibilities are endless. We do however request that you register, voting members will be mailed a packet for the business meeting.

I am so excited to have bible study with Bishop Andrea. She has been a wonderful addition to our synod for the past year. We are also going to hear Pastor Kyle Barton, the new Spiritual Life Leader at Lutheran Service in Iowa, during our worship which will close out the morning. In between we will handle the business meeting. This is where we use our Pivot don't Panic tool kit and focus on what we can do and where we want to go in the future.

Looking forward to seeing you June 19 in Waverly in person or via Zoom!

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Stewardship Committee

We will be holding our 33rd Annual Gathering of the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women of the ELCA on June 19! I am so excited to see you all again, it has been a long year. Our offering will be divided equally between our Church-wide Women of the ELCA organization and the LSI special appeal for Spiritual life. If you are not able to attend the Gathering, you can send your offering directly to me.

Our in-kind offering will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa (where needed most)

- Hygiene Items (both men's and women's)
Body wash, deodorant-not aerosol, shampoo and conditioner, natural hair products, toothpaste and toothbrushes, towels

- Towel Bundles

Bath towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm/gloss, shampoo and conditioner, solid deodorant, body wash

- School Supplies
- Ear buds
- Board games: Speak Out, Mad Gab, Hedbanz, Pie Face, Yahtzee, Jenga, Card games: UNO, SkipBo, Phase 10
- Acrylic paints & brushes, paper or canvasses
- Craft items or craft kits
- Basketballs
- Walmart Gift Cards (if you prefer not to shop)

Looking forward to seeing you all in June.

Submitted by Bev Sheridan

LSI Challenge

As many of you already know, we are partnering with LSI to raise \$5000 for their Spiritual Life Challenge. To participate in the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to Lutheran Services in Iowa PO Box 848, 106 16th St SW, Waverly, IA 50677. Just add a note on the memo line or with your contribution stating it is for the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge.

Discipleship Committee

Summer will soon be upon us with a new hope of more services and activities within the church. A small boy told me he couldn't wait for summer which meant he could go fishing with his Papa. I began thinking of his excitement over fishing for fish and our task to fish for people. My verse for today was Matthew 4:19 *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."* Is there a way that you can be that fisherman, trying to fish for people in your community? During this time of Covid19, many people have found themselves isolated from their faith family. What a joy it is to hear of churches setting up outreach services. Using technology to bring services to shut ins and encourage others to view on-line services or Bible studies. A woman told me that she feels she is more faithful now, since she can view various church services on her computer. She loved seeing the churches via Zoom or on YouTube. Jesus was an advocate for outreach and he calls all of his disciples to do the same. So, as you travel on your

faith journey, ask others to walk alongside of you. Be that advocate for Christ.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Justice Committee

Can we talk? Can we talk about something that is heavy on my heart? Can we really talk about the hard stuff, occurring in the world? How?

If I use the wrong word. But how do I know a word is wrong, if I can't have an honest conversation with someone who can tell me what that word really says to them.

Lately, I have been reading articles about conversations and racism. First one was from Mayo Clinic about having conversations with your children. The most recent one was a blog from SparkHouse using the acronym FAIR – Factual, Age Appropriate, Interest and Real life.

My friend of another nationality and I have been having conversations about we see on TV. We have noticed the faces have changed. I notice the story lines have changed on the TV shows I like to watch. However, until you and I can sit together and have an open conversation about the questions we have or the things we want to know, I don't know that anything has changed. I can sit at a table with many different shades of color, but unless all can freely ask the questions and give responses how can change occur? How does one measure equality?

I am so thankful for our God, who sees each of us as we are. I pray that we will all be able to see the other as God sees us!

Submitted by Anna Jetson

LWR Update

Lutheran World Relief is working with dozens of local partners to help those affected by disasters recover and to strengthen the economies of communities in Central America – specifically the Northern Triangle – to build food security, resilience and stability. These investments include vocational and business training programs for youth, as well as efforts to help coffee and cocoa farmers increase the productivity and quality of their crops and connect to markets that will bring them better income.

LWR has partnered with the U.S. government, national, regional and municipal governments in Central America, international and local organizations, foundations, the private sector, U.S. churches, agricultural cooperatives and the people themselves to invest in this future. Through these partnerships, we have seen the social fabric of communities strengthened and thousands of people earning enough income to support their families, providing for immediate needs and setting aside savings for what is to come.

LWR is committed to walking alongside these communities as they work to build better lives for their families. Thank you all for working so diligently to provide items and monetary gifts to help hundreds of families within our reach.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

Would you consider receiving the Star newsletter as a PDF rather than paper **copy**? Switching to the PDF version saves the synod money for other ministries and has a positive impact on the environment. Plus, the PDF version is available on the first of the month in full color with live links to resources, and it is easy to pass on and share with others. If you would like to opt out of the paper mailing and receive only the PDF version, please send your name and email address to webadmin@neiasynod.org, or call the synod office at 319-352-1414.

CALENDAR

Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, St Paul Waverly
Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ St Paul, Waverly
Aug 3-5 Triennial Convention
Oct 16 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
Oct 18 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
Nov 6 Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30

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Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue)

Contact Women of the ELCA:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>
773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA

What Can You Do This Summer to Deepen Your Kids' Faith?



It's now June and summer is just beginning. For many families, that means a (slightly) less hectic schedule for a few glorious weeks. At the same time, it can mean small-scale panic at what to actually do with the extra time your kids have.

Solution: Take the opportunity to get more creative with engaging together spiritually as a family. Here are some ideas to get you started!

1. Choose a gospel to read as a family (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). Decide on a timeframe (days or weeks) and divide the chapters accordingly.
2. Find a way to serve others together as a family.
3. Attend Vacation Bible School. VBS is a fun week offered by many churches for kids to play and learn together.
4. Invite your pastor over for dinner. Invite him to dinner and give your kids the opportunity to ask questions they may not want to ask you (or that you may not know how to answer)!
5. Encourage your kids to invite a friend to church
6. Visit a different church (another denomination or religion). Then discuss the difference in beliefs and practices versus your own...and why they differ.
7. Write letters to God. Have each family member take 10 minutes to write a letter to God. Pick a topic that is relevant at a given time for your family—it could be something light-hearted like complaints you'd like to "file" or something more serious like expressing disappointment about unanswered prayer. Share your letters.
8. Go to a Christian bookstore together and pick out a devotional. It doesn't have to be January 1 to start a devotional habit. Take your kids to a Christian store and select a devotional book to start.
9. Create a family prayer list. Write down the biggest needs for your family and those you know and commit to praying together consistently throughout the summer.

Adventures of Flat Jesus

This summer let's take Jesus everywhere we go. Let Flat Jesus be a reminder of Jesus' real presence in every place we find ourselves and as a fun reminder to help others to encounter God.



1. Decorate your Flat Jesus and laminate him if you are able.
2. Take Flat Jesus everywhere with you and take lots of pictures and share them.
3. Talk with friends and family about what you and Flat Jesus experienced.
4. Set up a Facebook or Instagram page for your church family to share their pictures and experiences.

This information is prepared for you by the
Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network
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