



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Report of the South Conference

The South Conference of our Northern Illinois Synod stretches as far west as Princeton and Ohio, as far north as Mendota and Earlville, as far east as Leland and Somonauk, and as far south as Streator and McNabb.

We currently have 15 congregations in the conference. At this moment, all congregations are being served by a called pastor or have some supply in place and are not in an interim ministry situation.

Ten congregations are being served by their own called pastors,

Immanuel, Earlville – Pastor Denise Rode
Bethany, Leland – Pastor Hope Johnson
Trinity, Ottawa – Pastor Phillip Potaczek
St. John's Mendota – Pastor Elise Ekland Rothfus
St. John's Peru – Pastor Tom Redig
St. Matthew's, Princeton – Pastor Scott Schmidt
St. John's, Somonauk – Pastor Chris Schoon
St. Paul's, Streator – Pastor Bill Callister

Two Congregations share a ministry as the Illinois River Valley parish and are served by Pastor Kris Zierke:

Immanuel, Marseilles
Our Savior, Seneca

Five congregations are being served indefinitely by supply pastors and Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs).

First, Ohio – Jeff and Lori Whalen (SAMs)
St. John's Princeton (Church on the Hill) – Various Supplies
Emmaus, McNabb – Pastor Bob Kinas
Immanuel, Peru (Countyline) – Kent Terry (SAM)
St. Paul's, Tonica (Leonore) – Karen Crabtree

First Lutheran Church in Ohio shares a ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church in Manlius.

Within our conference we also have four retired pastors and three widowed spouses of pastors.

This past year we said goodbye to Vicar Anthony Windau who continued to serve at St. John's Mendota as a SAM following his internship.

And this January, we were glad to welcome Pastor Elise Ekland Rothfus who has been called to serve as Pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Mendota.

Thanks also to retired Pastors Gene Vincent and Wayne Derber for helping out at St. Matthew's in Princeton during Pastor Scott Schmidt's medical leave.

The Pastors and SAMs of our Conference meet once a month in person in October, November, December, January, February, and May. We met Via ZOOM in March due to a Snowstorm. Bishop Stacie joined us in December.

Immanuel Peru participated in an Ecumenical Lenten series with congregations in their area.

In April of 2024, we had our Conference Assembly in person at Our Savior, Seneca.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Bill Callister
Dean, South Conference

