

## **Southwest Conference**

The rostered ministers of the Southwest Conference, along with synodically authorized lay ministers, gather monthly for mutual support, excellent conversation, guest speakers, and communion. We have enjoyed connecting with each other and with the larger Church. This year we held a few conversations around collaborative ministry. We are excited to consider new parishes as well as more informal ways to work together.

This past year had a few transitions. Pastor Nancy Jaster completed her call at Bethany, Woodhull and remains in our conference at First, Sherrard. Pastor Frank Langholf finished his call at Trinity, Galesburg. Pastor Vince Marolla is serving as interim pastor at Bethany, Woodhull, and Pastor Carrie Carnes, a United Methodist pastor, is serving as interim at Trinity, Galesburg. We also welcomed Pastor Karen Norman Rees to our conference as she began as chaplain at Hill Correctional Center in Galesburg.

The congregations and leaders of the Southwest Conference look forward to another year of faithful ministry in our corner of the synod.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Julie Monnard, Southwest Conference Dean