

Gundersen Lutheran and St. Joseph's Community Health Services have entered into a formal affiliation that will create a more efficient healthcare delivery system for people in the Hill Country region. The affiliation will allow for higher-quality, seamless care in Hillsboro, Wonewoc, Elroy and surrounding communities, with less duplication of services.

The new combined entity will be known as St. Joseph's Health Services – Gundersen Lutheran. In November 2010, St. Joseph's entered into a management agreement with Gundersen Lutheran.

In the coming months, the Gundersen Lutheran – Hillsboro Clinic and St. Joseph's Hillsboro Clinic will consolidate in one location at the St. Joseph's Hospital. Planning is underway to physically merge Gundersen Lutheran and St. Joseph's in Wonewoc in the future. During and after the transition, St. Joseph's will continue to accept insurances they currently accept. After the transition, all patients' billing statements will come from the consolidated clinic operation, St. Joseph's Health Services - Gundersen Lutheran. There are no plans to reduce overall employment as a result of the affiliation.