Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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UNIFIED NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue

Cover Page
Bishop's Newsletter
Northeastern Ohio Synod Calendar/Staff Visits
Positions Available
Northeastern Ohio Synod News
Pulpit Supply List
Resource Center *Link*
Hymns for the Church Year (Ash Wednesday-Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Communications Committee: *The Parish Paper,* January & February issues
Inserts: *Nominations Needed; Nominee Application Form; Scriptural Prayer: The Gift of Lent 2018, Resources for Discussion and Reflection; Stewardship Workshop Trifold Brochure; Serve Boldly Brochure, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio bulletin insert*

Unified Newsletter Changes. The Unified newsletter has gone "electronic!" Paper copies are still being sent to congregations and individuals who request them; just contact the synod office and let us know you would like to receive paper copies. We will continue to publish the Unified six times/year; submission deadlines will be announced in each issue. The e-Unified is sent to all E-news subscribers, and published on the Synod's web site, www.neos-elca.org. The weekly E-news will keep you updated with all the news, events and pertinent information in between Unifieds. If you would like to begin receiving the E-news and our other electronic mailings you may sign-up on our website. Simply go to www.neos-elca.org and click on Unified Newsletter; from there click on *Join Our Electronic Mailings* to sign-up. If you have articles or notices to publish in the Unified, please contact Marilyn Matevia at the Synod office, mmatevia@neos-elca.org

Please remember to let the Synod office know if your Unified job postings, equipment offers or requests, etc., have been filled!

IT'S REPORT TIME! A new year also means time for congregations to file congregational reports with the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA; and for rostered ministers, their annual reports to the bishop.

Congregational (parochial) reports should be filed annually with the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA. Pastors and congregation staff play an important role in the filing of this information. Congregation treasurers and secretaries contribute information to the preparing of these forms. The person(s) responsible for filing congregational (parochial) reports can do so electronically by going to the Office of the Secretary's page on the ELCA website, and then click on the Form A & C box, or follow this link: https://webapps.elca.org/FormAAndC/Login.aspx.

Rostered ministers can find the appropriate report form here: http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Rostered-Ministers. Please remember to follow these steps: (1) download the form; (2) save it; (3) then complete it and send it to the bishop - either electronically as an attachment, or a paper copy by mail. If you do not save it first, there will be problems sending it later. It is advisable to fill out these reports early. They are helpful in the ongoing effort to strengthen relationships and build the ministry of the church.

Continued…

IRS Announces 2018 Standard Mileage Rates. The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2018 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. *Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018*, standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be: **54.5 cents per mile** for business miles driven (up from 53.5 cents for 2017); **18 cents per mile** driven for medical or moving purposes (up from 17 cents for 2017); **14 cents per mile** driven in service of charitable organizations. Please visit https://www.irs.gov/ for additional information and/or further changes in the coming year.

Make-Up Boundaries Workshop - February 6. For anyone who missed the required Boundaries Workshop a make-up workshop date has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2018! Mark your calendars now for this required triennial Boundaries Workshop hosted on **Tuesday, February 6, 2018** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke's, Cuyahoga Falls, 2121 6th Street. All ministers of Word and Sacrament, and Word and Service (deacons, pastors, including those who are retired, on leave from call, serving an interim, SALM and TEEM candidates) who missed the July 2017 Boundaries Workshop must attend the entire workshop. Certification of attendance will be noted in the synod files. There is a $15 registration fee for the workshop. A continental breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. Register here: https://tinyurl.com/y9o77tk7 See you there!

Lent 2018 Lutheran Catholic Scriptural Prayer for Sunday Readings. The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission invites Catholics and Lutherans to observe Lent together with *Scriptural Prayer: The Gift of Lent 2018, Resources for Discussion and Reflection*. These resources are good for group or personal prayer with the readings for the first four Sundays of Lent Cycle B. See the attachment to this newsletter for a copy ready edition. For more information, visit the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant website, www.lccovenant.weebly.com.

Stewardship Workshop, May 5. The synod stewardship table is pleased to announce the joint sponsorship of the stewardship event: Creating A Culture of Generosity with the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. Our presiding bishops plus the Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith, author of *Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity* will be the presenters for the day. Join your Episcopal neighbors in attending this event on May 5 at Christ the Redeemer, Brecksville. There is limited space so be sure to register early. See (and share) the enclosed brochure.

Nominations Needed! Leaders are relative to the vitality of an organization or group. At the June synod assembly 25 positions will be filled by election. Please review the enclosed nomination form for the specific position and prayerfully nominate appropriate individuals. Your attention NOW enables biographical information to be gathered and disseminated prior to the synod assembly on June 8th at the John S. Knight Center, Akron.

Worship Furnishings and Supplies Available:

Zion, Youngstown, has the following pieces of worship furnishings available for free to any church who wants them: A set of seven used aluminum individual communion cup trays and lid; two sets of two brass offering plates (one set is slightly larger than the other); one free-standing offering plate stand (wood drum shape and is three feet tall); two altar candle sticks complete with refillable candles (hammered brass/industrial style). Call for more information and pictures: 330-792-4046

Also, **Bethany, Akron** is offering the following items: 75 Evangelical Lutheran Worship Books (red pew edition, 2006); 68 NRSV pew bibles (red, copyright 1989); 6 aluminum communion glass trays with base and lid; 27 blue choir robes (3 with cuffed sleeves – 1 small, 1 medium, 1 large; 2 open sleeved – small; 15 open sleeved – medium; 7 open sleeved – large). Contact Joe Heissers at 330-414-0624 or joeh50@sbcglobal.net.

Allen digital church organ for sale. Advent Lutheran Church in Solon, just east of Cleveland, has a 1980 Allen digital church organ for sale. Although custom-built, it is similar to the Allen "Chancel" CF-10, two-manual AGO-standard console, 38 stops, 10 general pistons, two memory levels, good working condition. Dual-channel output, two amplifiers, two Allen speaker enclosures each with a 15" bass, a 5" mid-range and a high-frequency driver. $3700 or best offer. Contact Music Director/Organist Alan Higbee to arrange to see and play the organ. Alanhigbee@roadrunner.com

BISHOP'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

"Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him." [Mark 1:17-18]

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ and people of God in the Northeastern Ohio Synod,

The bulk of our Gospel readings in the year 2018 will be from the Gospel according to Mark.

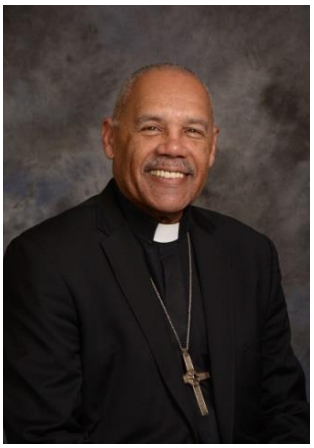
Though Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, the word *immediately* appears more frequently than any other book in the Bible. Bible translations differ in the exact number of times the word is used, but they concur on the disproportionate abundance of its occurrence.

There's no doubt that *immediately* seems to be Mark's favorite word.

In Mark, Jesus is a God of action, performing miracles and casting out demons at every drop of the hat and turn of the page. Mark doesn't waste too much time explaining things. The Gospel is all action, hardly any analysis. We are left to figure many things out for ourselves, given little to no reasoning.

Why this sense of urgency in this one gospel? What is it that Mark wants us to see about this characteristic behavior of Jesus?

Though Mark appears second in the New Testament, scholars agree that it was the first written account of the ministry of Jesus. That ministry began in Galilee, where he went about preaching, teaching, and healing; proclaiming the message that the Kingdom of God had come near.



That begs yet another question, what exactly is the Kingdom of God?

Note first that Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, not in the large, urban area of Jerusalem. Galilee was a small town on the margins of Jewish society. Tradition tells us that it is a place of political upheaval. Historians attest that many Galileans in Jesus' day were hot-headed radicals, preaching rebellion against their Roman overlords.

In similar fashion, our era has been called the Age of Anxiety. Over the past couple decades, this society has been hammered economically, physically, politically and spiritually. There's a general culture of fear and anger that pervades our lives, coupled with the petty political bickering over healthcare, immigration, and other important legislation that paralyzes our federal government and puts our general welfare at risk. There's the gun violence that lays waste to humanity and endangers the safety of both citizens and those who are paid to protect them. Economic disparity creates a massive division between rich and poor.

Many of us can no longer remember a time when we weren't undergoing security screenings at airports, and passing through metal detectors in public buildings. I know how irritating they are to me, and they're most likely the same for you.

The society has become coarse and degraded. People are going hungry. Others lack access to

safe drinking water. We cannot remain unaware of the injustice around us as long as people are being singled out for the color of their skin or the accent with which they speak. The distrust of government and politicians is gigantic. The relationships that used to connect us with others have literally vanished. It is difficult for our secular world to trust in God, when anxiety rules.

As people of God, we are called to be better than that. That is the message for the church and the mission of the church.

In a world with so much need for love – the kind of unconditional love that God offers – The call of Jesus means that no one can wait for that love for one more minute. Jesus made clear that the kingdom of God is most concerned with the forgotten, the rejected, the excluded, the lost, the last, the least, the downtrodden.

The kingdom of God is where the shape of life mirrors God's design for life. It is where God's desires, God's dreams for this creation, God's will and God's intentions rule.

For you and me, that means reaching out and touching people in the name of Jesus, bringing healing, liberation, renewal. It means loving people even when they don't necessarily seem very lovable. Caring for them at the level where they make major changes in the direction of their lives. It calls for guiding them into new ways of looking at life, establishing new priorities, a return to the God of compassion and justice.

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ is known to most of us today as "evangelism." It is not easy. You may encounter resistance, rejection, even hostility. But Jesus has a message that's too immediate – too urgent – for us to wait. He has called us to follow him and join him in bringing the good news of the kingdom to others.

Our Northeastern Ohio Synod last year created the Discipling and Evangelizing Table, a team of dedicated clergy and laypeople who are taking on the responsibility of equipping others to develop the language of faith that will make them better disciples and witnesses to the presence of Jesus in our midst. Pastor Jim Watson of Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City, chairs that Table. He and the other members of the Table are available as resources to aid your congregation.

I pray that 2018 is the year you will make a dedicated effort to be the voice, the eyes, the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. This is what evangelism is about - telling others what they need to hear - telling others how God - in Christ - has touched you and given you what you need. Evangelism is one person concerned about another, and sharing that which has made the difference to them.

People are hungry to hear the good news. They want something in their lives that is better than what they have; they want God to touch them as they see God has touched others. That is what Jesus came to do, that is what we are asked to do in His name – *immediately*!

In Christ,

The Rev. Abraham D. Allende,
Bishop

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

You can find updated synod events on the website calendar page, as well: http://neos-elca.org/events-calendar/

JANUARY

24 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center Resource Center
26-28 **First Call Retreat**, Camp Mowana
28 4:00 pm, **Installation of Pastor Deborah Wissner**, St Mark, Tallmadge

FEBRUARY

1 9:00 am, **Cleveland West Conference Gathering**, Our Savior's, Rocky River
6 9:00 am, **Make-up Boundaries Workshop**, St Luke's, Cuyahoga Falls
8 9:00 am, **Cleveland East Conference Gathering**, New Covenant, East Cleveland
13 9:00 am, **Richland-Ashland Conference Gathering** at Der Dutchman in Bellville
1:00 pm, **Intentional Interim Pastors Meeting**, Lutheran Center Resource Center
14 12:00 pm, **Ash Wednesday Service**, Lutheran Center Chapel
15 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, Faith, Fairlawn
15 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center Resource Center
19 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed for President's Day**
27 4:30 pm, **Finance Committee Meeting**, Lutheran Center Conference Room

MARCH

8 9:00 am, **Cleveland East Conference Gathering**, Advent, Cleveland
13 12:00 pm, **Meeting of Conference Deans**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
15 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, Canaan, Creston
20 10:00 am, **Ecumenical Committee Meeting**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
5:00 pm, **Executive Committee**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
21 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center Resource Center
27 10:30 am, **Renewal of Vows service**, Trinity, Kent
30 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed for Good Friday**

APRIL

1-2 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed for Easter**
19 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, St. Luke, Cuyahoga Falls
23-25 **First Call Theological Education**, Potawatomi Inn, Angola, IN

Calendar Notes: The **Southern Conference** rostered leaders gather every Tuesday for text study and lunch at Emmanuel, New Philadelphia (study at 11:00 AM, lunch at 12:00 PM at Michael's Restaurant). The **Eastern Conference** rostered leaders have a pericope study every Tuesday, 1:00 PM, St. John Lutheran, 1429 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown.

See other side for upcoming Staff Visits…

STAFF VISITS FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Bishop Abraham Allende
Jan 28 St Mark, Tallmadge
Feb 4 St John, Highland Heights
Feb 11 St John, Petersburg
Feb 25 Living Lord & St Paul's, Warren
Mar 11 New Covenant, E. Cleveland
Mar 18 St Paul's, Jefferson
Mar 27 Trinity, Kent

Pastor Karl Biermann
Jan 28 St Mark, Tallmadge
Feb 4 St Stephen Martyr, Canton
Mar 27 Trinity, Kent

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Important reminder about background checks: Congregations are called to be safe places for all members, and every ELCA congregation is responsible to have established guidelines and policies protecting all members. When hiring church workers, please remember the importance of background checks. Your congregation should have official guidelines in place to safeguard members against abuse. For more information about background checks and guidelines: www.elca.org/backgroundchecks/

****** Please remember to tell the Synod office if your posted position has been filled! ******
Contact Marilyn Matevia, mmatevia@neos-elca.org, or 330-929-9022, ext. 22

Youth and Education Director. Parma, Parma is looking for an energetic, resourceful person to lead our youth and education ministries. Youth responsibilities are for the youth ministry of our 6th-12th grade students. Planning and resourcing service projects as well as fun activities as we learn more about God's amazing grace and love for us, working with the Pastor on confirmation and high school education needs. Education duties of the job are to resource and train teachers for Sunday school, empower volunteers for VBS and other family activities within the framework of pre-school to 5th grade. This position will require 25-30 hours a week, weekends, and some evenings with a flexible schedule. Compensation will be discussed with qualified candidates. A degree in education and/or youth ministry is a real plus, but not a prerequisite. Resumes may be submitted through the church office or e-mail at officeadmin@plcparma.org. Visit our website www.plcparma.org for the full job description.

Part-time Pianist. Trinity, Norton is looking for a part-time pianist to play all 10:00 a.m. Sunday services, with additional services during special seasons (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.), select appropriate hymns/contemporary Christian music, and the general planning of all church services. A familiarity with Lutheran (ELCA) liturgy is a plus. If interested please call or email Jewellee Smith at 330-825-3217 / jewelsmith1979@gmail.com.

Director of the Spiritual Care/Healing Services Department. Chaplain Partnership currently is engaged in a search to appoint a new Director of the Spiritual Care/Healing Services Department at Fairview Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Information regarding this opportunity may be found by visiting Chaplain Partnership's website by clicking https://chaplainpartnership.org/employment/ or by calling their Executive Director, Mark Laskey, at (440) 455-9001 ext. 206.

Congregations in the Call Process

- Akron, Messiah, Jeffrey Hancock, interim
- Berea, St. Paul: senior pastor
- Lyndhurst, Messiah, Shelley Nelson-Bridger, interim
- Massillon, St. Paul's, Dan Cammarn, interim
- North Canton, Zion, Hal Robarge, interim
- Seville, Jerusalem, Mark Sherwindt, interim

Transitions

- Tallmadge, St Mark, called Pastor Deborah Wissner, accepted; installation January 28, 2018

Recently Ill or Hospitalized

- Pamela Fox, wife of Pastor Harry Fox
- Pastor Carolyn Wagar Hier
- Pastor Herb & Debbie Garnes
- Pastor Jim & Jeanne Zingale

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Pastor Paul Burgeson
- Pastor Jim Kennell
- Pastor Donald Rice

Sympathy

- Family and friends of Pastor Ted Grotjohn
- Pastor Bobbie Davis-Newhouse on the death of her mother, Audrey Davis
- Pastor Darla Ann & Thomas Kratzer on the death of his mother Florine Kratzer
- Pastor Karen Liddy on the death of her grandmother
- Family and friends of Pastor George Posfay
- Pastor Bob Sander on the death of his mother Ruth Sander

If you would like to add the name of a rostered minister – your own or someone else's – to the Unified's list of "on-going prayer concerns," please contact Marilyn Matevia at the Synod office: 330-929-9022, ext. 22; mmatevia@neos-elca.org

Unless otherwise requested, individuals will be included on the list for two editions of the Unified.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD PULPIT SUPPLY LIST

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

The 2017 NEOS Compensation Guidelines state: Those asked to serve as pulpit supply should be contacted well in advance of the date needed and, upon acceptance, be provided with a copy of the worship bulletin and pertinent information about the service. A member familiar with congregational worship practices should be on hand to welcome the pastor prior to the service. The recommended honorarium for one worship service is $150 plus mileage at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate- beginning **January 1, 2018, 54.5 cents/mile**). Travel reimbursement should also include turnpike tolls. For additional services, scheduled within three hours of the conclusion of the initial worship service, whether at the same congregation or at another, as in two-point parishes, an additional $50 per service should be paid plus any additional mileage. If additional services are scheduled during the week that are similar in nature e.g., Sunday evening, Wednesday, Saturday, etc., an additional honorarium of $85 for each additional service plus mileage at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate (see above) should be paid. For additional responsibilities, appropriate compensation should be provided. Expenses for lodging and meals, if necessary, are to be paid by the congregation. (Contractual interim pastors are reminded that they are responsible for obtaining supply in their absence.) *The current Pulpit Supply list is also available on the NEOS website under the "Resources" tab.*

The following persons have indicated their availability for pulpit supply (additional supply pastors from denominations in full communion with the ELCA can be found on page 2):

The Rev Byron Arledge
1500 Sackett Hills Dr.
Akron, OH 44313
330-730-8808

The Rev Shari Ayers
207 Diller St.
Pandora, OH 45877
614-460-0186
shari.ayers@gmail.com

The Rev Loranell Breyley
80 High Point Dr. Unit 66
Medina, OH 44256
248-850-6357
sunshinedancer2@gmail.com

The Rev Langley Collins
1310 Fifth Ave Apt 605
Youngtown, OH 44504
(H) (234) 855-1063
(C) 330-720-9872
lmcollins605@gmail.com

The Rev David Craig
12204 B Strausser St., NW
Canal Fulton, OH 44614
330-408-7022
davebevcraig@sbcglobal.net

The Rev Barbara Essex
(UCC) 11205 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44106
(O) 216-421-9614 ext. 301
(H) 216-772-2325
barbara.upcam@gmail.com

The Rev George Gaiser
944 Dussel Rd.
Kent, OH 44240-6524
330-678-9287
gjgaiser@att.net

The Rev Jeff Goggins
137 Conger Ave.
Akron, OH 44303
330-620-7531
gogginsfamily5@gmail.com

The Rev Frank Gross
1020 Federal Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-8943
pastorgross@sbcglobal.net

The Rev Elizabeth Hazelton
9396 Brandywine Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-2480
330-468-0412
pastorbetti@sbcglobal.net

The Rev Philip Kunder
PO Box 3634
Mansfield, OH 44907-0634
330-316-3919
punder@aol.com (available as of 1/1/2018)

The Rev Clyde McGee
1751 Cedar Chase Dr.
Akron, OH 44312-4880
330-784-5361
mcgeecp@yahoo.com

The Rev James Metzger
1681 Raywood Rd.
Alliance, OH 44601-3670
330-823-8384

The Rev Dr Deborah Michaels
13193 Hampton Club Dr.
Apt. 102
North Royalton, OH 44133
440-281-5337
revdeb51@yahoo.com

The Rev George Murphy
538 Cynthia Lane
Tallmadge, OH 44278-2884
330-524-4090
gmurphy10@neo.rr.com

The Rev Gail Patton
5256 Spencer Rd.
Lyndhurst, OH 44124-1251
440-442-5256

The Rev Robert Pindell
925 Barkston Dr.
Highland Hts., OH 44143-3218
(H) 440-449-6301
(C) 440-679-1943
bobdell@ix.netcom.com

The Rev Haldon Robarge
12015 Lagoona Circle NW
Uniontown, OH 44685
330-760-3925
hrobarge@neo.rr.com

The Rev Robert Sander
4818 Leigh Ave NW
Canton, OH 44709-1943
(H) 330-497-7293
(C) 419-973-7773
rev1bobs@aol.com

The Rev Richard Seaks
10778 Liberty Street
Garrettsville, OH 44231-1210
330-527-8104
revseaks@gmail.com

The Rev H Dixon Slingerland
147 Barrington Place E
Aurora, OH 44202
330-995-6101
slingerlandh@gmail.com

The Rev Edward Wahl
(NWOS)
2856 St. Rt. 529
Cardington, OH 43315
419-864-0850
revedwahl@hotmail.com

The Rev Gail Zackrison
(NW PA Synod)
5480 Harold Dr.
Edinboro, PA 16412
814-734-5831
ghzack@aol.com

Continued…

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD SUPPLY PREACHERS – LAY (NON-COMMUNION SERVICES)

Marilyn Matevia
4201 W 49th St.
Cleveland, OH 44144
415-412-8246
mmatevia@gmail.com

David Rebeck
244 Fairpark Dr.
Berea, OH 44017-2405
440-891-9793
djrebeck@roadrunner.com

Ken Reinoehl
407 Ninth St. NW
North Canton, OH 44720
330-866-2452
reinoehlk@gmail.com

ORDAINED MINISTERS FROM DENOMINATIONS IN FULL COMMUNION WITH THE ELCA

Episcopal Church, Diocese of Ohio: *Supply roster can be found at: www.dohio.org.*

Moravian Church:

William Surber
Uhrichsville,
330-401-7754
Revwes51@gmail.com

Reformed Church of America (RCA):

Don Poest
Brunswick, 330-273-7396
brcpoest@aol.com

United Church of Christ *(WR=Western Reserve Association; EO=Eastern Ohio Association)*:

Mendle E. Adams (EO, WR) Lyndhurst,
216-246-6369
mendle.adams@yahoo.com

Dick Beck (EO, WR)
Mogadore,
330-807-2800
rfbeck3@sbcglobal.net

Karen D. Binford (EO) Ravenna,
330-968-9622
revgrandma@att.net

UCC continued…

Henry W. Bruner (WR)
Elyria, 440-322-9749
billandmartybruner@gmail.com

Monte E. Canfield (EO)
Newcomerstown,
330-204-7763
montecan@roadrunner.com

Jim H. Cunningham (EO, WR) Lakewood,
440-759-9062
j.h.cunningham@me.com

James G. Deitz (WR)
Amherst, 440-988-2714
ejdeitz@centurytel.net

Jonathan M. Dodson (EO, WR) Hudson,
330-888-8755
dodson.jon@hotmail.com

Barbara J. Essex (WR)
South Euclid,
216-772-2325
bjessex@aol.com

Kenneth E. Hutchinson (EO) North Canton,
330-526-8520
hutchinson@sssnet.com

Patricia J. Jefferis (EO, WR) Middleburg Heights,
440-826-0960
pjjefferis@wowway.com

UCC continued…

Veronica M. Jefferson (WR)
Cleveland Heights,
216-291-5510
revvmjeff@gmail.com

Doyle A. Luckenbaugh (EO)
Massillon, 330-309-5253
doymar58@sssnet.com

Carolyn J. Mann (EO)
Brinkhaven, 740-824-4632
haymann51@yahoo.com

James A. Nelson (EO)
Orrville, 330-683-2792
revjn0203@hotmail.com

Sharon G. Nichols (EO)
North Canton,
330-499-5707
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Steven Savides (EO, WR)
Akron, 617-894-4496
Steven@thesavides.com

Timothy Staveteig (EO, WR)
Cleveland,
216-401-5460
tstaveteig@gmail.com

Glenn E. Swope (EO, WR)
Alliance,
330-823-5107
cgsarts@aol.com

Kate L. Walsh (EO, WR)
Chagrin Falls,
330-472-0228
katewalsh1216@ gmail.com

United Methodist:

Jerry Butcher
Rootstown, OH
330-281-7847
texasmuzzy@gmail.com

Last updated 1/2/2018

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

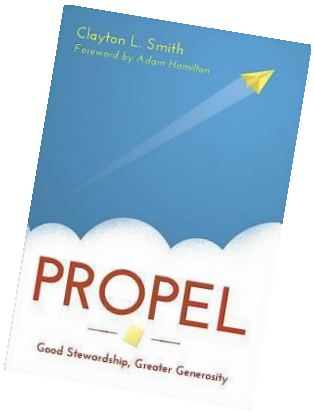
NE Ohio Resource Center

January
Volume 22, Issue 1

Spring and Stewardship

Thanks to state and federal income tax filing deadlines spring is often a time for assessing one's finances. Some congregations also use this time to encourage people to consider their financial commitment to their congregation. Good Shepherd, Conneaut encouraged people to hang a paper leaf on a bare tree in the sanctuary to indicate they had made a commitment. How appropriate this activity would be in spring. Perhaps members could be even challenged to beat nature in bringing the tree to life with leaves!

Also this spring the NE Ohio Synod is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio in hosting Generosity minister of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City, Dr. Clayton L Smith. Watch future mailings for details about this event on May 5th at Christ the Redeemer, Brecksville. Be sure to register early as space is limited.



Karen Kaufman,
Resource Specialist

Staffed Hours
8-4 Mon, Tues & Thurs

Call or email ahead of visit for recommended resources to be immediately available for viewing.

Not able to visit? Most items can be mailed.

1890 Bailey Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44221-5576

Lent and Holy Week

From a Shrove Tuesday Liturgy for children to recommended Stations of the Cross to use in Assisted Living Homes the resource center has a variety of guides and models to provide experiential opportunities for members of your congregation and community.

An Altar Stripping Service and guides for prayer vigils provide models for community worship and personal prayer.

You Are the Way, the Augsburg Fortress Lenten devotional is also available this year in a large-print format.

Subscribe to an electronic devotional from 40acts.org.uk for the Lenten season. Supporting congregational resources are also available.

Most of the books on this page were purchased through anonymous donations to the resource center acquisition fund!
Thank you to our donors!

New Arrivals

Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence and Power starts with the why of the mission of the church and moves through the discernment process. This revised edition includes helpful resources in the appendix for nominating and stewardship committees as well as other meeting leaders and facilitators.

Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter – Four years of study identified 49 named women who speak in scripture. This book is a result of that research with the benefit of background information to help realize the value of those words and women. Reflective questions for each woman and indexes make this book a valuable and easy to use resource for women study groups.

The CEB Storytellers Bible is the ideal guide for those presenting Bible stories orally in groups large or small. It provides background information and helpful notes to assist the storyteller in their preparations and delivery.

Good Fences: The Boundaries of Hospitality provides helpful conversation for individuals and congregations as they reach out beyond their comfortable circles of association. Discussion questions for each chapter help participants think through the doubts of interacting with others.

The Invitational Christian is succinct, practical and inspirational. Best read by a group (short chapters with a discussion guide) it can be helpful for individual reading as well.

Leading A Special Needs Ministry is a practical guide to assist congregations in loving the families and individuals with special needs, from diagnosis in the womb to participation in congregational events.

Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community suggests a monthly time for families to enjoy being together while celebrating God together through His Word, prayer and song. This book outlines a format and activities in addition to examples for specific thematic sessions. Popular in the United Kingdom this approach has become increasingly used in some communities. (There are two books with this title, this one is authored by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter.)

99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children can be used in a variety of ways. Gift families with the book. Use it as a conversation starter with face-to-face parenting groups or to inspire Facebook posts or conversations. Due to the short chapters it also would make a great book for the library or waiting area in your church.

101 Crafts to Help Kids Grow in Their Faith provides a wide range of crafts for relating and reinforcing a faith message with students in grades 1-8. Each activity includes the required time as well as a material list to assist in the selection. A topic index quickly helps you locate the appropriate crafts for a specific lesson. This is an excellent resource for planning or supplementing learning events that include grade school children.

"The resource center has a variety of faith-related craft and activity books. Give us your story or theme and we will search for the available options."

Sacred Space: A Hands-on Guide to Creating Multisensory Worship Experiences starts by suggesting ways to create a multisensory experience for worship. It then provides instructions for prayer stations on a variety of topics and themes, i.e. Beatitudes, Advent, Justice, Transformation.

Soul Tending: Life-Forming Practices for Older Youth and Young Adults introduces a variety of faith practices in a format that is inviting and nurturing for participants. Over 40 topics are provided under three themes: Tending In, Tending Out, Tending Together. This book could also serve as a great starting resource for retreat planners.

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman
boreman4@yahoo.com

ASH WEDNESDAY — SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

Hymn suggestions are from four Augsburg Fortress publications. *E* refers to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, *L* refers to *Lutheran Book of Worship*, *W* refers to *With One Voice*, and *WP* refers to *Worship and Praise*. H is Hymn of the Day, G is Gathering Hymn, and S is Sending Hymn. I, Ps, II, and HG are hymns relating to the Revised Common Lectionary, and refer to the First Lesson, Psalm, Second Lesson, and Holy Gospel.

February 14, 2018	**ASH WEDNESDAY**	
H	*E*600/*L*295	Out of the Depths I Cry to You
H	*E*599/*L*309	Lord Jesus, Think on Me
I	*E*584/*L*434	The Son of God, Our Christ
Ps	*E*185-8/*W*732/*WP*34-5	Create in Me a Clean Heart
II	*L*304	Today Your Mercy Calls Us
S	*E*319/*L*99	O Lord, throughout These Forty Days
S	*E*629/*L*272	Abide With Me
	*E*592/*L*296	Just As I Am, without One Plea
	*E*325/*W*660	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
S	*W*743	Stay with Us
S	*E*811/*L*102	On My Heart Imprint Your Image
	*WP*17	Beauty for Brokenness
	*E*601/*L*91	Savior, when in Dust to You
	*E*606/*W*733	Our Father, We Have Wandered
	*E*320	The Glory of These Forty Days

February 18, 2018	**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**	
H	*E*624/*L*341	Jesus, Still Lead On
H	*E*517/*L*230	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
I	*E*766/*L*366	Lord of Our Life
I	*E*599/*L*309	Lord Jesus Think on Me
Ps	*E*749/*L*414	O God of Love, O King of Peace
Ps	*WP*70	I Will Call upon the Lord
HG	*E*795/*L*484	God, My Lord, My Strength
HG	*E*319/*L*99	O Lord, throughout These Forty Days
G	*E*618/*L*343	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
S	*E*765/*L*469	Lord of All Hopefulness
S	*E*763/*W*781	My Life Flows On in Endless Song
S	*E*757/*W*782	All My Hope on God Is Founded
S	*E*326	Bless Now, O God, the Journey
	*E*788/*L*454	If God My Lord Be for Me
S	*E*325/*W*660	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

February 25, 2018	**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**	
H	*E*750/*L*325	Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
H	*E*587-8/*L*290	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
H	*E*323/*L*292	God Loved the World
I	*E*831/*L*544	The God of Abraham Praise
HG	*E*420/*L*177	By All Your Saints (Stanza 7/10)
HG	*E*806/*L*504	O God, My Faithful God
S	*E*339/*L*97	Christ, the Life of All the Living
	*E*803/*L*482	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
G	*W*720	In the Presence of Your People
	*E*250,552/*W*725	Blessed Be the God of Israel
S	*E*790/*W*746	Day by Day
S	*E*324/*L*104	In the Cross of Christ I Glory
G	*E*737/*W*768	He Comes to Us as One Unknown
	*E*796/*L*507	How Firm a Foundation
	*E*759/*L*479	My Faith Looks up to Thee

March 4, 2018	**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**	
H	*E*757/*W*782	All My Hope on God Is Founded
H	*E*723/*WP*26	Canticle of the Turning
I	*E*806/*L*504	O God, My Faithful God
I	*E*871/*L*542	Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good
I	*E*772/*L*480	Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
II	*E*324/*L*104	In the Cross of Christ I Glory
II	*WP*11	At the Foot of the Cross
Ps	*L*232	Your Word, O Lord, Is Gentle Dew
S	*E*501/*L*219	Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus
G	*E*632/*L*320	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
	*E*796/*L*507	How Firm a Foundation
S	*E*856/*L*532	How Great Thou Art
G	*E*886/*L*559	Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
G	*E*651/*W*750	Oh, Praise the Gracious Power
	*E*803/*L*482	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

March 11, 2018	**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**	
H	*E*323/*L*292	God Loved the World
H	*E*759/*L*479	My Faith Looks up to Thee
I	*E*660/*L*377	Lift High the Cross
II	*E*590/*L*297	Salvation unto Us Has Come
II	*WP*102	No Longer Strangers
HG	*WP*25	By Grace We Have Been Saved
HG	*E*848/*L*520	Give to Our God Immortal Praise
HG	*E*604/*L*300	O Christ, Our Hope
HG	*E*336	Lamb of God (Your Only Son)
	*E*305/*W*647	When Jesus Came to Jordan
S	*E*343/*L*94/*W*661	My Song Is Love Unknown
G	*E*863/*L*524	My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
S	*W*664	A New Commandment
G	*E*335	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
	*E*783/*L*470	Praise and Thanks and Adoration

March 18, 2018	**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**	
H	*E*340/*L*105	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
H	*E*328/*W*662	Restore in Us, O God
Ps	*WP*28	Change My Heart, O God
II	*E*598	For by Grace You Have Been Saved
II	*E*590/*L*297	Salvation unto Us Has Come
HG	*WP*132	Step By Step
HG	*E*465	As the Grains of Wheat
G	*E*379/*L*148	Now the Green Blade Rises
S	*E*596-7/*L*293-4	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
	*E*623/*L*327	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
	*E*820/*L*514	O Savior, Precious Savior
G	*E*759/*L*479	My Faith Looks up to Thee
S	*E*321	Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church
G	*E*339/*L*97	Christ, the Life of All the Living
	*E*735	Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

March 25, 2018	**SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**	
H	*E*343/L94/*W*661	My Song Is Love Unknown
H	*E*416/*L*179	At the Name of Jesus
II	*E*660/*L*377	Lift High the Cross
II	*WP*127	Song Over the Waters
HG	*E*353/*L*92	Were You There
HG	*E*351-2/*L*116-7	O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
HG	*E*472	Eat This Bread
HG	*E*342/*W*668	There in God's Garden
HG	*E*349/*L*123	Ah, Holy Jesus
HG	*E*350	They Crucified My Lord
HG	*E*340/*L*105	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
S	*E*811/*L*102	On My Heart Imprint Your Image
	*WP*88	Lift Up Your Heads
S	*E*339/*L*97	Christ, the Life of All the Living
G	*E*346/*L*121	Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

March 29, 2018	**MAUNDY THURSDAY**	
H	*E*359/*L*126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
H	*E*476/*L*199	Thee We Adore, O Savior
Ps	*E*879/*L*561	For the Beauty of the Earth
II	*L*127	It Happened on That Fateful Night
II	*E*468/*L*496	Around You, O Lord Jesus
II	*W*707	This is My Body
II	*E*499	Oh Lord, We Praise You
II	*E*463/*L*206	Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed
HG	*E*360/*L*122	Love Consecrates the Humblest Act
HG	*E*358/*W*666	Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
G	*E*658/*L*356	O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
	*E*348/*W*667	Stay With Me/Stay Here
	*WP*82,83	Lamb of God
G	*E*660/*L*377	Lift High the Cross
	*E*347/*L*109	Go to Dark Gethsemane

March 30, 2018 **GOOD FRIDAY**

H	*E*803/*L*482	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
H	*E*339/*L*97	Christ, the Life of All the Living
H	*E*349/*L*123	Ah, Holy Jesus
I	*E*340/*L*105	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
I	*WP*8	Amazing Love
HG	*L*106	In the Hour of Trial
HG	*L*112-13	Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes
HG	*E*623/*L*327	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
	*E*357/*L*111	Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless
	*E*347/*L*109	Go to Dark Gethsemane
	*E*355-6/*L*118	Sing My Tongue
	*E*342/*W*668	There in God's Garden
	*E*350	They Crucified My Lord
	*E*324/*L*104	In the Cross of Christ I Glory

April 1, 2018 **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

H	*E*362/*L*210	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
H	*E*383/*W*672	Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
I	*E*718/*L*417	In a Lowly Manger Born
Ps	*E*645/*L*367	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Ps	*WP*141	This Is the Day
II	*E*779/*L*448	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
II	*WP*151	We Rejoice in the Grace of God
HG	*E*384/*L*154	That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
G	*E*373/*L*130	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!
	*E*379/*L*148	Now the Green Blade Rises
	*E*391/*W*676	This Joyful Eastertide
S	*E*394/*L*142	Hail Thee, Festival Day!
	*E*619/*L*352	I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
S	*E*366/*L*135	The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done
	*E*378/*L*129	Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

April 8, 2018 **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*363/*L*132	Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain
H	*E*635/*W*675	We Walk by Faith
H	*E*375	Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen
II	*E*815/*W*649	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
II	*E*596-7/*L*293-4	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
II	*E*886/*L*559	Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
II	*E*500/*WP*106	Now We Remain
HG	*E*382/*L*131	Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!
HG	*E*534/*L*262	Savior, Again to Your Dear Name
HG	*E*378/*L*129	Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
G	*E*369/*L*128	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!
S	*E*537/*L*260	On Our Way Rejoicing
	*E*364/*W*678	Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!
	*E*390	The Risen Christ
S	*E*384/*L*154	That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

April 15, 2018 **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*469	By Your Hand You Feed Your People
H	*E*621/*L*340	Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense
Ps	*E*560/*W*729	Christ, Mighty Savior
HG	*E*384/*L*154	That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
HG	*E*383/*W*672	Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
HG	*E*377/*W*674	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
HG	*E*495/*L*207	We Who Once Were Dead
HG	*E*635/*W*675	We Walk by Faith
	*L*133	Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!
G	*E*367/*L*143	Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
	*E*376/*L*145	Thine Is the Glory
S	*E*380/*L*147	Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!
G	*E*361/*L*141	The Day of Resurrection!
	*E*522	As We Gather at Your Table
	*E*531/*WP*139	The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

April 22, 2018 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*502/*L*456	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
H	*E*764/*L*476	Have No Fear, Little Flock
I	*WP*100	Name above All Names
Ps	*L*335	May God Bestow on Us His Grace
Ps	*E*789/*L*481	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Ps	*L*501	He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!
Ps	*E*778/*L*451	The Lord's My Shepherd
Ps	*E*780	Shepherd Me, O God
II	*E*449/*L*189	We Know That Christ Is Raised
II	*E*537/*L*260	On Our Way Rejoicing
II	*E*385/*L*144	Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
HG	*E*587-8/*L*290	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
HG	*E*652/*L*365	Built on a Rock
HG	*E*544/*L*196	Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing
G	*E*619/*L*352	I Know that My Redeemer Lives!

April 29, 2018 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*447/*W*695	O Blessed Spring
H	*E*377/*W*674	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen
I	*E*449/*L*189	We Know That Christ Is Raised
I	*E*537/*L*260	On Our Way Rejoicing
I	*W*696	I've Just Come from the Fountain
II	*E*708/*W*765	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
II	*WP*67	I Love You Lord
II	*E*359/*L*126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
II	*E*452	Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
HG	*E*609/*L*306	Chief of Sinners though I Be
HG	*E*477/*W*700	I Received the Living God
G	*E*876/*L*242	Let the Whole Creation Cry
S	*W*614	Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior
G	*E*819/*W*717	Come, All You People
	*E*362/*L*210	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

May 6, 2018 **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*449/*L*189	We Know that Christ Is Raised
H	*E*499/*L*215	O Lord, We Praise You
Ps	*E*835/*L*527	All Creatures of Our God and King
Ps	*E*731/*L*558	Earth and All Stars!
Ps	*E*822/*W*795	Oh, Sing to the Lord
Ps	*WP*73	I Will Sing, I Will Sing
HG	*E*658/*L*356	O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
HG	*E*742/*L*439	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
HG	*E*642/*W*665	Ubi Caritas et Amor
HG	*E*383/*W*672	Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
HG	*WP*8	Amazing Love
HG	*E*470/*W*703	Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
HG	*E*358/*W*666	Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
S	*E*836/*L*551	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
G	*E*666/*L*385	What Wondrous Love Is This

May 10, 2018 **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

H	*E*393/*L*157	A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
H	*E*579/*W*756	Lord, You Give the Great Commission
I	*E*394/*L*142	Hail Thee, Festival Day! (Ascension stanza)
I	*E*392/*L*158	Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
II	*E*553/*L*265	Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
II	*WP*113	Open Our Eyes, Lord
HG	*W*753	You Are the Seed
	*L*156	Look, the Sight Is Glorious
S	*E*430/*L*171	Rejoice, for Christ Is King!
S	*E*854/*L*525	Blessing and Honor
G	*E*855/*L*170	Crown Him with Many Crowns
G	*E*432/*L*173	The Head that once Was Crowned
	*E*475/*L*172	Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor
	*E*604/*L*300	O Christ, Our Hope
S	*E*433/*WP*21	Blessing, Honor, and Glory

May 13, 2018 **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

H	*E*322/*L*88	Oh, Love, How Deep
H	*E*392/*L*158	Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
H	*E*645/*L*367/*W*747	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
I	*E*393/*L*157	A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
Ps	*L*232	Your Word, O Lord, Is Gentle Dew
II	*E*655/*L*364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
HG	*L*368	I Love Your Kingdom, Lord
HG	*WP*89	Lord Be Glorified
G	*E*883/*L*245	All People that on Earth Do Dwell
	*E*654/*L*369	The Church's One Foundation
	*E*800/*L*486	Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart
G	*E*532/*W*718	Here in This Place (Gather Us In)
S	*E*576/*W*755	We All Are One in Mission
	*E*463/*L*206	Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed
S	*E*662/*L*386	Christ Is the King!

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18 Questions for 2018

Tim Shapiro, from the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, believes that vibrant congregations exhibit a commitment to increasing congregational capacity. As demands on congregations grow, clergy and laity struggle to "maintain agency over their problems rather than the problems having hold on them."[1] Through the learning process, congregations can discover how to solve a challenge that once outran them. Based on his congregational theory of development, he explains that the first step is defining the challenge. The following exercise helps members identify their goals: what they already know, what they still need to learn, and how their plan fits into the church's overall mission.

Questions to Ignite Conversations

Ask members of the governing board or any leadership group in the congregation to review these eighteen questions.[2] Invite them to select three questions they believe are most crucial for the congregation to discuss. At the first meeting, take a tally of the questions that were chosen. This tally alone will indicate if leaders are focused on the same issues or are concerned about a quite diverse group of questions. Have a conversation about the three questions that received the most votes. Over the course of several meetings, help the group to identify their top questions or concerns. Next, assess the congregation's level of capacity. Before taking any action steps, determine if the leaders need more information, training, education, or transformation.[3]

1. What is the distinctive theological message this church seeks to send? What words do we use to define our core values and identity? Do our pastor and lay leaders find agreement and unity around this message?

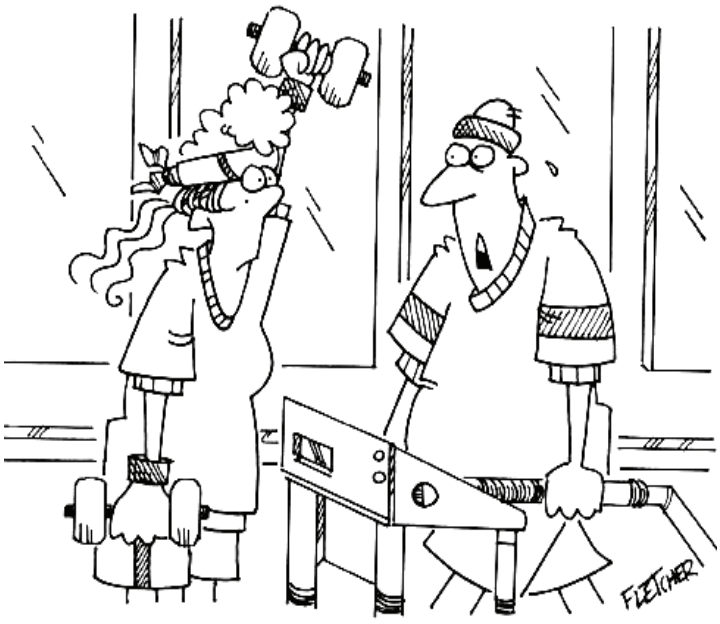
2. What will be the number one driving force for the allocation of scarce resources (such as time and energy of volunteers, staff time, money, building use) in the future planning of our church's ministry? Local or world missions? Children's ministry? Becoming a more diverse worshiping community? Maintaining harmony? Satisfying the preferences of our current members?

3. What size is God calling this worshiping community to be? Does our current building and location limit or facilitate our size goals? Are there strategic decisions that we could make about buying or selling property or other assets that could benefit our long-range vision?

4. Are our programs, governance, and staffing consistent with our current size? Do we have a sense of how we compare to other churches of our size in terms of leveraging resources for ministry?

5. How strong is the desire for community among current members? How does this preference balance with those who feel more comfortable with anonymity? Do these contrasting preferences inhibit decision-making about church growth, outreach, or staffing priorities?

6. What approach is best for our congregation to design worship experiences that meet the spiritual needs of multiple generations? How does worship connect to the teaching ministries of the congregation?



"MY CHURCH IS BIG ON CONTINUED LEARNING FOR ADULTS... OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL JUST SPENT TWENTY-THREE WEEKS FINISHING AN 8 WEEK STUDY OF JONAH."

7. How committed is our congregation to continued learning for adults? How many adult classes or groups do we want? When and where will they meet? Who will lead them? Do we have a mechanism for the creation of new groups or classes?

8. How many "congregations" make up this church? In a typical church, about one in three participants regularly attend, give generously, and volunteer many hours in church programs and ministries. Another "congregation" consists of less committed members who attend worship but who rarely serve as leaders or participants in church programs. They tend to give only when they attend. The third "congregation" consists of members who demonstrate minimal involvement and rarely attend. What percentage of your church membership falls into each of the categories? Has this changed over the past five years? What factors could explain these patterns?

9. What proportion of the operating budget should we allocate to increase the church's visibility and to invite new people to participate in our church's ministries?

10. Does our congregation reflect the racial, ethnic, and economic diversity of our neighborhood or region? If not, what barriers keep newcomers from becoming active participants in our church?

11. Are we a regional church, neighborhood church, or something else? What is our primary calling in this geographic location?

12. What assumptions underlie our current church-staffing model? Does our mission depend on staffing at least one full-time ordained clergy person? How might a bi-vocational, part-time, or second career pastoral leader enhance our effectiveness?

13. What do we anticipate the church's challenges and opportunities to be ten years from now? What ministries are likely to become more important or less important because of those changes?

14. What is the greatest impediment to designing and implementing a new five-year plan? Is one of the obstacles a high level of contentment with the status quo? Another possibility is a long list of attractive alternative courses of action and the reluctance to choose out of fear of making the wrong choice.

15. Does fear play a role our decision-making? For example, in some church locations, fear arises from incidents of vandalism and crime in the neighborhood. In other instances, fear stems from a sense that the church lacks measures to address future potential problems. Does our congregation allow members to express their fears and are there processes to acknowledge practical realities in our future planning?

16. How does our congregation respond to disappointment? Can we describe some setbacks and what we learned from the experience? Did we find an alternative path forward?[4]

17. Will the passage of time expand our range of attractive choices? In general, the best time to strengthen and reinforce ministry is the present. What immediate actions would allow us to take advantage of multiple options?

18. Are our congregation's best days ahead of us or behind us? What evidence points to our "best days" as a congregation? Are our criteria consistent with our core religious commitments?

Could Something Be Better?

Our theological views and commitments color the ways we think about the past, present, and future of our congregation. And as American churches embrace broader narratives about our nation's history, their own church story reflects those themes. For example, historians find two distinct American "jeremiads"—stories of decline, like the prophecies of Jeremiah.[5] The traditionalist jeremiad sees the past as virtuous and the present as full of problems. On the other hand, the progressive jeremiad sees the past as the source of our best ideals or principles, upon which we can build a better future. Both jeremiads acknowledge our present problems. But the traditionalist jeremiad asserts that the best approach to overcoming present challenges is to return to past ways of believing and behaving. Whereas the progressive jeremiad finds heroic examples of people facing predicaments and overcoming injustice. Both views reflect a tension between despair in the present and a hope for the future. Disappointment in the present is central to the American narrative and central to what drives churches to take on their next challenge.

1. Tim Shapiro, *How Your Congregation Learns: The Learning Journey from Challenge to Achievement* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield: 2017), 4-8, xv.

2. Many of these questions are similar to ones asked by church consultants Lyle Schaller and Herb Miller in their ministry with congregations.

3. Shapiro, 36.

4. Ibid., 77.

5. Andrew R. Murphy, *Prodigal Nation: Moral Decline and Divine Punishment from New England to 9/11* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

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THE PARISH PAPER
IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS
EDITORS: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER AND DANA HORRELL—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM
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Best Practices for Church Members Serving as Staff

Jean grew up in a large Methodist church in Ohio—confirmed there, active as a young adult, and married there. To accept a part-time job at the church, and later to go full time as the youth director, felt like a natural fit. "But to be on that side of the fence, attending staff meetings, was different," she said. "I was seeing the magic behind the scenes that I didn't know about. It was all about numbers. I still needed to be filled spiritually, to learn and to grow, and all of a sudden it was a business."

During eight years on staff, she watched things get worse under a new senior pastor and neglected her own spiritual life while running a large, busy youth group. "I watched as other staff members walked out the door," she said. "We were trapped in a toxic environment." The birth of her third child gave her a convenient reason to leave.

Ultimately, Jean's story has a happy ending. After a two-year break from her church employment, a change in senior leadership improved morale. When the new pastor offered her a different full-time job, she accepted. "I still struggle with the balance of worship for myself," she said. "You've got to be intentional about your own spiritual growth." After everything she's been through, she would still encourage a friend to apply for a church job, "but you have to be strong emotionally to separate the business side from the spiritual, religious side. I don't care who you are, they don't blend well."

Understanding and Avoiding Potential Problems

Having done consulting in both church and corporate settings, Susan Beaumont[1] has found that corporate employees are generally happier than church workers. The difference, she thinks, is that corporations tend to have very clear policies and require accountability from employees. Beaumont lists the following potential problems to watch out for:

- Members want to join the staff to get inside information or have a closer connection to the pastor.
- Pastors often supervise on either extreme of the spectrum: little to no supervision, or micromanaging.
- There's no training support for pastors regarding effective supervision techniques.
- Job descriptions are unclear, which sets up conflict between the expectations of the pastor as a supervisor and the member-employee who was not well-informed of her or his job duties.
- Regular employee evaluations are either nonexistent or not helpful.

Each of these can be remedied by taking the time to be clear about expectations, having review parameters in place, and following through on corrective actions. George Bullard,[2] a veteran church consultant, takes this one step further, recommending that

WHEN FIRING CHURCH EMPLOYEES, PASTOR TED OFTEN USED THE "PASS THE BUCK" TECHNIQUE.

churches and member-employees work out a covenant agreement ("not a contract") for one to three years that spells out goals, roles, and responsibilities. That makes it clear to both sides that the job is not a permanent entitlement and leaves room to renew it if the arrangement is working well. And this covenant works both ways. The senior pastor does have a legitimate role, or even a responsibility, for the spiritual development of the staff. Whether they are members of that church, a different church, or no church, Bullard argues that pastors "should focus on the ministry of God and relationships of people to God, to one another, to the community."

And if an employee obviously isn't working out? While there will be difficult decisions to make, as Bullard argues, you can provide discipline or even let someone go in a way that is redemptive. For example, if a person has substance abuse or emotional problems, "a secular business would just fire them. A church has a responsibility to help them connect with systems that will redeem them."

Pastors Not Called to Management

Of the potential problems listed above, poor management skills from the pastor can be the biggest issue for member-employees who see the pastor both as a spiritual guide and as a boss. This issue is highlighted by Beaumont, who points out that "people don't feel called into ministry to do supervision." Furthermore, Bullard argues that the "majority of senior pastors don't have an arena where they learned management skills." This can cause conflict to develop in the church office, or the pastor may hand off management responsibilities to businesspeople who make up the church's governing board. The former causes the souring of the spiritual relationship between the pastor and the member-employee, whereas the latter can lead to those businesspeople pressuring the pastor "to allow business principles to overwhelm what should be a caring, Christ-like relationship."

Ultimately, Beaumont argues that pastors need a covenant relationship with their congregation and an employment relationship with their staff. Part of that employment relationship requires pastors to understand and employ effective supervisory techniques. If staff members are reporting dissatisfaction with how the pastor is providing management (either too much or too little), the personnel committee and church governing board should work together to locate training options for the pastor so that her or his supervisory skills may improve.

Making the Decision

Churches, with guidance from the pastor, need to decide whether or not they should hire members to staff positions. Some churches refuse to hire members altogether in order to avoid situations like what Jean experienced. Of course, as Beaumont points out, there are also benefits to hiring members, particularly for program or mission positions, because those members feel strongly connected to the mission.

No matter the position a person holds, if churches decide to allow members to work as staff, potential member-employees need a clear understanding that their relationship to the congregation will change from covenantal to employment. Additionally, for anyone on a church staff, whether member or not, Bullard reminds us that "the principal relationship is one of employment, not pastoral care."

Balancing Member and Employee Roles

A pastor or a church committee often want to hire someone from the congregation whom they already know, but clear guidelines are necessary to make the situation work well. Of course, many relationships between a church and its member-employees work smoothly.

Patti, who joined her Presbyterian church in Kentucky more than twenty-five years ago, accepted a position as the church's administrative assistant in 2002 and is still on the job. The pastor "encouraged me to set boundaries for myself," Patti said. Patti's biggest temptation is to jump in and do a job herself rather than delegating, but that is a tension of her own making. She said her role as a worshiper on Sunday morning is not affected, and that even if she has to talk shop with congregants, she doesn't mind. Patti's pastor recalled, "I remember saying to our personnel chair that Patti was probably the only church member we should consider. So the short answer is: it can work if it's the right person."

1. All quotes from Susan Beaumont are from an interview with David Lewellen.

2. All quotes from George Bullard are from an interview with David Lewellen.

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Nominations Needed

Please review and share this list of positions with **your** congregational leaders.
Ask people to recommend or consider a nomination.
Submit nominations by completing the form on the back (also available at www.neos-elca.org)

The following positions will be filled by election at the
2018 Synod Assembly on June 8-9, John S. Knight Center, Akron

SYNOD COUNCIL – 3 year term

Meets five times per year to conduct the business of the synod between assemblies

Akron-Wooster ..... Lay
Canton-Massillon ..... Lay
Cleveland East ..... Lay
Cleveland East ..... Lay
Cleveland West ..... Clergy
Eastern ..... Clergy
Richland-Ashland ..... Lay
Southern ..... Clergy
Vice President ..... Lay

2 year term
Youth *(LYO Nomination)*

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6 year term – 1 Clergy and 1 Lay / 2 year term – 1 Lay

The Consultation Committee hears disagreements of substantive issues that have been referred to the bishop / executive committee as well as hears charges against a rostered person or congregation which could lead to discipline. Meets only as needed.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6 year term – 2 Clergy and 2 Lay

The Discipline Committee hears cases which may result in disciplinary action against a rostered person or congregation. Meets only as needed.

VOTING MEMBERS TO CHURCHWIDE, AUGUST 5-10, 2019 – MILWAUKEE, WI

Clergy	Cleveland West Canton-Massillon/Southern Cleveland East/Eastern Richland-Ashland/Akron-Wooster
Lay Female	Canton-Massillon/Southern Cleveland East/Cleveland West/Akron-Wooster Richland-Ashland/Eastern
Lay Male	Cleveland East/Cleveland West/Eastern Canton-Massillon/Akron-Wooster/Richland-Ashland/Southern
Youth (13-17)	Male
Young Adult (18-29)	Female
Person of Color/Language Other Than English	Male Female

Questions may be referred to Karen Kaufman, synod staff liaison, *330-929-9020; kkaufman@neos-elca.org*

Deadline for Submitting Nominations: **February 15**

Completed forms are to be mailed to: **Northeastern Ohio Synod**
Attn: Nominations
1890 Bailey Road
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

2018 NOMINEE APPLICATION FORM

(Please include a photo of the nominee)

Nominee For: _____

Name: _____
(first) *(middle)* *(last)*

Address: _____
(street) *(city)* *(state)* *(zip code)*

E-mail Address: _____ Occupation *(current or past)*: _____

Phone (please indicate cell or home): _____

Congregation: _____
(congregation name) *(congregation city)*

ELCA Member *(check one)*: ☐ Yes ☐ No Pastor's Signature: _____
(for lay nominees only)

Conference *(check one)*: ☐ Akron-Wooster ☐ Canton-Massillon ☐ Cleveland East ☐ Cleveland West
☐ Eastern ☐ Richland-Ashland ☐ Southern

Demographic Information *(check all that apply)*: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Clergy ☐ Deacon ☐ Lay
☐ Person of Color ☐ LGBTQ ☐ Primary Language not English

Age: ☐ 70+ ☐ 60+ ☐ 50+ ☐ 40+ ☐ 30+ ☐ Young Adult (18-29):_____ ☐ Youth (13-17):_____
(Date of Birth) (Date of Birth)

List no more than three areas of synod service. Indicate **current** service by checking the box.

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

List no more than three areas of congregational service. Indicate **current** service by checking the box.

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

List no more than three areas of community service. Indicate **current** service by checking the box.

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Complete the sentence; My main interest in the church is …

_____

Email digital photo to kkaufman@neos-elca.org

Has the nominee been contacted and consented to be nominated? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Referred by or Submitted by *(Self-nominations must have a referral)*: _____
Phone (primary): _____ (work): _____
Address: _____
Congregation (name): _____ (city): _____

The Gift of Lent 2018

Resources for Discussion and Reflection Cycle B
Weeks One Through Four

Prepared by the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission of the
Northeastern Ohio Lutheran Synod of the ELCA &
Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

WEEK ONE

Genesis 9:8-15 1Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15

Both Noah and Jesus have one thing in common. They listen and obey. Noah, in spite of ridicule and absurdity, built the ark and saved life as God asked of him. Jesus, following his baptism, is asked to go into the desert. Jesus listens to this call and obeys. God the Father vindicates both Jesus and Noah and they come through their experience untouched, but not unchanged.

In your life, what was a time in spite of pain, confusion, or absurdity you listened and obeyed the call of God and, like Jesus, "angels came and ministered" to you?

What a gift Lent is. Forty days in the desert to sit back and put ourselves in the position of Jesus. We go into the desert to pray, to trust, to encounter our deepest self and our God. The Church offers us traditional and new practices of prayer, worship, ashes, conversion, confession, and calls us to remember. We are invited to journey with Jesus, identify reality in a new way, examine our lives, and accept God's grace to resist temptation.

In past Lents how have I used these gifts?
Right now, this Lent, what do I think would be most helpful?

WEEK TWO

Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18 Romans 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10

In the story we usually focus on Abraham. For a moment let us focus on the action of God after Abraham's obedience. Scripture says God promises, "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing…" Abraham is given a role to play in salvation history, and will be remembered throughout history as a blessing. Three world religions have their roots in him. All this because of love and obedience.

Abraham, in obedience, is asked to sacrifice his son, his only son.
What is the part of your life, "your child" (the part of yourself that you are attached to),
God is asking you to "put a knife through"?

This is the second week of Lent. Take a moment now to reflect on your Lenten prayer and practices so far.

What has your Lenten experience been like?
What would be helpful to you in the form of recommitment?
What temptations have you been facing to give up your Lenten journey?

WEEK THREE

Exodus 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

Jesus in today's gospel expresses himself in opposition to a sinful practice occurring in his time. He was not a man who stood by and let evil go unchallenged. Notice that he used forceful measures but not violence to speak the truth. Jesus presents, in his example, a call to us to risk speaking the truth even when to do so is uncomfortable and costs us something. This is an example of appropriate anger.

How well do I deal with anger situations?
If I am timid and have been unable to speak out, what might help me?
Can you think of an example where you were able to speak the truth in love and stayed in right relationship with the person you addressed?

Anger is a powerful emotion. Sometimes we express anger to silence or control another to get what we want. Sometimes our challenge of another is not done with respect.

In my life how do I express my anger?
Does it resemble Jesus' model?
How can this time of Lent help me?

WEEK FOUR

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

Today's reading speaks about Jesus being lifted up to save the world. Jesus did not come into the world to condemn but to save. He came ultimately to save us for eternal life but also to save people from destructiveness, distortion, and mediocrity in their lives. He longs to bring every human activity to fulfillment, to make the ordinary sacred. Life with Jesus brings a new light, a new perspective to everything.

Name one ordinary aspect of your life (work or home) that is elevated to a higher level by seeing it through the light of Jesus.

The Church often take stands that challenge the accepted practices of the world. Focus on one moral teaching of the Church that you might find difficult to accept or follow. Examine this teaching in the light of the value it seeks to defend.

Three situations that the world accepts as permissible are: pragmatic war, abortion, and racial or sexual discrimination. Choose one of these issues for reflection.

Why does the Church speak out against the world's thinking?
What the value the Church seeks to respect?
When you view this issue through the light of Jesus, what needs to change in your life?

To register, please return the attached form with payment to:

Joint Stewardship Conference
Attn: Laura Hnat
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Or register online with a credit card
at: cultureofgenerosity.eventbrite.com

Early Bird: Register by April 12
to receive the Early Bird Rate

Registration Deadline: April 27, 2018

COST:

Per person for the first registrant
Early Bird: $25
After April 12: $35

Each additional registrant
Early Bird: $10
After April 12: $15

Includes a copy of Clayton Smith's popular book, *Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity*

Additional registrations from the same church/parish are $10 per person ($15 after April 12) or $50 total for up to 5 people from the same church/parish (includes one copy of the book.)

Extra copies of the book will be available for $10 each.

Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

For more information, please contact:

Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
216-774-0463 or lhnat@dohio.org

or

Karen Kaufman, Resource Specialist
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA
330-929-9020 or kkaufman@neos-elca.org

Join us for this interactive full-day stewardship workshop jointly presented by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Featuring a panel discussion with our Bishops the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. and Rev. Abraham Allende and nationally recognized stewardship expert and author, the Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith.

Who should attend?

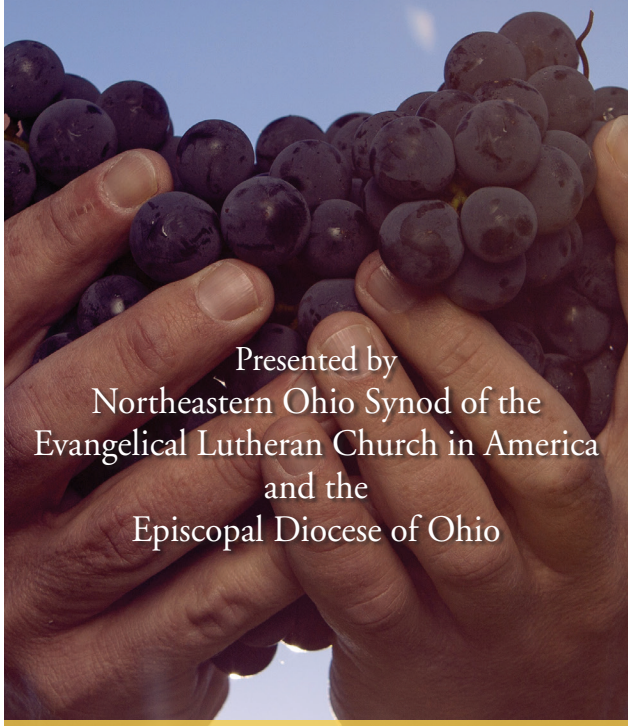
Parish Lay Leaders, Clergy, Stewardship Committee Members, Finance Committee Members, Endowment Board Members, Trustees, and all who are interested in stewardship and generosity.

Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

CREATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY IN YOUR CHURCH

A Stewardship Workshop



Presented by
Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

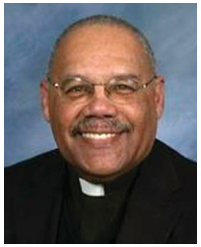
Saturday, May 5, 2018
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Christ the Redeemer
9201 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, OH 44141

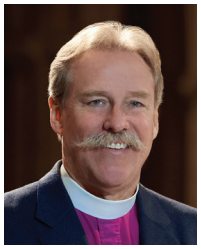
PANEL DISCUSSION:
The Spiritual Discipline of Giving

Giving to the church is critical to growing vibrant parochial and diocesan ministries that equip each of us for carrying out God's mission. Regular and generous contributions are a practical necessity for every healthy community of faith. But giving, first and foremost, is a spiritual discipline for the giver. It is an essential element of how we learn to give ourselves completely to God, which is of course the goal of our faith journey. Join our bishops for a moderated discussion around the spirituality of giving followed by a questions and answer session.

Panelists:



Rev. Abraham Allende
Bishop
Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America



The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Moderator:
The Rev. Brad Purdom
Canon for Congregations
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

WORKSHOPS
Presenter:
The Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith

The Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith serves as an Executive Pastor of Generosity at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, Missouri, a congregation with four campuses and 20,000 members. He is a frequent presenter and workshop leader at conferences and churches across the country. He also leads and teaches faith-based programs that assist people in personal financial stewardship and generosity. More than 3000 people have attended financial education classes offered by his ministry area. These include workshops on estate planning, Medicare, social security, and financial planning for the second half of life.

Rev. Smith has taught Parish Leadership Development for Saint Paul School of Theology. He serves on the Board of Directors for the North American Ecumenical Stewardship Center. His new book, *Propel: Good Stewardship, Great Generosity* was published by Abingdon Press in 2015. A second small group workbook publication, *At the Crossroads-Spiritual Lessons for the Second Half of Life*, was published in 2016 by Abingdon Press.

Good Stewardship Propels Great Generosity

This workshop will focus the call for local church leadership to face our future needs and challenges by addressing the essentials of trust, communication, and positive leadership skills. It will demonstrate how purposeful leadership is the key to cultivating generosity. Participants will learn how to create a culture of generosity based on what the church wants for our members not what the church wants from our members. The workshop will illustrate "vision casting for generosity" based on the local church's purpose and mission.

Ministry Models with Real and Lasting Results

This session will give an overview of five effective stewardship and generosity models that can help ignite generosity in your local church. These practical stewardship and generosity models will address annual campaigns, capital fundraising, strategic mission and special offerings, new member commitments, memorial gifts, major gifts, and planned giving models that any parish can implement.

Registration Deadline April 27, 2018

First Registrant

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Diocese: _____ ❑ ELCA ❑ Episcopal

❑ Other: _____

Parish/Church: _____

City: _____

Additional Registrants

Name: _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Email: _____

❑ Single Registrant: $25 Early Bird; $35 after April 12

___ Additional Registrants from same parish: @ $10 Early Bird; $15 after April 12

❑ Church Registration: $50 Number of Attendees _____ (Maximum of 5)

❑ We would like to pre-order _____ additional copies of *Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity* at $10 per copy for a total of $_____

Amount Paid: $_____

Please make check payable to: *The Diocese of Ohio*

Mail to:
Joint Stewardship Conference, Attn: Laura Hnat
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

SHUT UP AND SERVE.

Amazing things happen when we stop talking and start doing.

SHUT UP AND SERVE WITH US IN 2018!

	JUNE 7-12	JUNE 17-22	JUNE 24-29	JULY 1-6	JULY 8-13	JULY 15-20	JULY 22-27
CHICAGO, IL	$240	$240	*$215	$215	$240	$240	$240
SAINT LOUIS, MO		$150 **17-20 **20-23	*$200				
MINNEAPOLIS, MN					$225	$225	$225
MILWAUKEE, WI		$225	*$200				
NASHVILLE, TN					$225	$225	$225
ATLANTA, GA		$225	*$200				

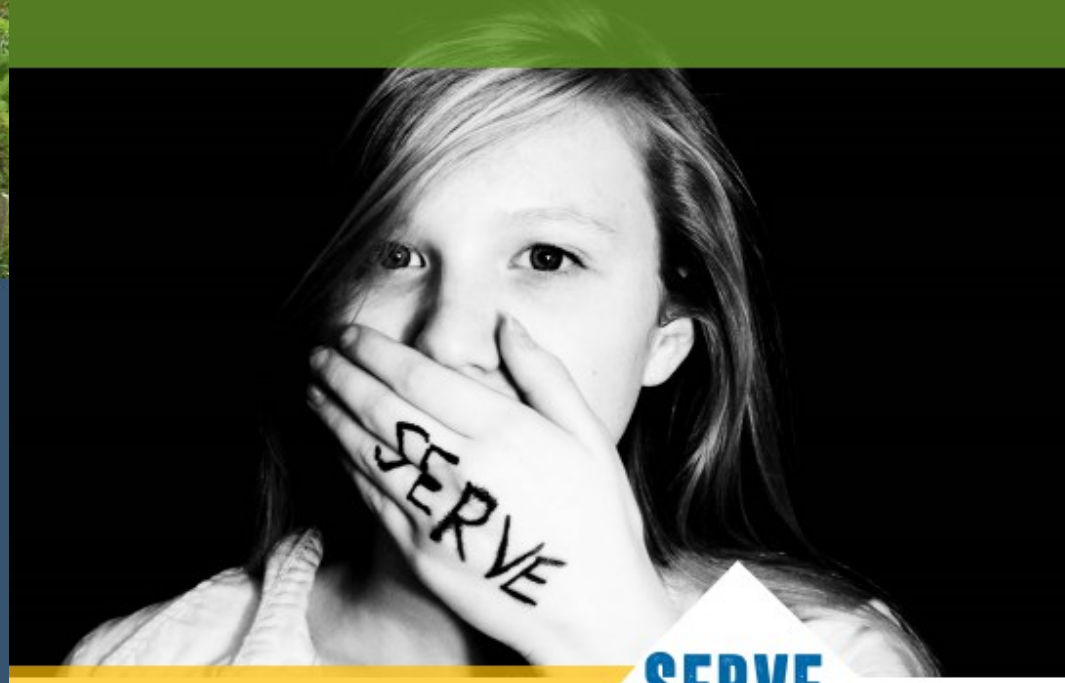
*While we love the ELCA Youth Gathering and hope you are sending your youth to this important event, we are offering discounted registration prices for groups that choose to attend a Serve Boldly trip that week.
**Cross generational trips.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT Register by October 15th and receive a $25/person discount. $100 deposit required, remaining balance due by March 1st.

Email pastorjohn@serveboldly.net for more information or to register your group.

SERVE BOLDLY

Providing Lutheran teenagers with the opportunity to accompany and serve their neighbor while deepening an understanding of God's presence in their lives.



SERVE BOLDLY

WHERE'S YOUR NEXT MISSION TRIP?

FULL DAYS, FULL HEARTS.

A typical day begins with breakfast and devotions, followed by serving at worksites for most of the morning and afternoon. The late afternoon and evening have time scheduled for showers, free time, dinner and a variety of outings unique to the community. The day concludes with evening worship, church group check-in time, and a little more free time before lights out to get some sleep after a full, fun and meaningful day!

SERVING OTHERS & GROWING IN FAITH IN 7 GREAT CITIES.

CHICAGO, IL
You may find yourself serving in a meal site or at a food pantry or be a part of a team that does outreach to men and women who are homeless.

ST LOUIS, MO
Projects here will include the opportunity to work with the children of Saint Louis, since 40% of local children live beneath the poverty level. New this year is a 3-day cross-generational trip option (June 17-20 and 21-23), so come and serve in St Louis as a family with your church!

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Check out our new site in Minnesota! While Minneapolis is home to beautiful lakes and a busy economic center, there are also many who struggle to make ends meet. Our connections with local ELCA congregations and ministries serving the community will allow you make a positive impact on those in need.

MILWAUKEE, WI
Milwaukee is one of the poorest cities in the nation. We have developed a wide network of ELCA congregations and ministry sites that you will serve alongside to meet the needs of children and adults in poverty.

NASHVILLE, TN
Your service in Nashville will bring help and relief to those in need. You will bless others through your work at food banks, refugee ministries, and children's centers.

ATLANTA, GA
Come to our new site in Atlanta to serve with a focus on civil rights and Martin Luther King's legacy. While you will spend plenty of time feeding the hungry and engaging in other meaningful ministry, you will also visit the Center for Civil and Human Rights and other important historic locations. By learning from our nation's history and understanding the current struggle some still face, you will be serving your neighbors and gaining compassion for all God's people.

LEARN MORE AT SERVEBOLDLY.NET

SERVE BOLDY VALUES...

- **LUTHERAN** We are proud of our Lutheran identity, and it guides every aspect of our organization. The very call to serve comes from a deep Lutheran passion to love our neighbors. Our programing, worship, themes, and devotions all reflect a Lutheran theology centered on the grace and love of God. We are happy to further the ministry of ELCA congregations in each community we serve.
- **ACCOMPANIMENT** Accompaniment is living together in harmony with mutual respect and inclusivity. Learning to live like Jesus means that we will break down boundaries that divide God's people and equally share in God's mission together. This means we do not attempt to force a cookie cutter model of ministry on local communities, but rather attempt to further existing ministries by grounding our plans in the ongoing relationships we have with community leaders.
- **FAITH** As much as the trips are about accompanying and serving others, we also hope that all involved would have an experience that enriches their faith. We believe that through service, devotions, community, and worship, the Holy Spirit speaks to us, and that our awareness of God's presence in our lives grows.
- **YOUTH** Every aspect of our programing is designed with youth in mind. We believe youth have so much to offer the Church but are not given the opportunity as often as they should be. We want to empower youth and provide that opportunity for them to become the leaders we know they can be. We hope that youth return to their congregations to lead in their local communities with a passionate energy for faith and justice.

CONTACT US

To register or learn more, please email pastorjohn@serveboldly.net or visit www.serveboldly.net.

SERVE BOLDLY

FEBRUARY

Fun-in-Faith Elementary Retreat

Come and experience a great introduction to camp through fun activities, while learning about your faith. Spend time outdoors learning about nature and pointing out constellations. Enjoy your first s'more over a fire or your first hike through the woods. Learn about the Bible during worship and walk through prayer stations. Everything is planned by camp staff, giving adults time to spend with the youth in your congregation. You will never forget cooking a meal over a fire and playing games with new friends. We invite families, parents and church leaders to attend. Student Leaders are encouraged to attend and help lead and engage the younger students. Please provide 1 adult chaperone, per gender, for every 1-10 youth participants.

Lutheran Memorial | February 23-24, 2018

Maple Syrup Festival

Treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, maple infused sausage as well as live music performed by a local band. You can purchase donuts that are cooked over an open fire, sassafras tea and Real Maple Syrup. Purchase maple syrup or take a nature hike. Visit the sugar shack. You can also choose to relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with new and old friends. This annual tradition is a fun and welcoming family and community festival themed in maple syrup. Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships and awareness of what camp has to offer.

Lutheran Memorial | March 11, 2018

Specific Activities: Pancake/Sausage Meal, Sugar Shack, Maple Syrup for Sale, Maple Kitchen, Wagon Rides, Maple Syrup Process, & Music
For All Ages: Adults, Families, Friends, Congregations & Youth Groups; Adults are required to attend with youth.
Time: 11:00am-4:00pm
Webpage: lomocamps.org/maplesyrup
Fee: Admission is Free; Meal Charge: Age 10 - Adults $8.00; Children 3-9 $5.00; Age 2 and Under are Free

Early Bird T-Shirt Deadline // March 31

All youth summer campers qualify to receive an early-bird T-Shirt with their name on the back. These shirts are exclusive and not for sale. Register and pay in full by March 31, 2018 and you will receive the shirt. Design revealed soon!

Family Summer Camps

This summer we are offering 4 different options for families to experience nature together while learning about their faith. Family Camps bring you together and create memories to last a lifetime.

Family Camps at Luther
8 Summer Weeks

Family Camp Weekend at Mowana
June 29-July 1, 2018

Family Servant Camp at LMC
July 17-22, 2018

Grandparents/Kids Summer Camp
June 24-26, 2018

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Confirmation Retreat
January 26-28, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Women's Retreat
February 2-4, 2018
Camp Mowana

Confirmation Retreat
February 16-18, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Elementary Retreat
February 23-24, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Maple Syrup Festival
March 11, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Palm Sunday Saturday Servant Day
March 24, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Early Bird T-Shirt Deadline
March 31, 2018

Confirmation Retreat
April 13-14, 2018
Camp Mowana

Free Day of Camp
April 15, 2018
Camp Mowana

Free Day of Camp in the Community
Good Shepherd, Cinci
April 22, 2018

LOMOCAMPS.ORG

FEBRUARY

Fun-in-Faith Elementary Retreat

Come and experience a great introduction to camp through fun activities, while learning about your faith. Spend time outdoors learning about nature and pointing out constellations. Enjoy your first s'more over a fire or your first hike through the woods. Learn about the Bible during worship and walk through prayer stations. Everything is planned by camp staff, giving adults time to spend with the youth in your congregation. You will never forget cooking a meal over a fire and playing games with new friends. We invite families, parents and church leaders to attend. Student Leaders are encouraged to attend and help lead and engage the younger students. Please provide 1 adult chaperone, per gender, for every 1-10 youth participants.

Lutheran Memorial | February 23-24, 2018

Maple Syrup Festival

Treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, maple infused sausage as well as live music performed by a local band. You can purchase donuts that are cooked over an open fire, sassafras tea and Real Maple Syrup. Purchase maple syrup or take a nature hike. Visit the sugar shack. You can also choose to relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with new and old friends. This annual tradition is a fun and welcoming family and community festival themed in maple syrup. Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships and awareness of what camp has to offer.

Lutheran Memorial | March 11, 2018

Specific Activities: Pancake/Sausage Meal, Sugar Shack, Maple Syrup for Sale, Maple Kitchen, Wagon Rides, Maple Syrup Process, & Music
For All Ages: Adults, Families, Friends, Congregations & Youth Groups; Adults are required to attend with youth.
Time: 11:00am-4:00pm
Webpage: lomocamps.org/maplesyrup
Fee: Admission is Free; Meal Charge: Age 10 - Adults $8.00; Children 3-9 $5.00; Age 2 and Under are Free

Early Bird T-Shirt Deadline // March 31

All youth summer campers qualify to receive an early-bird T-Shirt with their name on the back. These shirts are exclusive and not for sale. Register and pay in full by March 31, 2018 and you will receive the shirt. Design revealed soon!

Family Summer Camps

This summer we are offering 4 different options for families to experience nature together while learning about their faith. Family Camps bring you together and create memories to last a lifetime.

Family Camps at Luther
8 Summer Weeks

Family Camp Weekend at Mowana
June 29-July 1, 2018

Family Servant Camp at LMC
July 17-22, 2018

Grandparents/Kids Summer Camp
June 24-26, 2018

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Confirmation Retreat
January 26-28, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Women's Retreat
February 2-4, 2018
Camp Mowana

Confirmation Retreat
February 16-18, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Elementary Retreat
February 23-24, 2018
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Maple Syrup Festival
March 11, 2018
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