



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Center • 1890 Bailey Road • Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

330-929-9022

FAX 330-929-9018

E-MAIL office@neos-elca.org
www.neos-elca.org

UNIFIED NEWSLETTER

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Unified Newsletter Changes. The Unified newsletter has gone “electronic!” Paper copies will still be sent to congregations and individuals who have requested them – or who contact the Synod office to request a paper copy going forward. We will continue to publish the Unified six times/year; submission deadlines will be announced in each issue. The new e-Unified will be sent to all email 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 Unifields. 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!



The 2017 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly will take place June 9 and 10 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. Registration is now open. Visit the synod website (<http://www.neos-elca.org/>) for details, registration forms, and payment options. Upcoming deadlines:

- April 15, 2017 - Reports to the Assembly
- May 15, 2017 - Early Registration Ends
- May 15, 2017 - Display Registration Ends
- June 7, 2017 - Registration Ends

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering – “This Changes Everything.” Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. The next gathering will take place June 27 - July 1, 2018, in Houston, Texas. Through days spent in interactive learning,



worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. A lot of information is already available at www.elca.org/gathering.

Volunteer applications open May 15, 2017 and close July 15, 2017. More information about the four different volunteer opportunities can be found at www.elca.org/gathering under registration. Financial assistance application opens July 15, 2017 and closes when the funds are depleted. Gathering financial assistance covers \$300 towards the Gathering.

Darlene Waugh is the Gathering Synod Coordinator (GSC) for the Northeastern Ohio Synod. If you have any questions about the upcoming 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering you can email Darlene at dwaugh@messiahfp.org.

Intentional Interim Ministry Training Registration Deadlines Approaching. Pastors feeling called to the upcoming intentional interim ministry training beginning on May 8 have until April 10 to register and submit the \$1,145 training fee to the synod office, and until April 3 to book their hotel room with the hotel (if needed) at a discounted rate. The two classroom phases will be held at St. Stephen, Stow, May 8-12 and November 6-10, with a summer self-study project phase in between. For more information and a registration form, please see the Northeastern Ohio Synod web site or contact Pastor Karl Biermann, 330-929-9022 or kbiermann@neos-elca.org.

Lutheran Catholic Prayer for Pentecost 2017. The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission invites Lutherans and Catholics to pray together, especially during this year's Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 1517. Make plans now for Pentecost Sunday. You are welcome to use the Prayer for Pentecost worship aid in the inserts included with this newsletter.

Throughout this year of the Common Commemoration, you are also welcome to pray:

- Intercessory/Universal Prayers (see insert, this issue)
- Prayers for Lutheran or Catholic Neighbors
 - Pray by name for your neighbor parish/congregation
 - Pray by name for your neighbor pastor

For these prayer resources and more Commemoration information, visit the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission website: <http://www.lccovenant.weebly.com> or Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Catholic-Covenant-169767929709568/>. The Commission welcomes the use of any Commemoration resources by the NEOS ELCA churches beyond the boundaries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown.

Mark your calendars for the Common Commemoration ecumenical evening prayer celebrated by Bishop George V Murry SJ and Bishop Abraham Allende on October 29, 2017, 6:00 p.m., St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown.

“Free to a good home:” 40 folding desk chairs; 100 student desk chairs - 13” and 17” height to seat, and 18 student desks – 23”, 27” and 29” height. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Salem. 330-332-5042.

Floor Scrubbers/Polishers. The property committee at Good Shepherd, Conneaut, has 2 floor scrubbers/polishers for sale. One uses a 21" disc and has 5 spare discs. The other one is a Power-Flite, 17-175 rpm, a 30 ft. power cord and 3 spare discs. For more information please contact the church office at 440-599-8908.

Wanted: Someone to donate a commercial or riding mower to Euclid, Euclid (431 East 260th Street, Euclid OH 44132). Contact Bob at either 216 731-4874 and leave a message or koskosek1@gmail.com. Will pick up!

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

APRIL

- 2 4:30 pm, **Installation of Pr Bradley Ross**, Lutheran Church of the Covenant/Triune Parish, Maple Heights
 4 10:00 am, **Conference Deans Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Conference Room
 5 10:00 am, **Ecumenical Committee Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Conference Room
 6 **Cleveland West Conference Meeting**, Bethel, Middleburg Heights
 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, The Lutheran Center (synod office) Resource center
 10 **NALIP Training Registration deadline**
 11 10:00 am, **Renewal of Vows Service**, Trinity, Kent
 12 **Richland-Ashland Conference Meeting**
 13 **Cleveland East Conference Meeting**
 14, 17 **Synod Office & Resource Center Closed**, Good Friday & Easter Monday
 20 **Akron-Wooster Conference Meeting**
 12:30 pm, **Worship Committee**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Conference Room
 22 10:00am, **LOMO Board Meeting**
 25 3:30 pm, **Intentional Interim Pastors Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Resource Center
 25-26 **First Call Theological Education Event**, Pokegon State Park, Indiana
 29 8:30 am, **Synod Council**, Martin Luther, Youngstown

MAY

- 1 **Synod Office & Resource Center Closed**
 4 **Cleveland West Conference Meeting**
 7 4:30 pm, **Installation of Pr Angela Freeman-Riley**, Bethesda on the Bay, Bay Village
 8-12 **NALIP Interim Pastor Training**, Phase 1, St Stephen, Stow
 10 **Richland-Ashland Conference Meeting**
 11 **Cleveland East Conference Meeting**
 15 3:30 pm, **Intentional Interim Pastors Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Resource Center
 18 **Akron-Wooster Conference Meeting**
 9 2:00 pm, **Synod Assembly Planning Committee**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Conference Room
 10 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, The Lutheran Center (synod office) Resource Center

JUNE

- 1 **Cleveland West Conference Meeting**
 9-10 **Synod Assembly**, Knight Center, Akron
Lutheran Youth Organization, Knight Center & Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron
 13 3:30 pm, **Intentional Interim Pastors Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Resource Center
 27 5:30 pm, **Executive Committee**, The Lutheran Center (synod office) Conference Room

Continued, Upcoming Staff Visits...

STAFF VISITS FOR THE COMING WEEKS
--

Bishop Abraham Allende

Mar 27 St John, Canal Fulton;
ELCA-Reformed
Celebration, UCC,
Cleveland
Mar 29-31 ELCA Advocacy Days,
Washington, DC
Apr 2 Zion, North Canton;
Covenant, Maple Heights
Apr 13 St Paul's, Newcomerstown
Apr 23 St John, Minerva
Apr 30 St Stephen Martyr, Canton
May 7 Good Hope, North Lima;
Bethesda on the Bay, Bay
Village
May 14 Christ the King,
Twinsburg
May 21 Kountze Memorial,
Louisville
June 4 Mt Hope, Shiloh;
Zion, Youngstown
June 18 First, Beach
June 25 Zion, Valley City

Pastor Karl Biermann

Apr 2 Zion, Akron;
Covenant, Maple Heights
Apr 9 Shanesville & Baltic
Apr 23 St Paul, Newcomerstown
May 7 Bethesda on the Bay, Bay
Village

Pastor Terrance Jacob

Apr 2 Zion, Valley City
Apr 5 Trinity, Vermilion
Apr 23 Hope, Cleveland
May 6 Prince of Peace, Poland

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

[Luke 10:1-2 NRSV]

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

At our most recent Conference of Bishops, our 65 synod bishops, together with the staff of the Churchwide office, gathered to discuss issues of importance to the life of the Church. We gathered under the theme of "The Harvest is Plentiful" based on the reading from Luke 10:1-11 (see verses 1-2 above).

We had constructive conversations around the issues of leadership and congregations; and what it means to be church together. We framed those conversations around questions that hopefully will help clarify roles and expectations of each other as the three expressions of the church: the congregational, the synodical, and the churchwide expression.

Seminary leaders were also part of these discussions. The challenge that seminaries face is the deepening difference between the supply and the need for rostered leaders. The number of M.Div. candidates in ELCA seminaries is 1/2 of what it was a decade below. Also, the average number of candidates available for first call assignment is about 1/3 of the need. Hence, we all have a need for lifting up leaders across this church.

This conversation on Vocation, Leadership, and the Leadership Needs of the Church will be ongoing among the Conference of Bishops. Difficult issues never are easily resolved in one meeting or one sitting; or, even at one level of discussion. The entire church should and must be involved.

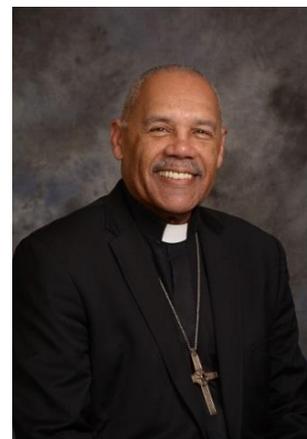
As I visit congregations, I listen and I hear similar anxiety in your voices. With few exceptions, I hear your stories of declining attendance, aging members, shrinking budgets, fear of closing or no longer being able to afford a full-time pastor.

These concerns paint a very bleak picture for the future. And yet, when faced with these realities, church leaders and churches cannot lose sight of the reasons why the church exists. What is God's purpose for us, God's people?

The story of Jesus sending out the 70 is a story about mission and our role in mission. The talk about mission should always be at the forefront of any of our discussions.

There are three key points in this passage from Luke that are instructive for me, and hopefully for all of us who call ourselves people of God and followers of Christ.

First, the seventy are not sent alone where they go. Perhaps Jesus knows that workers are more diligent and accountable when sent in pairs. Perhaps we are safer, less vulnerable with someone to journey with. Perhaps there is wisdom in sending



pairs with diverse gifts. Whatever the reason, we are sent in pairs.

Perhaps the mission of the wider church today would be better served by seeing how we can "pair" ourselves in ministry. It is good for congregations to work together in pairs. One of the greater gifts Jesus gives his disciples, and us, may just be that of teamwork and trusting obedience.

We are more effective in ministry together, because when we work together, we recall that God said it is not good for us to be alone. When we see our hope and welfare as inextricably linked to that of those around us, then we can accomplish so much more than we possibly could alone.

Second, these seventy that Jesus sent were not trained religious leaders. These were simple, uneducated laborers who lived on the fringes of society, people with few discernible gifts for ministry. Yet he chose them. They were so remarkably human, as are we.

In his book, *Secrets in the Dark*, the author Frederick Buechner writes, "Jesus made his church out of human beings with more or less the same mixtures in them of cowardice and guts, of intelligence and stupidity, of selfishness and generosity, of openness of heart and sheer cussedness as you would be apt to find in any of us."

Buechner goes on to add, "The reason he made his church out of human beings is that human beings were all there was to make it out of. In fact, as far as I know, human beings are all there is to make it out of still. It's a point worth remembering".

Today, we are tempted to think of pastors, deacons, or other professional clergy, as the people who are sent into ministry. The reality is that everyone is called to proclaim

that "the kingdom of God has come near to you," no matter what you do to earn money. For those of us who seek to follow Jesus today, this is an important reminder that we are to be about people.

Third, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, known to most of us today as "evangelism," is not easy. We live in a world where it seems that the Christian message is having little effect. When watching the news on the TV, or reading the newspaper, it can create a feeling of helplessness regarding all the problems of our country and the world. As Christians, we and the church are involved in Christ's mission of renewing the world, of bringing hatred and injustice to an end, and of establishing God's reign of love and peace.

Church and faith is not about achievements. It is about being in a relationship with God and with each other. The gospel is shared within a relationship situation. It is about getting to know people; to be concerned about their cares and their needs. More often than not, actions speak louder than words.

As Jesus sent the seventy, we are now the ones through whom the Gospel is now proclaimed. We are now the ones through whom others see Jesus. We are now the ones through whom Christ's message of faith, hope and love is heard.

Lenten blessings,



+Bishop Abraham Allende

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

Administrative Assistant. Administrative Assistant to work with the rector 20-25 hours per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) during office hours at \$12/hour. This position requires a minimum of two (2) years as an administrative assistant and proficiency in Word and Excel. Experience in internet email software such as Constant Contact/Vertical Response is highly recommended. Training can be provided. The administrative assistant maintains and upholds the highest level of confidentiality and neutrality at all times. Please send your resume and references by email to punder@aol.com or send by mail to New Life Episcopal Church, 13118 Church Ave NW, Uniontown OH 44685, attention Fr. Phil Kunder+, Interim Rector. Resumes will be accepted up until April 15, 2017

Part-Time Contemporary Musician. Reformation, Eastlake, is seeking a contemporary musician to "job share" two Sundays per month, alternating musical leadership with the church organist who also plays two Sundays per month. Five Sunday months will be negotiated between the musicians. One worship service on Sunday and special services as needed. \$150/week. Interested persons may contact Rev. Barbara Holzhauser at rlcelake624@gmail.com.

Chaplain. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Retirement Services in Austintown, OH is seeking a full-time chaplain to provide ministry throughout the Shepherd of the Valley community including residents, families, and staff. Click [here] for a complete job description including education and experience requirements. Interested parties should please contact Pamela Hall, PHR, Human Resources Director at (330) 530-4038 Ext. 2038 or phall@shepherdofthevalley.com

Full-time Youth Minister. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights is seeking a full-time Youth Minister who will work collaboratively with the Clergy, staff and parishioners to carry out the youth ministries (grades 7-12) of this vibrant parish. We seek candidates who are passionate about creating a community for youth in which they can grow in their faith. Both ordained and lay candidates are welcome to apply. Ordained candidates will share in the preaching and presiding of worship services and be mentored in all aspects of priestly responsibilities in a parish environment. For more information about St. Paul's, please visit our website at www.stpauls-church.org. Please send a letter of interest with your resume, to the Rector, The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach at jleinbach@stpauls-church.org or St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. If you are ordained, please send your OTM profile and a sermon given in the last six months. Additional information about this position can be found at <http://www.dohio.org/news/job-opening-youth-minister-st-pauls-cleveland-heights>.

Director of LGL Ministries. St. Matthew, Medina has an opening for a full-time with benefits Director of LGL Ministries position. The Director of LGL Ministries will support the mission, core values, strategies, and goals of St. Matthew. The Director will work with the Pastor, Parish Administrator, Executive Council, and the Five Star Ministry Teams with a focus on three primary ministry areas: Christian Education, Youth and Family Ministry, and Small Group Ministry. Qualified candidates must be an ordained Pastor, a non-ordained rostered person, or a lay person and must have a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent and a minimum of three years of work experience in a similar position. Resumes should be submitted to David George at davidgeorge4719@yahoo.com.

Continued...

Worship Accompanist. Celebration, Chardon is seeking a Worship Accompanist with the following: High level of proficiency with keyboard instruments, including willingness to become acclimated to the specific functions of the available instrument; strong sight reading ability; comfortable with eclectic musical styles; experience with solo and ensemble accompanying, as well as full congregational singing. Compensation \$10,000-\$12,000, commensurate with education and experience. For more information, visit <http://celebration-lutheran.org/about/employment-opportunities.html>.

Choir Director. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Conneaut, OH is searching for a choir director. This position includes an evening practice and Sunday morning worship service. Choir season runs from September through May. Contact the church at 440 599-8908 or e-mail goodshepherd@suite224.net ASAP!

Music Coordinator & Bell Choir Director. St. Paul, Smithville, is searching for a music coordinator and bell choir director. Both positions include a Wednesday evening practice and Sunday morning worship when the individual choirs perform. Choir season runs from mid-September through late May. Anyone interested may contact St. Paul at (330) 669-2111 or stpsmithville@gmail.com.

Updated 03/20/2017

Congregations in the Call Process (Call Committee installed)

- Ashland, Stone, Rebecca Rossow, interim
- Berea, St. Paul: 1) senior pastor and 2) term-call associate pastor/program staff
- Canal Fulton, St. John, Bob Linsz, interim
- Conneaut, Good Shepherd, associate pastor, youth and family emphasis
- Cuyahoga Falls, St. Luke's, Larry Mackey, interim
- Fairview Park, Messiah (associate to senior)
- Lakewood, Trinity, Mariah Hayden, interim (UMC)
- Lorain, First
- Massillon, Holy Trinity, Mark Sherwindt, interim
- Massillon, St. Paul's, Dan Cammarn, interim
- North Canton, Zion, Hal Robarge, interim
- Sharon Center, St. Paul, Elizabeth Hadler, interim (UMC)

Transitions

- Bay Village, Bethesda-on-the-Bay, called Angela Freeman-Riley, accepted; installation May 7, 4:30 pm
- Broadview Heights, Triune, and Maple Heights, Covenant, called Bradley Ross, accepted; installation April 2, 4:30 pm

Recently Ill or Hospitalized

- Judith Camp, wife of Pastor Paul Camp
- Pastor Bobbie Davis-Newhouse
- Pastor Fred Grosse
- Pastor Bruce Hathaway
- Ronda Leitch, wife of Pastor Bill Leitch
- Ruth Sander, mother of Pastor Bob Sander
- Pastor Diana Thompson
- Pastor Blanche Tyree
- Pastor Lynn Williamson's daughter, Megan

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Pastor Donald Rice

Sympathy

- Family and friends of Pastor Richard Shibley
- Family and friends of Pastor Diane Lundgren
- Pastor Lor Breyley on the death of her mother

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.



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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, 2017, 53.5 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

680 Rocky Hollow Drive
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 Loranelle Breyley

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

The Rev William Burkett

1951 Fowl Rd Apt B-3
Elyria, OH 44035
440-567-9062
weensue@yahoo.com

The Rev Langley Collins

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

The Rev David Connor

12915 Lake Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107
216-226-0346
prdavec526@yahoo.com

The Rev David Craig

3119 Driftwood Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
330-825-0291
davebevcrraig@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
gigaiser@att.net

The Rev Jeff Goggins

690 Dan Ave.
Canal Fulton, OH 44614
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 Kermit Lauterbach

32844 Woodspring Cr.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-748-3490
klauterbach@oh.rr.com
Single services only

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
bohdell@ix.netcom.com

The Rev Haldon Robarge

12015 Lagoon 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 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 Richard Weaver

(NWOS)
2214 Stahlwood Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-591-8594
rweaver2484@yahoo.com

The Rev Daniel Wenger

6315 Fiesta Ct.
Lorain, OH 44053-3836
(O) 216-476-7372
(H) 440-233-8024
dan.wenger19@gmail.com

The Rev Gail Zackrisson

(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

Cindy Striker
656 Bennington Dr
Lexington, OH 44904
419-632-0968
cindystriker@aol.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
(available after January
2017)
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
rbeck3@sbcglobal.net

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

Jenna K. Brown (EO)
Alliance,
330-257-2826
fozi31@juno.com

UCC continued...

John A. Brownsberger
(EO) Louisville,
330-546-0034
johnbrownsberger@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Arthur P. Clippinger (EO,
WR) Akron,
330-630-2018
apclippinger@aol.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

UCC continued...

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

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

David S. Kiewit (EO)
Tallmadge, 330-630-9638
dkiewit@att.net

Erwin R. Koch (WR)
Brunswick, 330-273-5895

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

Don N. Nichols (EO)
North Canton,
330-499-5707
drdonrevsharon44@neo.rr.com

Sharon G. Nichols (EO)
North Canton,
330-499-5707
uccrev@neo.rr.com

Mark B. Pemberton (WR)
Amherst, 440-984-3931

Barbara L. Pryor (WR)
Bratenahl, 517-250-0768
revbpryor@aol.com

UCC continued...

Steven Savides (EO, WR)
Akron, 617-894-4496
Steven@thesavides.com

Don C. Skinner (EO, WR)
Copley, 814-282-9284
stinkweed272@gmail.com

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

Barry R. Stirbens (EO)
North Canton,
330-361-7170
bstirbens@neo.rr.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

Last updated 03/23/2017

2017 NEOS LYO
Summer Lock-In Event



Who: High School Youth

When: June 9th - 10th, 2017

Where: The John S. Knight Center and
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron

Cost: \$40 by May 15th (*Late Deadline: \$60 by June 1st*)

❖ Hope to see you there! ❖

For more information contact Dana Kulma (danakulma@gamil.com) or visit “Northeastern Ohio Lutheran Youth” on Facebook

2017 Summer Lock-In Event

June 9-10, 2017 | John S. Knight Center | Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, OH



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Grade: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____ City: _____

If before May 15th, I have enclosed the \$40 fee in the form of cash or check (made out to **NEOS LYO**)

If after May 15th, I have enclosed the \$60 fee.

PARTICIPANTS:

By registering for this event I will abide by the rules of the event, involve myself in all activities, respect the person and property of others, and abstain from the use of illegal substances and cigarettes.

Name of Participant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

As the parent or legal guardian of _____ (participant's name), I grant permission for him/her to attend and participate in the 2017 LYO Summer Lock-In Event on June 9-10, 2017 in Akron, OH.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RELEASE FOR TREATMENT OF A MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:

I request and authorize medical personnel, agents, and employees to provide all necessary medical care advisable for the health of my child.

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Number: _____

Known Allergies: _____

PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby grant the NEOS LYO permission to take, post, and share photographs of me for the purpose of promoting the NEOS Summer Lock-In Event and the Lutheran Youth Organization. I hereby release and discharge the NEOS LYO from all claims arising from the use of the photographs.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please send registration forms and payment (non-refundable deposit fee) to:

Mary Ann Sima
32165 Burlwood Drive
Solon, OH 44139

If you have any questions, contact Dana Kulma at danakulma@gmail.com or (440) 799-9800.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord's face shine upon you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

SONG:

2017 Observance
Lutheran-Catholic
Common Commemoration
of the Reformation
Prayer for Pentecost



Northeast Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Diocese of Youngstown

OPENING SONG All the Ends of the Earth or Come Holy Spirit,
Descend on Us (Iona Community)

OPENING DIALOGUE (from Psalm 8 NRSV)

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

and crowned them with glory and honor.

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

PRAYER The Lord be with you
And also with you/your spirit

Let us pray: Almighty God, send us your Holy Spirit!
Illumine our hearts and heal our memories.
Give us joy in the gifts that the Spirit gives.
Grant us steadfast remembrance that the gifts are given for the
good of all.
Guide us in toward unity and peace.

READING Acts 2:1-11

SONG: Veni Sancte Spiritu

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

MEDITATION/HOMILY

SONG: **Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love**

PRAYERS:

Let us now be united in prayer, and open ourselves to the work of the
Spirit of God.

For peace among groups and nations, that we open ourselves to the
guidance of the Spirit who makes all things holy and all
peoples one.

ALL: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

For the unity of the church, that through the power of the Holy Spirit we
may embrace the power of every language on earth to
bridge gaps and heal divisions.

ALL: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

For each baptized Christian, that we develop more fully our response
to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and live more fully in love of
neighbor

ALL: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

For the poor, the stranger, the weak, and the vulnerable, that we may
feed and welcome, comfort and sustain as the Spirit
strengthens us to do.

ALL: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Lord God, we rejoice in your Spirit. We lift up our prayers in joy and
hope, with faith that in your love you will hear and answer
us.

ALL: **Amen.**



Lutheran Catholic Covenant Commission
Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Church in America
Diocese of Youngstown



2017 OBSERVANCE OF THE LUTHERAN CATHOLIC COMMON COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION

SUGGESTED INTERCESSORY/UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Bind us together as Your holy people, especially with our Roman Catholic/Lutheran brothers and sisters. Make us one in faith, hope and love. Draw our hearts towards Your ways and purposes, which transcend the boundaries we draw amongst ourselves.

Holy God, open our eyes and our hearts to Your desire for unity among your people. Move us toward a stronger relationship with our brothers and sisters at *(name of local Lutheran congregation/Roman Catholic parish)*, as You form us into the body of Christ with many different, but necessary parts.

Almighty God, as You overcame the greatest of challenges through Christ to be in relationship with us, guide us through the divisions and challenges that burdened the relationships between Roman Catholics and Lutherans for so long. Grant us Your faith, Your forgiveness, Your gift of reconciliation so that we may be one as You are One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pentecost

Come Holy Spirit, burn in our hearts, that we may know the truth of faith in God through Christ. Renew our faith and the faith of our brothers and sisters at *(name of local Lutheran congregation/Roman Catholic parish)*, that we may bear witness to the good news of Jesus in this community together.

We pray for the witness of the Church, especially for the *congregation/parish of (name local Lutheran/Catholic church)*. Continue to send your Spirit into their hearts, that their faith may be strengthened and their witness may reach the hearts of those who need to hear the gospel of Christ.

Holy Spirit, our wisdom and guide, provide us with words of encouragement to share with our fellow disciples of the *Lutheran/Roman Catholic church*, that we all would be strengthened to proclaim the good news of Christ together.

Reformation Sunday

Ever-present Holy Spirit, keep our hearts and our eyes open to your reforming work. Renew our relationship with our *Lutheran/Roman Catholic* brothers and sisters, that we may be partners in proclaiming the good news today.

Almighty God, your truth has always been true, but our hearts do not always perceive it. Grant us the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we here at *(name your congregation/parish)* as well as our brothers and sisters at *(name local Roman Catholic parish/Lutheran congregation)* have an ever-present guide to bring us back to your truth when we have strayed.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the meaningful ways that the Reformation has affected our Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. Help us to remember that your Holy Spirit is always a reforming presence among us.

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Please help us spread the word...

Ready to use as a

Bulletin Insert (See next page for easy printing)

Page in Your Newsletter

Flyer for Your Bulletin Board

Mailbox Memo for Your Church Leaders

We'd be glad to assist you in any way we can with facilities and programming.

Give us a call for details at 800.431.5666 or contact info@lomocamps.org



LOMO Central Office

Our central office is located in Westerville, OH and serves as the main hub for all of our camps. Registration questions can be directed to this office.

863 Eastwind Drive Westerville, OH 43081

Phone: 800-431-5666

Fax: 614-890-8210

info@lomocamps.org

registrar@lomocamps.org

APRIL

Why Attend a Youth SUMMER CAMP?

Parents will often choose between several options for their kids activities in any given summer. We think that summer camps are the best of all worlds. During a week of youth summer camp, youth will learn about nature, experience a new skill, meet new friends, swim, hike through the woods as well as attention to God through Bible studies. We haven't even mentioned our 4 story climbing wall, zip lines, challenge courses, kayaks, canoes, and other fun camp activities. New youth campers receive \$100 off any week of youth summer camp.

[More Info Online // lomocamps.org](http://lomocamps.org)



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Celebrate Mother's Day in the beautiful surroundings of Mowana with a full buffet meal served in the comfortable setting of the Fleming Falls Retreat Center. We will begin with prayer and thanksgiving for all mothers. After the meal, spend time outside and enjoy a walk together through the woods and view the popular Fleming Falls. A day filled with good food, family photos, and happy memories. Reservations are required and can be made online.

CAMP MOWANA MAY 14, 2017

CAMP LUTHER SERVANT WEEKENDS

We need your help at Camp Luther to prepare for our 2017 summer season. Servant projects could include raking trails, painting, cleaning, and special building projects. After you are done working, take time to relax by a campfire or enjoy a sunset over Lake Erie. We welcome all ages to serve over the weekend to help improve Camp Luther. Adults will attend at no charge, however there is a fee to pay for meals and insurance for children and youth.

CAMP LUTHER

MAY 5-7, 2017

MAY 12-14, 2017

MAY 19-21, 2017

FREE DAY OF CAMP

At our free day of camp we will offer tours of our facilities, campfires and s'mores, programs as well as games that all ages will enjoy. People who have spent time at camp know it is a place that can change your life. Wonder what sets LOMO apart from other camps, or want to return to meet new friends, join us. Come explore camp and we'll be available to answer any questions. You can meet our staff, sing songs, hike through the woods, and witness why everyone loves camp. Invite friends, neighbors and families to experience our place apart. There is no registration required.

LUTHERAN MEMORIAL MAY 7, 2017



UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Free Day of Camp

April 2, 2017

Camp Mowana

Palm Sunday Saturday

Servant Day

April 8, 2017

Lutheran Memorial Camp

Free Day of Camp

in the Community

Prince of Peace, Loveland

April 23, 2017

Free Day of Camp

in the Community

Holy Trinity Akron

April 30, 2017

Camp Luther

Servant Weekends

May 5-7, 2017

May 12-14, 2017

May 19-21, 2017

Camp Luther

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Mother's Day Lunch

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LOMOCAMPS.ORG

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June 5-9, 2017
Camp Mowana

LOMOCAMPS.ORG

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman

boreman4@yahoo.com

ASH WEDNESDAY—SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

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.

March 1, 2017

H E600/L295
H E321
I E584/L434
I WP85
HG E793/W776
Ps E185-8
G E151-8
S E539/L263
E701
G E759/L479
E601/L91
S E328
E606
G E712/L423
S E320/W657

ASH WEDNESDAY

Out of the Depths I Cry to You
Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church
The Son of God, Our Christ
Let Justice Roll Like a River
Be Thou My Vision
Create in Me a Clean Heart
Kyrie
Abide with Us, Our Savior
Once We Sang and Danced
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Savior When in Dust to You
Restore in Us, O God
Our Father, We Have Wandered
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
The Glory of These Forty Days

E324/L104

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

March 5, 2017

H E503-5/L229
H E325/W660
II E783/L470
Ps WP160
HG E310/L90
HG E788/L454
HG E320/W657
G E814
G E431
S E772/L480
S E618/L343
E750/L325
S E326
S E517/L230
S E545/L259

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Praise and Thanks and Adoration
You Are My Hiding Place
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
If God My Lord Be for Me
The Glory of These Forty Days
Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am
Oh Christ, What Can It Mean for Us
Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
Bless Now, O God, the Journey
Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

March 26, 2017

H E779/L448
H E768
Ps E780
II E815/W649
II E866/W650/WP148
HG E340/L105
HG E345/L115
HG E363/L132
HG E334
S E848/L520
S E543/W721
G E673/L400
E347/L109
E593
S E776/L446

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
Lead Me, Guide Me
Shepherd Me, O God
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
We Are Marching in the Light
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
Jesus, I Will Ponder Now
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
Give to Our God Immortal Praise
Go, My Children, with My Blessing
God, Whose Almighty Word
Go to Dark Gethsemane
Drawn to the Light
What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

April 2, 2017

H E750/L325
H E506/W658
I E378/L129
I E807/L499
Ps E600/L295
II E629/L272
HG L100
HG E818/L492
HG E328
G E330
S E802/L487
E553/L265
G E666/L385
G E327/L355
S E886/L559

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
The Word of God Is Source and Seed
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Out of the Depths I Cry to You
Abide with Me
Deep Were His Wounds
O Master Let Me Walk with You
Restore in Us O God
Seed that in Earth Is Dying
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
What Wondrous Love Is This
Through the Night of Dark and Sorrow
Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

March 12, 2017

H E323/L292
H E407
I E831/L544
I E325/W660
I E334
Ps WP159
HG E457/WP145
HG E332,611/L497
HG E442/L194
HG E448/L195
G E473/L165
G E796/L507
S E802/L487
S E838/L518
E638/W699

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

God Loved the World
O Living Breath of God
The God of Abraham Praise
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
You Are My God
Waterlife
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
All Who Believe and Are Baptized
This Is the Spirit's Entry Now
Holy, Holy, Holy
How Firm a Foundation
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
Beautiful Savior
Blessed Assurance

April 9, 2017

H E351-2/L116-17
H E343/L94/W661
Ps E624/L341
Ps WP127
II E416/L179
II E820/L514
HG E601/L91
G E344/L108
G E620/L345
G E346/L121
S E353/L92
S E347/L109
E349/L123
E339/L97
E811/L102

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

O Sacred Head Now Wounded
My Song Is Love Unknown
Jesus, Still Lead On
Song over the Waters
At the Name of Jesus
O Savior, Precious Savior
Savior, When in Dust to You
All Glory, Laud, and Honor
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!
Were You There
Go to Dark Gethsemane
Ah, Holy Jesus
Christ, the Life of All the Living
On My Heart Imprint Your Image

March 19, 2017

H E447/W695
H E332,611/L497
I E331
I E378/L129
I E557/L269
I E618/L343
I E647/L358
I E623/L327
Ps WP107
II E452/W745
HG E343/L94/W661
G E807/L499
G E886/L559
E666/L385

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

O Blessed Spring
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
As the Deer Runs to the River
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
Rock of Ages
Oh, Come, Let Us Sing
Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
My Song Is Love Unknown
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
What Wondrous Love Is This

April 13, 2017

E360/L122
H E708
Ps E879/L561
II E463/L206
II E499/L215
HG E476/L199
HG L483
HG E479/W766
HG E653,642
HG E358/W666
G E324/L104
E605/L307

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
For the Beauty of the Earth
Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed
O Lord, We Praise You
Thee We Adore, O Savior
God Moves in a Mysterious Way
We Come to the Hungry Feast
Where True Love and Charity Abide
Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

E612/W738
E359/L126
E357/L111

Healer of Our Every Ill
Where Charity and Love Prevail
Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless

II E355-6/L118
II E604/L300
II E802/L487
II E810/L503
II WP132
S E619/L352
G E385/L144
S E544/L196
E669/L383
G E369/L128

Sing, My Tongue
O Christ, Our Hope
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
O Jesus, I Have Promised
Step By Step
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing
Rise Up, O Saints of God
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

April 14, 2017

H E342/W668
H E355-6/L118
I E339/L97
I E340/L105
I L305
HG E623/L327
HG E805/L495
HG E351-2/L116-7
E353/L92
L100
E803/L482
E350/L104
E811/L102
E334
E666/L385

GOOD FRIDAY

There In God's Garden
Sing My Tongue
Christ, the Life of All the Living
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
I Lay My Sins on Jesus
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Lead On, O King Eternal!
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Were You There
Deep Were His Wounds
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
In the Cross of Christ I Glory
On My Heart Imprint Your Image
Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
What Wondrous Love Is This

May 14, 2017

H E530
H E816/L513
II E652/L365
II E645/L367
HG E380/L147
HG E802/L487
HG E485/W702
HG E758/L464
HG WP128
HG E426/W691
G E378/L129
S E368/L140
E848/L520
G E761/L465
S E389/L363

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
Built on a Rock
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
I Am the Bread of Life
You Are the Way
Soon and Very Soon
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
With High Delight Let Us Unite
Give to Our God Immortal Praise!
Evening and Morning
Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

April 16, 2017

H E370/L134
H E366/L135
I E718/L417
Ps E645/L367
Ps WP54
II E393/L157
HG E386-7/L139
HG E394/L142
HG E365/L151
G E449/L189
S E619/L352
S E392/L158
G E383/W672
G E362/L210
S E379/L148

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done
In a Lowly Manger Born
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
He Has Made Me Glad
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing
Hail Thee, Festival Day!
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
We Know that Christ Is Raised
I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
Now the Green Blade Rises

May 21, 2017

H E594/L299
H E804/L508
H E629/L272
I E652/L365
I E668/L397
II E449/L189
HG E410/L166
HG E750/L325
G E761/L465
S E731/L558
G E822/W795
W793
G E408/L522
S E390
S E543/W721

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
Come Down, O Love Divine
Abide with Me
Built on a Rock
O Zion, Haste
We Know that Christ Is Raised
All Glory Be to God on High
Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
Evening and Morning
Earth and All Stars!
Oh, Sing to the Lord
Shout for Joy Loud and Long
Come, Thou Almighty King
The Risen Christ
Go, My Children, with My Blessing

April 23, 2017

H E386-7/L139
H E635/W675
I E615/W739
II E476/L199
II E820/L514
Ps E666/L385
Ps WP159
HG E382/L131
HG WP46
HG WP25
HG E388
E378/L129
G E363/L132
S E535/W722
S E384/L154

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing
We Walk by Faith
In All Our Grief
Thee We Adore, O Savior
O Savior, Precious Savior
What Wondrous Love Is This
You Are My God
Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!
Go in Peace and Serve the Lord
By Grace We Have Been Saved
Be Not Afraid
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

May 25, 2017

H E392/L158
H E389/L363
I E394/L142
I E393/L157
H E579/W756
II E553/L265
II WP136
E432/L173
S E540
E439/W744
G E855/L170
E832/W796
S E475/L172
S E604/L300
G E430/L171

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
Hail Thee, Festival Day (Ascension)
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
The King of Glory
The Head that Once Was Crowned
Go, Make Disciples
Soon and Very Soon
Crown Him with Many Crowns
My Lord of Light
Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor
O Christ, Our Hope
Rejoice, for Christ Is King

April 30, 2017

H E374
H E495/L207
Ps WP150
II E473/L165
II E654/L369
HG E737/W768
HG E384/L154
HG WP113
HG WP133
G E367/L143
G E383/W672
S E539/L263
G E377/W674
E522
S E391/L149

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Day of Arising
We Who Once Were Dead
We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise
Holy, Holy, Holy
The Church's One Foundation
He Comes to Us as One Unknown
That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright
Open Our Eyes, Lord
That Christ Be Known
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
Abide, O Dearest Jesus
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen
As We Gather at Your Table
This Joyful Eastertide

May 28, 2017

H E463/L206
H E482
I E393/L157
I E392/L158
I E403/W685
II E503-5/L228-9
II L322
HG WP89
HG E662/L386
G E855/L170
G E432/L173
E796/L507
G E531
S E579/W756
S E826/W801

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed
I Come with Joy
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
The Clouds of Judgment Gather
Lord Be Glorified
Christ Is the King
Crown Him with Many Crowns
The Head that Once Was Crowned
How Firm a Foundation
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Thine the Amen

May 7, 2017

H E502/L456
H E789/L481
Ps L335
Ps E778/L451
Ps E782

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
May God Bestow on Us His Grace
The Lord's My Shepherd
My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

Your *Link* to the Ministry Resources of NE Ohio

Volume 21
Issue 3

Karen Kaufman,
Resource Specialist

March 2017

Staffed Hours

Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday 8-4

Call or email ahead and
recommended resources will
be pulled for you to preview.

Reflection Writing

Our local newspaper in recent years has renewed efforts to BE a local newspaper as a way of maintaining and attracting readers. Rather than sticking to the automatic feeds of articles related to the outdoors or automotive industry they have invited local individuals to share their experiences. These individuals are not English teachers but are auto repair shop owners and machine shop operators. Their writing is so engaging that they have attracted a rather diverse audience.

Congregations have often found that locally produced devotional books attract the greatest audience. In the congregation we may not be looking for individuals to write a regular column as does my local newspaper however we do on occasion ask them to write a reflection for Advent, Lent or a stewardship campaign. Share this article <http://www.ecfvp.org/posts/how-to-write-a-reflection/> with all potential writers and you may be pleasantly surprised at the results.

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Summer Worship

Summer with the increasing sunlight and change in routines often prompts congregations to try something different in the way of worship services. Some congregations have found success in hosting summer evening worship services. There are a variety of resources available specifically for evening worship; for example pages 309-319 in the ELW with hymns 560-573, *Music by Heart: Paperless Songs for Evening Worship*, and the eucharistic liturgy *Stay With Us, Lord* by David Cherwien. The Augsburg Fortress resource *Prayers Around the Cross* provides resources that can easily be led in the evening. And while not stated specifically for evening the liturgy *Of the Land and Seasons* relates to the beauty and bounty of nature. All of these resources are available for preview through the resource center.

NE Ohio Synod
Resource Center

1890 Bailey Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44221-5259

Phone: 330-929-9020
Fax: 330-929-9018
Email: rc@neos-elca.org
twitter.com/resources4U

Martin Marty's book *Lutheran Questions/Lutheran Answers* has been well received by long time members as well as appreciated by prospective members. Some congregations have used this for new member classes. Recently we received a discussion guide that focuses on these five topics: God, Humanity, Salvation, the Church, and Christian Life. You may request a copy of this discussion guide by phoning 330-929-9020 or emailing rc@neos-elca.org

Dr. Kenneth Haugk of Stephen Ministries prompted by the cancer diagnosis of his wife has written a book, *Cancer –Now What?* This book is a tremendous resource for those who receive a cancer diagnosis as well as their families as they negotiate the overwhelming decisions and emotions that arise. Every congregation has a variety of ways in which they support individuals and their families with this scary diagnosis. This book can be another way to assist those affected. Partner with sister congregations to take advantage of quantity discounts for this extremely helpful book. To learn more and purchase visit: www.cancernowwhat.org/On_Line_Store/viewitems.cfm

New Arrivals

Breaking News: A Practical Course Designed to Help You Share God's Good News Today – Stoic northern Europeans culturally are known for refraining from speaking their thoughts. While this trait can be of great value it also has been a hindrance when sharing the story of Christ. This book from the United Kingdom helps individuals to verbally share their faith through friendship. This six week course can be transforming for individuals and faith communities.

Community of Prayer: Stewardship Devotional – Praying daily for the same thing can become stale especially when we pray alone. This devotional helps individuals articulate the various ways God calls us into stewardship. Your stewardship team will find this a helpful resource as they reflect on ways to remind the congregation of God's abundance.

A Faithful Farewell: Living Your Last Chapter With Love is an excellent book to provide those who know they are living out their last days. Written as a devotional it helps the reader deal with the conflicting emotions and stresses during the final weeks and days. Pastoral visitors and caregivers will also benefit from reading this book. Preview this book for your church library, health ministry or visitation team.

Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation – You may be familiar with Rick Steves' *Opening the Door to Luther* which was a 30 minute introduction to the impact of Martin Luther on the church. This 60 minute version expands upon this earlier production by also touching on the political and economic times of the Reformation. This dvd would be an excellent resource for an event that invites the community to join in the celebration of Reformation 500.

Deep Blue One Room Sunday School – Cokesbury has developed this Christian Education curriculum for use with ages 3-12 that somewhat follows the church year. This spring or summer when reviewing curriculum for the coming year congregations may want to consider this option. Contact the resource center to arrange a time for previewing Christian Education curriculum.

GUIDE TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

After months of meetings, the long-range planning committee of Epiphany Church submitted a report to the congregation's board. The report highlighted three important conclusions: (1) the average age of regular worship attendees is going up while worship attendance overall continues to decline; (2) action steps must be taken immediately; and (3) major changes are needed in ministry priorities. After careful review, the board laid out five possible courses of action. How did Epiphany Church board members respond? They chose sides, with each action plan attracting supporters and opponents. How are they going to move forward and make decisions?

Governance or Ministry?

Governance is how we make decisions as a congregation. Typically, the board takes responsibility for big-picture issues and works to help the congregation achieve its mission. The board accepts responsibility for keeping the church's resources—people, money, and property—safe. The board also pursues ways to creatively leverage resources to more effectively serve the congregation's mission.

Ministry is different from governance, even if the same people do both. We know many people in the congregation who wear two hats, serving on the board *and* working in the church's food pantry. Ministry is all the other things a congregation does: offering meaningful worship, educational and spiritual development groups, community service, and outreach. Dan Hotchkiss suggests a simple way to understand the difference: governance produces words on paper while ministry produces action.¹

Why is the distinction important? Churches often feel great about their ministries and concentrate on their programs. However, they tend to spend less time ensuring that the way they govern does not impede the growth and vitality of those same ministries. Dysfunctional governance structures can create an inward focus, a resistance to change, complacency, arrogance, and diffuse accountability.

Signs of Healthy Governance

Congregations may try to borrow organizational models from businesses or nonprofits. However, congregations are different from these organizations and they must work to customize an appropriate decision-making structure. Further, there is no one right way for churches to make decisions. Rather, the structure must be a good fit for the values, beliefs, faith tradition, and size of the church. Regardless of these differences, Hotchkiss outlines several principles of good governance.²

- *Unified structure for making governance decisions.* Typically, an elected board clarifies the church's mission, vision, and strategic issues. In most cases, the board delegates to others the authority to achieve these goals and monitors that those members with authority use their gifts responsibly.
- *Unified structure for making operational decisions.* In most congregations, full- or part-time staff assumes responsibility for programs, assisted by lay leaders. Supervision can come from staff,



"IT'S DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS TO BE FULLY ENGAGED WHEN THE WEATHER IS SO NICE AT THEIR END OF THE TABLE."

committee chairs, or team leaders. The board delegates authority to these staff and members to carry out the church's ministries.

Congregations adopt a structure that generally arises from the church's size. Size, as measured by church attendance and participation, affects all aspects of organizational behavior. Hotchkiss identifies three common forms, clearly associated with church size, and each with pros and cons.³ No single structure is perfect.

The board-centered congregation. This type is common in small churches. Committee chairs, a secretary and/or treasurer, clergy person, and maybe one or more at-large members fill board seats. Although the board is responsible for the overall mission, committee chairs are tempted to "represent" their program, creating a mild conflict of interest. Program administration and issues take center stage at meetings. The smaller the congregation, the more time is required to make decisions that move the church toward ministry effectiveness.

The committee-centered congregation. This structure appears most often in churches with 100 to 400 attendees. Hotchkiss describes its essential trait: both the planning (governance) and actions (ministry) are delegated to appropriate committees by the board. The board rarely grasps the reins of their governance role. Instead, the board listens to reports and leaves strong leadership to others. In some instances when conflict arises, the staff and other leaders become triangulated.

The staff-centered congregation. In large churches, full-time staff takes on more organizational and governance work. This structure's effectiveness depends on the quality and gifts of a small number of leaders, making it unstable in the long run. On the plus side, this model can also maximize the opportunities for members to be involved in ministry.

Because no advice fits all, congregations must discern the governance form that best reflects their values and purposes. If the congregation feels called to spread the Gospel through outreach, then their governance would be organized for evangelism. If the congregation emphasizes advocacy and social justice efforts, then their governance structure would be organized to achieve those purposes.

Common Mistakes

There are some patterns that rarely work in any church. The mistakes listed below point to some of the biggest offenses.

Large boards. The governing board should be comprised of 6 to 8 members and rarely should the board seat more than 12 people. Larger boards find it difficult to keep all members fully engaged, attendance is spotty, participation is low, and many attend unprepared.⁴

Too many committees. Most churches benefit from mobilizing ministry teams to accomplish their mission (see "How Ministry Teams Get Things Done," *The Parish Paper*, January 2016). Rarely does a congregation need more than four standing committees: Finance, Personnel, Governance, and Nominating.⁵

Weak agendas. The central agenda item should be big questions that require discussion. Some churches divide the agenda into two sections: (1) items requiring little or no discussion (minutes, approval of treasurer reports) that can be dealt with quickly as a set; and (2) discussion-only items. Discussion on new proposals should occur over several months before board members are asked to vote. They should never be asked to vote during the meeting in which the possible change is first presented.

Ministry separated from money. The governance structure should not facilitate separating members into financial-only and ministry-only teams. All ministry efforts require resources and good stewardship. Likewise, financial decisions should reflect the church's values and priorities. Failure to integrate money and ministry can create power-needy leaders who exercise veto power in congregational decisions.

From Good to Great

Governance is always difficult in congregations. The Gospel compels churches to be part of transforming individuals, communities, and the world. Yet to carry out that commandment requires some level of institutional stability. Hotchkiss summarizes this tension between stability and instability: "The stability of a religious institution is a necessary precondition to the instability religious transformation brings."⁶ With this in mind, ask yourself: How does our governance structure allow us to focus on our church's mission? How does it facilitate or impede our ministry efforts?

1. Dan Hotchkiss, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, 2nd edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), 50.

2. *Ibid.*, 6.

3. *Ibid.*, 30-40.

4. *Ibid.*, 81.

5. *Ibid.*, 56.

6. *Ibid.*, 1.

SMALL IS BIG AGAIN: RECLAIMING SMALL CHURCH MINISTRY

Although megachurches garner a great deal of attention, these supersized congregations comprise only a small fraction of all worshipping communities in the U.S. The current estimate is that only about 1,650 megachurches (worship attendance exceeds 2,000) dot the landscape out of a total 330,000 congregations across America. In fact, most churches are small: two out of three Protestant churches attract less than 100 worshipers in a typical week. Some scholars predicted that megachurches would essentially put small churches out of business. But the percentage of large churches as part of all churches is growing slowly while the number of small churches has remained stable. While the church's larger mission continues to be carried out by many small worshipping communities, small churches may get locked into self-criticism. However, more congregations are embracing the strengths associated with their small size. As one congregation proclaims: "We're not just any small church. We're the small church that's here!"¹

What Do Small Churches Need?

Lewis Parks, a champion of small congregations, claims that they can do big things with "a little cooperation with the Spirit on the part of those gathered, a little striving for excellence, a little freedom to express local religious creativity, and all things sprinkled with lots of hospitality"² A few other suggestions include the following:

A compelling story about their history, purpose, and mission. Members often possess a common narrative about when and why the church was established and some specifics of that particular historical period. But fewer members know the chapters in the church's history. For example, which pastors or lay leaders exerted a major influence in embracing new mission or overcoming risks? What community events (such as rapid population growth, departure of a major employer) affected the church in a major way? How do mem-

bers describe the current chapter in the church's narrative? Too often, the church's story that clearly reveals the congregation's ongoing ministry remains implicit. When members share greater awareness of the church's mission and history (how did we get here?), they gain greater clarity about the congregation's unique identity. Consider engaging members in an exercise that surfaces the church's history, experiences, traditions, and untested assumptions.³ Then, create a vision statement that captures these insights and use it on your website, with social media, and other church communications.

Intentional efforts to increase visibility. Effective approaches are size-specific. Every small church can creatively send the message to newcomers and the community—"we are here, we care about you, and we welcome you!" An electronic presence (website, Facebook, Instagram) establishes a virtual welcome mat. A well-maintained and lighted church building signals a physical "home" that anticipates visitors.



OUR OLDER DEMOGRAPHIC INTERPRETED
"AN ELECTRONIC PRESENCE TO INCREASE VISIBILITY"
AS STRINGING TWINKLE LIGHTS AROUND THE STEEPLE.

Participation by members and leaders in community events suggests commitment to the well-being of neighbors. Hosting community events, speakers, workshops, and the arts indicates that the church is a willing partner in promoting their neighbors' quality of life.⁴ Form a team of six members to test the congregation's visibility by instructing them to approach five people they do not know. Next, have these members inquire: "Have you ever heard of (the name of your church)? What do you know about it (for example, location, programs, etc.?)" Reconvene these volunteers and share the results. Based on what you learn, devise one or two new action steps to increase the congregation's community profile.

Customized methods for outreach. Context is everything when developing strategies to welcome newcomers. Would your community be described as active or sedentary, family- or career-focused, a stable or mobile population? A family-focused and stable community is more likely to respond to family and friend networks. If a population is career-focused and mobile, investments in electronic and social media will likely pay dividends. Have leaders discuss the key characteristics of the church's community five years ago, currently, five years from now, and ten years in the future.⁵ Refine the church's strategies based on these observed changes.

Purposeful efforts to pass along the faith to future generations. Following the words of Robert Schuller, congregations should view faith development as planting seeds: "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed." Research shows that when congregations value nurturing faith in children and young adults, that emphasis and their hard work bears fruit. How does the church measure success in this ministry area?

Seed-planting congregations in this way also make ministry with millennials a priority. Parks makes a convincing argument that small churches are best suited for reaching out to this age group—adults born between 1981 and 1996.⁶ Millennials' life experiences differ greatly from previous generations and one in three are religiously unaffiliated.⁷ They were more likely to be raised in a nontraditional family and are more culturally diverse than past cohorts. Despite growing up in an online world, they place a high value on friendships and relationships. Small

churches offer them the unique opportunity for intimacy and caring relationships. They are looking for safe spaces for themselves and their children. Review the demographics within a fifteen-mile radius of the congregation to determine the age profiles of residents and to create updated strategies to reach unrepresented groups.

Accept reality and build on strengths. Garrison Keillor famously said: "I believe in looking reality straight in the eye and denying it." Small churches cannot afford to deny reality. Leaders can accept the things that cannot be changed while identifying the advantages that small size affords. Sometimes, cherished programs or even the church building have to be sacrificed in order for the congregation's future mission to thrive. Consider a four-session group study to discover new insights for small-church ministry.⁸

Making Small Big Again

Margaret Mead's statement inspired many in earlier generations: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." A parallel truth applies to congregations. Never doubt that small churches have changed the world and they will continue to do so.

1. Lewis A. Parks, "A New Way to View Small Church Vitality," Lewis Center for Church Leadership, October 14, 2015 (<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/a-new-way-to-view-vitality-in-smaller-congregations/>).

2. Ibid.

3. Trey Hammond, "Timeline of Place," *Leader Guide for Places of Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location*, 2008 (<http://www.uscongregations.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/leaderguide.pdf>).

4. Cynthia Woolever, "Keys to Growing a Small Church," *The Parish Paper*, August 2012 (Vol. 20, No. 8).

5. Statistics available by county, city, town, or zip code at U.S. Census (<http://factfinder.census.gov>).

6. Parks.

7. Michael Lipka, "Millennials increasingly are driving growth of 'nones'" Pew Research Center, (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/05/12/millennials-increasingly-are-driving-growth-of-nones/>).

8. Use the free online resource from The Parish Paper, "Coaching Small Congregations toward Positive Change," <https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%202027.pdf>.