



Northeastern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

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UNIFIED NEWSLETTER

July 20, 2018

Volume 31 — Issue 4

Published 6 Times a Year

Next Unified Publication: Sept 21

Deadline for articles: Sept 17

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 Unifies. 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!

Would you like to help shape the ELCA's statement on Women and Justice? The Northeastern Ohio Synod will hold a hearing for feedback on specific parts of the text on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at Northeastern Ohio Synod Lutheran Center offices (1890 Bailey Rd, Cuyahoga Falls) from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information contact Pastor Angel Jackson at angel.n.jackson@gmail.com

CTNY Lutheran Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation October 2017. View the Lutheran Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation, October 29, 2017, at St. Columba Cathedral in the Gallery of the Catholic Television Network of Youngstown (CTNY): <http://doy.org/index.php/diocesan-offices/ctny/188-audio-a-video>. Bishop George V. Murry, Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, presided at the Ecumenical Evening Prayer. Bishop Abraham Allende, Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, preached. For more Lutheran-Catholic information, visit www.lccovenant.weebly.com.

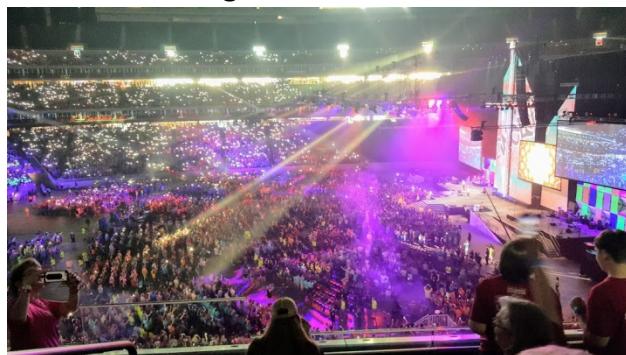
Mark Your Calendars for the 2019 Tri-Synodical Professional Leaders Retreat. Preparations are underway for next year's Tri-Synodical Professional Leaders Retreat, January 22-24, 2019. The theme is "Spirituality," featuring Keynote Speaker The Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, professor of systematic theology, Wartburg Seminary, and Special Speaker The Rev. Dr. Javier (Jay) Alanis, executive director, Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest. Both speakers will offer their unique insights into the Holy Spirit's work in creating enriching unity within diversity. This event will include for the third consecutive year all three Ohio synods at Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, OH. Watch for registration information to come.

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

[1 Timothy 4:12]

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

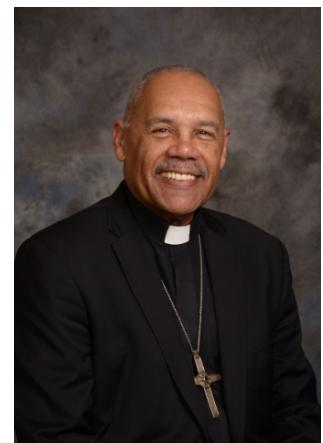
From June 24 to July 1 of this year, I spent an exhilarating week in Houston, TX, attending the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the ELCA Youth Gathering.



There are not enough superlatives to describe my experience. Thirty thousand youth and adult leaders witnessed the active and vibrant presence of God in the world, in worship, fellowship and service. Gathered under the theme, "This Changes Everything," the youngsters were guided by the verse from Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Each night at the mass gatherings they heard a variety of speakers bring messages of hope and grace. The youngsters were inspired and empowered to strive for justice and peace in the world, to feed the

hungry, welcome the stranger, advocate for those marginalized in society and to be a voice for the voiceless. They learned that no matter what their background or circumstances, they were beloved children of God.



At the interactive learning center, they discovered the many ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout the world – ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Women of the ELCA, among others.

They traveled out into the communities of Houston that were affected by Hurricane Irma and took part in service projects to aid in the remaining recovery efforts.



All 540 youth and adult leaders from the Northeastern Ohio Synod were in the same hotel along with the bishop. It gave us a greater opportunity to interact with each other and grow in relationship. We chatted

in the lobby, rode the buses to and from events, ate alongside each other and took part in the serving/learning projects together. And did we take selfies? Enough to fill a football field!

But the growth in faith was the most important highlight of the week. I would encourage any adult who knows a youngster that attended to share their thoughts about what this trip meant to them. Chances are they'll summarize their experience in three sentences: *"God's love changes everything. God's grace changes everything. God's hope changes everything."*

A lot of people put a great deal of effort into making this even what it is. There are two people whom I've come to depend on for the local coordination of all the synod's congregations. Darlene Waugh of Messiah, Fairview Park; and Pastor Kathy Kluck of First, Strongsville spend countless numbers of hours to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible. I thank God for the commitment and energy they put into this. And I thank you for whatever part you may have played in supporting the youth of our congregations in attending the Gathering.

I was so moved when I attended the 2015 Gathering in Detroit, that my priorities shifted so as to put an intentional emphasis on youth leadership. That is why those of you who've attended the last two synod assemblies have seen a greater participation of young people in our worship services and an increased visibility of youth in our assembly.

These young people have come back from Houston as changed individuals. They are hungry and thirsty for the chance to lead. It is our responsibility to give them that opportunity. Our role as adults is to nurture their potential as well as ours. The task at hand for all of us, young and old, is sharing that good news of God's salvation with others, of making Christ known in the world.

And so I offer you this challenge. Listen to the young people. Encourage them. Empower them. Get out of their way! Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and trust in the hope that, through the leadership of our youth, our congregations may become agents of change in the world.

Peace and blessings!



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/>

JULY

4 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed for Fourth of July Holiday**
21 8:30 am, **Synod Council Meeting**, Prince of Peace, Westlake
23 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed**
25 10:00 am, **Ecumenical Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room

AUGUST

1 12:00 pm, **Conference Deans Meeting**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
9 3:00 pm, **Stewardship Table**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center
11 10:00 am, **Listening Session: Women & Social Justice statement**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center
12 4:00 pm, **Installation**: Pastor Paul Moody, Messiah, Lyndhurst
14 2:00 pm, **Finance Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
18 9:30 am, **Cross Cultural Conversations**, Grace, Hubbard

SEPTEMBER

3 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed for Labor Day**
5 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center
6 12:00 pm, **Assembly Planning Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
12 10:00 am, **First Call Theological Education meeting**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center
16 4:00 pm, **Installation**: Pastor Dan Skillman, St. Paul, Berea
22 9:30 am, **Bishop's Gathering**, Zion, Wooster
29 10:00 am, **Cross Cultural Conversations**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center

OCTOBER

6 9:30 am, **Bishop's Gathering**, Grace, Austintown
11 12:00 pm, **Assembly Planning Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
19-20 4:00 pm, **Synod Council Retreat**, Camp Mowana
22 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed**

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.

STAFF VISITS FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Bishop Abraham Allende

July 21 Prince of Peace, Westlake
July 29 Peace, Cleveland Heights
Aug 5 Good Shepherd, Canton
Aug 12 Messiah, Lyndhurst
Aug 18 Camp Mowana, Mansfield
Aug 19 Worship in the Park, Lorain
Sept 9 St. Paul, Warren
Sept 13 Cleveland East Conference gathering, Celebration, Chardon
Sept 16 St. Paul, Berea
Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
Sept 23 Trinity, Carrollton
Oct 7 Advent, Cleveland

Pastor Karl Biermann

July 21 Prince of Peace, Westlake
July 22 Christ, Avon Lake
Aug 12 Messiah, Akron; Messiah, Lyndhurst
Aug 19 Good Shepherd, Conneaut
Sept 9 St. Paul, Bellville
Sept 16 St. Paul, Berea
Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
Oct 7 Peace, Ashland

Pastor Julianne Smith

July 21 Prince of Peace, Westlake
Aug 12 Zion, North Canton
Aug 18 Grace, Hubbard
Sept 16 St. Timothy, Mansfield
Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
Sept 30 Our Saviour, Hinckley

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

Janitorial Position. St. Paul's, Massillon is seeking a janitor to fill an immediate need. The position is 35 hours per week. The work schedule varies. Responsibilities Include: maintains and cleanliness of the Church facilities; set up and clean up for events; perform church repairs as able. Qualifications include High School diploma is desirable, along with the ability to perform cleaning operations. Some lifting, climbing and outdoor work is required. Please submit a cover letter and resume by e-mail or mail to: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646 / stpaulslutheranmassillon@gmail.com

Corporate Chaplain. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Retirement Services, Inc. is seeking a corporate chaplain to work at their various facilities in Howland, Niles, Poland and Boardman in Ohio. Click [\[here\]](#) for more information about this position or contact Kelly Kenyhercz, PHR, SHRM-CP, Corporate Recruiter at (330) 530-4038 Ext. 2043 or kkenyhercz@shepherdofthevalley.com. Please send resumes to Kelly Kenyhercz.

Assistant Director for Outreach (LIRS). Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is seeking an Assistant Director for Outreach (<http://lirs.iapplicants.com/ViewJob-734015.html>) who will provide leadership and vision in the advancement of LIRS's outreach efforts and ensure the successful implementation of key organizational priorities. S/he will help shape, coordinate and implement outreach goals, grow the base of Lutheran, migrant and refugee leaders advocating and mobilizing for migrant and refugee rights. S/he will engage LIRS partners and networks in grass roots mobilization efforts through relationship building, resource development, training events, and campaign initiatives.

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 (eg. 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 (<https://chaplainpartnership.org/employment/>) or by calling their Executive Director, Mark Laskey, at (440) 455-9001 ext. 206.

Congregations in the Call Process (Call Committee Installed)

- Akron, Messiah, Gail Zackrison, interim
- Jefferson, St. Paul, Steve Fisher, interim
- Massillon, St. Paul's, Dan Cammarn, interim
- North Canton, Zion, Hal Robarge, interim
- Seville, Jerusalem, Mark Sherwindt, interim

Transitions

- Berea, St. Paul, called Dan Skillman; accepted; installation September 16
- Cleveland, United Protestant Campus Ministries (UPCam), Shelley Nelson-Bridger, Executive Director; August 1 start date; installation TBA
- Lyndhurst, Messiah, called Paul Moody; accepted; installation August 12
- Medina, St. Matthew, called Deacon Lindsay Bailey; accepted; consecrated June 2; installation September 23

Recently Ill or Hospitalized

- Pastor Joseph Ertl
- Pastor Fred Grimm
- Pastor Clyde McGee
- Lutheran-Catholic Covenant partner The Most Rev. George V. Murray, Bishop Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
- Pastor Donald Rice
- Pastor Rosalina Rivera

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Pastor Paul Burgeson
- Pastor Larry Mackey and his wife, Lida

Sympathy

- Pastor Nathaniel and Bessie Adams on the death of their son, Nathaniel Adams, III
- Pastor Wally Anderson on the death of his father
- Family and friends of Pastor Béla Bernhardt
- Pastor Lang Collins on the death of his wife, Mary
- Pastor Scott & Debra Henderson on the death of her father, Richard Lyman
- Family and friends of Pastor James Kennell
- Family and friends of Pastor Edith (Susie) Palmquist
- Family and friends of Pastor John Zimmann

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, 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 Don Frantz
114 Forest Hill Dr.
Avon Lake, OH 44012
(H) 440-961-0000
(C) 937-725-0319
dfrantz4@oh.rr.com

The Rev George Gaiser
944 Dussel Rd.
Kent, OH 44240-6524
330-678-9287
gigaiser@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 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)

Lucas McSurley
2187 Hale Rd.
Wilmington, OH 45177
937-725-5587
lucasmcsurley@gmail.com

David Rebeck
244 Fairpark Dr.
Berea, OH 44017-2405
440-891-9793
direbeck@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,
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216-246-6369
mendle.adams@yahoo.com

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

Karen D. Binford
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UCC continued...

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

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Jonathan M. Dodson (EO,
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Barbara J. Essex (WR)
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hutchinson@sssnet.com

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UCC continued...

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216-291-5510
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Doyle A. Luckenbaugh (EO)
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330-499-5707
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tstaveteig@gmail.com

Glenn E. Swope (EO, WR)
Alliance,
330-823-5107
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Kate L. Walsh (EO, WR)
Chagrin Falls,
330-472-0228
katewalsh1216@gmail.com

Last updated 7/19/2018

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

July
Volume 22, Issue 7

Ideas for Fall

As we plan for the start-up of a new school year consider incorporating a litany into a worship service or offering a brief devotion for a fellowship event. The resource center has litanies for a variety of scenarios. For example a ***Litany for those who Teach and Learn***, or ***A Ritual for our Children*** can be used with leaders of a preschool or other children ministry programs.

An ***Affirmation of Vocation*** or ***Celebration and Dedication of Vocation*** are appropriate for Labor Day weekend.

The second Sunday in September is **Grandparent's Day** which for many congregations is also **God's Work. Our Hands Sunday**. There are several ways this can be acknowledged by a congregation. One way may be to create special projects that these two generations can do together and promote children inviting a grandparent and grandparents inviting a child. During this or other events record the faith stories or special memories of all older adults to share in the church newsletter throughout the year or during a congregation anniversary.

This time of year may produce a variety of transitions. ***A Farewell Liturgy*** honors faithful members who move to a new location. ***A Blessing of a New Dwelling*** can be helpful for those who stay in the community but have a new residence. ***A Litany of Transition and Godspeed*** can be helpful for older adults moving out of their home and into new living arrangements.

A Litany to Start Us Building Bridges is helpful for anyone or group making a new start.

All of the above litanies are available digitally by request from rc@neos-elca.org

Have you wanted some **professional communication resources for Christmas?** There are four designs available at www.elca.org/Resources/Congregational-Communications-Tools#Christmas.

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

330-929-9020
rc@neos-elca.org

Sooner
(1st of month)
More content
(every month)

- Can be yours by subscribing to the electronic version of the link:

rc@neos-elca.org
SUBSCRIBE

November is Alzheimers Awareness and National Caregivers month. The following web page contains helpful information about dementia as well as suggestions for ways congregations can support those with dementia and their caregivers: <https://aloaserves.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dementia-101-for-Congregations.pdf>

A bishop of the United Methodist Church has created a 5-session study resource for congregations on Alzheimer/Dementia: Ministry with the Forgotten. To obtain the leader guide and link for the downloadable videos visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycvl6d3t>.

Your community may be building housing for senior citizens at the same or greater rate than they are building schools. Brainstorm and consider ways your congregation can reach out to these non-member residents, their families and staff. Holy Trinity, North Canton conducts a VBS program at the near-by St. Luke Lutheran Community. Some congregations provide volunteers for weekly or special events at the facility. Share your ideas and experiences with resource specialist, Karen Kaufman.

Living Our Baptism...Five Gifts of Discipleship is a collection of downloadable resources from the ELCA website. Concentrating on the gifts we receive from God to help shape our life in Christ is a Bible study that can be used for small group discussions or a retreat. There is also a two session new member orientation and a Rite of Affirmation Preparation to recognize the beginning of the confirmation program. These resources can be found at www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-practices or email the resource center for a copy.

Valuable Links

Pass on this handy planning calendar to your Christian Education leaders:

<https://rowsofsharon.com/2018/05/07/2018-2019-planning-calendar/> Your worship committee may find it also helpful.

Did you know the ELW is now available as an E-book? You can get it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y8mkmj>

Encourage intentional daily moments with God by providing this link with your congregation: <https://waytolead.org/intentions/>

New Arrivals

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations helps congregations examine their practices and identify ways to increase the effectiveness of their efforts in hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity. The discussion questions alone for each chapter can serve as a stimulator for productive conversations.

Healthy Disclosure: Solving Communication Quandaries in Congregations can be helpful for staff and congregation leaders to resolve issues of misinformation and build transparency and trust.

My Favorite Color is Blue Sometimes is an excellent bereavement resource for children and adults. A definite must for church libraries and a potential resource for pastoral visits. Simple, attractive and inviting this colorful book begs to be opened, read and consumed.

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman
boreman4@yahoo.com

DAY OF PENTECOST—TIME AFTER PENTECOST, LECTORY 21 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.

May 20, 2018		DAY OF PENTECOST	S	E788/L454	If God My Lord Be for Me
H	<i>E395/L163</i>	Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord		<i>WP13</i>	Awesome God
H	<i>E401/W687</i>	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading	G	<i>E825/L252</i>	You Servants of God
I	<i>L488</i>	Breathe on Me, Breath of God	S	<i>E828</i>	Alleluia! Voices Raise
I	<i>WP157</i>	Wind of the Spirit	S	<i>E543/W721</i>	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
II	<i>E402</i>	Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ	June 17, 2018		TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTORY 11
II	<i>E399/W688</i>	O Holy Spirit, Root of Life	H	<i>E516/L234</i>	Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast
Ps	<i>E842/L548</i>	Oh, Worship the King	H	<i>E690</i>	We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord
Ps	<i>W767</i>	All Things Bright and Beautiful	II	<i>E449/L189</i>	We Know that Christ Is Raised
HG	<i>E867/L552</i>	In Thee Is Gladness	II	<i>E442/L194</i>	All Who Believe and Are Baptized
HG	<i>E398/L257</i>	Holy Spirit, Truth Divine	II	<i>E328/W662</i>	Restore in Us, O God
HG	<i>E804/L508</i>	Come Down, O Love Divine	II	<i>E383/W672</i>	Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
	<i>E627/L161</i>	O Day Full of Grace	S	<i>E547/L221</i>	Sent Forth by God's Blessing
S	<i>E579/W756</i>	Lord, You Give the Great Commission	G	<i>E533/L250</i>	Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
G	<i>E394/L142</i>	Hail Thee Festival Day	G	<i>E631/L315</i>	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
S	<i>E400</i>	God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind	S	<i>E856/L532</i>	How Great Thou Art
May 27, 2018		THE HOLY TRINITY	S	<i>E551/W723</i>	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
H	<i>E735/W769</i>	Mothering God, You Gave me Birth	G	<i>E737/W768</i>	He Comes to Us as One Unknown
H	<i>E412</i>	Come, Join the Dance of Trinity		<i>E524</i>	What Is this Place
I	<i>E876/L242</i>	Let the Whole Creation Cry		<i>E880/W797</i>	O God beyond All Praising
I	<i>E527/L253</i>	Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now		<i>E554/W727</i>	Lord, Your Hands Have Formed
I	<i>E868/L528</i>	Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old	June 24, 2018		JOHN THE BAPTIST
I	<i>E413/L165</i>	Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!	H	<i>E421/L178</i>	By All Your Saints (st.14/15)
II	<i>E378/L129</i>	Awake, My Heart, with Gladness	H	<i>E255</i>	There's a Voice in the Wilderness
II	<i>E411/L374</i>	We All Believe in One True God	Ps	<i>WP86</i>	Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering
II	<i>E399/W688</i>	O Holy Spirit, Root of Life	Ps	<i>E232</i>	Let My Prayer Rise Up
HG	<i>E456/W693</i>	Baptized in Water	Ps	<i>E233</i>	Let My Prayer Arise
HG	<i>E323/L292</i>	God Loved the World	G	<i>E553/L265</i>	Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
G	<i>E408/L522</i>	Come, Thou Almighty King	S	<i>E249/L36</i>	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
S	<i>E834/L526</i>	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	G	<i>E796/L507</i>	How Firm a Foundation
G	<i>E414/L535</i>	Holy God, We Praise Your Name		<i>E559</i>	O Splendor of God's Glory Bright
	<i>E410/L166</i>	All Glory Be to God on High	S	<i>E239/L35</i>	Hark the Glad Sound
June 3, 2018		TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTORY 9	S	<i>E864-5/L549</i>	Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
H	<i>E521/L251</i>	O Day of Rest and Gladness		<i>E261</i>	As the Dark Awaits the Dawn
H	<i>E526/W719</i>	God Is Here!	S	<i>E418/W689</i>	Rejoice in God's Saints
II	<i>E490/L198</i>	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence		<i>E250,552/W725/ WP20</i>	Blessed Be the God of Israel
II	<i>E307</i>	Light Shone in Darkness	June 24, 2018		TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTORY 12
HG	<i>E729/L433</i>	The Church of Christ in Every Age	H	<i>E756/L467</i>	Eternal Father, Strong to Save
HG	<i>E532</i>	Gather Us In	H	<i>E790/W746</i>	Day by Day
	<i>E513/W712</i>	Listen, God Is Calling	I	<i>E830</i>	How Marvelous God's Greatness
G	<i>E398/L257</i>	Holy Spirit, Truth Divine	II	<i>E584/L434</i>	The Son of God, Our Christ
	<i>E468/L496</i>	Around You, O Lord Jesus	HG	<i>E767/L333</i>	Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
G	<i>E524</i>	What Is This Place	HG	<i>E755/L334</i>	Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
S	<i>E389,L363</i>	Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing	HG	<i>E761/L465</i>	Evening and Morning
S	<i>E534/L262</i>	Savior, Again to Your Dear Name	S	<i>E400</i>	God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
	<i>E523</i>	Let Us Go Now to the Banquet		<i>E795/L484</i>	God, My Lord, My Strength
	<i>E743</i>	Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray	S	<i>E810/L503</i>	O Jesus, I Have Promised
	<i>WP141</i>	This Is the Day	G	<i>E632/L320</i>	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
June 10, 2018		TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTORY 10		<i>E613/W741</i>	Thy Holy Wings
H	<i>E795/L484</i>	God, My Lord, My Strength	G	<i>E757/W782</i>	All My Hope on God Is Founded
H	<i>E665/L393</i>	Rise, Shine, You People!		<i>E785/L346</i>	When Peace Like a River
I	<i>E537/L260</i>	On Our Way Rejoicing		<i>E752/ WP92/W775</i>	Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Ps	<i>E600/L295</i>	Out of the Depths I Cry to You	July 1, 2018		TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTORY 13
II	<i>E652/L365</i>	Built on a Rock	H	<i>E610/L360</i>	O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come
HG	<i>E684</i>	Creating God, Your Fingers Trace	H	<i>E607</i>	Come, Ye Disconsolate
HG	<i>E462/L203</i>	Now We Join in Celebration	I	<i>E733</i>	Great is Thy Faithfulness
HG	<i>E503-5/L228-9</i>	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	HG	<i>E470/W703</i>	Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
G	<i>E872</i>	Praise Ye the Lord	HG	<i>E617</i>	We Come to You for Healing, Lord
	<i>E594/L299</i>	Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice			

G	E619/L352	I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
G	E658/L356	O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
	E678/L408	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
S	E714/L425	O God of Mercy, God of Light
G	E863/L524	My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
G	E513/W712	Listen God Is Calling
S	E548	Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen
	E769/L453	If You but Trust in God to Guide You
S	E453/WP14	Baptized and Set Free
	E419 (st.2)/W692	For All the Faithful Women

July 8, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 14

H	E579/W756	Lord, You Give the Great Commission
H	E675/L380	O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True
I	E507/L237	O God of Light
I	L238	God Has Spoken by His Prophets
I	E396/W684	Spirit of Gentleness
II	E624/L341	Jesus, Still Lead On
II	E796/L509	How Firm a Foundation
HG	E584/L434	The Son of God, Our Christ
HG	E576/W755	We All Are One in Mission
S	E547/L221	Sent Forth By God's Blessing
	E620/L345	How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
S	E669/L383	Rise Up, O Saints of God
S	E873-4/L553	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!
	E674/W754	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
	E670	Build Us up, Lord

July 15, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 15

H	E717/W763	Let Justice Flow Like Streams
H	E812-3/L500	Faith of Our Fathers
I	E507/L237	O God of Light
II	E594/L299	Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice
II	L483	God Moves in a Mysterious Way
II	E456/W693	Baptized in Water
II	WP133	That Christ Be Known
II	E807/L499	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
HG	E805/L495	Lead On, O King Eternal
	E676/L403	Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak
	E584/L434	The Son of God, Our Christ
G	E807/L499	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
G	E864-5/L549	Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
S	E414/L535	Holy God, We Praise Your Name
S	E697	Just a Closer Walk with Thee

July 22, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 16

H	E782	My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
H	E789/L481	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
I	E544/L196	Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing
I	E831/L544	The God of Abraham Praise
Ps	E778/L451	The Lord's My Shepherd
Ps	E502/L456	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Ps	E780	Shepherd Me, O God
II	E327/L355	Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
II	E654/L369	The Church's One Foundation
HG	E764/L476	Have No Fear Little Flock
G	E587-8/L290	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
G	E526/W719	God Is Here!
S	E733/W771	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
	E786/L459	O Holy Spirit, Enter In
	E532/W718	Gather Us In

July 29, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 17

H	E479/W766	We Come to the Hungry Feast
H	E689/L409	Praise and Thanksgiving
Ps	E716/L419	Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
Ps	E835/L527	All Creatures, Worship God Most High!
Ps	E826/W801	Thine the Amen
Ps	WP155	What a Mighty Word God Gives
II	E322/L88	Oh, Love, How Deep
II	E893/L401	Before You, Lord, We Bow
II	E452/W745	Awake, O Sleeper
HG	E472/W709	Eat This Bread

HG	E773/W731	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
	E494/L200	For the Bread Which You Have Broken
G	E618/L343	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
S	E796/L507	How Firm a Foundation
S	E674/W754	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

August 5, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 18

H	E480/L222	O Bread of Life from Heaven
H	E475/L172	Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor
I	E461	All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
I	E487/W701	What Feast of Love
I	E620/L345	How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
II	E656/L370	Blest Be the Tie That Binds
II	E804/L508	Come Down, O Love Divine
II	WP14	Baptized and Set Free
HG	E542/L197	O Living Bread from Heaven
HG	E618/L343	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
HG	E332,611/L497	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
S	E469	By Your Hand You Feed Your People
	E327/L355	Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
S	W748/WP18	Bind Us Together
G	E647/L358	Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

August 12, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 19

H	E658/L356	O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
H	E488-9/L224	Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
Ps	E492/W706	Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Ps	WP139	The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
Ps	E827/L516	Arise, My Soul, Arise!
II	E605/L307	Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
II	E818/L492	O Master, Let Me Walk with You
II	E836/L551	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
G	E525	You Are Holy
S	E545/L259	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
	E761/L465	Evening and Morning
G	E485/W702	I Am the Bread of Life
G	E839-40/L533-4	Now Thank We All Our God
	E864-5/L549	Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
S	E551/W723	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

August 19, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 20

H	E491/L214	Come, Let Us Eat
H	E495/L207	We Who Once Were Dead
I	E484/W711	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
II	E583,685/L406	Take My Life, that I May Be
II	E839-40/L533-4	Now Thank We All Our God
	E850-1/L555/W802	When in Our Music God Is Glorified
II	WP129	Spirit of the Living God
HG	E480/L222	O Bread of Life from Heaven
	E542/L197	O Living Bread from Heaven
G	E362/L210	At the Lamb's High Feast
S	E705/L415	God of Grace and God of Glory
S	E536	God Be with You Till We Meet Again
S	WP50	God Be with You
G	E879/L561	For the Beauty of the Earth
S	E689/L409	Praise and Thanksgiving

August 26, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 21

H	E810/L503	O Jesus, I Have Promised
H	E638/W699	Blessed Assurance
H	E468/L496	Around You, O Lord Jesus
II	E450/L188	I Bind unto Myself Today
II	WP15	Be Bold, Be Strong
II	E805/L495	Lead on, O King Eternal!
HG	E485/W702	I Am the Bread of Life
HG	E477/W700	I Received the Living God
G	E873-4/L553	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!
	L389	Stand Up, Stand up for Jesus
G	E408/L522	Come, Thou Almighty King
G	E879/L561	For the Beauty of the Earth
	E820/L514	O Savior, Precious Savior
	E774/W780	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
S	E757/W782	All My Hope on God Is Founded

INVITING, INFORMING, AND INCLUDING NEWCOMERS

In the 1950s, a new church start pastor challenged every member to invite two newcomers each month. Members enthusiastically committed to such a plan and the pastor's wife, feeling a special call to grow the children's ministry, regularly prayed for new babies to be part of the church's growth. No one was more surprised than she was when half of the young couples in the congregation became pregnant that year! Although this was not an intentional church growth strategy, growing families primarily fueled church growth in the 50s.

Times have changed, and declining birthrates along with cultural shifts are part of shrinking church attendance numbers. These shifts involve the secularization of Sunday, longer work weeks, and two-earner households that reduce opportunities for family time. Additionally, a growing proportion of the population distrusts institutions or do not see the church as particularly relevant to their daily lives. Despite the trends toward secularization, eight out of ten adults in the U.S. believe in God.¹ Therefore, given a changing context, what methods play a role today in how people connect to God and grow in faith through a congregation? An examination of how to invite newcomers, how to inform them, and how to include them requires new reflection.

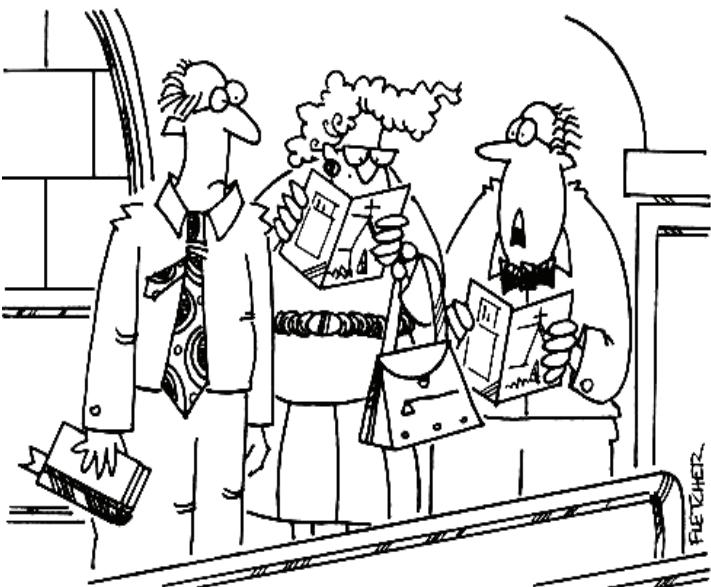
How to Invite

Not all potential new members or participants come out of the same mold. Transplants that recently moved to the area and participated in a congregation in their former location tend to use a narrow search platform because they know what type of church they would like to attend. The more challenging newcomers to reach are those friends and relatives who live near the congregation but do not currently attend anywhere. And the most difficult population to reach are seekers and those with no church background or history. Still, research clearly demonstrates that at least half to two-thirds of adults find a church through personal invitations.²

Hearing about a congregation from someone you know means the information is more likely to be trusted.

Several methods help encourage members to invite relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. First, the congregation should develop a card, postcard, brochure, or flyer that members can hand or mail to people as they invite them. The printed material should at least include the church location, worship times, and website address. Yvon Prehn, a church communication specialist, warns against getting bogged down in design details because "people are not wowed into the kingdom." Rather all material should offer useful content and be easy to read and understand.³

Special events and holidays offer another opportunity for members to invite people they know. Some congregations designate a particular Sunday as Invite-a-Friend Sunday, Open House Sunday, or Special Recognition Sunday (such as honoring teachers, first responders, or others in the community).⁴ Congregations can create



WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR
CHURCH INFORMATION BROCHURE...
"DESSERT, DISCO, AND DEUTERONOMY"
IS NO LONGER A FELLOWSHIP EVENT!

cards or flyers for these special worship events for members to distribute or mail.

Mass communications—the church website and social media channels, direct mail, yard signs, door hangers, church banners and signs, radio and print ads, and community ads (such as bulletin boards, ads in movie theaters, or sponsoring events)—are additional broad strategies for reaching people. The goal of these efforts is to show the congregation as a place that welcomes newcomers. While no one media strategy produces the desired results in today's context, some experts argue that there is a growing preference for printed materials. In fact, even though many congregations have invested in digital marketing strategies, a recent study found that direct mail outperforms all digital communications combined by 600%.⁵ Still, an up-to-date and easy to navigate church website (optimized for mobile phones) serves as a primary source of information to which print pieces can direct.

How to Inform

Successful efforts to invite newcomers do not yield new members. Sadly, at most, only three out of ten visitors return for a second visit. Too many visitors catch only a glimpse of what the congregation offers. Prehn claims that two printed pieces are important for informing newcomers: the church bulletin and connection or visitor cards.

The church bulletin. When people attend a worship service, the bulletin is the first picture they see of the congregation. This description of church life should be jargon free, friendly, and clearly written. The order of service should be easy to follow and related to congregational theology and commitments. The bulletin should provide information for linking to the church website, phone numbers, and other contact information (such as church office hours). Visitors are highly likely to take the bulletin home, so consider what information might be most useful to them.

Connection or visitor cards. Visitors typically fill these out during worship services to drop in the offering plates or return to ushers at the end of the service. Too often visitors aren't given the time during services to complete the card. Worship leaders should give some thought as to when to bring the cards to the attention of visitors (early in the service) and how visitors are welcomed because many visitors do not want to be publicly recognized. In addition to the cards, brochures or visitor packets help visitors learn more about the congregation.⁶

How to Include

Think about a movie theater website. The website makes it easy to see what is showing, at what times, ticket prices, the theatre location, and maps. Participating in a church small group or event should be as easy as going to a movie. A web-supported calendar is essential for including new people as well as current members. Do not make people go through nonessential steps to figure out what is going on and how to participate (such as "call the church office for more information").

Additionally, most newcomers want to try things out before making a big commitment. Classes or groups that require a multi-week commitment scare away new people because they are not certain they want to make such an extended commitment. A brochure that describes ideal groups and activities that new members can try could be included in the visitor packet. Church consultant Jeff Woods believes encouraging people to engage in common activities builds trust, and helping participants to reflect on those activities builds commitment to a common purpose.⁷

Three Pillars of Evangelism

Three complementary efforts serve the congregation's ministry goals: inviting, informing, and including new people. Just like a three-pillared tower, without one support, the overall purpose becomes unstable. To invite is to increase the church's visibility and relevance, to inform is to offer opportunities for connection, and to include means spiritual experiences that promote Christian maturity and growth. Which effort needs more intention and planning in your congregation?

1. "When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?" Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/04/25>.

2. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why*, 2nd edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010).

3. Yvon Prehn, *5 Steps of Effective Church Communications and Marketing*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: Effective Church Communications, 2016), 54.

4. See Church Effectiveness Nuggets, Vol. 4: "How to Increase Worship Attendance" and Vol. 8: "How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors," <https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>.

5. www.twosidesna.org

6. See Yvon Prehn, *Church Connection Cards*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: 2011).

7. C. Jeff Woods, "What Type of Follower Attends Our Church?" *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7: July 2014.

HOW TO RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

A congregation's community project often starts with someone's idea or dream, followed by a plan designed by a core team, and then, a group of volunteers willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Yet how can this worthy work be sustained over time? Whether the project involves food, clothing, or housing assistance; counseling and job training; or organizing residents around an issue of local importance like the need for a community garden or more stop signs, at some point the program might require funding in order to continue.

Plan for Sustainability

In order to raise money effectively, leaders must develop a plan for future spending, that is, a budget. Some leaders prefer to build long-range planning into their thinking at the outset. The Reverend Constance Delzell, Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver, decided to factor the necessity for funding into her dream of a children's ministry for the community. She describes waking from a dream, which she believes was divinely inspired, telling her that now was the time to take action on her wish to start an arts ministry.

Based on this vision, she founded the Children's Center for Arts and Learning, a neighborhood ministry serving a low-income community in the city of Denver. From the beginning, she began developing a plan for sustainability. She thinks that many congregations often make a mistake by failing to plan for their project's financial future. Because St. Andrew's was small with few resources, she approached members of previous churches she had served whom she thought might be interested and who had financial means. Then a personal friend provided \$10,000 in seed money over three years. At this point, she took some of the total received to hire a secretary and part-time grant writer. Thinking strategically helped the program move from vision to funding.¹

Beyond Grants

As this example illustrates, individual giving plays an important role in fundraising efforts. In fact, a vast majority of funding for nonprofits originates from individuals, not foundations. In 2017, foundations provided only about 15% of all donations to U.S. nonprofits, while 72% originated with individuals.² With this in mind, leaders can keep their eyes on the prize by reaching out to both close ties and community members, letting foundations take a secondary role. Basing a budget strategy on individual gifts provides more stability than funding from foundations, whose priorities tend to change every few years.

Joy Skjegstad, who advises churches on their community ministry programs, suggests starting with church members who already have the strongest connection with the project, including volunteers currently working in the program or previous volunteers. Meet with potential donors face to face and ask for a specific amount, following up with written materials (no more



"ANYONE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS THE NEW FUNDING APPEAL COORDINATOR IS ASKED TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE."

than one or two pages long) that describe the project's activities, its mission, and various amounts that could be given. Make sure to follow up, which could be as simple as sending a brochure or program budget.

Asking church members may be complicated by the fact that other appeals are being made at the same time of the year for some other worthy cause. Check with the pastor or staff to avoid inadvertently blindsiding other ministries. When possible, coordinate with others. Skjegstad tells of one scheduling conflict that required just such coordination. While working on the church staff, she sought to make a funding appeal for the nonprofit she directed, which had close ties to the church. Her group's appeal sought funding for a health clinic, tutoring, and a computer-training center. Yet at the same time, the church's food pantry was making a funding appeal for Christmas food baskets and the trustees had launched a drive to fund special "fix-it" projects. All three appeals happened at that prime time in the church's life—the end of the year. After some discussion, the three groups decided to coordinate their appeals, making joint announcements from the pulpit three weeks in a row, and providing bulletin inserts with all three appeals listed together.³

A Miracle Sunday

Church leaders can take the idea of joint fundraising to a new level through planning a "Miracle Sunday" offering. The Miracle Sunday approach utilizes a strategy found in a variety of annual stewardship campaigns: an extensively planned campaign culminating in a single, celebratory event in which church members make their offerings at the Sunday worship service and tabulate the results that same day. As with other stewardship campaigns, Miracle Sunday relies on a team of people with strong financial giving records, a promotional campaign built up over a period of weeks (twelve weeks is recommended), and an explicitly stated and ambitious financial goal. However, unlike most stewardship campaigns, Miracle Sunday focuses not on the overall budget, but on one to three worthy causes, such as community projects, building improvement, or music or education that benefit church members. Another difference between Miracle Sunday and traditional stewardship campaigns is that donors are asked to give not from current income, but from their accumulated resources, such as savings, stocks, or from the sale of other valuable items such as cars, boats, or real estate.

A Miracle Sunday campaign typically lasts about twelve weeks and takes place in the spring so as not to interfere with the fall stewardship campaign. The planning team sends four mailings spread over several weeks, holds two informational meetings, and makes a series of worship service announcements. No home visits are required. The goal for the Miracle Sunday is a single offering that exceeds anything the church has given before (hence the name, "Miracle Sunday").

To make it most effective, set an ambitious goal, usually at least one-third of the church's annual budget. Herb Miller states, "Miracle Sunday has raised an amount equal to between one-third and three times the size of the church's annual operating budget in countless congregations across the United States." He observes that congregations that experienced a budget shortfall in the previous year are surprised at the success of their Miracle Sunday campaign the following year, which may be due to the fact that contributions come from accumulated resources and may even represent a once-in-a-lifetime gift. For that reason, Miracle Sunday should not be relied on as a yearly event, but used sparingly.⁴

Providing funds can help community engagement work grow and thrive. When projects reach a certain size, fundraising may provide an answer to previously insurmountable challenges such as maintaining volunteer involvement, acquiring needed equipment, or ensuring enough space to make it all work. While funding should never be considered an end in itself, it can help keep the lights on, the bills paid, and the program thriving. Funding just might be the key to future success.⁵

Do you have stories or comments to share about your church's experience with Herb Miller's Miracle Sunday? Please email them to info@theparishpaper.com.

1. Linda-Marie Delloff, *Public Offerings: Stories from the Front Lines of Community Ministry* (Bethesda, MD: Alban, 2002), 32-33.

2. "Giving USA 2017: Total Charitable Donations Rise to New High of \$390.05 Billion," <https://givingusa.org/tag/giving-usa-2017>.

3. Joy F. Skjegstad, *7 Models for Community Ministry* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2013), 177-181.

4. Herb Miller, "Planning and Leading a Miracle Sunday Campaign," <https://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Planning%20and%20Leading%20a%20Miracle%20Sunday%20Campaign.pdf>

5. Excerpted from Dana Horrell, *Engaging the Community: Tools for Church Leaders* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, forthcoming).

An Update Regarding Camp Mowana



LOMO Fireside News

July 13, 2018

"Bringing people together to experience Christ through natural settings and programs"

On July 12th the Clean Ohio Fund District 16 Natural Resource Advisory Council (NRAC) has approved funding the grant proposal request for Camp Mowana to become a land conservancy.

The grant proposal includes the following information:

- The Richland County Park District will become the long-term steward of the land.
- The new name for Camp Mowana when it becomes a land conservancy will be The Fleming Falls Preserve
- The Fleming Falls Preserve will be open to the public from dawn until dusk every day of the year.
- The grant project schedule is:
 - Planning and implementation from September 30, 2018 to October 1, 2019;
 - Land acquisition and easements by September 30, 2019;
 - Site improvements through June 30, 2020
- 183.47 acres in Mifflin Township. This property preserves 10,319 LF. of high quality stream and 4.48 acres of Category 2 and 3 wetlands. The headwater stream preservation includes Fleming Falls Creek, designated as warm water habitat by the Ohio EPA. The ODNR has a record of state potentially threatened species within the Fleming Falls Creek riparian corridor; this species, *Taxus canadensis* (Canada yew) was identified on-site in subsequent biological surveys. The Fleming Falls Preserve also includes rocky gorges, offering potential habitat to federally endangered and threatened bat species. The rolling topography and varied plant communities offers habitat for both upland, riparian and wetland (obligate) species. Over 180 herbaceous and woody plant species have been identified on-site.
- Some of the existing camp infrastructure including parking lots and trails can easily transition to Park District use, ensuring minimal impact on the natural area.
- Structures and facilities that are determined to be non-essential for conservation and facilitation of recreational use and enjoyment will be removed and sites restored to the natural condition utilizing native plants and invasive species control. The existing structures may be used by Richland County Park District staff for on-site storage, maintenance and/or

restoration activities. Should the Park District determine that there is no value to the existing structures they will be removed from the property.

- The Richland County Park District understands that all Clean Ohio encumbrances are permanent in nature and are to be recorded as a deed restriction. The land will be preserved in perpetuity.
- The Richland County Park district will own, maintain and operate the property once it is acquired. The Park District will provide the management, maintenance and resource stewardship of the property.

Next steps:

1. Environmental Study to determine if there is any hazardous waste. Mitigate any hazardous waste that is found.
2. Title work to make sure there are not any title issues.
3. Plans for Opportunities for Celebration and Service summer of 2019 at Camp Mowana:

- Family Camp Weekend – June 28-30, 2019 - Full programming for all ages
- Mowana Servant Week – August 2019 (date to be determined) for adults to assist in removing all camp personal property from the camp (anything that is not a permanent structure)
- Celebration of Ministry through Camp Mowana – August 2019 (date to be determined) Saturday afternoon through Sunday Morning Worship for people of all ages with time for memories, auction, fellowship, campfire and worship.

Mowana Memorial Plans – creating displays for Camp Luther and LMC, Mowana archives to ELCA region and Richland County



SHARED HOPE

ADVENT LUTHERAN – ST. NOEL’S LUTHERAN/CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

July 1, 2018

In May of 2018 Pr. Rod Funk of Advent Lutheran Church in Mentor, Ohio put out call to congregation members for participants to be part of a “Lutheran-Catholic” dialogue team that would collaborate with members St. Noel’s Roman Catholic Church in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. The intent of this effort is to foster Christian unity between Lutherans and Catholics and to explore joint ministry and fellowship opportunities. It is specifically not the intent of this initiative to: 1) proselytize, 2) convert, 3) engage in any form of “apologetics”, or 4) reach a compromise on key differences, specifically as pertaining to the sacraments.

Why St. Noel’s? St. Noel’s was chosen because of its progressive and ecumenical character, in addition to the fact that, former Advent member, Emma Krueger, is on the parish council there. After meeting with Fr. George Smiga, pastor of St. Noel’s, plus receiving council approval from both congregations, Pr. Rod put together the Advent side of the team while Emma recruited the St. Noel’s team. This initiative was inspired by the Joint Lutheran – Catholic Declaration of common ministry and mutual cooperation of 1999 as well the October 2017 celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The team selected SHARED HOPE as its name.

SHARED HOPE is initially in an “exploratory” or “let’s get to know each other” phase - using the book entitled, One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ, in order to accomplish this important task. This book contains a collection of vignettes by both Lutheran and Catholic writers and presents discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

At some point, SHARED HOPE will begin exploring opportunities for expanded involvement of both congregations.

Peace,

Tim Krueger, SHARED HOPE team member

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. I John 4:18a



It's time to talk.

Time for less shouting and more listening.
Less fear and more love.

The Cross Cultural Conversations Team invites you to an intentional conversation that crosses racial lines and addresses issues of race and privilege.

Upcoming conversations in our synod:

June 23, 10am to Noon

Advent, Cleveland
15309 Harvard Ave, Cleveland

August 18, 10am to Noon

Grace, Hubbard
111 Hall Ave, Hubbard

September 29, 10am to Noon

NEOS Synod Office
1890 Bailey Rd, Cuyahoga Falls

November 10, 10am to Noon

Holy Trinity, Akron
50 N Prospect St, Akron

To have us lead a conversation in your congregation, contact:

William Brown: 216-659-7906 william_30045@msn.com
Dirk van der Duim: 330-333-0738 pastor@gracehbbard.org

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2018 BISHOP FALL GATHERING

Faithful, Adventurous, and Tenacious: Some How-to Steps for Council Leaders

Sept. 22, 2018 9:15–Noon

Zion Lutheran Church
301 N Market Street
Wooster

or

Oct. 6, 2018 9:15–Noon

Grace Lutheran Church
162 S Racoon Road
Austintown

\$5 per congregation

Payable at the door

**REGISTER
ONE WEEK PRIOR**

**KAREN KAUFMAN
330-929-9020
RC@NEOS-ELCA.ORG**

Who should attend:

- ⇒ New and returning church council members
- ⇒ Treasurers
- ⇒ Finance committees

Come be inspired, encouraged and equipped to better serve

Join the bishop for a brief Bible study on “Called to Lead”.

God and Jesus Christ made the most unlikely choices for leadership in perhaps much the same way you have been called. To what is it that God has called YOU?

Under the leadership of the synod congregational resource team participants will have the opportunity to attend TWO of the three following workshops:

- ◊ “Who? Me?” (Expectations of a Council Leader)
- ◊ “Move to Adjourn” (Effective Council Meetings)
- ◊ “The End is Near!” (How to Handle Anticipated Budget Challenges)

**Region 6 Synods of the
ELCA**

Indiana-Kentucky
North/West Lower Michigan
Northeastern Ohio
Northwestern Ohio
Southeastern Michigan
Southern Ohio

October 26-27, 2018

Fri. Noon – Sat. Noon

St. Peter Lutheran Church

1079 Riverside Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Questions?

Rev. Chrysanne Timm
517-281-1124

pastorctimm@mittensynod.org

*Or contact the staff person in your
synod who oversees the
Candidacy process.*



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

Discernment Retreat

Are you curious where the Holy Spirit might be leading you?

Are you sensing a call to serve the church in a new way?

Are you wondering about becoming a deacon or pastor in the ELCA?



You (and your spouse, if applicable) are cordially invited to attend the 2018 Fall Discernment Retreat to explore these questions and learn more about the process of becoming a pastor or deacon in the ELCA.

Cost: \$150 individual/\$175 total if spouse is attending

Cost includes lodging at a nearby Hilton-brand motel, lunch and dinner Friday, and retreat costs. Breakfast Saturday will be available at the motel.

Registration Deadline: October 1, 2018

Return this registration form and check made out to:

North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 2900 N. Waverly Road, Lansing, MI 48906

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Home Congregation _____ City, State _____

Food Restrictions/other needs _____



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS DAY OF SERVICE

SEPT 9, 2018

God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one Church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Nearly 10,000 congregations will gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. We are inviting congregations, families, and individuals to further God's work at camp. Projects will be available for all skill levels and during the day there will be snacks and worship. Please complete the Volunteer Information Form (available online) so we can learn more about your abilities and keep you safe at camp. Please contact mowana@lomocamps.org (Phone 419.589.7406) or Imc@lomocamps.org (Phone 419.864.8030) to let us know you will be joining us to serve at camp two weeks in advance.

Specific Activities: Projects with all Skill Levels in Mind, Worship, Snacks

For Ages: Adults, Families, Youth Groups with Adult Leaders, and Congregations

Time: 12:00-4:00pm **Webpage:** lomocamps.org/events

Forms: Volunteer Information Form (*Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Required for Youth*)

Fees: Free

Camp Mowana

2276 Fleming Falls Road., Mansfield, OH 44903

Phone: 419.589.7406 Fax: 419.589.3096

mowana@lomocamps.org

MORE INFORMATION

www.lomocamps.org/events

Phone: 800-431-5666 E-Mail: info@lomocamps.org Fax: 614-890-8210



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Fees: Free

Lutheran Memorial Camp

2790 State Route 61., Fulton, OH 43321

Phone: 419-864-8030 Fax: 419-864-1582

lmc@lomocamps.org

MORE INFORMATION

www.lomocamps.org/events

Phone: 800-431-5666 E-Mail: info@lomocamps.org Fax: 614-890-8210



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DISCIPLESHIP REDEFINED

OCT 5-6, 2018

CONFIRMATION RETREAT DESCRIPTION

Enhance your congregation's confirmation experience by stepping out of the church and into the woods. During the weekend you will explore the theme "Discipleship Redefined" with hands on Bible study activities that will engage your group. Grow closer together during a hike through the woods, sitting around a campfire and learning about God in worship and devotion. Retreat participants will sleep in heated cabins or in a lodge. Retreats are programmed by camp staff and give adult leaders the opportunity to connect with their congregation outside of the church. During the retreat each congregation will have time alone for Bible studies, games, or other unique activities. 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.

Specific Activities: Bible Studies (Supplemented by Luther's Small Catechism), Campfires, S'mores, Worship, Devotions, Congregational Time & Games

For Ages: Confirmation Aged Youth in your Congregation; Student Leaders Welcome

Check-in: 7:00pm Friday **Check-out:** 4:00pm Saturday

Webpage: lomocamps.org/confirmationretreat

One-Night Fees: \$71; Adult Chaperones Attend for Free

Camp Mowana

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