



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

September 15, 2017
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Published 6 Times a Year

Next Unified Publication: Nov. 13
Deadline for articles: Nov. 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 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!

Lutheran Catholic Prayer for Commemorating the Reformation. The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission invites Lutherans and Catholics to pray together, especially during this year's Common Commemoration of the Reformation. For Reformation Sunday, you are welcome to use the Prayer for Commemorating the Reformation worship aid in the attachments to this newsletter.

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

Continued...

Impact of the Reformation on Faith and Civilization Walsh University Series. Make plans to attend the Walsh University Lifelong Learning Academy commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in their fall series: Impact of the Reformation on Faith and Civilization, Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 p.m., including the following topics and speakers:

- October 4: Catholic and Lutherans Seeking Communion: An Example of Catholic/ Protestant Dialogue, Reverend Joseph Witmer and Pastor Mark Williams (Barrette Business and Community Center/BBCC)
- October 11: Reform Movements in Judaism, Rabbi Jon Adland (BBCC)
- October 18: Reform and Renewal in Islam, Imam Ramez Islambouli (BBCC)
- October 25: Voices of Grace: Musical Voices Shared Across Theological Borders, Reverend Anissa Glaser-Bacon (Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel)
- November 8: The Impact of the Reformation on Art and Architecture, M. J. Albacete (BBCC)

Walsh University Lifelong Learning Academy programs are open to the public without charge. Reservations are not required. For further information contact Rabbi John Spitzer at jspitzer@walsh.edu, 330-244-4734, or visit <https://www.walsh.edu/the-impact-of-the-reformation-on-faith-and-civilization%20>.

The 32nd Annual Festival Celebration of the Reformation and a Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation will take place Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alliance, Ohio (on Union Ave. (St. Rte. 183), one mile south of State St. (US 62) at second stop light). The Guest Preacher will be Pastor Karl Biermann, Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. See the enclosed flyer.

Common Commemoration Ecumenical Evening Prayer. 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. See the enclosed flyer.

Note: we are continually updating a calendar of Reformation Anniversary events in the weekly e-news and on the synod website: <http://neos-elca.org/reformation-events/>

Mark Your Calendars for the 2018 Sawmill Professional Ministers Retreat! Rostered ministers and full-time church professionals from all three Ohio synods are invited to the Professional Ministers Retreat at Sawmill Creek Resort; 400 Sawmill Creek Dr., Huron, OH 44839; January 16-18, 2018. The early, discounted registration deadline is November 15, 2017. The final registration deadline is December 15, 2017. The theme is "Prayer." Keynote presenter, the Rev. Brent Dahlseng, authored "Grounded in Prayer: A Small Group Training Guide in Congregational Prayer," and serves as senior pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Loves Park, Illinois. The Bible study presenter is Rachel Wrenn. An Old Testament Ph.D. candidate at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, Wrenn is a contributing scholar/exegete for "Working Preacher," has published Bible studies in the Augsburg Fortress "People of Faith" series, and was published in the Fall 2016 *Word and World*. Watch for registration information coming soon!

"We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law." [Galatians 2:16]

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ in the Northeastern Ohio Synod,

On September 5 I was blessed to witness the installation of the Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, as the 11th Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The Mass was held at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland, which was filled to capacity with other diocesan bishops, priests, deacons, women religious, and representatives from ecumenical and interfaith communities. It was a glorious celebration.

As we draw closer to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, many congregations in Northeastern Ohio have or will commemorate the event in a variety of ways. I invite you to check our website and our weekly e-news where you will find opportunities to be a part of one of those commemorations.

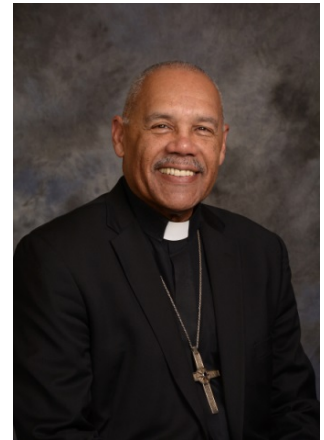
Throughout our synod, pastors have been offering Bible studies and celebrated worship services; many in union with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. The joint commemorations serve to remind our people that there is more that unites us than what separates us.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (2013), Pope Francis addressed the topic of unity among Christians with these words:

"If we concentrate on the convictions we share, and if we keep in mind the principle of the hierarchy of truths, we will be able to progress decidedly towards common expressions of proclamation, service and witness. The immense numbers of people who have not received the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot leave us indifferent. Consequently, commitment to a unity which helps them to accept Jesus Christ can no longer be a matter of mere diplomacy or forced compliance, but rather an indispensable path to evangelization."

I find myself becoming more and more excited with each passing day. It's not so much a "little-kid-at-Christmas" type of excitement, but more of a hope-filled type of excitement; a hope that someday we will live into that unity that Jesus prayed for. It may not happen in our lifetime, but there's much evidence that we are well on the way.

Since 1517, the relationship between Lutherans and Roman Catholics has been marred by disunity, suspicion, and even hostility. That began to change in 1965,



when, shortly after the Second Vatican Council, Lutherans and Catholics entered into dialogue with the intention of moving from conflict to communion.

One of the fruits of those conversations was the 1999 *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, which articulates a common understanding of our justification by God's grace through faith in Christ. It began our two church bodies on a path toward putting aside doctrinal condemnations that have divided the churches for 500 years.

Following that historic documents, the Northeastern Ohio Synod and the Dioceses of Cleveland and Youngstown, entered into covenant agreements in which we pledged to pray for each other, study together, and encourage communication at the parish level on matters of common concern. Over that time, we have participated in social action and advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

Framed copies of those covenants hang on the wall in the hallway facing my office. It is a daily reminder to me of the mutual witness to the faith that we share.

We make every effort to celebrate those covenants periodically. This October 29, the Sunday of the Reformation, we will gather at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown, for a service of Evening Prayer, and a commemoration of the Reformation. Bishop George V. Murry of the Diocese of Youngstown and I will preside at the liturgy.

I look forward to seeing you there, or at any one of the many events being held throughout out synod.

Peace and blessings,



The Rev. Abraham D. Allende,
Bishop

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

- 19 3:30 pm, **Intentional Interim Pastors Meeting**, The Lutheran Center (synod office), Resource Center
- 19 5:00 pm, **Executive Committee**, The Lutheran Center, Conference Room
- 20 10:00 am, **First Call Pastors Meeting**, The Lutheran Center, Resource Center
- 21 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, Trinity, Clinton
- 23 9:30 am, **Fall Bishop's Gathering**, Martin Luther, Youngstown (see enclosed flyer)
- 27 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, The Lutheran Center, Resource Center

OCTOBER (For more Reformation Anniversary Events, visit: <http://neos-elca.org/reformation-events/>)

- 5 **Cleveland West Conference Gathering**, Bethesda on the Bay, Bay Village
- 6 **Region 6 Discernment Retreat** (see website calendar for details)
- 9 10:30 am, **Ordination Service** (details to follow on website calendar), First, Strongsville
- 10 9:00 am, **Richland-Ashland Conference Gathering**, Linway Restaurant, Ashland
- 11 10:00 am, **Ecumenical Committee Meeting**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
- 12 **Cleveland East Conference Gathering**, Advent, Solon
- 17 9:00 am, **Eastern Conference Gathering**, Shepherd of the Valley Nursing Home, Austintown
- 19 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, Rejoice, Hudson
- 20-21 **Synod Council Retreat**, Camp Mowana, Mansfield
- 22 4:00 pm, **Hymnfest**, Faith, Fairlawn
- 23 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center closed**
- 25 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, The Lutheran Center, Resource Center
- 26 12:30 pm, **Worship Committee Meeting**, The Lutheran Center, Conference Room
- 29 6:00 pm, **Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration**, St Columba Cathedral, Youngstown
- 29 10:00 am, **Installation of Pastors Don King and Jessica Shields**, Peace Lutheran, Cleveland Heights
- 31 **Canton-Massillon Conference Gathering** (details to follow on website and e-news)

NOVEMBER

- 2 **Cleveland East & West Conference Gatherings**, at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries
- 4 9:30 am, **Fall Bishop's Gathering**, Grace, Wadsworth (see enclosed flyer)
- 12 4:00 pm, **Installation of Pastor Sara Cogsil**, Trinity, Lakewood
- 14 9:00 am, **Richland-Ashland Conference Gathering**, TBD, Loudonville
- 15 12:00 pm, **Congregational Resource Team**, The Lutheran Center, Resource Center
- 16 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, St Peter, New Pittsburgh
- 23-24 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center closed** for Thanksgiving

Calendar Notes:

- **Rostered Leaders of the Southern Conference** meet every Tuesday for text study and lunch at Emmanuel, New Philadelphia (study at 11, lunch at 12 at Michael's Restaurant).
- **Rostered Leaders of the Eastern Conference** meet every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, 1429 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown. Many bring their lunches and refreshments are available.
- *Save the date: December 5, Retired Ministers Advent Service and Luncheon*

STAFF VISITS FOR THE COMING WEEKS
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Bishop Abraham Allende

Sept 17 St Paul, Smithville; Christ Redeemer, Brecksville
Sept 21 Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering
Sept 23 Martin Luther, Youngstown (Bishop's
Gathering)
Sept 24 Emmanuel, Elyria; Trinity, Girard
Oct 7 First, Strongsville
Oct 8 Salem, Wooster; Bethany, Akron
Oct 12 Cleveland West Conference Gathering
Oct 14 St. John, Lakeville
Oct 15 St. John's, Perrysville; Pleasant Valley, Lucas
Oct 17 Eastern Conference Gathering
Oct 18 Faith, Akron
Oct 22 Faith, Fairlawn
Oct 29 Peace, Cleveland Hts.; St. Columba, Youngstown
Oct 31 Canton-Massillon Conference Gathering
Nov 4 Grace, Wadsworth
Nov 5 Lorain County Lutheran Joint Service
Nov 12 St. Paul, Sharon Center; Trinity, Lakewood
Nov 19 Emmanuel, Salem

Pastor Karl Biermann

Sept 17 First, Strongsville
Sept 23 Martin Luther, Youngstown
Sept 24 St Jacob, North Canton; Good
Shepherd, Conneaut
Oct 1 Zion, New Waterford
Oct 7 First, Strongsville
Oct 8 Faith, Massillon
Oct 15 Bethany, Akron
Oct 22 Emmanuel, Elyria
Oct 29 First, Plymouth; Mt. Hope, Shiloh;
St. Paul Alliance
Nov 4 Grace, Wadsworth
Nov 12 Trinity, Lakewood

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

Organist. Redeemer, Brook Park, is seeking to hire an organist to play for a weekly Sunday liturgical service, additional holiday services (Christmas Eve, mid-week Lenten, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise), and possible weddings and funerals. Musical instruments include organ, piano/Disklavier, keyboard, and piano. Please mail your resume to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 6151 Smith Rd, Brook Park OH 44142, e-mail to redemerchurch@RLCBP.com, or fax to 216- 676-6185. You may contact the church office, between 9:00 am - 1:00 pm for additional information at 216-676-5173.

Multiple Open Positions. First, Lorain is seeking a Youth Group Coordinator, Nursery Attendant and a Facilities Coordinator. Please click on the job tile for detailed job description. If you are interested in one of these part-time positions please send your resume to Pastor Rosy Rivera at pastorrosy@firstlutheranlorain.org or call the church office at 440-244-6286.

Director of Choirs. Parma, Parma has an opening for Director of Choirs. Our congregation has an adult vocal choir and a bell choir. The current job description comes with the expectation that the Director of Choirs will be present for weekly rehearsals of both choirs, and will attend worship services whenever either choir is presenting a musical offering. The Director of Choirs is also expected to assist in selecting appropriate music for both choirs. Please contact Dan Zaranec: danielallen7421@gmail.com

Evening Custodian. Divinity, Parma Heights, 11877 Blossom Ave., is in need of an evening (part-time) custodian for cleaning and building access Mondays through Thursdays (approximately 4:00-9:00 p.m.). A background check will be conducted prior to employment. Contact Paula McCormick for more details or to request an application / forms at divinitychurch2@gmail.com or 440-845-2060.

Part-time Office Administrator. Parma, Parma is looking for a part-time Office Administrator (20-25 hours per week). Duties would include: Administering support for the pastor and staff; Scheduling of Staff and Building; processing weekly offerings; Database management; financial reporting, etc. Must be organized, have computer skills, have the ability to be bonded, and observe our confidentiality policy. Interested candidates can submit a resume to the church office at office@plcparma.org.

Part-time Substitute Financial Secretary. Holy Trinity, Akron, seeks a substitute financial secretary for when the permanent Financial Secretary is absent. Responsible for maintaining accounts and financial records for Holy Trinity, Akron; including donations, accounts payable, payroll, and general ledgers. Maintain communication with the church office, Pastor, Finance Team, and staff, responding to requests, telephone calls, and related inquiries regarding financial information. Applications are available in the church office or email your resume to John Stefanik (Personnel) at jrstef@roadrunner.com. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, OH 44304.

Director of Christian Education and Program Coordinator. Brunswick United Methodist Church is in need of a Director of Christian Education and Program Coordinator to work 30 hours per week with hours being flexible to work weekends and Sunday mornings as needed. For a complete job description including application process click here: <http://files.constantcontact.com/b8eaaaf5001/b13ff886-3642-4432-b23e-a8281f1b4d26.pdf>

Part-time Choir Director. St Peter, Wooster, is seeking a part-time Choir Director. Choir meets from October - May. Rehearsals held Sunday mornings prior to weekly 10:00 a.m. worship. Occasional services for holidays (Christmas, Holy Week). Must have one of the following: experience with choral directing; a degree in vocal performance; or enrolled in a vocal program. Piano accompanying skills is preferred. Salary \$150 per week. For a detailed job description, questions or to apply, please contact Pastor Tina Heise at pastortina@stpeterelca.org.

Part-time Office Manager. Faith, Massillon, is looking for a part-time Office Manager. Hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Duties include preparing bulletins for weekly worship and special services, answering the phone, responding to mail and email, and other day to day office operations. If interested call Faith, Massillon at (330) 832-0573 or send your resume to Faith Lutheran Church, 107 6th St. SW, Massillon, OH 44647.

University Pastor. Capital University seeks a dynamic leader for the freshly re-envisioned position of University Pastor. We seek an experienced pastor who is passionate about mission-directed work with undergraduate and graduate students of diverse backgrounds in a vibrant and inclusive residential learning community. For a complete job description including application process click here:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/b8eaaaf5001/586b9c9b-8e41-4b78-99fa-7698d8bc817b.pdf>

Maintenance Coordinator. Holy Trinity, Akron is seeking someone to direct custodial work, including cleaning and minor repair; performs routine maintenance of building, equipment, and grounds. Ideal candidate should have knowledge of electrical, HVAC, plumbing and electronic/sound systems. Project Management experience preferred. Serves as liaison with sub-contractors. Submit resume including names, phone numbers and email addresses of three references to: jrstef@roadrunner.com. For more information, contact John Stefanik at (330) 666-3579.

Choir Director. Good Shepherd, Conneaut, 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.

Updated 09/14/2017

Congregations in the Call Process (Call Committee installed)

- Akron, Messiah, Jeffrey Hancock, interim
- Berea, St. Paul: senior pastor
- Canal Fulton, St. John, Bob Linsz, interim
- Lyndhurst, Messiah, Shelley Nelson-Bridger, interim
- Massillon, St. Paul's, Dan Cammarn, interim
- North Canton, Zion, Hal Robarge, interim

Transitions

- St. Luke's, Cuyahoga Falls, installed Pastor James Steingass, September 9
- Good Shepherd, Conneaut, called Associate Pastor Paul Bailie, accepted; installation September 24
- Messiah, Fairview Park, installed Pastor Seth Bridger, August 20
- Trinity, Lakewood, called Pastor Sara Cogsil, accepted; installation November 12
- Holy Trinity, Massillon, called Kathryn Jacob, accepted; ordination/installation October 10
- St. Paul, Sharon Center, installed Pastor Tom Fox, July 30

Recently Ill or Hospitalized

- Pastor Paul Burgeson
- Sheila Kidd, wife of Pastor Richard Kidd
- Pastor Larry Mackay
- Pastor Ted Oswald

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Pastor Jim Kennell
- Pastor Donald Rice

Sympathy

- Family and friends on the death of former NEOS rostered minister, Pastor Kenneth Anderson
- Family, friends and members of Lordstown, Lordstown on the death of Pastor Joyce Taipale
- Pastor Mark and Alison Rollenhagen on the death of his mother
- Family and friends on the death of Pastor Walter Heber
- Deacon Ed Kirst on the death of his great grandson

*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

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 Loranelle 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

3119 Driftwood Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
330-825-0291
davebevccraig@sbcglobal.net

The Rev Jo Dietz

2831 Blenheim Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601
330-596-1010
Jodietz39@yahoo.com

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

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

Rev. Laura Kuntz

1553 Spring Garden Ave
Lakewood, Ohio 44107
(330)803-6152
pastorlaurak@gmail.com

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 Richard Weaver (NWOS)

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

The Rev Gail Zackrison (NW PA Synod)

5480 Harold Dr.
Edinboro, PA 16412
814-734-5831
ghzack@aol.com

Continued...

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

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

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

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

UCC continued...

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

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

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

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

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

Barbara J. Essex (WR)
South Euclid,
216-772-2325
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Kenneth E. Hutchinson
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Patricia J. Jefferis (EO,
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UCC continued...

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

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

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

James A. Nelson (EO)
Orrville, 330-683-2792
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*Your **LINK** to the Ministry Resources of Northeastern Ohio*

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Staffed Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thurs-
day 8-4

Call or email ahead and
recommended resources will
be pulled for you to preview
whenever you are able to visit.
Not able to visit? Most items
can be mailed.

Addictions

Addictions of various kinds have plagued our society and increasingly our communities and the people we know are being impacted by addiction, especially drug and alcohol. Congregations often provide space for support groups and pastoral teams may offer encouragement to individuals and their families but there is probably more that could be done to help individuals on their path of recovery. A good first step would be to connect with your local mental health board. Google [name of your county] mental health. This search will quickly identify your local board's webpage and services. Information provided there will probably give you information and ideas for ways your congregation can be supportive to individuals and families within your community. It may be as simple as making members aware of services and materials available; or hosting an information or training session led by a member of the Mental Health Board Team. For more direct support contact a member of the mental health service team to brainstorm ways your congregation can support individuals and their families on their long and difficult road to recovery. No one is able to do it alone and this could be the way Christ is calling you to be His Hands.

Christian Education Curriculum

As congregations review their participation or potential participation of children in Christian Education they sometimes find themselves in a transitional time as they move between boom and bust cycles. If your congregation is moving in either of these directions consider some models that may differ from your past. **Godly Play** relies highly on story-telling and is easily adaptable according to age and numbers. [The resource center can loan you an introductory video and printed resources as well as connect you with informed leaders of this program.] **Godly Play** may require an investment that you are not able to make at this time but there are many aspects of the program that could be adapted for your setting.

Some congregations using curriculum or other adapted resources host learning events on a monthly or quarterly basis. Others take advantage of adults mingling over coffee or breakfast food to provide a special learning table with guided activities for children in a corner of the same room. Others provide activities for families to take home and use at a time and place that best suits their schedule.

New Arrivals

The Art of Transformation: Three Things Churches Do That Change EVERYTHING shares the experiences of St. Gregory of Nyssa who has strived to be an intentional experimental congregation. Read how this community influences the lives of individuals and helps them to see God in new ways.

The Church Guide for Making Decisions Together is an excellent resource for all congregation leaders and church councils. Groups function best when they are intentional about considering the diverse needs before making decisions. This book teaches consensus-building as well as provides helpful check-lists for leaders, sample agendas and role descriptions.

Faith Forward is a collection of articles sharing the experiences of a variety of congregation leaders in reaching out, in many times to the neglected, as disciples and to create disciples. This is an excellent resource for leaders looking to be inspired.

Graceful Nurture: Using Godly Play with Adults is a guide for adapting Godly Play curriculum for use with adults. It includes outlines for introducing the program, use in a multi-generational setting and also a retreat.

The Integrity of the Body of Christ: Boundary Keeping as Shared Responsibility is helpful reading for all ministry staff members who may find particular interest in the chapter on Sabbath Shalom. Discussion questions are provided in the back of the book for personal reflection or group discussion on individual chapters.

Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Congregation to Grow is helpful reading for staff to assess the ministry of the congregation and suggests new activities and approaches to ministry.

Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity is written by a pastor for a pastor. Basic as well as particular information is shared for providing leadership for an effective stewardship ministry program in your congregation. The book references additional online resources

Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children is the updated and revised version of the Montessori-based curriculum ***Godly Play***. With changing demographics and trends many congregations are considering this curriculum. Many of the practical tips for classroom management are beneficial regardless of the curriculum used making this book an excellent resource for your teacher orientation or a teaching tips email.

Community Activity for Lent 2018

The Urban Mission of Steubenville, Ohio developed Community Prayer Stations that focus on a variety of sites that provide justice and hope to individuals and families in the area. During Lent they encouraged people in the community to go on a pilgrimage of these locations by participating in scheduled 'tours' as well as making use of a devotional book created for that purpose. If you would like a copy of the devotional book to assist you in preparing the same opportunity in your community for 2018 contact the resource center, 330-929-9020/rc@neos-elca.org.

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman

boreman4@yahoo.com

TIME AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 23—CHRIST THE KING

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.

September 10, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 23

H	E615/W739	In All Our Grief
H	E603/W735	God, When Human Bonds Are Broken
Ps	E772/L480	Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
II	E246/L37	Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
II	E648	Beloved, God's Chosen
HG	E652/L365	Built on a Rock
HG	E470/W703	Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
HG	WP68	I Was Glad
G	E731/L558	Earth and All Stars!
G	E452/W745	Awake, O Sleeper
S	E836/L551	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
S	W623	Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
G	E864-5/L549	Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
	E791	We Sing to You, O God

September 17, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 24

H	E605/L307	Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive
H	E606/W733	Our Father, We Have Wandered
I	E359/L126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
Ps	E864-5/L549	Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
II	E867/L552	In Thee Is Gladness
H	E482	I Come with Joy
	E490/L198	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
G	E521/L251	O Day of Rest and Gladness
S	E835/L527	All Creatures, Worship God Most High!
S	E434/L530	Jesus Shall Reign
	E871/L542	Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good
G	E651/W750	Oh, Praise the Gracious Power
G	E858-9/L543	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
G	E415/L169	Father, Most Holy

September 24, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 25

H	E590/L297	Salvation unto Us Has Come
H	E695/L404	As Saints of Old
I	E724/L436	All Who Love and Serve Your City
Ps	E893/L401	Before You, Lord, We Bow
Ps	E835/L527	All Creatures. Worship God Most High!
Ps	WP53	Great Is the Lord
HG	E431	O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us
HG	E765/L469	Lord of All Hopefulness
G	E669/L383	Rise Up, O Saints of God
S	E676/L403	Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak
S	W671	Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks
	E608/W734	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
	E668/L397	O Zion, Haste
G	E853/L545-6	When Morning Gilds the Skies

October 1, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 26

H	E416/L179	At the Name of Jesus
H	E517/L230	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
I	E776/L446	What God Ordains Is Good Indeed
Ps	E749/L414	O God of Love, O King of Peace
Ps	WP70	I Will Call upon the Lord
II	E660/L377	Lift High the Cross
II	E820/L514	O Savior, Precious Savior
II	E853/L545-6	When Morning Gilds the Skies
HG	E806/L504	O God, My Faithful God
G	E634/L328-9	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
G	E526/W719	God Is Here!
S	E846/W786	Amen, We Praise Your Name
	E538	The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
	E818/L492	O Master, Let Me Walk with You

October 8, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 27

H	E342/W668	There in God's Garden
H	E343/L94/W661	My Song Is Love Unknown
I	E727/L421	Lord Christ, When First You Came
II	E404/L475	Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove
II	E826/W801	Thine the Amen
HG	E654/L369	The Church's One Foundation
HG	E742/L439	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
G	E883/L245	All People that on Earth Do Dwell
	E596-7/L293-4	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
G	E645/L367/W747	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
S	E669/L383	Rise Up, O Saints of God!
G	E730/L244	Lord Our God, with Praise We Come
S	E670	Build Us Up, Lord
	E729/L433	The Church of Christ, in Every Age

October 15, 2017

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 28

H	E531/WP139	The Trumpets Sound, the Angles Sing
H	E362/L210	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
I	E827/L516	Arise, My Soul, Arise!
I	E826/W801	Thine the Amen
Ps	E778/L451	The Lord's My Shepherd
Ps	E502/L456	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Ps	L501	He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!
II	E430/L171	Rejoice, for Christ Is King!
II	E873-4/L553	Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart
II	WP95	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
HG	E523	Let Us Go Now to the Banquet
HG	E547/L221	Sent Forth by God's Blessing
S	E820/L514	O Savior, Precious Savior
S	E867/L552	In Thee Is Gladness

October 22, 2017

H E841/L562
H E757/W782
I WP149
I E713/L416
HG E686/L410
S E705/L415
G E731/L558
G E822/W795
G E526/W719
S E678/L408
E825/L252
E812-13/L500
G E871/L542
E413/L165

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 29

Lift Every Voice and Sing
All My Hope on God Is Founded
We Bow Down
O God of Every Nation
We Give Thee But Thine Own
God of Grace and God of Glory
Earth and All Stars!
Oh, Sing to the Lord
God Is Here!
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
You Servants of God
Faith of Our Fathers
Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

October 29, 2017

H E590/L297
H E729/L433
Ps E749/L414
Ps E724/L436
Ps E503-5/L228-9
II E779/L448
II E591
HG WP73
HG E517/L230
S E654/L369
G E665/L393
G E812-3/L500
E652/L365
S E645/L367

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Salvation unto Us Has Come
The Church of Christ, in Every Age
O God of Love, O King of Peace
All Who Love and Serve Your City
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
That Priceless Grace
I Will Sing, I Will Sing
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
The Church's One Foundation
Rise Shine, You People!
Faith of Our Fathers
Built on a Rock
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

November 5, 2017

H E422/L174
H E423/W690
I E628/L331
I E425/L314
I E426/W691
I WP44,45
Ps E827/L516
Ps E492/W706
Ps E531/WP139
G E728/W764
E E424/L175
G E632/L320
S E441/L351
E E873-4/L553

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

For All the Saints
Shall We Gather at the River
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Behold the Host Arrayed in White
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
Glory to God
Arise, My Soul, Arise!
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
Blest Are They
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Oh, Happy Day when We Shall Stand
Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

November 12, 2017

H E436/L31
H E638/W699
I E710
I E717/W763
I E810/L503
II E531/WP139
HG E827/L516

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 32

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Blessed Assurance
Let Streams of Living Justice
Let Justice Flow Like Streams
O Jesus, I Have Promised
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
Arise, My Soul, Arise!

HG E488-9/L224
HG E244/L25
G E439/W744
S E867/L552
G E438/W627
S E785/L346
G E861/W799

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
Rejoice, Rejoice Believers
Soon and Very Soon
In Thee Is Gladness
My Lord, What a Morning
When Peace like a River
When Long before Time

November 19, 2017

H E688/L405
H E707/L424
Ps E632/L320
II E450/L188
II L399
HG E677
S E441
S E805/L495
S E815/W649
E439/W744
G E452/W745
G E441/L351
E715
S E327/L355

TIME after PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 33

Lord of Light
Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
I Bind unto Myself Today
We Are the Lord's
This Little Light of Mine
Oh, Happy Day when We shall Stand
Lead on, O King Eternal
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Soon and Very Soon
Awake, O Sleeper
Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand
Christ Be Our Light
Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

November 23, 2017

H E733/W771
H E870/L241
H E679/W760
II E689/L409
HG E839-40/L543-4
HG E881/L557
S E694/L412
G E879/L561
S E680-1/L362
E740
S E856/L532
E829
E880/W797
G E693/L407

DAY of THANKSGIVING

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
We Praise You, O God
For the Fruit of All Creation
Praise and Thanksgiving
Now Thank We All Our God
Let All Things Now Living
Sing to the Lord of Harvest
For the Beauty of the Earth
We Plow the Fields and Scatter
God of the Sparrow
How Great Thou Art
Have You Thanked the Lord
O God Beyond All Praising
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

November 26, 2017

H E431
H E432/L173
I E778/L451
I E789/L481
Ps E847/L254
Ps E408/L522
Ps WP107
II E553/L265
HG E826/W801
G E855/L170
E634/L328-9
S E838/L518
E848/L520
G E430/L171

CHRIST THE KING

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us
The Head that Once Was Crowned
The Lord's My Shepherd
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs
Come, Thou Almighty King
Oh, Come, Let Us Sing
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
Thine the Amen
Crown Him with Many Crowns
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
Beautiful Savior
Give to Our God Immortal Praise!
Rejoice, for Christ Is King!

EQUIPPING VOLUNTEERS BUILDS A STRONG CHURCH COMMUNITY

Sociologist Joshua Packard describes an emerging population he calls the “dones.” They are “spiritual refugees” from organized religion who were once long-time members, but who pass through the exit door of the church and never look back. Though many reasons exist for their departure, a significant theme is the feeling of being of ignored or underutilized. “It’s hard for me to be just a passive worshiper,” one of Packard’s interview subjects said. “I’ve got to do things. That’s how I understand my faith and how I understand God.”¹

Signs of Trouble

Marlene Wilson, a recognized specialist in volunteer training, explains that in many churches the Pillars do much of the work, fostering close and satisfying relationships within their clique and making a majority of the decisions. This can leave the Pewsitters with a lack of enthusiasm about getting involved. Additionally, while one can be part of an active core of volunteers and still experience a vague sense of dissatisfaction, Wilson describes signs of trouble within a volunteer system.

The team leader or committee chair does all the work for the team. Though it is tempting to blame laziness, the culprit might be an overactive team leader. Imagine gathering for a team meeting where the leader lays out her vision for the team’s work, hands out printed material, and adjourns. Later, team members realize that the leader did all the talking. Unless team members are asked to contribute, it seems pointless to participate.

Leaders are asked to do several jobs at once—and retained for too long. When leaders juggle multiple tasks, they are unable to give their best effort to any one thing. Without an influx of new volunteers, the regulars may feel burdened and unmotivated. Some churches address this issue by refusing to allow anyone to be in charge of more than one ministry team.

Unrealistic time commitments scare volunteers away. The era when volunteers inhabited their jobs for a lifetime is over. “A major trend in volunteerism,” writes Wilson, “is

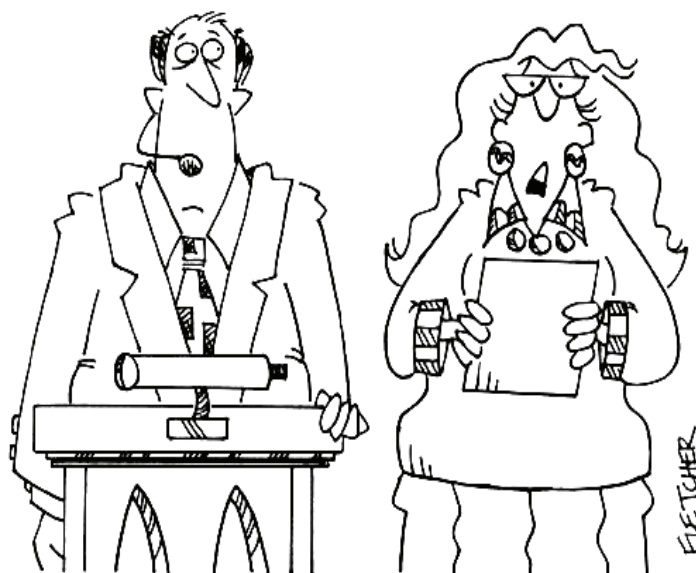
that volunteers prefer three-, six-, or one-month assignments rather than longer commitments. The shorter time commitments fit better into volunteers’ busy lives.”

There is no system for coaching volunteers. Imagine being assigned a volunteer job with no one to be accountable to and no one to contact in case problems arise. Supervising is just as important for volunteers as it is for paid employees. The best approach is to create a documented process. Develop a coaching system and write it down.

Volunteers are more committed to the director than to the program. Inspirational leaders are never a problem—unless the leader leaves! Every team or committee needs a mission statement that answers the question, “What is our purpose?” and a written vision statement of where the team is heading.²

Discovery First, Equipping Second

Sue Mallory and Brad Smith lay out an equipping system for congregations structured around the journey a new member makes from entry to worship involvement



“THE 20 PERCENT OF OUR CONGREGATION THAT DOES
80 PERCENT OF THE WORK WILL BE HONORED
AT A SPECIAL LUNCHEON...AS SOON AS THE REST OF US
FIGURE OUT HOW THAT’S DONE.”

to volunteer ministry.³ At the heart of this equipping system is the discovery interview, which seeks to discover the abilities and interests of potential volunteers. It is best to recruit a team to conduct these interviews. Anyone who is able to ask open-ended questions and practice reflective listening would qualify. The interviewer should take prolific notes or use a pre-fabricated form. Some congregations use volunteer database software for its members, which is fine as long as confidentiality is respected regarding personal issues that might arise in the interview (see “Top 20 Volunteer Management Software Products,” <http://www.capterra.com/volunteer-management-software> for examples).

Here are some sample questions for a discovery interview⁴:

- I would be interested in learning about your family. Tell me about. . .
- What do you do (or have you done) to earn your livelihood?
- What do you love doing?
- What do you dislike doing and hope never to have to do again?
- We seldom have the opportunity to share with others those things that we most enjoyed and felt we did well. Are there things you have accomplished that you are really proud of?

Matching and discovery are different tasks, and discovery must come first. Matching then requires a thorough review of the abilities, interests, and motivations of the potential volunteer before seeking to fill available slots. When matching, one should pay attention to not only positive factors, but also reasons why this might not be the best time to volunteer, such as exhaustion from previous service, personal crisis, or a significant life transition.

The Basics of Equipping Volunteers

Success in volunteer service requires encouragement and support. This is often called equipping, a reference to Paul’s call to leaders “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12, NRSV). Here are four keys to effective equipping.⁵

Apprentice your volunteers. In the Middle Ages, the apprentice served alongside the master, who provided instruction and guidance. The apprentice learned by doing. The effect here is that of the slow cooker or crock-pot, not the microwave oven. Demonstrate how it is done, and let it simmer.

Use a team structure. The problem with the solo approach is that we end up doing too much of the work ourselves. If you are launching a new project without a team in place, it risks collapse. If the size of your long-standing committee or team has dwindled over time, you risk burnout. Pay close attention to forming and sustaining the team.

Train for the work. Once you have a team in place, think about attending a training conference together, watching an instructional video, or visiting another congregation that does what you do. Observe and ask questions: What worked? What didn’t?

Develop leaders. While training prepares a person to complete a task, leadership development aims at developing the whole person. For instance, a church-operated food pantry may recruit new volunteers from its customers and train them to stock shelves or clean the floor. Then, invite volunteers who show interest and leadership potential to serve on the board or hold other leadership roles. With proper guidance, this customer-turned-volunteer might develop into a trusted leader. Leaders may come from anywhere.

How Volunteer Ministry Feeds Us

Equipping others for the work of ministry, Paul writes, serves to build a strong, diverse community called the body of Christ. Where do you fit into that community? Are you a Pillar, a Pewsitter, or something in between? What would a discovery process look like with the newest members, your circle of friends beyond the church, the “dones,” and the “not-yet-dones”?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: The Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, executive director of Faithful Citizen (www.faithfulcitizen.net) and United Methodist pastor, works to engage congregations in social ministry.

1. Joshua Packard, “Meet the ‘Dones,’” *Christianity Today*, Summer 2015, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2015/summer-2015/meet-dones.html>.

2. Marlene Wilson, *Creating a Volunteer-Friendly Church Culture* (Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2004), 47-53.

3. Sue Mallory and Brad Smith, *The Equipping Church Handbook* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 244-346. Also see Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016).

4. *Ibid.*, 287-88.

5. Dan Entwistle, *Recruiting Volunteers* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2007), 39-50.

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS THAT YIELD LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Reporting on the popularity of short-term mission trips, sociologist Robert Wuthnow estimates that in the US, 32 percent of congregations sponsor short-term overseas volunteer trips every year. About a quarter of the US population has taken part in a short-term mission experience at some point in their lifetime.¹ In fact, the prospect of embarking on a short-term mission trip, fueled by well-resourced, energetic people of faith, can be exhilarating for both participants and the community being served. Still, despite the best intentions, such trips often fall short of expectations for all involved.

Worst Mission Trip Ever: A Case Study

Moments after the ten-passenger van arrived in the Central American village of San Valente, Jenna pulled out her camera to photograph the dozens of patchwork buildings made of corrugated metal, plastic, and wood. Matt said, “Wow! This reminds me of last year, when we were in Mexico.” Scott, the trip’s coordinator, asked the group to help hand out the goods to community residents that would arrive via truck that afternoon.

This mission trip’s purpose was to lay the foundation for a new community church. The mission trip leader sent money in advance to hire someone to dig the foundation trenches. However, when the group arrived at the work site, they were shocked because the trenches were only half-finished. Miguel, their host, explained the reason: They preferred to hire local workers with hand tools, not a single person with heavy machinery, so that more people would be employed. “Looks like it’s going to be a long week!” Jenna exclaimed.

While this story is fictional, it contains instructive examples of misguided actions.²

- Before Jenna reaches for her camera, she and the other missionaries should be advised to get to know their hosts, and gain an understanding of what it is like to live there. Otherwise, the trip—whether to El Salvador or inner city Detroit—becomes voyeuristic or like a tourist destination.

- Matt’s memory of last year’s Mexican mission trip highlights that, while changing destinations every year can be enjoyable, the best way to develop a lasting relationship is to make a long-term commitment to one community and return each year.
- The coordinator’s plan to hand out supplies from the back of a pickup truck can be an offensive practice, as it reinforces a pattern of top-down paternalism. Instead, give the items to a local service agency or congregation to distribute.
- The expressions of shock over a half-finished trench remind us that missionaries need to respect that they have now entered their hosts’ world. Logistics and timelines need to proceed under local direction.

Best Practices for Effective Mission Trips

Laurie Occhipinti, an anthropologist who researches economic development, has spoken with missionaries, read scholarly articles and religious leaders’ accounts, and participated in trips herself. With this background,



she offers best practices to ensure that short-term mission efforts are effective.³

Establish Long-Term Relationships. The here today, gone tomorrow quality of many short-term mission trips begs the question: How are we not simply religious tourists? Long-term connection through repeated visits can change the relationship quality between sender and host, assisting team members in deepening their local cultural understanding and allowing those who have made multiple trips to help newcomers learn what to expect and how to behave. Repeated visits also increase the likelihood that local community members will have input into the projects undertaken.

Reflect on the Experience. Orientation and debriefing sessions should be mandatory for groups undertaking short-term projects. These sessions work if everyone provides input. Newcomers should be encouraged to talk aloud about their preconceptions about the trip and the culture. At the final debriefing, group discussions provide an important opportunity to frame the social, cultural, and political contextualization of the encounter.

Work to Ensure the Project Benefits the Community. Good mission trips often resemble successful community development projects undertaken closer to home. This involves practicing good listening skills with local leaders; focusing on resources, not deficits; and considering how the project could enhance community sustainability five or more years down the road. Such steps ensure that the host community, and not just the mission team, receives lasting benefits.

Understand the Role of Culture. Occhipinti notes that mission participants often “collapse cultural differences” by lumping the poor in other countries with the poor everywhere else, disregarding cultural variances. Time invested in learning about the local culture, perhaps even learning language basics, is time well spent.

Work in Partnership. “The question is not *whether* we travel and work with others; the question is *how*.” In other words, the *process* of working with others matters as much as the project’s material output. Unfortunately, Christian mission history is tainted by missionaries’ collusion with colonial governments and institutions seeking to extract resource wealth from colonial territories. Only by continually stressing *partnership* in the project’s planning and execution can both sides of the mission equation—missioners and hosts—learn from each other.

Where Should We Go?

When initiating a short-term mission trip, the most important decision may be the first: where should we go? Here are two possibilities for finding that answer.⁴

Personal Connection. This occurs because a church leader learns about the host community through a friend or business colleague. In one case, a professional woman started a nonprofit agency after learning about the poor living near a Nicaraguan landfill while on vacation. Her home church stepped up to support her with funds and additional support through mission trips. If you choose to rely on a personal contact, do your homework. Contact a nonprofit development organization with contacts in the region you plan to visit, or talk with someone in your denominational mission office.

Institutional Connection. If your congregation is part of a larger denomination with global reach, denominational staff may have institutional ties with nongovernmental agencies in the host region or country. One advantage: the denominational office may be able to help with logistical arrangements as well.

So which is better? Personal connections may appear more direct and less bureaucratic, yet a potential downside is the “side-of-the-road syndrome.” Occhipinti describes it this way: Everybody loves the mission site that lies on the beaten path, while the greater need may lie just inland from there. For example, Juarez, Mexico, located just across the border from El Paso, Texas, receives many American mission teams, while more remote locations receive hardly any at all.

Reflecting on Meaningful Mission

Do mission trips do any good, or are they simply faith-based tourism masquerading as meaningful engagement? When handled effectively, such trips can help missioners from a dominant culture challenge long-held assumptions. Immersion in another culture, especially in a less developed country, cracks open cultural assumptions, as if a fish, always accustomed to immersion in water, suddenly became aware of its surroundings. Such experiences can be transformative.⁵

1. Laurie Occhipinti, *Making a Difference in A Globalized World: Short-term Missions that Work* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), 13-14.

2. Mark Radecke, “Misguided Missions: Ten Worst Practices,” *Christian Century*, May 18, 2010, 22-23, 25.

3. Occhipinti, 117-21.

4. Ibid., 95-96.

5. Ibid., 34-38.

2017 Bishop Gathering

Equipping the Saints

"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..." Ephesians 4:12-13

God's Word, the good news of Jesus Christ, is the power of life for God's people. We are all baptized into this Word, and all are called and gifted and equipped to grow in the Word and to share with others. Come and be a part of this gathering devoted to equipping the saints for this work of ministry!

Participate in 2 of 3 workshop opportunities:

Sharing and the WORD - How can we use social media, technology, and other electronic communication work in ministry today.

Relationships and the WORD—How to talk about Jesus with people who don't know Jesus or may be curious?

Seeing and the WORD—How do we see the Word and Work of Jesus active in our communities?

NE Ohio Synod

Registration: \$5 per congregation

Reservations: Karen Kaufman
kkaufman@neos-elca.org / 330-929-9020

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
One week prior to event

Saturday—**Sept 23**
Martin Luther—Youngstown
420 Clearmount Dr
repeated
Saturday—**Nov. 4**
Grace Lutheran—Wadsworth
146 High St

Check-in 9 AM

9:30 — Noon

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"FEMININE FAITHFUL AND FRAZZLED"

Retreat with Lutheran rostered women from Ohio to share insights into women as leaders as well as experience a variety of self-care opportunities. Women from other denominations are invited too!!!

Come ready to learn and laugh!!

Experiences may include:

- A panel discussion of women in various stages of ministry
- Yoga*
- Reiki*
- Chair Massage*
- Horse centered prayer and meditation*
- Spiritual Direction
- Worship
- Movie and karaoke

** Additional cost and you will be asked to sign up after you register*

Date Thursday Oct. 12 lunch to Saturday Oct. 14 lunch

Place Lutheran Memorial Camp 2970 St.Rt.61, Fulton, Ohio 43221

Cost \$105

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____email_____

_____Double room Roommate_____

_____Dormitory/bunk beds

Checks payable to: **LOMO** Send to: Bege Wiegman 20643 Berry Rd. Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Questions? contact bege72@gmail.com or 740.501.1856

DEADLINE OCTOBER 1st

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COMING SOON



UPCOMING SCHEDULE

God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

September 10, 2017
Camp Mowana & LMC
12:00-4:00pm

Water & Wine Adult Retreat

September 15-17, 2017
Camp Luther

Fall Colors Journey

Sept 25-Oct 2, 2017
Door County Peninsula
& Chicago Tour

Families Helping Families

Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017
Camp Luther

Confirmation Retreat

October 6-7, 2017
Camp Mowana

Apple Butter Festival & Silent Auction

October 8, 2017
11:00am-4:00pm
Lutheran Memorial Camp

Fun-in-Faith Elementary

October 13-14, 2017
Camp Mowana

Fall Festival & Auction

October 15, 2017
11:00am-4:00pm
Camp Mowana

Senior High Retreat

October 20-22, 2017
Camp Mowana

Renew! Youth & Family Ministers' Retreat

October 23-25, 2017
Lutheran Memorial Camp

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October 20-22, 2017
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October 23-25, 2017
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God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service

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 contact** mowana@lomocamps.org (Phone 419.589.7406) or lmc@lomocamps.org (Phone 419.864.8030) to let us know you will be joining us to serve at camp.

Lutheran Memorial	September 10, 2017 12:00-4:00pm
Camp Mowana	September 10, 2017 12:00-4:00pm

Specific Activities: Projects with all Skill Levels in Mind, Worship, Snacks
For Ages: Congregations, Adults, Families, Youth Groups
Forms: Volunteer Information Form (Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Required for Youth)

Families Helping Families

Campers will learn about and participate in global service opportunities through partnership with Lutheran World Relief. During the weekend you will work with your family and others on various service projects and community building activities. There will also be a chance to enjoy camp, play gaga ball, sit around a campfire and meet new families. This retreat will teach children and adults to serve others while renewing your faith in the process.

Camp Luther	September 29-October 1, 2017
-------------	------------------------------

Specific Activities: Service Projects, Discovery Bible Study, Arts & Crafts, Campfires, Gaga Ball, Snacks, Worship, & Playground Time
For Ages: Families, Adult Individuals, & Couples
Check-in: 7:00pm Friday **Check-out:** 12:00pm Sunday
Webpage: lomocamps.org/familieshelpingfamilies
Fees: Ages 10 & Up: \$105 Online / \$115 Paper; **Ages 3-9:** \$52 Online / \$62 Paper;
Ages 2 and under: Free; **Family Maximum:** \$410 Online / \$470 Paper

Fall Festivals at LMC & Mowana

Enjoy a beautiful fall day at camp. Take a hayride, go on a hike, and enjoy time with your family or friends. At LMC enjoy fresh apple butter and at Mowana place extravagant bids at our auction. There is no need to register; food and activities are set at a reasonable price with proceeds benefiting camperships.

Lutheran Memorial	Apple Butter Festival: October 8, 2017
Camp Mowana	Fall Festival & Benefit Auction: October 15, 2017

For All Ages: Adults, Families, Friends, Congregations & Youth Groups
Time: 11:00am-4:00pm
Fee: Admission is Free; Food & Activities at a Reasonable Price

LOMOCAMPS.ORG

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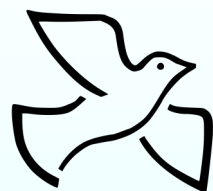
LOMOCAMPS.ORG

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LYO WINTER GATHERING

January 5-7, 2018



Where: Holiday Inn Cleveland-S Independence

6001 Rockside Road Independence, OH 44131

Who: 9th-12th graders (mature 7th & 8th graders are also welcome)

Cost: \$105 - Early Registration (Dec. 1)

\$115 - Late Registration (Dec. 31)

Band: Mass Anthem

Theme: F.E.A.R.: Face Everything And Rise

Verse: Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Dance Theme: Once Upon a Time...

What is LYO? LYO is the Lutheran Youth Organization that allows youth from Northeast Ohio to gather and worship together. At the LYO Winter Gathering, there are keynote speakers, a live band, workshops, the chance to meet new people, and lots of fun activities!

Contacts:

Dana Kulma: danakulma@gmail.com or (440) 799-9800

Mrs. Sima: maryasima@aol.com or (440) 655-0983

Registration forms can be found on our website

www.neoslyo.weebly.com

2018 LYO Winter Gathering

January 5th-7th, 2018 | Holiday Inn Cleveland-South Independence



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Grade: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____ City: _____

☐ I have enclosed the mandatory deposit fee of \$35, and I will send the remaining balance.
(Checks should be made out to **NEOS LYO**). Please do not send cash.

☐ I have enclosed \$12 for the 2018 LYO Winter Gathering t-shirt. Size: S M L XL

☐ I have enclosed a check for the entire cost of the gathering. If before December 1st, the cost is \$105. If after December 1st, the cost is \$115.

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 the 2018 LYO Winter Gathering on January 5th-7th in Independence, 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 LYO Winter Gathering 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.

*We pray for those who are sick or suffering in mind, body or spirit, especially those we name before you out loud or in our hearts...(names may be spoken) Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.***

*For the future of the relationship between our Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches, that we may encourage one another in faith and in our mission. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.***

To you, Holy Father, we lift up these prayers, thankful that you promise to hear us for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

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 you 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, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

SONG: Gather 358/ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine

For more information about the Lutheran Catholic Covenant, visit
<http://lccovenant.weebly.com/>

2017 Observance Lutheran – Catholic Common Commemoration Of the Reformation

PRAYER FOR COMMEMORATING THE REFORMATION



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Diocese of Youngstown

SONG: ELW 592 Just As I Am OR Gather 524 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

OPENING DIALOGUE (from Psalm 51:1-12 NRSV)

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.*

*Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.*

*You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.*

*Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

*Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

PRAYER

The Lord be with you

And also with you/your spirit.

*Let us pray...Almighty God, we give you thanks for your free gift of salvation that gives us new life. Empower your church to be servants to nothing except this good news and to the one who gave his life for our salvation, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen***

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

GOSPEL: John 3:1-8

MEDITATION/HOMILY

SONG: Gather 476 The Servant Song/ELW 659 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (note that verse 5 is different in Catholic and Lutheran hymnal) OR Gather 434/ELW 779 Amazing Grace

PRAYERS

Gathered together by God's grace and gift of salvation, let us pray to our holy and gracious God for the church, the world and all in need.

*Cleanse your church, that we may witness to your gospel in word and in action. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.***

*Teach us to care for the air, land and water you have given to us as a gift. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.***

*Give wisdom to all in leadership positions in the world, in our country and in our communities, that they would work for the good of all in their charge. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.***



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

**THE 32nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL
CELEBRATION OF THE REFORMATION**

and

**A CELEBRATION OF THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE REFORMATION**

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2017

7:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Alliance, Ohio

On Union Ave. (St. Rte. 183)

One mile south of State St. (US 62) at second stop light

With Guest Preacher

Pastor Karl Biermann

Assistant to the Bishop

Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA

Holy Communion

Special music Staffed Nursery

Social Hour after Worship

This annual celebration of the Reformation is a ministry of the following seven Lutheran congregations
of the Eastern Cluster of the Canton-Massillon Conference.

Abiding Savior, Alliance

Emmanuel, North Georgetown

Kountze Memorial, Louisville

St. John's, New Franklin

St. Paul's, Alliance

St. Paul's, Minerva

Trinity, Sebring

For further information, call Pastor Jim Metzger, 330-823-8384.

COME AND HEAR
Pastor Karl Biermann



In this milestone year, the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, we are indeed happy and fortunate to have as our Reformation Service preacher, Pastor Karl Biermann, assistant to the bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Biermann was born and raised in the Texas hill country north of San Antonio, where German immigrants settled in the 1840s, established Lutheran congregations, and kept speaking a mix of German and English prominently into the 1960s. Perhaps this is why about the only hint of “Texas speak” that you will hear from him is the occasional “y’all” or “all y’all”!

Pastor Biermann received a BA in English from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas, and a master’s degree in history from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In 2004 Pastor Biermann graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, with a master of divinity degree. During his seminary days at Trinity and his pastoral internship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Upper Arlington (Columbus), Biermann and his wife, Lana, enjoyed the people, fun attractions, and Ohio’s changing seasons.

Upon graduating from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Biermann was ordained in 2004 and served at Grace Lutheran Church in Bandera, Texas until 2009. From 2009 to 2014 he served at St. Mark’s Lutheran, Cuero, Texas.

On October 18, 2014, Pastor Biermann received and accepted a call to serve as assistant to Bishop Abraham Allende of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA and began this present call on December 1, 2014. Biermann’s primary responsibility is to match pastors and other rostered leaders with synod congregations through the call process which can seem more like a matchmaking art than a science!

With their previous happy experiences during his student days at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Biermann and his wife, Lana, are indeed happy to again live in Ohio, where they now reside in Stow with their daughter, Kendall, age 13, and their son, Erich, age 10.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US ON THIS 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION AND TO HEAR PASTOR KARL BIERMANN.



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

**Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration
500th Anniversary of the Reformation
October 2017**

Suggested Bulletin Insert/Announcement

At your convenience, use the Evening Prayer flyer as a bulletin insert to announce the Evening Prayer for the Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation on October 29, 2017. On another Sunday, or if the full-page insert does not fit the format of your bulletin, please use the following bulletin announcement. Thank you for your assistance in promoting this important event.

Ecumenical Evening Prayer

Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Bishop George V. Murry SJ

Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

Bishop Abraham Allende

Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday, October 29

6:00 p.m.

St. Columba Cathedral

Youngstown OH

A Reception follows in the Cathedral Parish Hall

Suggested Intercessions

All Catholic Parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown and Lutheran Congregations in the Northeastern Ohio Synod are asked to include the following intentions in their intercessory prayers on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Add the appropriate conclusion to each intention.

For all Lutheran and Catholic faithful, that on this Commemoration of the Reformation, we may give thanks for the ways God has united us in prayer, study and action, we pray to the Lord...

For all efforts toward Christian unity, especially the Lutheran Catholic Covenant to which our diocese/synod is committed, that through them we may grow closer to Jesus' mandate that 'all may be one', we pray to the Lord...

Mark your calendar now for this special event.

For more information:

Thomas D. Sauline
Diocese of Youngstown
330-980-5276

tsauline@youngstowndiocese.org

Pastor Mark Williams
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton
330-492-0072

pastor.mark.htlc@gmail.com

COMMON COMMEMORATION
500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION
EVENING PRAYER



SUNDAY

October 29, 2017

Ecumenical Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m.

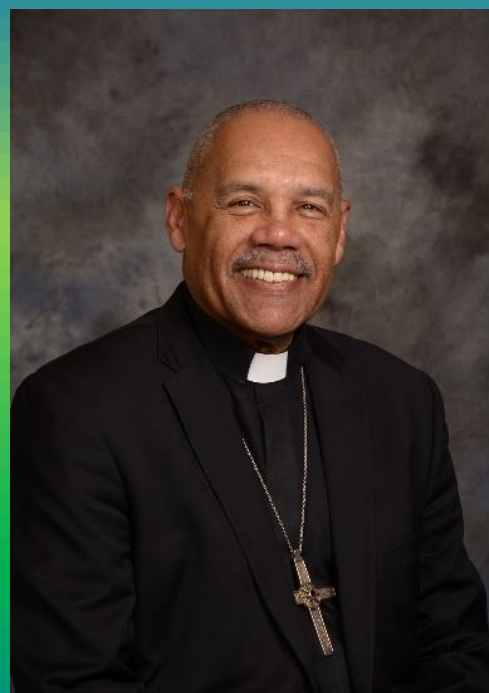
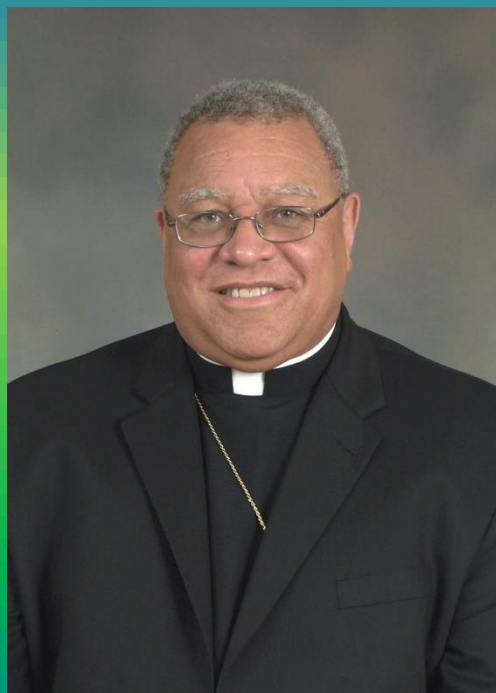
**St. Columba Cathedral
Youngstown, Ohio**

**Reception to Follow
Parish Hall**

Bishop George V. Murry SJ
Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

&

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



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF YOUNGSTOWN