



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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**If a new Hymns for the Church Year is issued between Unified mailings, we publish it in the weekly e-news and on the synod website:
<https://neos-elca.org/hymns-for-the-church-year/>*

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UNIFIED NEWSLETTER

January 21, 2020

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Deadline for articles: Mar 16

The e-Unified is sent to all E-news subscribers, and published on the Synod's web site, www.neos-elca.org six times/year; submission deadlines are announced in each issue. Between e-Unified issues, the weekly E-news keeps you updated with news, events, and announcements. 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

Report time! It is time for congregations to file congregational reports with the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA; and for rostered ministers to file their annual reports to the bishop. (Thank you to those who have already filed!)

Congregational (parochial) reports and instructions have been mailed to all ELCA congregations. These reports should be filed annually with the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA. Pastors and congregation staff play an important role in the filing of this information. Congregation treasurers and secretaries contribute information to the preparing of these forms. The person(s) responsible for filing congregational (parochial) reports can do so electronically by going to the Office of the Secretary's report page on the ELCA website: <http://elca.org/congregationreport>.

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

Amendments to the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations. At the recently concluded ELCA Churchwide Assembly, important amendments were made to the Model Constitution for Congregations. We encourage congregation council members to read and review. These amendments can be adopted at one meeting with a majority vote of those present, if the changes are in conformity with the model. The newly amended version is now available at:

<https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Constitutions>

Nominations Needed! Nominations are needed for Synod Council and Committee positions that will be filled by election at the 2020 Synod Assembly. A list of nominations needed, and a form for submitting nominations are included with this newsletter, and are available on the synod website: <https://neos-elca.org/2020-synod-assembly/> If you have questions, contact Karen Kaufman, synod staff liaison, 330-929-9020; kkaufman@neos-elca.org

New Oesterlen Logo. Oesterlen is excited to announce its new brand mark and logo with our supporting synods, congregations, and individuals.



In the shape of a Guiding Light, this mark is radiating the potential of all people and seeks to present Oesterlen as a guiding light for individuals in need of mental, social, physical, or spiritual guidance. The many hands joined together convey the strength of Oesterlen's support system, and communicate perseverance, confidence and guidance, which are at the heart of all that Oesterlen pursues. A cross is also visible in the design, representing the compassionate and spiritual resources that have been at the core of this Lutheran agency since 1903. We look forward to sharing the story of Oesterlen in new and exciting ways as we move forward in service to children, youth and adults. To learn more about Oesterlen, to arrange a visit, or to support its mission and ministry, please go to www.oesterlen.org, or contact Pastor Rachel Tune in Church Relations, at rtune@oesterlen.org.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020. The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission invites Catholic and Lutheran churches to commemorate together the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020: They Showed Us Unusual Kindness (Acts 28:2), January 18-25. For celebration resources, visit the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute website, www.geii.org. For Christian unity celebrations throughout the year, visit the Lutheran Catholic Covenant website, www.lccovenant.weebly.com. For more ecumenical information, visit the USCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs website, www.usccb.org/seia. NEOS Lutheran Churches outside the geographical boundaries of the Diocese of Youngstown are welcome to use these resources.

Wellness Seminar at New Covenant. On Saturday, March 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Women's Ministry of New Covenant Lutheran Church are holding a wellness seminar entitled: *Living Your Best Life! (Learning How To Achieve Balance)*. 1424 Hayden Avenue, East Cleveland, Ohio 44112.

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

[Matthew 19:13-15]

Dear siblings in Christ of the Northeastern Ohio Synod,

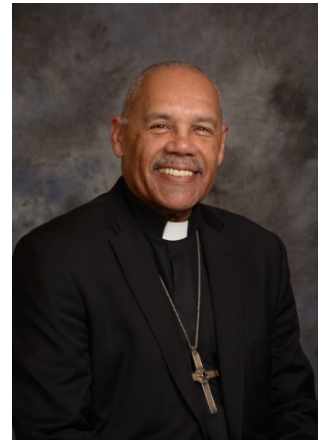
In Matthew's Gospel, which is from where the majority of our Gospel readings will come this year, children have significance to Jesus. The account of Jesus blessing the children, cited above, is recorded several times in the Bible. There are also numerous instances where Jesus heals children and even raises them from the dead.

It is in Matthew's Gospel that we read of the infant Jesus as a menace to Herod, who then goes on a rampage, and slaughters many innocent children, two years old and under, in order to put down this potential threat to his rule. Jesus and his family are forced to flee to Egypt in order to avoid death.

God's invasion of this world in Jesus is resisted by those who hold power, those whose lives are dedicated to keeping boundaries intact. We are no less misguided.

Though we, as adults in the church, are nowhere near as ruthless as Herod, we do at times exhibit some Herodian tendencies.

We are sometimes unable and often unwilling to give up control. As an unintended consequence, we drive the youth away.



We are summoned to reflect upon that image when we agonize about why youth are leaving church in alarming numbers. We must ask ourselves, what opportunities are we giving them in our congregations to offer their boundless energy and enthusiasm, their passion for the gospel? The challenge is to avoid the temptation of refusing to let go of our sense of authority and denying youth of their willingness to serve.

I had the unique experience this year of attending the Northeastern Ohio Lutheran Youth Organization's Annual Winter Gathering for the first time ever. Normally when the Gathering is held, I am travelling somewhere as part of the Bishops' Academy. Last year, however, it was decided to make the Academy an every other year event, which gave me the opportunity to be with the youth.

I never tire of telling anyone who will listen, how much I enjoy being around our young people. Being around young people keeps me young.

We have a national gathering every three years and those have been wonderful, but there's something about being with our

local youth, those who I see on a more regular basis, that feels more amicable and creates a closer bond among us.

After attending both the gatherings in Detroit and Houston, I came away with a renewed feeling of hope for the church. They are eager to serve and demonstrate the love of God by loving their neighbor. The many outreach ministries they performed in both cities brought glory to God.

Our Northeastern Ohio Gathering was different from the national gatherings in that it is three days in a hotel in the middle of winter, but no less spirit-filled than the summer events. We worshipped, we fellowshiped, we served God together. The speakers shared personal stories that were compelling. They related well to the kids, even though a couple of them were beyond what one would consider young adult.

I have made youth ministry a priority during my time in this office and those of you who have been to the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly the last three years know that the LYO Summer Gathering is held at the same time as our Assembly. We will continue to do the same this year.

In our baptism, God claimed us and called us God's special children. We have been chosen, set apart and appointed by God for God's purpose – to be God's people chosen to proclaim God's wonderful deeds, no matter what our age.

As followers of Christ, we can follow his example by showing a youngster that he or she has value in our eyes and in the eyes of God.

In Christ,



+Bishop Abraham D. Allende



At the LYO Winter Gathering.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

You can find updated synod events on the website calendar page, along with more details about the events below (where appropriate): <http://neos-elca.org/events-calendar/>

JANUARY

- 23 12:00 PM, **Conference Deans Meeting**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
 26 4:00 PM, **Ordination & Installation**, Andrew Potsko, St. Stephen Martyr, Canton
 28-30 **Ohio Rostered Ministers Gathering**, Nationwide Conference Center, Lewis Center, Ohio

FEBRUARY

- 9 1:00 PM, **“I’d Love To Tell the Story, but...” Road Show**, Christ, Lorain
 11 10:00 AM, **New to Synod Reception** for new-to-synod rostered ministers, Lutheran Center, Cuyahoga Falls
 12 12:00 PM, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center
 18 5:30 PM, **Executive Committee**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
 19 10:00 AM, **Ecumenical Committee**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
 20 1:30 PM, **Finance and Budget Committee**, Lutheran Center Conference Room
 26 12:00 PM, **Ash Wednesday Service**, Lutheran Center Chapel

MARCH

- 4 12:00 PM, **Congregational Resource Team**, Lutheran Center Resource Center
 6-7 11:30 AM, **Region 6 Discernment Retreat**, Holiday Inn Express, Bowling Green, OH
 8 3:00 PM, **“I’d Love To Tell the Story, but...” Road Show**, Emmanuel, Salem
 14 9:00 AM, **“I’d Love To Tell the Story, but...” Road Show**, St. Paul’s, Berea
 16-20 **LutMA (formerly NALIP) training, Phase I**, St. Stephen, Stow
 28 8:30 AM, **Synod Council Meeting**, St. Paul’s, Massillon

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

- Jan 19 Holy Trinity, Akron
 Jan 26 St. Stephen Martyr, Canton
 Feb 2 St. Paul, Bellville;
 Jerusalem, Seville
 Feb 9 Parma, Parma
 Feb 16 Trinity, Sebring
 Feb 23 Trinity, Kent
 Mar 1 Emmanuel, Warren
 Mar 15 New Covenant, E.
 Cleveland
 Mar 22 Zion, Valley City

Pastor Karl Biermann

- Jan 19 Living Lord, Howland; Holy
 Trinity, Akron
 Jan 26 St. Stephen Martyr, Canton
 Feb 2 St. Stephen Martyr, Canton;
 Jerusalem, Seville
 Feb 16 Faith, Fairlawn
 Feb 23 Bethel, Middleburg Heights
 Mar 1 St. Paul, Bellville
 Mar 29 St. Paul, Warren

Pastor Julianne Smith

- Jan 19 St. John, Canal Fulton;
 Holy Trinity, Akron
 Jan 26 Parma, Parma; St. Stephen
 Martyr, Canton
 Feb 9 Christ, Lorain
 Feb 16 Sugarcreek, Sugarcreek
 Feb 23 Israel’s, Paris
 Mar 8 Emmanuel, Warren
 Mar 15 St. Paul, Bellville
 Mar 22 Reformation, Eastlake

Congregations in the Call Process (Mission Site Profile Completed)

- Brook Park, Redeemer, Paul Bailie
- Chagrin Falls, Lord of Life: Associate Pastor
- Elyria, Emmanuel, Becki Verbridge (UMC), interim
- Hudson, Rejoice!, supplies
- Medina, Living Word (part-time), Elizabeth Hadler (UMC), interim
- Parma, Parma, Ann Paynter, interim
- Rocky River, Good Soil Lutheran Ministries, John Butchko (UMC), interim
- Vermilion, Trinity, Sherman Bishop, interim
- Westlake, Prince of Peace, Robin Craig (PCUSA), interim

- Pastor Susan Rodgers on the death of her husband Rick
- Pastor Alan Smearsoll on the death of his father

Transitions

- St. Paul, Jefferson, called Ms. Christina Krnac; accepted; ordained November 2 (Parma, Parma); installed November 17 (St. Paul, Jefferson)
- St. Stephen Martyr, Canton, called Mr. Andrew Potsko, Pastor of Congregational Outreach and Mission; accepted; ordination and installation January 26
- Jerusalem, Seville, called Pr. Tina Heise; accepted; installation February 2

Congratulations

- Pastor Rebecca & Robert Zielke on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Dawn

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Pastor Joe Ertl
- Pastor Larry Mackey and his wife, Lida
- Bishop George Murry, Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown

Sympathy

- Deacon Ruth Anderson & Dr. Marshall Thomas on the death of his father and mother
- Pastor Robert Ferro and family on the death of his father
- Family and friends of Pastor Larry Houff
- Pastor Larry & Joan Klinker on the death of their son David
- Pastor Mark Kreemer on the death of his sister
- Pastor Hal Robarge on the death of his brother

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.



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

Director of Music Ministries. Advent, Solon is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministries to provide accompaniment for weekly worship service, direction of choirs, and continued development and coordination of the music program. Applicant should provide a resume with relevant experience and references. A complete job description is available at AdventSolon.org/Music. Applications should be sent to Advent Lutheran Church, 5525 Harper Road, Solon, OH 44139 or emailed to PastorJim@adventsolon.org.

Family Education Coordinator. St. Peter, New Pittsburg is seeking a part-time employee to help continue growing our ministry to our young students. Application packets are available by contacting the Church Office at 330-264-1986 or via email: office@stpeterelca.org. Please contact Ruth Ann or Pastor Tina Heise with questions.

Part-time Youth Coordinator. St. Jacob's, North Canton prayerfully seeks a person to fill a part-time Youth Coordinator position. A small but mighty group of Junior & Senior High kids await an enthusiastic leader to guide them in learning, service and fun. Flexible hours, a supportive congregation, and competitive pay make this job a gem! For details, contact Krista at 330-877-2676 or via email to discipleship@stjacobselca.org

Director for Leadership and Candidacy. The ELCA churchwide office is currently looking for their next Director for Leadership and Candidacy. This position is based in Chicago at the ELCA churchwide office. Interested parties can review the position description and complete the application [here](#). Questions? Please contact Andrea Young, Director for Staffing and Engagement, andrea.young@elca.org.

Paid Section Leaders. Holy Trinity, Akron seeks qualified section leaders (soprano, alto and bass positions) for its principal vocal choir. Trinity Choir strives to offer a wide variety of high-quality literature over the course of a season. The ensemble rehearses on Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 pm. The choir leads on Sunday mornings in the 11:00 a.m. liturgy and occasionally for midweek services. On festival days, the choir also sings at the 8:30 a.m. liturgy. Includes paid solo/cantor opportunities and voice lesson studio space. Familiarity with liturgical singing (classic and modern church literature) preferred. Candidates with excellent sight-reading ability, strong vocal technique, musicality and good interpersonal skills are encouraged to apply. This is a paid position. For further information, or to apply, contact the Director of Music Ministries, Deacon Ruth Anderson, at 330-376-5154.

Part-time Office Administrator. Lutheran High School East is seeking a part-time (12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) office administrator to assist families with enrollment and scholarship applications, answer phones, greet parents and visitors, and maintain records. For more information, or to submit a resume and references, contact Andrew Prusinski, Principal, at aprusinski@lutheraneast.org.

Organist/Music Director. St. Jacob's, Massillon (Jackson Township) is seeking an Organist/Music Director to play Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and to direct and rehearse the choir on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Other responsibilities include planning repertoire for worship serves with input from the pastor and Worship Board along with playing for weddings and funerals. Contact Carolyn Carasea (c.carasea@gmail.com / 330-289-4006) for more in-depth details.

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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, 2020, 57.5 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. Paul Bailie

1695 Orkney Road
Madison, OH 44057
440-477-3641
bailiepaul@gmail.com
(available on 4th Sundays)

The Rev Langley Collins

1310 Fifth Ave Apt 907
Youngtown, OH 44504
(C) 330-720-9872
lmcollins605@gmail.com

The Rev. David Connor

12700 Lake Ave., #100
Lakewood, OH 44107-4318
(C) 216-226-0346
Prdavec526@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 Don Frantz

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

The Rev Rod Funk

8032 Munson Road
Mentor, OH 44060
440-946-5270
rphunue@yahoo.com

The Rev George Gaiser

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

The Rev Elizabeth Hazelton

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

The Rev Tom Henderson

313 Janice Dr.
Berea, OH 44017
440-539-6294
tomhenderson10@hotmail.com

The Rev Jim Kulma

1496 Marlowe Dr.
Lakewood, OH 44107
(C) 216-221-7333
jkulma@cox.net

The Rev Dr Deborah Michaels

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

The Rev Todd Mills

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at
Capital University
2199 E Main St Columbus, OH 43209
(O) 614-236-6301
(C) 614-965-2472
tmills@capital.edu

The Rev George Murphy

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

The Rev Shelley Nelson-Bridger

26760 Chapel Hill Drive
North Olmsted, OH 44070
(C) 513-635-7594
pastorshelleynb@gmail.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 Denise Sager

673 Cherrington Road
Westerville, OH 43081
(C) 330-242-4197
d.sager@att.net

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 Jonathan Steingass

3108 Lester Rd
Medina, OH 44256-7724
330-722-6139
jsteingass@zoominternet.net

The Rev Edward Wahl (NWOS)

2856 St. Rt. 529
Cardington, OH 43315
419-864-0850
revedwahl@hotmail.com

The Rev Richard Weaver

255 Teal Circle
Akron, OH 44319
(C) 419-591-8594
Rweaver2484@yahoo.com

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

Richard Brenneman
13256 Shipley Rd
Fredericktown, OH 43019
740-694-1755
dbbrenneman@gmail.com

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

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

Linda Weidenbach (Non-Sunday services)
2984 Chaucer Drive NE
Canton, Ohio 44721
(C) 850-766-5640
lindakjw@gmail.com

Andy Potsko
(also a church/praise musician, singer)
2190 E. Main St., Apt. D
Bexley, OH 43209
(C) 614-585-2325
andrewpotsko@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:

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

Reformed Church of America (RCA):

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

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

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

The Rev Dick Beck (EO, WR)
Mogadore,
330-807-2800
rbeck3@sbcglobal.net

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

UCC continued...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UCC continued...

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

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

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

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

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

The Rev Rev. Brian A.
Shields
4005 Navahoe Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH
44121
(C) 216-956-8475
bshields80.bs@gmail.com

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

UCC continued...

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

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

United Methodist Church:

The Rev Bernie
Dougherty
2742 Stockman Ct.
Stow, OH 44224
336-491-8840
revbdough@aol.com

Last updated 1/6/2020

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

You can digitally subscribe
to this newsletter by
emailing [rc@neos-
elca.org](mailto:rc@neos-elca.org)

January 2020
Volume 25, Issue 1

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
twitter.com/resources4U

Church Council

The time of council transitions is an excellent time to renew the focus of the council with covenants, a letter of call or an inventory of the abilities of council members. The resource center has samples of covenants and a letter of call available digitally for your own adaptation. Spiritual gift resources as well as a task survey are available as free downloads at <https://equippedforeverygoodwork.wordpress.com/downloads/>. The resource center has the book ***Equipped for Every Good Work*** available for loan as well. Executive teams will find this article helpful as they look towards the coming year: <https://tinyurl.com/yekwbkok>

Be sure to share the contact information of new council presidents with the synod resource center. We will provide a sampling of the resources available to them as a council leader as well as the congregation.

Skits

Skits pique interest and are a way to engage people in the life of the congregation. Several skits that may be of interest in the coming months are:

“If God Should Speak” an excellent way to introduce or close a unit on the Lord’s Prayer

“Street Sweeper of Jerusalem” provides a synopsis of Holy Week

“The First Tax Return” needs an abacas and eight individuals (or less if they can change costumes quickly).

All are available digitally by emailing rc@neos-elca.org

Heard It Through the Grapevine

Engageworship.org/area52 provides a variety of creative worship options including visual resources.

In the past some of our congregations received excellent capital campaign assistance through the ELCA. That service is no longer being provided by the ELCA or the Mission Investment Fund however many of those same leaders now provide the same service through [https:// www.capitalcampaignservices.net](https://www.capitalcampaignservices.net) They can also be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/Capital-Campaign-Services-Net-102004181314566/>

A variety of options are often available with devotional materials. Increasingly publishers are providing a Spanish version increasing your ability to reach out into the community. Some publishers provide an email option so that readers can receive content daily in their in-box. Consider these opportunities when selecting or recommending devotional materials for those in your faith community.

Resources for Lent

Lent is historically known for being a time of self-examination and spiritual growth. Challenge members to make a Lenten pledge:

Ways I will pray during Lent.....

Ways I will fast during Lent.....

Ways I will serve and give alms during Lent.....

When I arrive at Easter, I hope to see the following changes....

There are a variety of ways in which the congregation can nurture this time of self-examination. Materials and opportunities can be provided to support people individually or in community during this time of reflection and transformation. It can be as simple as using the resources from ELCA World Hunger found at: <https://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger> to developing your own theme and having members contribute their personal reflections or photos to support the emphasis. Events can be planned as simple as 'burying the alleluias' or a 24-hour prayer vigil to a Passion Week Walk for the community. The resource center files provide numerous examples for your use or inspiration. For example:

[sung to "Jesus Loves Me"]

Alleluia! Word of Praise

Say goodbye for 40 days

In this time that we call Lent

We remember and repent.

Farewell, Alleluia!

So long, Alleluia!

Adios, Alleluia!

Auf Widerschen!

Goodbye! Elizabeth Hazelton

Weekly Options:

Discipleship: Come and Follow Jesus provides a brief format that could be used as a lunchtime Lenten opportunity. This free resource was created by the New Jersey Synod Discipling Team.

Exploring Our Baptismal Promises is an excellent Lenten devotional written for families. (Free)

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman

boreman4@yahoo.com

ASH WEDNESDAY—SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

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

February 26, 2020

H	E775/L457-8	ASH WEDNESDAY	Jesus, Priceless Treasure
H	E600/L295		Out of the Depths I Cry to You
I	E584/L434		The Son of God, Our Christ
I	WP85		Let Justice Roll Like a River
Ps	E185-8		Create in Me a Clean Heart
HG	E793/W776		Be Thou My Vision
HG	E328		Restore in Us, O God
G	E151-8		Kyrie
S	E539/L263		Abide with Us, Our Savior
	E701		Once We Sang and Danced
G	E759/L479		My Faith Looks Up to Thee
	E601/L91		Savior When in Dust to You
	E606		Our Father, We Have Wandered
G	E712/L423		Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
S	E320/W657		The Glory of These Forty Days

March 1, 2020

H	E802/L487	FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
H	E325/W660		I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
II	E783/L470		Praise and Thanks and Adoration
Ps	WP160		You Are My Hiding Place
HG	E310/L90		Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
HG	E788/L454		If God My Lord Be for Me
HG	E320/W657		The Glory of These Forty Days
G	E814		Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am
G	E431		Oh Christ, What Can It Mean for Us
S	E772/L480		Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
S	E618/L343		Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
	E750/L325		Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
S	E326		Bless Now, O God, the Journey
S	E517/L230		Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
S	E545/L259		Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

March 8, 2020

H	E323/L292	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	God Loved the World
H	E727/L421		Lord Christ, when First You Came to Earth
I	E831/L544		The God of Abraham Praise
I	E325/W660		I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
I	E334		Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
Ps	WP159		You Are My God
HG	E457/WP145		Waterlife
HG	E332,611/L497		I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
HG	E442/L194		All Who Believe and Are Baptized
HG	E448/L195		This Is the Spirit's Entry Now
G	E473/L165		Holy, Holy, Holy
G	E796/L507		How Firm a Foundation
S	E802/L487		Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
S	E838/L518		Beautiful Savior
	E638/W699		Blessed Assurance

March 15, 2020

H	E777	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty
H	E332,611/L497		I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I	E331		As the Deer Runs to the River
I	E378/L129		Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
I	E557/L269		Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun
I	E618/L343		Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
I	E647/L358		Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
I	E623/L327		Rock of Ages
Ps	WP107		Oh, Come, Let Us Sing
II	E452/W745		Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
HG	E343/L94/W661		My Song Is Love Unknown
G	E807/L499		Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
G	E886/L559		Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
	E666/L385		What Wondrous Love Is This
	E324/L104		In the Cross of Christ I Glory

March 22, 2020

H	E799/L455		
H	E768		
Ps	E780		
II	E815/W649		
II	E866/W650/WP148		
HG	E340/L105		
HG	E345/L115		
HG	E363/L132		
HG	E334		
S	E848/L520		
S	E543/W721		
G	E673/L400		
	E347/L109		
	E593		
S	E776/L446		

March 29, 2020

H	E506/W658		
H	E750/L325		
I	E378/L129		
I	E807/L499		
Ps	E600/L295		
II	E629/L272		
HG	E333		
HG	E818/L492		
HG	E328		
G	E330		
S	E802/L487		
	E553/L265		
G	E666/L385		
G	E327/L355		
S	E886/L559		

April 5, 2020

H	E351-2/L116-17		
H	E340/L105		
Ps	E624/L341		
Ps	WP127		
II	E416/L179		
II	E820/L514		
HG	E601/L91		
G	E344/L108		
G	E620/L345		
G	E346/L121		
S	E353/L92		
S	E347/L109		
	E349/L123		
	E339/L97		
	E811/L102		

April 9, 2020

H	E358/W666		
H	E359/L126		
Ps	E879/L561		
II	E463/L206		
II	E499/L215		
HG	E476/L199		
HG	L483		
HG	E479/W766		
HG	E653,642		
HG	E708		
HG	E360/L122		
G	E324/L104		
	E605/L307		
	E612/W738		
	E357/L111		

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

April 10, 2020

H E637
H E343/L94/W661
I E339/L97
I E340/L105
HG E342/W668
HG E623/L327
HG E805/L495
HG E351-2/L116-7
HG E355-6/L118
E353/L92
E803/L482
E324S/L104
E811/L102
E334
E666/L385

April 12, 2020

H E364/L678
H E370/L134
I E718/L417
Ps E645/L367
Ps WP54
II E393/L157
HG E386-7/L139
HG E394/L142
HG E365/L151
G E449/L189
S E619/L352
S E392/L158
G E383/W672
G E362/L210
S E379/L148

April 19, 2020

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

April 26, 2020

H E374
H E389/L363
Ps WP150
II E473/L165
II E654/L369
HG E737/W768
HG E384/L154
HG WP113
HG WP133
G E367/L143
G E383/W672
S E539/L263
G E377/W674
E522
S E391/L149

May 3, 2020

H E789/L481
H E502/L456
Ps L335
Ps E778/L451
Ps E782
II E355-6/L118
II E604/L300
II E802/L487

GOOD FRIDAY

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

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
May God Bestow on Us His Grace
The Lord's My Shepherd
My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
Sing, My Tongue
O Christ, Our Hope
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

II E810/L503
II WP132
S E619/L352
G E385/L144
S E544/L196
E669/L383
G E369/L128

May 10, 2020

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

May 17, 2020

H E594/L299
H E360/L122
I E652/L365
I E668/L397
II E449/L189
HG E410/L166
HG E750/L325
HG E629/L272
G E761/L465
S E731/L558
G E822/W795
W793
G E408/L522
S E390
S E543/W721

May 21, 2020

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

May 24, 2020

H E247
H E655/L364
H E482
I E393/L157
I E392/L158
I E403/W685
II E503-5/L228-9
HG WP89
HG E662/L386
G E855/L170
G E432/L173
E796/L507
G E531
S E579/W756
S E826/W801

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

REPURPOSE WORSHIP SPACE, DON'T REBUILD

Having to deal with poorly designed or ill-suited worship space can be demoralizing. However, constructing a new building can be costly. In 2010, new building costs ran approximately \$100 per square foot, but since then inflation has brought the cost range closer to between \$120 and \$150 per square foot for the church building itself, not to mention the cost of developing the site, including parking lots, sidewalks, utilities, and landscaping.¹ Often, worship space can be repurposed at substantially less cost than building a new structure. What options are available?

Decorate

Worship space can be temporarily altered without renovating through the use of visual installations such as colorful fabrics and banners or other symbolic objects. Purchase banners predesigned from any number of stores, or make them using templates from books.² Ideally, these decorations can be used to illustrate the message of the week, the season of the church year, or double as a place where the congregation can foster faith formation and community.

For designs that are more easily changed out each week, banners or ribbons cascading from poles can be carried into, out of, or around the space in procession. For instance, a set of eight to twelve poles made of PVC and draped with fabric can be marched around a space, offering movement and energy during a hymn or another aspect of worship.

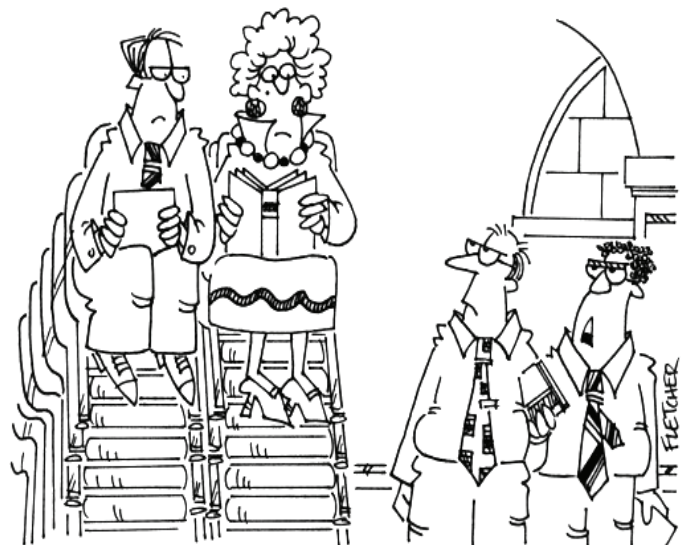
For long-term installation such as for liturgical seasons, churches can hang fabrics against the side walls and front. Using adjustable T-shaped poles draped with fabric or ribbons and placed in stands in a row behind the last row of seating creates a “false back” and provides an intimate atmosphere. Additionally, a drop-line system with eye-hooks and fishing line can be installed from one side of the sanctuary to the other and hung with fabric to fill the air space above people’s heads.³

Decorations can also serve a purpose beyond just being visually appealing. Stations can be located around the room where people interact with the display. Some ideas include lighting a candle of hope, planting a seed, writing a prayer to insert in a prayer wall, or contemplating a babbling fountain.

Renovate

Renovating the sanctuary represents a next step in repurposing the worship space. While more permanent than decorating, it is still much less expensive than constructing a new building. At least two design options suggest themselves—contemporary or classic.

Contemporary designs have certain qualities unique to them that arose out of the architectural choices church leaders made in the 1980s and 1990s who sought to make the worship band and digital technology more central to worship. The first thing a worshipper might notice on entering such a space is the worship band, not the preacher, front and center on the stage. A pulpit is nowhere to be found, so the



“...OUR CONGREGATION’S FIRST EXPERIENCE
WITH STACKABLE CHAIRS.”

preacher's body is emphasized during sermon delivery, which is unassisted by anything but a small table for Bible and notes, and also perhaps IMAG (image magnification), which projects the preacher's facial expression and body movement on the big screen. Indeed, electronic technology itself takes center stage as sound system, projector, and theatrical lighting offer the worshipper a multi-sensory experience of music, videos, and still photos. The baptismal font and altar table are noticeably absent, to be brought out temporarily when the occasion calls for it. At the rear or to the side of the sanctuary, the worshipper might notice a production booth with technicians in headphones making the technical aspects of the operation run smoothly.⁴ Any or all of these elements may be introduced when renovating the sanctuary, leaving other aspects of the sanctuary intact.

Contemporary Design Case Study: A Tall Steeple Church Goes Digital. In 2008, Christ Church in Troy, New York, faced a daunting challenge: how to modify a large, ornate sanctuary for the digital age. Built in 1871, the sanctuary seats 650 on the floor and 250 in the balcony. Using his Ph.D. dissertation as a basis, the Reverend James Fenimore recommended placing two large television screens in the front of the sanctuary and attached two more to the ceiling created by the balcony ceiling at rear of the sanctuary. A production booth was located out of sight in the balcony. Nothing about the sanctuary's front—long wooden kneeling rail, center pulpit up high, and ornate woodwork behind it—was modified. Fenimore and church leaders wanted to introduce digital technology without diminishing the beauty of the ornately designed interior.⁵

Classic designs are centered around word and sacrament rather than the performance of the worship band. Richard Giles, an Anglican priest who has written about worship design, notes that many older sanctuaries were designed when crowds were larger and worshippers were not expected to actively participate. However, too many pews and other furniture can make a space feel crowded and heighten a sense of isolation among worshippers. Decluttering can create more space for participation, conversation, and movement. Increasing the amount of floor area without furniture has a "restful effect which recalls us to tranquility of spirit in a frantic world." More importantly, less furniture allows the space to be designed around the community of worshippers first and foremost. In some cases, this might require reducing the number of pews

and widening the space between them, arranging them in a herringbone or rectangular shape before the pulpit or altar, or replacing them with stackable chairs.⁶

Classic Design Case Study: A Tiny Church Removes the Pews. At the Church of the Epiphany in Newport, New Hampshire, parishioners removed the pews and stored them in a nearby barn. Next the wall-to-wall carpeting came out, the hemlock floors were refinished, and thirty lightweight, stackable chairs were bought and arranged in two semi-circles around the pulpit and a simple altar table. The inspiration came from the parish priest, the Reverend Jay MacLeod, who before coming to Newport served for twenty years in the United Kingdom, where he got to know Richard Giles. "The feel of worshipping in a circle makes it easy to worship here," a parishioner said. "It feels joyful and inclusive. People feel welcome to contribute," especially those who are not used to being in a church.⁷

What Are Your Options?

Redesigning a worship space need not be expensive. Banners, fabrics, and other objects can be used to decorate the sanctuary and alter its character. Furnishings can be moved or removed. Digital technology, sound equipment, and screens can be installed. All of these can be done without the expense of new construction. For some churches, the best option may be to erect a new building or buy an existing structure and adapt it as worship space, but why not try repurposing first?

1. "Figuring a Ballpark Estimate of Your Church Building Costs," The McKnight Group, <https://www.mcknightgroup.com/figuring-a-ballpark-estimate-of-your-church-building-costs>.

2. For example, Joyce Bowers, *Church Banner Designs* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2007); Betty Wolfe, *The New Banner Book*, New York, NY: Church Publishing, 1999).

3. Marcia McFee, *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages* (Truckee, CA: Trokay Press, 2016), 82-90.

4. Swee Hong Lim and Lester Ruth, *Lovin' on Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2017), 44-45.

5. James A Fenimore, Jr., *High-Tech Worship: Digital Display Technologies and Protestant Liturgical Practice in the U.S.*, Ph.D. dissertation, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2009.

6. Richard Giles, *Re-Pitching the Tent: The Definitive Guide to Reordering Church Buildings for Worship and Mission* (Norwich, Norfolk, U.K: Canterbury Press, 2004) 114, 111-120.

7. Bill Chaisson, "An Episcopal Church Remade by Many Hands," *Eagle Times* (Claremont, NH), July 3, 2018, https://www.eagletimes.com/news/an-episcopal-church-remade-by-many-hands/article_b5fc2598-7e77-11e8-a4b0-cff6e91782b0.html.

GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MAPPING

When Pastor Alexis was hired to do community outreach in a racially diverse, economically struggling neighborhood, church members told him, “This is a high crime neighborhood.” Yet he was skeptical. What if news reports placed undue importance on crimes and how much did church members’ personal experience with the community or crime generally color their perceptions? Checking city government maps of crime rates, he discovered crime to be no worse than in the surrounding areas.¹

Mapping Clarifies the Picture

Mapping can clarify the picture of a church’s neighborhood by filling out incomplete information or overturning misconceptions. It provides information visually on a geographic background and can be high tech or low. High-tech mapping combines the use of the global positioning system (GPS) with digital mapping software, which has replaced physical maps for many uses. Low-tech maps can be drawn with pencil and paper based on information provided by good, old-fashioned conversation.

Basic Mapping

Draw a basic map of the neighborhood before deciding how and where to reach out. Start by defining your community’s physical boundaries, including major streets, highways, railroad tracks, hills, and rivers. Next, look for anchor institutions—such as schools, hospitals, prisons, and military or recreational facilities—that are sources of power and decision making in the community and provide stability in moments of crisis. Finally, include gathering places, such as churches, parks, schools, service clubs, restaurants, taverns, and street corners.

The community’s people constitute a significant part of this analysis. To help you in this process, identify and gather a group to tell stories about the community. Include visual observations of the community by taking a quick drive or walk through the neighborhood, deliberately looking for the “invisible” people who are

marginalized and powerless. Finally, consider intangible forces, such as laws, cultural values, employment patterns, and job security.²

Conversational Mapping

Low-tech mapping can be informal and conversational. Paul Lichterman observed how a group of church volunteers used an informal mapping process to get to know the low-income neighborhood they served. The Park Cluster commuted monthly from their tree-lined suburban neighborhoods to the Park neighborhood, a multi-ethnic, low-income community. As they became more curious about neighborhood institutions, they began an informal process that the researcher labelled “social mapping.” Interviewees shared their stories: Ned talked about all the different thrift shops and Mary knew all about the local schools and could tell the group which ones had congregations and synagogues nearby that might be approached in the future to sponsor tutoring programs. Through their conversations, they carried around in their heads a shared mental map of the neighborhood, its resources, and its problems.³



“DOUG’S PAINSTAKING EFFORTS
TO MAP ESSENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS
WILL ENABLE US TO CONFRONT THE NEXT CRISIS
WITHOUT SQUANDERING VALUABLE TIME
SEARCHING FOR A DONUT SHOP!”

Digital Mapping

The recent emergence of wiki-platforms such as OpenStreetMap (OSM; OpenStreetMap.org) offers a place where interested persons can contribute to a single map, from assets such as grocery stores, banks, and thrift shops to hazards such as unshoveled sidewalks, reported crime incidents, and potholes. For church leaders willing to engage the newer forms of technology, wiki platforms offer churches a powerful community planning tool.⁴

Computer maps such as Google Maps are called geographic information systems⁵ and wiki-platforms such as OSM represent an open source version of Google Maps and are free for anyone to use or modify. Users can create overlays to the basemap provided by OSM, plugging in information they find useful for themselves. OSM applies the concept of crowdsourcing to mapmaking, operating in a manner comparable to Wikipedia, an encyclopedia whose contributors write and edit articles, subject to the review of other contributors who are part of the community. Church leaders could use online maps in at least two ways: for crisis response and for the mapping of communities too poorly resourced to have their own self-designed maps.

- **Crisis Response.** Mapping proved invaluable to aid workers in crisis response after the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti. Given Haiti's poverty, humanitarian aid workers found themselves hampered by only knowing where the major roads were. Here "citizen geographers" from around the world proved invaluable, developing a base map for humanitarian aid workers in the field.
- **Community Assistance.** Churches could work with low-income neighborhoods to develop collaborative maps to benefit residents. For example, commercial map makers have shown little interest in mapping the Kibera community of Nairobi, Kenya, a massive and impoverished section of the city, despite the fact that it is home to hundreds of thousands of people. Users of OSM created Map Kibera, which now serves as a comprehensive guide to data that matters for residents, such as water points, toilets, clinics, schools, pharmacies, places of worship, and non-governmental organization offices.⁶

Collaborative Mapping

If collaborative mapping could work for Kibera, it could make a difference for the resource-starved communities that many US churches serve. Such communities often lack features that middle- and upper-middle-

class neighborhoods take for granted, including high-quality schools; jobs that pay a living wage; banks that offer reasonably priced, non-predatory loans; and supermarkets with adequate selections of fresh foods. In order to improve the situation, churches could collaborate with local resident groups to create a map with features such as food banks, thrift shops, transportation points, and grocery stores offering fresh produce. Such data could not only help service providers but also public policy advocates seeking to bring change.

Sponsor a Mapping Party

Church leaders hoping to raise awareness of collaborative work might consider sponsoring a mapping party. Use the event to train volunteers in developing digital maps. Volunteers could learn how to download aerial photos and alter them using web browser-based editing software. Volunteers who prefer to explore the neighborhood themselves could go out for a walk, a bike ride, or drive around the community using GPS units to mark their location and notepads to write down the information, coming back later to record the data on a computer.

Collaborative mapping requires teamwork but not high-end technology. However, those with a technical bent can use wiki-platforms such as OSM to create a specialized, self-generated community map. Whether high-tech or not, mapping provides a way for community members to develop a sense of place through visually representing different aspects of the community in relation to its geography. When undertaken with others, mapping provides one more basis for building community.

1. "The Several Forms of Community Mapping," *Best Practice Briefs* No. 3 1998-1999, Michigan State University, <http://outreach.msu.edu/capablecommunities/documents/CommunityMapping1.pdf>.

2. Carl S. Dudley, *Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-Based Initiatives* (Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2002), 22-50.

3. Paul Lichterman, *Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America's Divisions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), 179.

4. Tina Nabatchi and Matt Leighninger, *Public Participation for 21st-Century Democracy* (Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2015), 272-73.

5. "GIS: Geographic Information System," National Geographic, June 21, 2017, <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/geographic-information-system-gis/>.

6. Sterling Quinn, "OpenStreetMap and Its Use as Open Data," <https://web.archive.org/web/20180609162822/https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog585/node/738>.

Nominations Needed

Please review and share this list of positions with **your** congregational leaders.

Ask people to recommend or consider a nomination.

Submit nominations by completing the form on the back (also available at www.neos-elca.org)

**The following positions will be filled by election at the
2020 Synod Assembly on June 12-13, John S. Knight Center, Akron**

SYNOD COUNCIL

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

3 year term

Akron-Wooster Clergy
Canton-Massillon Lay
Cleveland East Clergy
Cleveland East Lay
Cleveland West Lay
Eastern Clergy
Richland-Ashland Lay
Southern Lay
At Large - Young Adult Lay

Synod Council Officer (3 year term)

Secretary Lay or Clergy
(Synod council officer nominees will undergo a criminal background check.)

2 year term

At Large Youth (*LYO nomination*)

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – 6 year term – 1 Lay and 1 Rostered Minister

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

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – 6 year term – 2 Lay and 2 Rostered Ministers

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

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

Deadline for Submitting Nominations: **February 15**

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

2020 NOMINEE APPLICATION FORM

(Please include a photo of the nominee)

Nominee For: _____

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

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

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

Phone (please indicate cell or home): _____

Congregation: _____
(congregation name) (congregation city)

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

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

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

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

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

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

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

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

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

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

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

Email digital photo to kkaufman@neos-elca.org

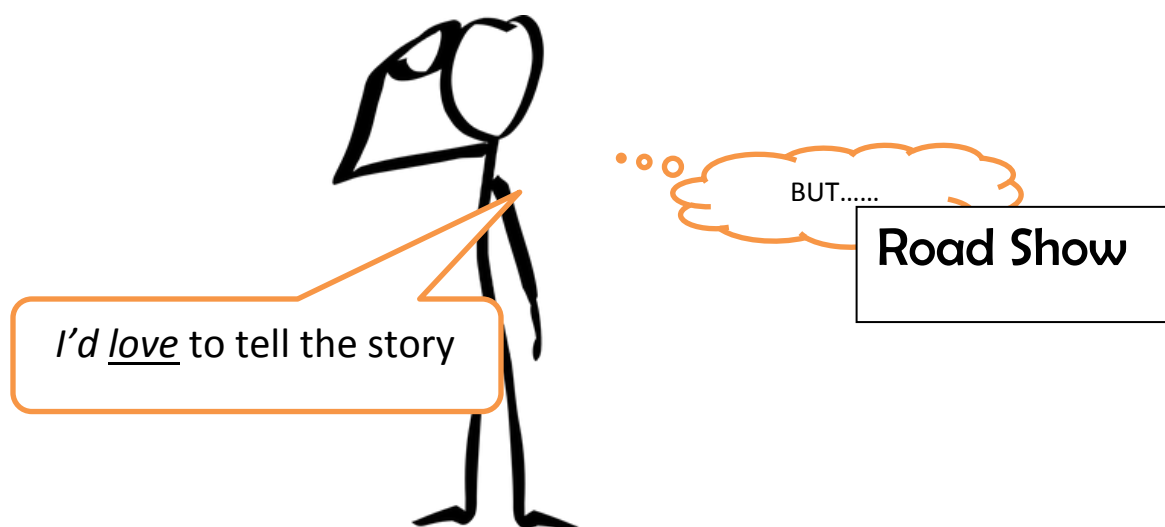
Has the nominee been contacted and consented to be nominated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Referred by or Submitted by (Self-nominations must have a referral): _____

Phone (primary): _____ (work): _____

Address: _____

Congregation (name): _____ (city): _____



Come learn how easy and affirming it is to share your faith story whether in personal conversations, a temple talk or in sharing the work of the greater church. The ideal opportunity for **ANYONE** wanting help with identifying and sharing their faith story.

Lay Congregational leaders
Lay Stewardship leaders
Lay Discipleship/Evangelism leaders
Lay Mission Interpreters

Comments from recent participants:

-The (content) was enough and easy to digest – leaving us with many good suggestions without being overwhelmed.

-Thank you for this workshop! I'll be more aware to share the story of Jesus and how God has helped and loved me.

2020 Locations:

Sunday, February 9 – 1 pm	Christ, Lorain
Sunday, March 8 – 3 pm	Emmanuel, Salem
Saturday, March 14 - 9- Noon	St. Paul, Berea
Saturday, May 16 AM	Martin Luther, Youngstown

Sponsored by NE Ohio Synod:

Discipleship/Evangelism Table
Stewardship Table
Mission Interpreters

*For more information
contact Karen Kaufman, Resource Specialist
330-929-9020/kkaufman@neos-elca.org*

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Leetonia, hosts "Doubt: A Parable," a production of The Rude Mechanicals Theater Company, February 14-23.

Set in a Bronx Catholic school, John Patrick Shanley's Tony Award and Pulitzer prize winning play DOUBT: A PARABLE is a powerful exploration of doubt and certainty, evidence and accusation. The year is 1964 and social changes have begun to affect the church. The school's first African-American student has arrived. Facing ostracism by the other students, the young Donald Muller is befriended by the progressive Father Flynn. But was this more than friendship?

The strict and stern Sister Aloysius, principal of the school, is certain that it is and takes it upon herself to delve into the nature of this relationship. Armed with her certainty, she begins a campaign of accusations against Father Flynn, starting a confrontation which will raise questions of the nature of doubt and certainty and the hierarchy of the church.

Caught in the middle of this circle of accusation and denial are the young, idealistic teacher Sister James and Mrs. Muller, the mother of the young man at the center of this controversy. Does anyone truly have the boy's best interest in mind? Or is he merely a pawn in this power struggle?

Directed by Mark Frost and starring PK Lankford, Rob Schmidt, Kim Akins, and Allyson Oyster, this thought-provoking work asks if there are any simple truths.

DOUBT: A PARABLE is a production of The Rude Mechanicals Theater Company. Six performances will begin on February 14th and run through February 23rd at St. Paul's Church in Leetonia, Ohio. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:00 p.m. with Sunday matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 for general admission and \$10.00 for students and seniors.

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ELCA Region 6 Spring 2020 Discernment Retreat

Friday, March 6, 11:30 a.m. @ Holiday Inn Express, Bowling Green, OH

Saturday, March 7, St. Mark's, Bowling Green, OH ending @ 1:00 p.m.

Are you feeling a "sense of call"?

Has anyone ever suggested that you would make a good
pastor, deacon or other type of church leader?

Do you feel God's Spirit tugging or nudging you to explore
spiritual gifts, passions, interests?

Do you have a willingness to lead God's people?

Are you curious about becoming a leader in the ELCA?



If you are wrestling with these questions, this retreat is for *YOU!*

For more information, please contact your Region 6 Candidacy Coordinator:

Indiana-Kentucky Synod - Pastor Heather Apel: hapel@iksynod.org

North/West Lower Michigan Synod - Lauren Kirsh-Carr: L.kirsh-carr@semisynod.com

South East Michigan Synod - Pastor Rosanne Anderson: randerson@mittensynod.org

Northeastern Ohio Synod - Pastor Angel Jackson: angel.n.jackson@gmail.com

Southern Ohio Synod - Dr. Lynn Nakamura: lnakamura@southernohiosynod.org

Northwestern Ohio Synod - Cheryl Sondergeld: cherylsondergeld@nwos-elca.org

Cost: \$150 - Single, \$95.00 Double

(Includes lodging at Holiday Inn Express, lunch and dinner Friday, Breakfast at hotel Saturday and luncheon at St. Mark's)

*You may request a roommate during registration process.

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/Spring2020Discernment>

Questions about registration? Please contact Cheryl Sondergeld, 419-423-3664

Holiday Inn Express

2150 E Wooster St, Bowling Green, OH 43402

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

315 S College Dr, Bowling Green, OH 43402