



## NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD

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E-MAIL [office@neos-elca.org](mailto:office@neos-elca.org)  
[www.neos-elca.org](http://www.neos-elca.org)

### UNIFIED MAILING

August 11, 2016  
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Next Unified Mailing: October 13  
Deadline for articles: October 3

**Unified Newsletter Changes.** To manage resources more effectively, we are moving to an all-electronic version of the Unified newsletter, beginning with the January 2017 issue. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter in paper format, please call or email the Synod office before January 2017 to let us know. We will continue to publish the Unified six times/year; submission deadlines will be announced in each issue. The new e-Unified will be sent to all email subscribers, and published on the Synod's web site, [www.neos-elca.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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!*

### **Ongoing Impact of the Reformation on Christian Unity: Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration 2016.**

Mark your calendars for the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration, October 23, 2016, a day of study and prayer with Bishop George V. Murry SJ and Bishop Abraham Allende, at Zion Lutheran Church, Canton. This Celebration begins the local observance of the Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017. The Celebration opens with registration from 2:00-2:30 p.m. and concludes at 6:30 p.m. followed by an optional supper prepaid with registration. The Reverend John Crossin OSFS, Executive Director, Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Council of Catholic Bishops, and Doctor Donald L Huber, Professor Emeritus, Church History, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, are guest speakers. Registration information will be available on the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant website, [www.lccovenant.weebly.com](http://www.lccovenant.weebly.com).

**The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival Celebration of the Reformation** will take place on Sunday, October 30, at 7:00 pm at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Alliance. Guest preacher will be the Rev. Hank Langknecht, Professor of Homilectics and Christian Communications at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. This annual celebration of the Reformation is a ministry of the seven congregations of the Eastern Cluster of the Canton-Massillon Conference. St Paul's is located at 3295 S Union Ave (St. Rte. 183), one mile south of State St. (US 62) at the second light. Look for more information in this month's issue of the Unified Mailing or on the synod website, [www.neos-elca.org](http://www.neos-elca.org). For questions please contact Pastor Jim Metzger at 330-823-8384.

**Lutheran-Catholic Dinner, August 25, 2016.** On behalf of the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission, Rev. Mark Williams, Pastor, Holy Trinity, Canton, invites clergy and rostered leaders and their spouses to the fourth annual Lutheran-Catholic dinner on Thursday, August 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m., hosted and given as a gift by Dr. Y.T. and Marilyn Chiu at their home. This is a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with our Roman Catholic friends who serve as clergy or professional lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Youngstown, and to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Dr. Chiu. Dress is casual. The Chiu's address is 5809 S. Raccoon Rd., Canfield, Ohio. RSVP by August 22 by email: [pastor.mark.htlc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.mark.htlc@gmail.com) only if you will be attending.

**Lutheran World Relief Ingathering.** The 2016 Lutheran World Relief Ingathering will be Saturday, October 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The box trailer will again be in the parking lot of Jerusalem, Seville (9282 Acme Road, Seville, Ohio) to receive the health kits, school kits, quilts, etc. for L.W.R. For more information or if you have any questions about the Ingathering, please call Jerusalem at 330-336-4770 or email: [mphyllis-jelc@neo.rr.com](mailto:mphyllis-jelc@neo.rr.com). We look forward to seeing you at this event.

**Upright piano available.** A member of Divinity, Parma, is offering his family's upright piano to any congregation in need of one. The Vose piano was manufactured in the 1890s and has been in his family since 1948. It has not been tuned since 2008, but is in good condition with all-working keys and pedals. Contact David Potter at 440-263-5330. Recipient will need to arrange pick-up.

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

**Organ Available.** St Jacob, North Canton has the following organ available to any congregation in need.

Rodgers Scarborough 110 electronic organ, purchased new in 1978:

AGO standard keyboard 2 manuals 61 notes / 32 pedals 2 4 8 16 fagotto / Internal and external speakers /

Leslie rotating speaker element for tremolo / 1 expression shoe / Transposer -4 to +4 / Headphone jack /

Silent play with headphone / Owner's manual

This organ is in very good working order and has been kept-up well with repairs to the volume shoe and start key system in April 2015. Due to its age they are not asking for money for it but would like to see it go to a church who can use it to enhance their worship and allow it to continue to bring glory to God! If interested, please call the church office at 330-877-2676 or contact Karen Gay, organist, at 330-896-0345.

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

**Choir Robes.** First, Beach City has 12 green & gold choir robes to give away. Please call Ann Shetler at 330-879-2840 with inquiries.

# NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD

August 11, 2016

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*Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.*

[Ephesians 4:29 NRSV]

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

You may have noticed that we are in the midst of a Presidential election year.

For the next however many days remain until November 8, Election Day 2016, television commercials will be constantly acclaiming the virtues of political candidates. Your mailboxes will be crammed full of flyers and leaflets asking for your vote for a myriad of issues. And not to be left out, you will receive an endless number of emails soliciting your support by way of a financial campaign contribution, volunteering your time making phone calls, or door-to-door appeals.

All this is well and good. We should be a part of the political process. As our ELCA Social Statement, *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, states: "The Gospel does not take the Church out of the world but instead calls it to affirm and to enter more deeply into the world."

There is, however, another side to this political process that we should all find distasteful. Candidates and their surrogates seem to go out of their way to make points by demeaning their opponents. These attacks go beyond mere disagreement on fundamental issues, they become personal. Commercials, slogans, and campaign speeches are full of sweeping generalizations about individuals or entire groups of people; labeling, defaming and demeaning their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs.

The effect of this is that we tend to get caught up in the fervor of what passes for support of our candidate or our issue. Without giving it much thought, we take on that identical disposition, becoming an echo chamber for those same commercials and slogans we claim to detest.

The idea of defaming, insulting and maligning those whose opinions differ from ours goes against all that we are taught as people of faith.

The eighth commandment states that: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Martin Luther, in his *Small Catechism*, goes on to explain the commandment this way: "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors,

betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

Several passages in Holy Scripture also inform us on this matter. One I most often rely on is the fourth chapter of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, a verse of which is cited at the top of this letter.

It is exhausting to live in an environment of incessant degradation and disparagement. Yet that has become part and parcel of political campaigning in our country today. Many have grown immune or indifferent, threatening to withdraw altogether from the process.

Will political campaigns become any less contentious? Most likely not. Yet we cannot lose sight of the fact that despite the divisiveness of the discourse, God is active in the midst of it. How? Through us.

Our challenge as Christians and as the Church is to demonstrate to the world that there is a better way. Imagine how different our society would be if we worked at ways of really having serious discussion about issues that affect all of us without resorting to hostile rhetoric and name calling! It is difficult, but it is what I believe Christ calls us to pursue.

As the apostle Paul tells us in the final verses of Ephesians: *“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”* [Eph. 4:31-32]

The last seven words of that reading are key: *“as God in Christ has forgiven you.”*

We are a broken and fallen humanity, but by God’s mercy, Jesus gave his life on the cross for us and for our forgiveness. In the waters of baptism, we were reborn children of God. God’s love is greater than the ways of the world. As the body of Christ, we are joined to God’s mission, called to grow in faith, and make God’s love known on earth.

As we proceed toward November, I would hope none of us shies away from the political process. But I pray we approach it in such a way that witnesses to the love of God in you.

Blessings!



+Bishop Abraham D. Allende

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

*Important reminder about background checks: Congregations are called to be safe places for all members, and every ELCA congregation is responsible to have established guidelines and policies protecting all members. When hiring church workers, please remember the importance of background checks. Your congregation should have official guidelines in place to safeguard members against abuse. For more information about background checks and guidelines: [www.elca.org/backgroundchecks/](http://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](mailto:mmatevia@neos-elca.org), or 330-929-9022, ext. 22*

**Teaching Positions Open.** Messiah Lutheran School of Fairview Park, Ohio seeks two half-time or one full-time middle school (grades 6-8) teachers for the 2016-2017 school year, with possible contract renewal for future years. One half-time position is available in religion; one half-time position is available in social studies. The two positions may be combined into a full-time position with benefits if a candidate is well-qualified for both. For more information about Messiah School and these teaching positions, please visit: <http://www.messiahschoolfairview.org/news-details.php?nid=142>

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

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

**Organist/digital keyboard musician.** Abiding Savior, Alliance, is seeking a skilled organist & digital keyboard musician. Performance and accompaniment for Sunday morning worship service. Ideal candidate would also be available to lead and instruct choir. Classified as a part time position. Salary commensurate with experience. No benefits. Must be at least 18 years of age. Qualified candidates can call Bonnie at (330) 823-1434 during regular business hours or email [mmrittner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmrittner@sbcglobal.net).

**Director of Congregational Ministries.** Holy Trinity, Akron, is seeking qualified applicants with experience for the position of Director of Congregational Ministries (part time - 20 hrs/wk) to coordinate congregational life and outreach/mission activities, including, but not limited to, facilitating the identification and expression of members' spiritual gifts, promoting member involvement in Holy Trinity activities and encouraging volunteer response to community activities, coordinating and supervising the development of programs that enhance the congregation's life together, coordinating, supervising, and participating in the visitation ministries of the congregation, identifying and developing outreach/mission opportunities outside of the congregation and coordinating Holy Trinity's participation in such mission activities. Interested applicants may submit their résumé to [jrstef@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrstef@roadrunner.com). If you would like more information, contact John Stefanik at 330-666-3579 or email [jrstef@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrstef@roadrunner.com). Applications may be obtained and submitted at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, OH 44304 (330-376-5154).

**Church Custodian.** Large downtown Akron church seeks capable individual to perform general custodial and maintenance duties for multi-floor facility, including all aspects of cleaning and minor repair, indoors and out. Schedule includes some evenings and Sunday mornings. Full or part time considered. Obtain application from: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect, Akron 44304, phone 330-376-5154 or email [jrstef@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrstef@roadrunner.com). For more information, contact John Stefanik at 330-666-3579.

**Full time Youth and Family Ministry, Christian Education and Campus Outreach.** Trinity, Kent is searching for a full time position for youth and family ministry, Christian education and campus outreach. This person will provide mentoring and leadership for current youth programs and help redevelop Christian education into a multi-spectrum approach for youth and families. We're looking for someone who is passionate about their faith, is a team player, wants to link youth and families in the process of Christian education and connect youth to the life of the congregation. For a complete job description go to [www.trinitykent.org](http://www.trinitykent.org) or call Pastor Doug Fidler at 330-673-5445.

**Interim Organist Position.** The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, is seeking a part-time Interim Organist to provide music leadership and accompaniment for one worship service on Sunday morning and at other occasional services of the church. The church has a 1997 tracker action Goyer pipe organ. Excellent keyboard skills are needed. Bachelor's degree, familiarity with liturgical worship and choral experience are preferred. A \$150.00 bench fee per Liturgy. \$75.00 per weekday Liturgy. Please send resume or request for a detailed job description to The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8235 Memphis Ave, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144; or by email to the [office@goodshepherdelca.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdelca.org).

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

**Youth Leader.** St. Paul, Berea, is searching for a youth leader to help with their high school ministry program. This person should be present with the youth in worship at least twice a month and lead two youth events and a fellowship activity each month. The position will consist of approximately six to seven hours per week. The congregation's desire is for those who apply to be willing to become part of a church family, not just have a job. For more details, please go to [www.stpaulberea.org](http://www.stpaulberea.org)

**LOMO Program Director at Lutheran Memorial Camp.** The LOMO Program Director at Lutheran Memorial Camp is directly responsible for programming summer camp, retreats, special events, environmental education and congregation day camps; assists the director in the management of overall camp operations; and works in partnership with others to implement the vision, direction, mission, ministry, goals and purpose of LOMO. This is a year round full-time exempt position. Qualifications include a commitment to the Christian faith and a willingness to live out your faith in word and action; a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; previous work experience in outdoor ministries, congregational ministries, environmental education or recreation; a commitment to the mission and ministry of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries as a unique setting for faith formation, renewal, creation stewardship and the ministry of hospitality. For more information contact Rod Pearce, Director of LMC and Mowana at [rpearce@lomocamps.org](mailto:rpearce@lomocamps.org) or 419-864-8030.

***Congregations in the Call Process***

- Alliance, Abiding Savior, Dan Cammarn, interim
- Austintown, Grace, Barbara Bartholomew (PCUSA), interim
- Bay Village, Bethesda-on-the-Bay, Robin Craig, Interim (PCUSA)
- Broadview Heights, Triune, Will Burkett, supply & Maple Heights, Covenant, Paul Stork, supply (two-point call)
- Cuyahoga Falls, St Luke's
- Fairview Park, Messiah (associate)
- Lakewood, Trinity, Angela Freeman-Riley, interim
- Lorain, First
- Marshallville, St Michael, called Lucas Merritt, accepted
- Massillon, Faith, called Emily Seitz, accepted
- Massillon, Holy Trinity, Mark Sherwindt, interim
- Massillon, St Paul, Ron Jefferson, interim
- New Philadelphia, Emmanuel, called Scott Nellis, accepted
- North Canton, Zion, Hal Robarge, interim
- Petersburg, St John/New Springfield, Emmanuel, called Erin Burns, accepted

***Ordinations***

- Pastor Erin Burns
- Pastor Lucas Merritt
- Pastor Scott Nellis
- Pastor Emily Seitz

***Transitions***

- Pastor Pamela Czarnota, retirement
- Pastor Robert Linz, retirement
- Pastor Paula Maeder Connor, retirement
- Pastor Judy McGuire, retirement
- Pastor Sue Rogers, retirement
- Pastor Mark Sherwindt, retirement
- Pastor Miguel Acosta, call accepted, Shepherd of the Valley, Sandyville
- Pastor Steven Woyen and Pastor Eileen Woyen, to SE Minnesota Synod

***Recently Ill or Hospitalized***

- Susan Anderson, wife of Pastor Wally Anderson
- Pastor Karen Biggerstaff
- Pastor Richard Bowen
- Pastor Sharon Brown
- Pastor Will Burkett
- Pastor Kristy Buyok
- Pastor Joe Ertl
- Debbie Brenner Garnes, wife of Pastor Herb Garnes

- Pastor Fred Grosse
- Pastor Denise Gundersen's stepson, Erik
- Pastor Carol Kilgore
- Lou Raymond, husband of Pastor Aimee Raymond
- Ruth Sander, mother of Pastor Bob Sander
- Pastor Lynn Williamson's daughter, Megan

***On-going Prayers***

- Pastor Béla Bernhardt
- Pastor Sharon Brown's sister, Ann
- Mary Collins, wife of Pastor Lang Collins
- Pastor Duane Culler
- Pastor John Furno
- Pastor Jaclyn Gasior
- Pastor Ted Grotjohn
- Pastor David Hammel
- Pastor Walter Heber
- Pastor George Keeler
- Pastor Tim Keeler
- Pastor Gerald Keller
- Pastor Jim Kennell
- Ron Kilgore, husband of Pastor Carol Kilgore
- JD Kuzmik, son of Pastor Rhonda Gallagher
- Pastor Dean Lewis
- Pastor Bob Linsz
- Pastor Diane Lundgren
- Pastor Victor Myers
- Pastor Alan Nathan
- Ruth Ann Paynter, mother of Pastor Ann Paynter
- Pastor Dan Rossbach
- Pastor Brian Rossow
- Pastor Richard Shibley
- Pastor Bob Springer
- Rae Van de Motter, wife of Pastor Patrick Van de Motter
- Pastor Rick Warger
- Louise White, wife of Pastor Robert White
- Jil Williams
- Pastor Jim Zingale

***Sympathy***

- The family and friends of Pastor Renato Siewert

***Congratulations***

- Pastor Ken and Joy Hacker on the birth of a granddaughter, Lily Jaina Hacker

If you are aware of any changes to the "Recently Ill" or "Ongoing Prayers" list, please contact the synod office to let us know: 330-929-9022, or [office@neos-elca.org](mailto:office@neos-elca.org) 8/9/2016

# NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

## AUGUST

- 8-13 Churchwide Assembly, New Orleans  
16 6:00 pm, Shared Ministry, NEOS Conference Room  
19-20 Candidacy Retreat, Camp Mowana, Mansfield  
27 10:30 am, Synod Ordination, Zion Lutheran Church, Youngstown

## SEPTEMBER

- 5 Synod Office & Resource Center Closed  
8 Cleveland East Conference Meeting  
10 10:30 am, Installation of Scott Nellis, Emmanuel, New Philadelphia  
11 4:30 pm, Installation of Emily Seitz, Faith, Massillon  
13 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Portico Pre-retirement Seminar, St Stephen, Stow  
14 12:00 pm-3:00 pm, Congregational Resource Team, NEOS Resource Center  
15 Akron-Wooster Conference Meeting  
6:00 pm, Executive Committee-Synod Council, NEOS Conference Room  
17 10:30 am, Installation of Erin Burns, parish of St John, Petersburg and Emmanuel, New Springfield  
18 1:00 pm, Worship Committee, NEOS Conference Room  
20 10:00 am, Ecumenical Committee, NEOS Conference Room  
22-27 Trinity Days  
25 4:30, Installation of Lucas Merritt, St Michael, Marshallville

## OCTOBER

- 7-8 Region 6 Discernment Retreat, Hillsdale, MI  
15 8:30 am, Synod Council, Bethany English, Cleveland  
17 Synod Office & Resource Center Closed  
23 2:00 pm, Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration, Zion, Canton  
25 Eastern Conference Meeting  
26 12:00 pm, Congregational Resource Team, NEOS Resource Center  
30 7:00 pm, 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival Celebration of the Reformation, St Paul's, Alliance

## STAFF VISITS FOR THE COMING WEEKS

### *Bishop Abraham Allende:*

- August 14 Churchwide Assembly  
August 21 Lorain County Lutheran Outdoor Worship  
September 10 Emmanuel, New Philadelphia  
September 11 Advent, Solon; Faith, Massillon  
September 17 Parish of St John, Petersburg & Emmanuel, New Springfield  
September 18 Emmanuel, N. Georgetown  
September 25 Zion, Youngstown; St Michael, Marshallville

### *Pastor Biermann:*

- August 14 St Mark, Tallmadge  
August 21 Grace, Wadsworth  
September 10 Emmanuel, New Philadelphia  
September 11 Faith, Massillon  
September 17 Parish of St John, Petersburg & Emmanuel, New Springfield  
September 18 First, Strasburg  
September 25 St. Michael, Marshallville

### *Pastor Terrance Jacob:*

- August 21 Lorain County Lutheran Outdoor Worship



## **NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD PULPIT SUPPLY LIST**

### **The 2016 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, 2016, 54 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 following persons have indicated their availability for pulpit supply:**

**The Rev Shari Ayers**

207 Diller St.  
Pandora, OH 45877  
614-460-0186  
[shari.ayers@gmail.com](mailto:shari.ayers@gmail.com)

**The Rev Loranelle Breyley**

80 High Point Dr. Unit 66  
Medina, OH 44256  
248-850-6357  
[sunshinedancer2@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinedancer2@gmail.com)

**The Rev William Burkett**

1951 Fowl Rd Apt B-3  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440-567-9062  
[weensue@yahoo.com](mailto:weensue@yahoo.com)

**The Rev Langley Collins**

1310 Fifth Ave Apt 605  
Youngtown, OH 44504  
(H) 330-286-5409  
(cell) 330-720-9872  
[lmcollins@zoominternet.net](mailto:lmcollins@zoominternet.net)

**The Rev David Craig**

3119 Driftwood Rd.  
Norton, OH 44203  
330-825-0291  
[davebevraig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davebevraig@sbcglobal.net)

**The Rev Barbara Essex (UCC)**

11205 Euclid Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
(O) 216-421-9614 ext. 301  
(H) 216-772-2325  
[barbara.upcam@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.upcam@gmail.com)

**The Rev Stephen Fisher**

4058 Castlewood Court  
Perry, OH 44081  
(H) 440-259-3747  
(cell) 440-413-9286  
[stepfish@gmail.com](mailto:stepfish@gmail.com)

**The Rev George Gaiser**

944 Dussel Rd.  
Kent, OH 44240-6524  
330-678-9287  
[gjgaiser@att.net](mailto:gjgaiser@att.net)

**The Rev Frank Gross**

1020 Federal Ave.  
Alliance, OH 44601  
330-823-8943  
[pastorgross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorgross@sbcglobal.net)

**The Rev Elizabeth Hazelton**

9396 Brandywine Rd  
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-2480  
330-468-0412  
[pastorbetti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastorbetti@sbcglobal.net)

**The Rev Kermit Lauterbach**

32844 Woodspring Cr.  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
440-748-3490  
[klauterbach@oh.rr.com](mailto:klauterbach@oh.rr.com)  
single services only

**The Rev Clyde McGee**

1751 Cedar Chase Dr.  
Akron, OH 44312-4880  
330-784-5361  
[mcgeecp@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:revdeb51@yahoo.com)

**The Rev George Murphy**

538 Cynthia Lane  
Tallmadge, OH 44278-2884  
330-524-4090  
[gmurphy10@neo.rr.com](mailto: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  
(cell) 440-679-1943  
[bobdell@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bobdell@ix.netcom.com)

**The Rev Haldon Robarge**

12015 Lagoon Circle NW  
Uniontown, OH 44685  
330-760-3925  
[hrobarge@neo.rr.com](mailto:hrobarge@neo.rr.com)

**The Rev Robert Sander**

4818 Leigh Ave NW  
Canton, OH 44709-1943  
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*Clergy supply list for the Episcopal  
Diocese of Ohio can be found at:  
[www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).*

# Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman  
[boreman4@yahoo.com](mailto:boreman4@yahoo.com)

## Time after Pentecost, Lectionary 22—Christ the King (and Thanksgiving Day) Year C

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.

### August 28, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 22

H	E532/W718	Here in This Place (Gather Us In)
H	E462/L203	Now We Join in Celebration
II	E716/L419	Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
II	E760/W778	O Christ the Same
II	E880/W797	O God Beyond All Praising
II	WP87	Let There Be Praise
II	E482	I Come with Joy
HG	E651/W750	O, Praise the Gracious Power
S	E509/L239	God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
	E676/L403	Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak
S	E705/L415	God of Grace and God of Glory
	E712/L423	Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
G	E807/L499	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
S	E551/W723	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
	E720/WP147	We Are Called

### September 4, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 23

H	E667/L398	"Take up Your Cross," the Savior Said
HG	E802/L487	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
I	E772/L480	Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways
Ps	WP72	I Will Delight
HG	E757/W782	All My Hope on God Is Founded
HG	E660/L377	Lift High the Cross
HG	E798	Will You Come and Follow Me
HG	E810/L503	O Jesus, I Have Promised
	E731/L558	Earth and All Stars!
	E651/W750	Oh, Praise the Gracious Power
	E760/W778	O Christ the Same
G	E880/W797	O God Beyond All Praising
G	E583,685/L406	Take My Life that I May Be
	E808	Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
	E801/WP28	Change My Heart, O God

### September 11, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 24

H	E789/L481	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
H	E779/L448	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
Ps	E745/L438	Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
Ps	E765/L469	Lord of All Hopefulness
II	E834/L526	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
II	E609/L306	Chief of Sinners Though I Be
II	WP151	We Rejoice in the Grace of God
HG	E676/L403	Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak
HG	E502/L456	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
HG	E447/W695	O Blessed Spring
HG	E608	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
HG	E477/W700	I Received the Living God
S	E544/L196	Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoicing
G	E707/L424	Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
G	E786/L459	O Holy Spirit, Enter in

### September 18, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 25

H	E587-8/L290	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
H	E583,685/L406	Take My Life, that I May Be
I	E717/W763	Let Justice Flow like Streams
I	E720	We Are Called
I	E710	Let Streams of Living Justice
Ps	E569/L274	The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended

Ps	WP40	From Where the Sun Rises
HG	E678/L408	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
S	E545/L259	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
S	E655/L364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
G	E713/L416	O God of Every Nation
	E858-9/L543	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
G	E891/L569	God Bless Our Native Land
G	E822/W795	Oh, Sing to the Lord
	E678/L408	God, Whose Giving Know No Ending

### September 25, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTNRY 26

H	E690	We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord
H	E655/L364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
I	E546	To Be Your Presence
Ps	E877/L539	Praise the Almighty!
Ps	WP13	Awesome God
II	E473/L165	Holy, Holy, Holy
II	E827/L516	Arise, My Soul, Arise!
HG	E729/L433	The Church of Christ, in Every Age
HG	E750/L325	Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
HG	E532/W718	Here in This Place (Gather Us In)
HG	E712/L423	Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
S	E825/L252	You Servants of God
G	E678/L408	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
	E810/L503	O Jesus, I Have Promised
	E723	Canticle of the Turning

### October 2, 2016

H	E633	We've Come this Far by Faith
H	E796/L507	How Firm a Foundation
I	E600/L295	Out of the Depths I Cry to You
I	E863	My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
II	E517/L230	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
II	E802/L487	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
HG	E605/L307	Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
HG	E405/W680	O Spirit of Life
HG	E527/L253	Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
G	E883/L245	All People that on Earth Do Dwell
S	E545/L259	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
G	E729/L433	The Church of Christ, in Every Age
S	E839-40/L533-4	Now Thank We All Our God
S	E679/L563	For the Fruit of All Creation
G	E526/W719	God Is Here!

### October 9, 2016

H	E833/L560	Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices
H	E610/L360	O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come
I	E618/L343	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
I	E453/WP14	Baptized and Set Free
II	E802/L487	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
II	E812-13/L500	Faith of Our Fathers
HG	E357/L111	Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless
HG	WP81	Kyrie Eleison
HG	E839-40/L533-4	Now Thank We All Our God
HG	E886/L559	Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
	E655/L364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
G	E848/L520	Give to Our God Immortal Praise
G	E858-9/L543	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

G E822/W795 Oh, Sing to the Lord  
S E845 Voices Raised to You

E418/W689 Rejoice in God's Saints

**October 16, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 29**

H E790/W746 Day by Day  
H E745/L438 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright  
Ps WP159 You Are My God  
Ps E871/L542 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good  
II E507/L237 O God of Light  
II E676/L403 Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak  
II E514/L231 O Word of God Incarnate  
HG E706 The People Walk  
HG E769/L453 If You but Trust in God to Guide You  
E503-5/L228-9 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
S E539/L263 Abide, O Dearest Savior  
G E596-7/L293-4 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
S E624/L341 Jesus, Still Lead On  
S E776/L446 What God Ordains Is Good Indeed  
G E737/W768 He Comes to Us As One Unknown

**October 23, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 30**

H E606/W733 Our Father, We Have Wandered  
H E631/L315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
I E600/L295 Out of the Depths I Cry to You  
II E815/W649 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
HG E615/W739 In All Our Grief  
HG E601/L91 Savior, When in Dust to You  
HG E893/L401 Before You, Lord, We Bow  
G E757/W782 All My Hope on God is Founded  
S E537/L260 On Our Way Rejoicing  
G E865/L549 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven  
G E251/W730 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness  
S E541/L220 O Jesus, Blessed Lord  
S E796/L507 How Firm a Foundation  
E614/W737 There Is a Balm in Gilead  
G E 556/WP98 Morning Has Broken

**October 30, 2016 REFORMATION SUNDAY**

H E517/L230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word  
H E654/L369 The Church's One Foundation  
Ps E503-5/L228-9 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Ps E713/L416 O God of Every Nation  
II E590/L297 Salvation unto Us Has Come  
II E594/L299 Dear Christians, One and All  
II WP25 By Grace We Have Been Saved  
II E591 That Priceless Grace  
G E596-7/L293-4 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
S E327/L355 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow  
S E652/L365 Built on a Rock  
G E759/L479 My Faith Looks Up to Thee  
S E665/L393 Rise, Shine, You People!  
S E645/L367/W747 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation  
E729 The Church of Christ in Every Age

**November 6, 2016 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

H E420-1/L177-8 By All Your Saints  
H E426/W691 Sing with All the Saints in Glory  
Ps E731/L558 Earth and All Stars!  
II E456/W693 Baptized in Water  
II WP113 Open Our Eyes, Lord  
S E449/L189 We Know that Christ Is Raised  
G E631/L315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
G E632/L320 O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
S E873-4/L553 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart  
S E826/W801 Thine the Amen  
E424/L175 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones  
E654/L369 The Church's One Foundation  
G E414/L535 Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
E427/L176 For All Your Saints, O Lord

**November 6, 2016**

H E361/L141 The Day of Resurrection!  
H E426/W691 Sing with All the Saints in Glory  
I E619/L352 I Know that My Redeemer Lives  
II E526/W719 God Is Here!  
II WP131 Stand in the Congregation  
HG E441/L351 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand  
S E517/L230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word  
G E628/L331 Jerusalem My Happy Home  
E621/L340 Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense  
S E618/L343 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer  
G E647/L358 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken  
E820/L514 O Savior, Precious Savior  
G E835/L527 All Creatures Worship God Most High  
G E879/L561 For the Beauty of the Earth  
S E826/W801 Thine the Amen

**November 13, 2016 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 33**

H E766/L366 Lord of Our Life  
H E785/L346 When Peace Like a River  
I E553/L265 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies  
Ps E824/L554 This Is My Father's World  
Ps E731/L558 Earth and All Stars!  
Ps WP73 I Will Sing, I Will Sing  
HG E517/L230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word  
HG E796/L507 How Firm a Foundation  
HG E870/L241 We Praise You, O God  
HG E327/L355 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow  
S E890/L332 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory  
G E693/L407 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
S E785/L346 When Peace Like a River  
G E632/L320 O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
E723 Canticle of the Turning

**November 20, 2016 CHRIST THE KING**

H E838/L518 Beautiful Savior  
H E430/L171 Rejoice, for Christ Is King!  
I E634/L328-9 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!  
Ps E724/L436 All Who Love and Serve Your City  
II WP135 The Church Song  
II E834/L526 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
II E416/L179 At the Name of Jesus  
HG E811/L102 On My Heart Imprint Your Image  
HG E343/L94/W661 My Song Is Love Unknown  
HG E599/L309 Lord Jesus, Think on Me  
HG E637 Holy God, Holy and Glorious  
S E854/L525 Blessing and Honor  
S E434/L530 Jesus Shall Reign  
G E842/L548 Oh, Worship the King  
S E439/W744 Soon and Very Soon

**November 24, 2016 THANKSGIVING DAY**

H E694/L412 Sing to the Lord of Harvest  
H E689/L409 Praise and Thanksgiving  
Ps E884-5/L564-5 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow  
Ps E883/L245 All People that on Earth Do Dwell  
Ps WP87 Let There Be Praise  
II E867/L552 In Thee Is Gladness  
II E873-4/L553 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!  
HG E461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly  
HG E693/L407 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come  
HG E480/L222 O Bread of Life from Heaven  
G E485/W702 I Am the Bread of Life  
G E618/L343 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer  
E E680-1/L362 We Plow the Fields and Scatter  
S E881/L557 Let All Things Now Living  
S E870/L241 We Praise You, O God

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

**THE 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
REFORMATION**



Reformation Sunday  
October 30, 2016  
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  
The Rev. Hank Langknecht  
Professor of Homiletics and Christian  
Communications  
Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus,  
Ohio

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 the  
Reverend James B. Metzger,  
330-823-8384.



We are indeed  
fortunate to  
have as this  
year's  
Reformation  
Service  
preacher, the  
Rev. Hank  
Langknecht,

Professor of Homiletics (preaching) and  
Christian Communications at Trinity  
Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

Henry J. Langknecht (who goes by Hank)  
was born on November 2, 1956, near  
Ithaca, New York. His parents are both  
living though divorced, and he has one  
brother. He grew up and graduated from  
high school in Cherry Hill, New Jersey,  
and attended Stetson University in  
DeLand, Florida, where he received a  
Bachelor of Music in Theory and  
Composition. His principal instrument  
was piano. While in college, he met his  
wife, Shirila, whom he married in August,  
1980.

His religious upbringing was a mixed  
bag: baptized Methodist; confirmed

Presbyterian; attended a Southern Baptist  
university; and married by an Episcopal  
priest. It was after college that he was  
first exposed to Lutheranism when he  
became a choir director at Faith Lutheran  
Church in DeLand. At Faith his duties  
included adult, children, and bell choirs,  
some youth work, and worship planning.  
During Lent 1981, he volunteered to fill a  
space in the mid-week sermon schedule  
and delivered his first sermon on April  
Fool's Day, 1981. As Pastor Lyle Sucher  
and he left church that evening, Sucher  
leaned over and said, "You're going to  
seminary."

One year later, in the spring of 1982,  
Langknecht entered Trinity Lutheran  
Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. He  
interned at St. Mark Lutheran Church in  
Norwich, Connecticut, and finished his  
course work in the fall of 1985. In  
March, 1986, he accepted a call to serve  
as pastor at First English Lutheran  
Church, Marysville, Ohio.

There Langknecht remained until  
receiving an offer from Trinity Lutheran  
Seminary to attend graduate school with  
the promise of filling a faculty position in  
homiletics. He began graduate studies in  
homiletics at Emmanuel College of the  
University of Toronto, Ontario, in  
September, 1996, where he also served as  
interim pastor of St. Ansgar Lutheran  
Church and was a regular supply  
preacher at Runnymede United Church.

In January, 2000, Hank and his family  
returned to Ohio so he could begin  
teaching homiletics (preaching) at Trinity  
Lutheran Seminary.

He received his doctorate (Th.D.) in  
2008; his dissertation area was the  
"Literal Sense of the Pericope for  
Preaching." In Fall, 2008, Hank was  
installed into the Haman-Pfahler Chair  
for Christian Communications. His  
teaching areas at Trinity are preaching,  
parish communication, urban ministry  
and the emergent/missional conversation.  
His major research/reading interests are  
the literal sense of the Bible; biblical  
interpretation for preaching; metaphor  
and imagination; the emergent/missional  
church; and sermon form and  
composition.

Hank stays connected to parish life  
through his membership at Gethsemane  
Lutheran Church, Columbus; regular  
contributions to Workingpreacher.org  
and *Sundays and Seasons*; and frequent  
teaching and preaching gigs in  
congregations around Columbus.

Hank and Shirila have two sons, Adam (b.  
1987) and Jacob (b. 1988). Adam is a  
CPA in the Washington D.C. area; Jake  
is a drummer in Cincinnati with a day job  
as a barista. Hank and Shirila currently  
share their home with a schnauzer named  
Zeke. Hank's personal interests and  
hobbies include bicycling, slow-water  
kayaking, movies, reading, and puzzles  
of all sorts.

**ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
WORSHIP WITH US AND TO HEAR  
PASTOR LANGKNECHT.**

## Congregations Blessed by New Friends

“We feel devastated if we have to miss a visit with our friends at Hattie Larlham,” says Sandy French of *Rejoice! Lutheran in Hudson*. She is part of a ministry team that leads monthly worship at the Hattie Larlham campus in Mantua, a residential facility serving young people who have multiple disabilities. A number of congregations in the NE Ohio Synod are making similar efforts to reach out to people in their communities who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In addition to Rejoice! Lutheran, *Advent Lutheran in Solon* and *Lutheran Church of the Master in Bedford* “companion with” several local group homes that are also operated by Hattie Larlham. *All Saints Lutheran in Olmsted Falls* companions with a local group home operated by Welcome House. In all these cases, a ministry team from the congregation visits the home on a regular, at least monthly, basis to share in singing, study, prayer and fellowship. “The best part is being the family of God together as we spend time with our Hattie Larlham friends,” says Janet Juliano, another member of Rejoice! Lutheran.

*Messiah Lutheran in Fairview Park* has for a number of years offered a Sunday morning Bible Class with the residents of two nearby group homes, all of whom are members of the congregation. *Messiah Lutheran in Lyndhurst* and *Bethel Lutheran in Middleburg Heights* both offer a mid-week Community Bible Class attracting participants from a number of group homes operated by different providers. Tom Fox, pastor of Messiah in Lyndhurst, explains that “this ministry has literally opened the doors for Messiah to become a more inclusive congregation.” Carol Krajewski coordinates ‘God’s Faithful Followers’ at Bethel Lutheran, now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year. “It’s just as much fun and just as rewarding now as when I first became involved in 1990!” she says. “The participants truly are our friends.”

Many of these ministries were started with the help of Eric Kretzmann, Disability Ministry Consultant with Bethesda Ministries. His services are available at no cost to any congregation in the synod wanting to begin, strengthen or expand a disability ministry. He can be contacted at [eric.kretzmann@mailblc.org](mailto:eric.kretzmann@mailblc.org) or 440-222-2477.

## Preparations for Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation: Ecumenical Relations Committee

Your Ecumenical Relations Committee has been working diligently through the year to bring about Synod-wide activities towards the commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. October 23, 2016, there will be a special service at Zion Lutheran, Canton, celebrating the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant of the Youngstown Diocese and the NEO Synod. On October 29, 2017, there will be Evening Prayer at St. Colombo in Youngstown commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Reformation provides a unique opportunity to dialogue with other ecumenical partners and especially the Roman Catholic Church during the coming year. Here in NE Ohio the Synod has engaged in continuing talks with the Roman Catholic churches of the Youngstown Diocese through the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission. We also have churches in the areas of the Cleveland and Steubenville Dioceses. You may already have a working relationship with a Catholic church in your town that would provide a local venue for working together in a prayer service, study group or service of your choosing. The committee would like to know how you are planning to commemorate this memorable anniversary. We already have the following churches that have shown interest: Westlake Prince of Peace; Brecksville Christ the Redeemer; Lorain First Lutheran; Stow St. Stephen; Fairlawn Faith Lutheran; and Ravenna St. Paul. Please contact any member of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, Bob Springer, Chair, to share your plans or questions.

Numerous resources are available to help you prepare for this event, e.g., [Prayer Intentions for Lutheran and Catholic Congregations](#), [Common Prayer](#), and for Book Study Groups: [One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ](#) (available via [www.store.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.store.augsburgfortress.org)), [From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017](#) ([www.elca.org/Resources](http://www.elca.org/Resources)), [From Conflict to Communion Study Guide](#) ([www.elca.org/Resources](http://www.elca.org/Resources)), and [Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist](#).

## *Your LINK to the Ministry Resources of Northeastern Ohio*

Volume 20  
Issue 7

August 2016

### NE Ohio Synod Resource Center

1890 Bailey Road  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
44221-5259

Phone: 330-929-9020  
Fax: 330-929-9018  
Email: [rc@neos-elca.org](mailto:rc@neos-elca.org)

#### Staffed Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thurs-  
day 9-3

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.

Karen Kaufman,  
Resource Specialist

### Family Faith Formation

Resources for Christian Education or Faith Formation are continuing to be developed with recognition of the increasing using of digital opportunities. One new resource for infants and their families is **FROLIC**. It combines regular contact with parents to resources for in the home and in the church nursery. Resources include a sturdy bound Bible story book plus board books for family and church nursery use. The on-line subscription allows congregations to sign up the family of an infant for a monthly link or app of age appropriate developmental tips for growing children along with suggested faith formation activities. The online subscription also provides a constantly updated activity guide for leaders to use with children in the church nursery and other classes. Poster and music CDs add to the experience in the church setting. To learn more register for a webinar at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) or contact the resource center. We have full samples of the books, posters and CD's to review. Congregations that sign up by October 31, 2016 will receive a free one year subscription of online **FROLIC: Little Steps, Big Faith** by visiting [www.wearsparkhouse.org](http://www.wearsparkhouse.org)

Another way to support families in faith formation is to provide links to articles or suggested activities. [www.Vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.Vibrantfaithathome.org) currently provides free articles and activities to support faith development for couples, young families, families with teens and young adults.

Articles from [www.buildfaith.org](http://www.buildfaith.org) can be used with your own scriptures suggestions in Facebook groups to encourage others in sharing their own favorite verses. [See "Spiritual Fun with Dry Erase Markers" ]

### Faith Formation Leaders

Leaders for faith formation in the congregation are invited to share their most successful Rally Day event or God's Work. Our Hands service activity on Sept. 15 from 10—Noon at the synod resource center. Brainstorm with others and be inspired for future events in your own congregation. View actual full samples of the new FROLIC materials. See what else is new in the resource center. RSVP for a light lunch at noon to continue conversation.

*For resource updates between newsletters visit [www.twitter.com/resources4U](http://www.twitter.com/resources4U)*

## Reaching the Nones

Congregations or clusters of congregations wanting to reach those particularly of the younger generation who currently are not active in the congregation may want to read together the book, ***Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation***. Each of the eight chapters raises awareness for the differences in generations and provides questions to start helpful conversations in how your congregation can acknowledge and support the differences. The resource center has a copy available for loan or can be purchased through Amazon.

## New Arrivals

***Becoming the Transformative Church*** emphasizes the need for healthy leadership and actions in a congregation.

***Clergy Retirement: Every Ending a New Beginning for Clergy, Their Families and Congregants*** helps pastors with all the transitions of moving into retirement. Whether you have set your retirement date or are considering the possibility read this book to prepare yourself for this significant life change in vocation.

***The Gospel Next Door: Following Jesus Right Where You Are*** encourages and challenges the reader to look at the needs of the local community and respond accordingly. Young adults may find this book inspiring. To view the group discussion and learn more visit. [www.thegospelnextdoor.com](http://www.thegospelnextdoor.com)

***Heart in Focus: A Faith Focused Financial Course*** is an alternative to the Dave Ramsey course. The resource center has a copy of the student workbook for you to preview. To learn more about this program visit [www.HeartinFocus.com](http://www.HeartinFocus.com)

***How Can I Let Go if I Don't Know I'm Holding On*** helps readers to see what attitudes they may be holding that keep them from being spiritually transformed. Questions with each chapter aid individual reflection and the section of group guidelines facilitate group discussion.

***Reformation 500 Sourcebook: Anniversary Resources for Congregations*** contains materials for worship services and sermon helps; educational opportunities in the congregation and with ecumenical partners as well as 12 bulletin inserts and a Reformation timeline. Recommendations of resources including websites provide even more options and ideas for commemorating this significant event in history.

***Special Needs Parenting: From Coping to Thriving*** is helpful for individual reading and designed to be an excellent resource for a parent support group. An understanding leader and this book could be a new outreach ministry for your congregation.

***A Very Present Help: Psalm Studies for Older Adults*** is written for individual or group study. This book specifically helps older adults connect the psalms to the joys and struggles of aging. This would be an excellent faith conversation resource in an independent or assisted living community.

## Healthy Bodies, Minds and Spirits

With the approach of cooler temperatures we can again encourage people to walk on a daily basis. ***Christ Walk: A 40-Day Spiritual Fitness Program*** provides helps for personal or group reflection while walking in a way that strengthens one's body, mind and spirit. And now there is a ***Christ Walk Kids*** edition for those 11 years and up. Encourage families or intergenerational teams to walk and talk their way into a better health with these resources. Preview a copy through the resource center.



## WHEN CHARITY BRINGS ANYTHING BUT RELIEF

Is it possible that our best intentions can do more harm than good? Sadly, relief organizations tell us that well-meaning people don't think before they give. Some involved in humanitarian work after a natural disaster call the deluge of unwanted donations "the second disaster."

Juanita Rillig, director of the Center for International Disaster Information, described what happened after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004: So many donated clothes were piled on an Indonesia beach that workers had no time to sort and distribute them. The clothing pile became toxic and local officials had to destroy it all. They poured gasoline on it and sent it out to sea.<sup>1</sup> She related another example of unfortunate waste when contributors sent 100,000 liters of water to West Africa at a cost of \$300,000. Relief organizations with portable water purification units could have provided that same amount of water for \$300.

Following the December 2012 shooting tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, more than 60,000 teddy bears arrived from around the country, along with toys, bicycles, and clothes. Already overwhelmed, residents had to get a warehouse to hold it all.

### Crisis Relief or Chronic Needs?

Because Americans are compassionate, they tend to respond initially with their hearts rather than their minds. Even Warren Buffett admitted that it is much easier to make money than it is to give it away wisely. The first step is assessing whether an event is a crisis or a reflection of ongoing chronic needs.

*Crisis relief.* Churches and people of faith offer the best immediate crisis relief when they make smart cash donations to trusted organizations. In most cases, sending supplies is simply not practical. Responding to a crisis with immediate relief is likely a month-long effort.

*Chronic needs* call for complex solutions, hard work, and long-term commitments. The commitment required when tackling these situations is likely an effort of years or decades.

When well-meaning people behave as if they are addressing a crisis rather than a chronic need, the long-term results are dependency, deception, and disempowerment.<sup>2</sup> Churches need to engage strategically in both types of charity efforts.

### Making Meaningful Change through Mercy and Justice

Many congregations involve members in mission trips and volunteer opportunities in local service projects. Unfortunately, too many mission trips or local service projects are not a wise investment, do not significantly improve quality of life, and do not relieve poverty for the intended community. For example, the funds spent for one Central American ministry mission trip to repaint an orphanage would be enough money to hire two local painters, pay the salaries of two full-time teachers, and purchase new uniforms for every school student.<sup>3</sup>

The Bible contains the basic template for guiding us to holistic charity because it places equal emphasis on



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WE'VE ALREADY EXCEEDED LAST YEAR'S  
"AIR CONDITIONERS FOR THE ARCTIC" MISSIONS PROJECT.

mercy and justice. Micah 6:8 instructs us: “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” To act justly means that we treat others fairly, with reason, and *involve them in all decision making*. These acts engage our minds. On the other hand, merciful acts reflect heartfelt responses. To act with mercy in our work with others means that we show compassion, kindness, and forgiveness. Combining mercy and justice suggests that immediate relief comes with a future plan in mind and avoids long-term dependency.<sup>4</sup> Showcasing these principles, one church closed their successful used clothes closet run by volunteers and reopened it as a clothes store (with modest prices) that employed people in the neighborhood, thus reducing dependency and providing agency to community members.

### **An Oath for Wise Compassion**

Too often our intent contrasts sharply with the actual impact. Because every change has consequences, we must carefully examine outcomes. Robert Lupton draws on his forty years of urban ministry experience to suggest an oath for compassionate *and* wise partnerships similar to the medical profession’s Hippocratic Oath.<sup>5</sup> Here are key guidelines for empowering those we assist.

- Never do for the poor what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
- Be an encourager or partner rather than a caretaker.
- Use one-way giving in crises. Try partnership approaches when addressing chronic needs.
- Establish empowering partnerships through employment, lending, and investing. The micro-loans of Opportunity International ([www.opportunity.org](http://www.opportunity.org)) and the community development approach of World Vision ([www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)) are two excellent examples.
- Always put the needs of those being served first, even if it makes your efforts less efficient and more frustrating.
- Listen closely to what is said and unsaid by those you are serving. The unequal power dynamic of the interaction can lead to harmful assumptions.
- Above all, do no harm.

### **Diversified or Focused Investment?**

Attention to outcomes leads to a strategy shift. The size of the budget or the number of volunteer hours is irrele-

vant to making a difference. To effect significant change requires centered concentration on specific places and issues. When we define our service mission too broadly, we scatter our church’s energy and resources. Lupton recommends that congregations ditch the diversified, “balanced portfolio” and commit to measurable and lasting change by focusing investment in one person, one family, and one neighborhood at a time.<sup>6</sup>

Consistent with an asset-based community development model (<http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>), focused investors search for local residents’ skills and existing resources. When church partners flip their binocular lens to see community positives, like seeing the glass half-full, they catch sight of basic strengths that become building blocks for healthier communities. There is a universal desire to live in a healthy community. And the criteria for a healthy community is also universal: safety for everyone, good schools, economic viability, opportunities for employment, residential stability, community connections, and spiritual vitality.<sup>7</sup>

Located in a low-income community, the Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, exemplifies this type of a long-term, focused investment strategy. As a church, they strive to lift up the “diverse gifts of our neighbors and members, not their deficiencies.” They say, “We see abundance.”<sup>8</sup> By having conversations and listening for opportunities, they find ways to connect and invest in their neighbors.

### **Final Questions**

A community ministry worth doing is a ministry worth examining. Here are the key questions: Is your church engaged in community development ministry? If so, can you name your target neighborhood and the church’s transformation goals? Are your church’s efforts focused on efficiency or effectiveness? Are you focused on the rewards you receive from service or the measurable benefits received by your community partners?

1. Scott Simon (<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/when-disaster-relief-brings-anything-but-relief/>). See donation guidelines (<http://www.cidi.org/wp-content/uploads/CIDI-Donation-Guidelines.pdf>).

2. Material drawn from Robert D. Lupton, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help* (New York: Harper-Collins, 2011), 56.

3. *Ibid.*, 5.

4. *Ibid.*, 41–42.

5. *Ibid.*, 8–9.

6. *Ibid.*, 76.

7. *Ibid.*, 135.

8. <http://www.broadwayumc.org/pages/who.html>.

## MULTIPLE ROADS TO A MULTICULTURAL CONGREGATION

“We’re not sure how to do it but we believe we should become a multicultural congregation,” the pastor said. “How can we move from our dreams to a plan that achieves results?”<sup>1</sup>

### Multiculturalism in the United States

Here are the realities that any effective multicultural-congregation strategy must take into account.

- Assume that the U.S. will continue to attract about one million foreign-born adults each year, an annual increase of about 2.5 percent. Immigrants and their U.S.-born children now make up about 26 percent of the U.S. population—about 81 million people.<sup>2</sup>
- The leading country for new immigrants is India, followed by China, Mexico, Canada, and the Philippines.<sup>3</sup>
- Approximately 51 percent of immigrants are female.
- For the vast majority of new residents, English is not their first language. Further, half of the 42.1 million U.S. immigrants reported limited English proficiency (LEP).
- The overall percentage of foreign-born adults who are college-educated is about the same as native-born adults (29 percent vs. 30 percent).
- Some states draw a larger number of immigrants. The top five states in terms of absolute numbers are California, Texas, New York, Florida, and New Jersey. But between 2000 and 2014, the largest percentage growth was in Tennessee, Kentucky, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Carolina.
- Currently almost half of all immigrants chose to become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Typically, participation in the labor force is the clearest path to assimilation. Immigrants account for 17 percent of the civilian labor force—a percentage that more than tripled since 1970. In

contrast, worshiping in an established congregation ranks far behind an immigrant’s desire for education, health care, and other benefits of living in the U.S.

- The broad categories of “Hispanic” and “Latino” serve as umbrella terms for distinct subgroups of immigrants, who identify themselves in term of the country of their birth (for example, Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, or Haiti).
- Organizing one congregation that is both multiracial (for example, members are African American and American-born Caucasians) and multicultural (the church intentionally engages people from multiple cultures) is extremely challenging.

### Multiple Roadmaps

Congregations pursue different models depending on their specific community and available leadership. Here are proven steps a congregation can take to actively pursue a multicultural congregation.



FLETCHER

“TO BECOME A MULTICULTURAL CHURCH,  
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*Bicultural leadership.* The congregational leader is an immigrant or in a bicultural marriage. Potential members believe the pastor will understand the issues that arise as a family navigates life across cultures. Other worshippers, who are not immigrants or in a bicultural family, value diversity and appreciate the experiences and perspectives of different people.

*Multiple sites and multiple cultures.* An existing, predominantly Anglo, church launches a second site served by an immigrant associate pastor. The organizational structure is similar to a multi-campus congregation with one name, one budget, and unified staff. The church launches additional sites as interest and groups are identified. Leaders coordinate some shared activities to build relationships across groups.

*One site, multiple cultures.* A common model implemented by a predominantly Anglo congregation is a “nested” worshiping community. For example, the first hour of the worship schedule is three different worship experiences in three separate rooms: one in English, one in Spanish, and one in Korean. Following these separate services, the second hour is integrated church school classes. Again, leaders plan many shared activities to build relationships across groups.

Another one site, multiple cultures model that is less common happens over a long period of time. One immigrant family joins an Anglo congregation. Then, they invite another family in their circle and over time more people connected through culture or immigrant experiences become part of the worshiping community. Usually in these cases, success stems from the strong support of a long-tenured pastor and other church leaders invested in deepening relationships across cultures.

*Nested educational offerings.* An Anglo congregation offers a Christian Day School (preschool through elementary or beyond) and intentionally extends invitations to families with immigrant and ethnic minority children from the community. The operational assumption is that the parents will follow their children and eventually become part of the worshiping community.

*Affinity judicatories.* Denominations define regional boundaries primarily on geography. However, another approach is to define a judicatory based on cultural or racial affinity—one judicatory for recent Korean immigrants; another separate judicatory structure for Mexican Americans or African-Americans. This strategy recognizes the high value groups place on indigenous leadership development and self-governance.

*Merged congregations.* Another approach is when an immigrant congregation, now largely made up of American-born adults who are the children of earlier immigrants, decides to unite with a predominantly Anglo congregation. Both recognize that by sharing resources they can grow their ministries and together write a new chapter in their collective history.

*New missions.* The road least traveled is the decision to launch a new congregation, designed from the beginning to reflect demographic and cultural diversity.

## **Build on Shared Commonalities**

A multicultural church is not a melting pot—a worshiping community where the unique beliefs and behaviors of different cultural groups disappear. The tendency is for the dominant indigenous group in the church to feel that the minority cultures should give up their cultural identity once they become part of the congregation. To transform a collection of people into a unified congregation requires respect for cultural identities and constructive communication that builds trust.

While respecting differences, find points of commonality, such as: (a) commitment to children’s education; (b) support for bicultural families; (c) the same first language; (d) similar age or marital status; (e) same stage in their faith development or shared theology; (f) shared preference for the type of worship style; (g) shared experiences in ministry with Christians in a sister church in another country; and (h) active engagement with a community social issue or advocacy efforts. The larger the number of points of commonality and/or the choices a congregation offers, the better its chances of becoming multicultural over time.

## **A Journey—Not a Destination**

Like all other congregations, the multicultural church never achieves perfection or absolute harmony. They too are a work in progress, ever evolving to become closer to being the body of Christ.

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1. Material updated from Lyle Schaller, “Seven Roads to a Multicultural Congregation,” *The Parish Paper*, November 2009, Vol. 17, No. 11.

2. Jie Zong and Jeanne Batalova, “Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States,” April 14, 2016, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>.

3. To explore immigrant populations by state and county see <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-immigrant-population-state-and-county>.