



Northeastern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

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UNIFIED NEWSLETTER

September 21, 2018

Volume 31 — Issue 5

Published 6 Times a Year

Next Unified Publication: Oct 19
Deadline for articles: Oct 15

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

Please remember to let the Synod office know if your Unified job postings, equipment offers or requests, etc., have been filled!

SAVE THE DATE! 2019 PROFESSIONAL LEADERS RETREAT, JANUARY 22-24. Online registration begins October 1 for the 2019 Professional Leaders Retreat, January 22-24. Pastors, deacons and full-time church professionals from all three Ohio synods are invited to the retreat at Sawmill Creek Resort, 400 Sawmill Creek Dr., Huron, OH 44839. The early, discounted registration deadline is November 15, 2018. The final registration deadline is November 30, 2018 (NO exceptions due to venue contract considerations). The theme is "Spirituality," featuring Keynote Presenter Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, professor of systematic theology, Wartburg Seminary, and Special Presenter Rev. Dr. Javier (Jay) Alanis, executive director, Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest. Both speakers will offer their unique insights into the Holy Spirit's work in creating enriching unity within diversity. Watch for additional information in the weekly e-news.

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Comment deadline approaching for the "Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice": September 30. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ invites you to read and evaluate the "Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice." Receiving input from all spheres of the church is essential to create a

strong social statement. Feedback is being gathered through Sept. 30th, 2018. The Social Statement will be presented for consideration by the Churchwide assembly in 2019. The document, information about the development of the social statements, biographies of the task force and resources for further study can be found at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft>. You can provide feedback to the task force by email or mailing in the form at the back of the document.

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

+ + +

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

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Foreign Mission Project (submitted by Marilyn Wilson): Two years ago, **Faith Lutheran Church, in Fairlawn, OH**, took on a foreign mission outreach commitment in **Chang Mai, Thailand**. **House of Hope** and the **House of Grace**, founded in 1996, is home to orphans and children who, through no fault of their own, have been neglected or abandoned by their parents and relatives. The House of Grace has rescued many of these children and provides them with a safe home and a good Christian based education. The foundation has to rely on the generosity of others to help provide for every day living expenses, school tuition, uniforms and school supplies.

The foundation's mission is to see the children grow, develop and strive for a better future despite their deprived and troubled past. House of Hope and Grace is a place where love endures regardless of the circumstances of the children's background.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, Faith is now supporting six children. It is my hope that other ELCA congregations would want to take on a similar mission. I would be very happy to have these churches contact me and I would work with them so that they too can help these children lead a happy and productive life.

You can check the Youth Charity Foundation out at www.facebook.com/youthcharityfoundationchiangmai

My Contact Information:

Marilyn Wilson

Tel: 330.608.8817

[email:marsiewilson7@gmail.com](mailto:marsiewilson7@gmail.com)

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [Hebrews 10:23-25]

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

A portion of my parish visitations are to celebrate church anniversaries.

I would guess that in any given year in our synod, a half-dozen churches celebrate significant anniversaries. This fall alone, I've witnessed two 150-year celebrations and a 200-year anniversary, while my colleagues in the synod office are also asked to be present at others.

One of the things I like to do whenever I prepare to preach at an anniversary celebration is research the history of the church. It gives me insights into the community, the people, their experiences of joy and pain, and how they always work together to become who they are.

They go through many changes – in pastors, locations, language, and even ethnic background. The people who gather to worship each Sunday now are much different from the ones who first established the congregation, no matter how recently or far back they began.

But in the things that really matter, most congregations basically remain the same.

The gospel continues to be proclaimed and Christ is made know in that community. That in itself is also a challenge, because the church no longer occupies the

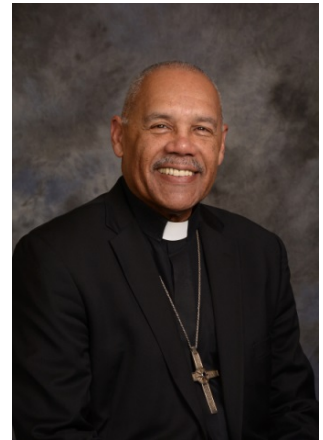
position of authority it once had in our American society. The church has been fighting a constant battle against those who do not believe. That battle has intensified in recent years.

According to a statistic in *The Parish Paper*, three out of every thousand congregations close their doors each year. Ironically, younger congregations have a greater mortality risk than long-established ones [TheParishPaper.com, November, 2014].

Remembering a congregation's history is helpful, but it is not enough to merely look back. An anniversary is a time to look forward and make renewed commitments for the new circumstances of the future.

In my March/April newsletter article, I introduced the ELCA's Vital Congregations initiative and I will merely say here that you'll hear about it more frequently in the months to come.

Regardless of how many changes are in store, God is faithful throughout human history. The circumstances may change, yet the mission and ministry, the essential task



of the Christian community remains the same. We mark an anniversary through remembering God's faithfulness, understanding our identity before God, and rededicating ourselves to God's continuing work.

One thing I consistently tell congregations is that the most important experience that happens in any church building is worship. It is from your gathering together each week that all ministry flows. It is where you are fed with the word and sacrament and are sent out into the world to make the name of Christ known to others by your words and by your deeds.

Worship can make us an incredible witness. When you and I worship, we have no idea how we might be making a difference in the lives of others.

The key words in the introductory verses above, in my opinion, are: *"not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some."*

When we do not neglect to meet together to gladly hear and learn the Word of God, we are promised in Word and Sacrament the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

When we do not neglect to meet together, we are able to confess the truth about ourselves that we are yet sinners in need of that Faithful Redeemer who alone can deliver us from all the temptation, empty promises and twisted logic that the world has to offer.

When we do not neglect to meet together, we become bearers of the Word of God,

free to do ministry in Jesus' name and to the Glory of God without seeking self-glorification.

When we do not neglect to meet together, we hold fast to our confession of hope without wavering. Because when Christ made that single sacrifice for sin once and for all, He made it possible that we might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

People who live as God's people see things differently. So especially in this day and age it is important to remember that who the church is cannot be separated from who Jesus is. God has promised to be present with God's Church even to the end of the age. And for that we say, "Thanks be to God!"

Peace and blessings!



+Bishop Abraham D. Allende

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

- 22 9:30 am, **Bishop's Gathering**, Zion, Wooster
- 23 8:30 am & 11:00 am, **Installation**: Deacon Lindsay Bailey, St. Matthew, Medina
- 25 9:30 am, **Canton-Massillon Conference Gathering**, Advent, Uniontown (Bishop Allende attending)
- 26 12:00 pm, **Worship Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
- 29 10:00 am, **Cross Cultural Conversations**, Lutheran Center, Resource Center

OCTOBER

- 4 9:30 am, **Cleveland West Conference Gathering**, First Lutheran, Lorain (Bishop Allende attending)
- 6 9:30 am, **Bishop's Gathering**, Grace, Austintown
- 9 9:30 am, **Richland-Ashland Conference Gathering**, Peace, Ashland (Bishop Allende attending)
- 11 9:30 am, **Cleveland East Conference Gathering**, Peace, Cleveland Heights
- 12:00 pm, **Assembly Planning Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room
- 16 9:30 am, **Southern Conference Gathering**, Emmanuel, New Philadelphia (Bishop Allende attending)
- 18 9:30 am, **Akron-Wooster Conference Gathering**, Grace, Wadsworth
- 19-20 4:00 pm, **Synod Council Retreat**, Camp Mowana
- 22 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed**
- 24 10:00 am, **Ecumenical Committee**, Lutheran Center, Conference Room

NOVEMBER

- 6 9:30 am, **Eastern Conference Gathering**, Zion, Youngstown (Bishop Allende attending)
- 22-23 **Lutheran Center and Resource Center Closed – Thanksgiving**

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

- Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
- Sept 23 Trinity, Carrollton
- Sept 25 Advent, Uniontown
(Conference Gathering)
- Oct 4 First, Lorain (Conference
Gathering)
- Oct 6 Grace, Austintown (Bishop's
Gathering)
- Oct 7 Advent, Cleveland
- Oct 14 Good Soil Lutheran
Ministries, Lakewood
- Oct 16 Emmanuel, New Philadelphia
(Conference Gathering)
- Nov 6 Zion, Youngstown
(Conference Gathering)
- Nov 11 Salem, Wooster
- Nov 18 Church of the Master,
Bedford; First, Strongsville
- Nov 25 Emmanuel, Warren

Pastor Karl Biermann

- Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
- Sept 23 St. Matthew, Medina
- Sept 30 Shepherd of the Valley,
- Oct 7 Sandyville
Peace, Ashland
- Oct 21 Rejoice!, Hudson
- Oct 28 Living Word, Medina
- Nov 4 Peace, Canton
- Nov 11 Emmanuel, Elyria

Pastor Julianne Smith

- Sept 22 Zion, Wooster
- Sept 23 Kountze Memorial,
Louisville
- Sept 29 Our Saviour, Hinckley
- Sept 30 Our Saviour, Hinckley
- Oct 6 Grace, Austintown
- Oct 13 Good Hope, North Lima
- Oct 14 Good Hope, North Lima;
St. Matthew, Medina
- Oct 21 St. Matthew, Medina
- Oct 28 Christ, Struthers
- Nov 4 St Stephen, Stow
- Nov 6 Zion, Youngstown
(Conference Gathering)
- Nov 10 Holy Trinity, Akron
(Cross-Cultural Conv.)
- Nov 18 Zion, Valley City

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

Bass/Baritone Choir Section Leader. Holy Trinity, Akron has enjoyed the leadership of four choral section leaders and is seeking a bass/baritone section leader. This person would need to be available for Thursday rehearsals from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Sunday services (gather at 10:30 a.m.; sing at 11:00 a.m. and festival Sundays at 8:30 a.m.) Throughout the year there are other midweek festivals and events in which this choir participates. Section leaders take turns serving as cantor for liturgical music, and offer solos at the 8:30 a.m. service on a rotating schedule. Trinity Choir strives to offer a wide variety of high-quality literature over the course of a season. This is a paid position. For further details or to request an audition, contact Deacon Ruth Anderson at 330-376-5154 or 330-388-5586.

Pianist/Organist. Emmanuel, New Philadelphia is in search of a Pianist/Organist for their weekly Sunday service. Emmanuel offers competitive pay with four vacation Sundays annually, in addition to continuing-education funding. If interested, please contact the church at 330-364-7571 or office@emmanuelnp.com.

Youth Ministry Director. Advent, Mentor is looking for a part-time (20 hours, flexible) Youth Ministry Director. Responsible for developing relationships, implementing programs and engaging our youth, millennials and young families in all we do.

Duties and responsibilities: Recruit and work to develop a cadre of volunteers to ensure the success of these ministries; Use social media skills to expand Advent's reach and engage a broader membership base including younger people and millennials; Conduct youth retreats; Assist in intergenerational events; Perform related administrative duties of the position; Other duties assigned by the Senior Pastor

Qualifications: Demonstrated experience in youth ministry; Passion for working with children and youth to engage and nourish their Christian faith; Social media savvy; Bachelor's degree in youth ministry preferred but not required

Special demands: Must pass background check and complete child safe training

Send resume to pastorstevebond@aol.com, or to the church: Advent Lutheran Church, 7985 Munson Rd., Mentor, OH 44060.

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

Part-time Pianist. Trinity, Norton is looking for a part-time pianist to play all 10:00 a.m. Sunday services, with additional services during special seasons (eg. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.), select appropriate hymns/contemporary Christian music, and the general planning of all church services. A familiarity with Lutheran (ELCA) liturgy is a plus. If interested please call or email Jewellee Smith at 330-825-3217 / jewelsmith1979@gmail.com.

Congregations in the Call Process (Call Committee Installed)

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

Transitions

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

Congratulations

- Pastors Paul Jaster & Laurie Miller on the birth of a granddaughter, Annika Marie

Recently Ill or Hospitalized

- Pastor Scott Bacon
- Pastor Joseph Ertl
- Karen Kaufman, NEOS Resource Center Specialist
- Deacon Louise Manke
- Pastor Clyde McGee
- Lutheran-Catholic Covenant partner The Most Rev. George V. Murray, Bishop Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
- Pastor Jeffrey Plummer
- Pastor Donald Rice
- Pastor Rosalina Rivera

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

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

Sympathy

- Pastor Wally Anderson on the death of his father
- Pastor Lang Collins on the death of his wife, Mary
- Family and friends of Pastor Frank Gross
- Family and friends of Pastor Charles Lundquist
- Pastor Scott & Debra Henderson on the death of her father, Richard Lyman
- Family and friends of Pastor Edith (Susie) Palmquist

If you would like to add the name of a rostered minister – your own or someone else's – to the Unified's list of "on-going prayer concerns," please contact Marilyn Matevia at the Synod office: 330-929-9022, ext. 22;

mmatevia@neos-elca.org

Unless otherwise requested, individuals will be included on the list for two editions of the Unified.



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The 2017 NEOS Compensation Guidelines state: Those asked to serve as pulpit supply should be contacted well in advance of the date needed and, upon acceptance, be provided with a copy of the worship bulletin and pertinent information about the service. A member familiar with congregational worship practices should be on hand to welcome the pastor prior to the service. The recommended honorarium for one worship service is \$150 plus mileage at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate- beginning **January 1, 2018, 54.5 cents/mile**). Travel reimbursement should also include turnpike tolls. For additional services, scheduled within three hours of the conclusion of the initial worship service, whether at the same congregation or at another, as in two-point parishes, an additional \$50 per service should be paid plus any additional mileage. If additional services are scheduled during the week that are similar in nature e.g., Sunday evening, Wednesday, Saturday, etc., an additional honorarium of \$85 for each additional service plus mileage at the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate (see above) should be paid. For additional responsibilities, appropriate compensation should be provided. Expenses for lodging and meals, if necessary, are to be paid by the congregation. (Contractual interim pastors are reminded that they are responsible for obtaining supply in their absence.) *The current Pulpit Supply list is also available on the NEOS website under the "Resources" tab.*

The following persons have indicated their availability for pulpit supply (additional supply pastors from denominations in full communion with the ELCA can be found on page 2):

The Rev Byron Arledge
1500 Sackett Hills Dr.
Akron, OH 44313
330-730-8808

The Rev Shari Ayers
207 Diller St.
Pandora, OH 45877
614-460-0186
shari.ayers@gmail.com

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

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

The Rev 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

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

The Rev Jeff Goggins
137 Conger Ave.
Akron, OH 44303
330-620-7531
gogginsfamily5@gmail.com

The Rev Frank Gross
1020 Federal Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601
330-823-8943
pastorgross@sbcglobal.net

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

The Rev James Metzger
1681 Raywood Rd.
Alliance, OH 44601-3670
330-823-8384

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

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

The Rev 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 Lagoon Circle NW
Uniontown, OH 44685
330-760-3925
hrobarge@neo.rr.com

The Rev Robert Sander
4818 Leigh Ave NW
Canton, OH 44709-1943
(H) 330-497-7293
(C) 419-973-7773
rev1bobs@aol.com

The Rev Richard Seaks
10778 Liberty Street
Garrettsville, OH 44231-1210
330-527-8104
revseaks@gmail.com

The Rev H Dixon Slingerland
147 Barrington Place E
Aurora, OH 44202
330-995-6101
slingerlandh@gmail.com

The Rev Edward Wahl (NWOS)
2856 St. Rt. 529
Cardington, OH 43315
419-864-0850
revedwahl@hotmail.com

The Rev Richard Weaver (NWOS)
2214 Stahlwood Dr.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
(C) 419-591-8594

The Rev Gail Zackrison (NW PA Synod)
5480 Harold Dr.
Edinboro, PA 16412
814-734-5831
ghzack@aol.com

Continued...

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

Lucas McSurley

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Wilmington, OH 45177
937-725-5587
lucasmcsurley@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

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

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

UCC continued...

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
216-956-8475 (cell)
bshields80.bs@gmail.com

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

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

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

Last updated 9/20/2018

Your LINK to Ministry Resources

NE Ohio Resource Center

September
Volume 22, Issue 9

Options for Conversation & Study

Encourage Bible Study with these brief, animated videos found at www.thebibleproject.com

Viewing discussion/study guides can be helpful in narrowing down potential resources for small group conversations. For instance for young parents check out www.augsburgfortress.org/little-steps-big-faith-DG for parents of young children.

Everyone can benefit from the **Dialogues On:** series that helps people learn new communication skills. This dvd-based series is available from Augsburg Fortress. We have a copy of the first topic: **The Refugee Crisis** available for preview. Informational video segments lasting for 6-10 minutes are central to the curriculum. Available as a free download is an excellent resource for ALL discussion facilitators titled "Navigating Tough Topics". Visit the "Dialogues" page at wearesparkhouse.org to download this resource.

The American Conscience is a documentary on Reinhold Niebuhr. **Select Learning** has created a study guide for congregations wishing to view and discuss this film. Click on this link to view the study guide: <https://www.selectlearning.org/sites/default/files/study/Congregational-Study-Guide.pdf>

Congregations with an interest in social ministry may find value in offering the small group course **Prophetic Voices** will provide a basis for planning and action for social justice as well as provide communication and advocacy training. This course is available through **SELECT LEARNING**. https://www.selectlearning.org/store/all/prophetic-faith-starter-kit?utm_source=June+18%2C+2018&utm_campaign=June+18%2C+2018&utm_medium=email

A new series of books is being published that could be helpful for individuals and support groups: The **Living with Hope** series will address the issues of unemployment, chronic illness, parenting, or the pain of broken relationships. The series presents compassionate, emotionally honest guidance through authentic insight and personal narratives.

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
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rc@neos-elca.org

Thanks for your prayers, patience and understanding these past 2 months while I was out of the office due to a broken arm. I hope to regain full use of my arm in the coming weeks.

Karen

A Response to Suicide

The opioid crisis produces increased suicides. This link provides resources to help a congregation in the role of preventing suicides. <https://suicidepreventionministry.org/resources-for-clergy-lay-leaders/>. The resource center has also added these resources to its collection: ***Bruised and Wounded: Struggling to Understand Suicide*** which can be helpful for personal reading; and ***Reclaiming Life: Faith, Hope, and Suicide Loss*** a dvd to support their loved ones.

Valuable Link

“My Neighbor is Not for Sale” is an excellent resource for creating awareness of sexual exploitation as well as prevention. You can download this four-part guide at www.cherishallchildren.org

New Arrivals

Church Mergers: A Guidebook for Missional Change by Thomas G. Bandy and Page M. Brooks shares the vision and process for the energizing and effective merger of congregations.

Frolic: Nursery Coordinator Guide provides over 40 mini lessons for use in a church nursery as well as articles and other guides.

Frolic: Preschool is a Sunday School curriculum for ages 3-5 that complements the Frolic Bible and Books. The first year focuses on Old Testament stories.

Holy Habits by Andrew Roberts explores discipleship using the text, contemporary illustrations along with questions for reflection and action. This United Kingdom publication would be an excellent choice for nurturing the adult study leaders in your congregation or area congregations.

Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors aids pastors not only in their personal matters but helps them to understand the basics of church accounting and financial reports.

Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages is a valuable tool for worship leaders. Through reading this book you will be inspired to tweak existing worship practices and plan worship services that will be meaningful for attendees through word, music, art and drama. This step-by-step guide will help you consider and prepare purposeful worship services.

T.B.D. Think. Believe. Do. is a four session conversation guide for teens or young adults. A 5-6 minute dvd clip provides plenty of points and discussion starters on a topic. The first topic which is available is on the topic of prayer.

Hymns for the Church Year

by Thomas H. Boreman

boreman4@yahoo.com

TIME AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 22—CHRIST THE KING

Year B

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

September 2, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 22

H	E806/L504	O God, My Faithful God
H	E592/L296	Just As I Am, without One Plea
II	E680-1/L362	We Plow the Fields and Scatter
II	E534/L262	Savior Again to Your Dear Name
HG	E557/L269	Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun
HG	E328/W662	Restore in Us, O God
HG	E512/W713	Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
G	E514/L231	O Word of God Incarnate
	E686/L410	We Give Thee but Thine Own
S	E810/L503	O Jesus, I Have Promised
G	E879/L561	For the Beauty of the Earth
G	E520/L248	Dearest Jesus, at Your Word
G	E757/W782	All My Hope on God Is Founded
	E824/L554	This Is My Father's World
	E814	Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

II	E359/L126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
II	E749/L414	O God of Love, O King of Peace
II	E389/L363	Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
HG	E526/W719	God Is Here!
G	E521/L251	O Day of Rest and Gladness
S	E534/L262	Savior, Again to Your Dear Name
S	E818/L492	O Master, Let Me Walk with You
S	E826/W801	Thine the Amen
	E431	O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us
S	E843	Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
	E323/L292	God Loved the World
	E882	My Soul Does Magnify the Lord

September 9, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 23

H	E722	O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate
H	E519/W715	Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
I	E726	Light Dawns on a Weary World
Ps	E877/L539	Praise the Almighty!
Ps	WP90	Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
II	E479/W766	We Come to the Hungry Feast
HG	E796/L507	How Firm a Foundation
HG	E520/L248	Dearest Jesus at Your Word
S	E537/L260	On Our Way Rejoicing
G	E647/L358	Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
S	E729/L433	The Church of Christ, in Every Age
G	E886/L559	Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
	E576/W755	We All Are One in Mission
G	E880/W797	O God Beyond All Praising
S	E719/L429	Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

September 30, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 26

H	E719/L429	Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
H	E788/L454	If God My Lord Be for Me
H	E540/ WP47	Go, Make Disciples
I	E396/W684	Spirit of Gentleness
II	E359/L126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
II	E497	Strengthen for Service, Lord
II	E614	There Is a Balm in Gilead
HG	E557/L269	Awake My Soul, and with the Sun
S	E545/L259	Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
S	E550/L261	On What Has Now Been Sown
G	E705/L415	God of Grace and God of Glory
G	E864-5/L549	Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
	E804/L508	Come Down, O Love Divine
G	E526/W719	God Is Here!
	E607	Come, Ye Disconsolate

September 16, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 24

H	E660/L377	Lift High the Cross
H	E798/WP137	Will You Come and Follow Me
I	E788/L454	If God My Lord Be for Me
II	E497	Strengthen for Service, Lord
HG	E359/L126	Where Charity and Love Prevail
HG	E799/L455	"Come Follow Me," the Savior Spoke
HG	E806/L504	O God, My Faithful God
S	E810/L503	O Jesus, I Have Promised
	E651/W750	Oh, Praise the Gracious Power
G	E574/W752	Here I Am, Lord
	E801	Change My Heart, O God
	E808	Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
S	E774	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
S	E805/L495	Lead On, O King Eternal!
G	E652/L365	Built on a Rock

October 7, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 27

H	E656/L370	Blest Be the Time That Binds
H	E595	Jesus Loves Me!
I	W749	When Love Is Found
I	E738	God Created Heaven and Earth
Ps	E837/W794	Many and Great, O God
Ps	WP29	Come and See
HG	E444/L193	Cradling Children in His Arm
HG	E767/L333	Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
HG	E640/L357	Our Father, By Whose Name
HG	E445/W697	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
S	E543/W721	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
G	E879/L561	For the Beauty of the Earth
G	E443/L187	Dearest Jesus, We Are Here
	E526/W719	God Is Here!
	E397	Loving Spirit

September 23, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 25

H	E815/W649	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
H	E641	We All Are Welcome
I	E340/L105	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

October 14, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 28

H	E655/L364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
H	E583,685/L406	Take My Life, that I May Be
I	E637	Holy God, Holy and Glorious
I	E717	Let Justice Flow Like Streams
I	E720/WP147	We Are Called
Ps	E632/L320	O God, Our Help in Ages Past

HG E678/L408 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
 HG E705/L415 God of Grace, and God of Glory
 HG E729/L433 The Church of Christ, in Every Age
 H E541 O Jesus, Blessed Lord
 G E696/L494 Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult
 G E408/L522 Come, Thou Almighty King
 S E733/W771 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
 E757/W782 All My Hope on God Is Founded
 G E669/L383 Rise Up, O Saints of God!

October 21, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 29

H E637 Holy God, Holy and Glorious
 H E431 O Christ, what Can It Mean for Us
 I E604/L300 O Christ, Our Hope
 Ps E774/W780 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
 Ps E787 On Eagle's Wings
 HG E538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
 HG E712/L423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
 G E730/L244 Lord Our God, with Praise We Come
 S L462 God the Omnipotent!
 S E881/L557 Let All Things Now Living
 G E579/W756 Lord, You Give the Great Commission
 S W787 Glory to God, We Give You Thanks
 S E729/L433 The Church of Christ, in Every Age
 S E825/L252 You Servants of God
 G E676/L403 Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak

October 28, 2018 REFORMATION SUNDAY

H E513 Listen, God Is Calling
 H E590/L297 Salvation unto Us Has Come
 I E487/W701 What Feast of Love
 Ps E749/L414 O God of Love, O King of Peace
 Ps E503-5/L228-9 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 II E779/L448 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
 II WP25 By Grace We Have Been Saved
 HG E517/L230 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
 S E327/L355 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
 E652/L365 Built on a Rock
 S E645/L367/W747 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
 G E651/W750 Oh, Praise the Gracious Power
 E598 For by Grace You Have Been Saved
 E654/L369 The Church's One Foundation
 G E665/L393 Rise, Shine, You People!

November 4, 2018 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

H E630/L330 In Heaven Above
 H E628/L331 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
 I E426/W691 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
 I E827/L516 Arise, My Soul, Arise!
 I E479/W766 We Come to the Hungry Feast
 I E531/WP139 The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
 I E425/L314 Behold the Host Arrayed in White
 II E759/L479 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
 II E377/W674 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
 HG L73 All Hail to You, O Blessed Morn!
 HG E418/W689 Rejoice in God's Saints
 G E424/L175 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
 G E619/L352 I Know that My Redeemer Lives!
 E427/L176 For All Your Saints, O Lord
 E429 In Our Day of Thanksgiving

November 11, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 32

H E678/L408 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
 H E679/L563/W760 For the Fruit of All Creation

I E877/L539 Praise the Almighty!
 Ps WP13 Awesome God
 II E730/L244 Lord Our God, with Praise We Come
 HG E692/WP146 We Are an Offering
 HG E583,685/L406 Take My Life, that I May Be
 HG E707/L424 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
 E754/L316 Jesus, the Very Thought of You
 E620/L345 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
 G E669/L383 Rise Up, O Saints of God!
 G E689/L409 Praise and Thanksgiving
 S E638/W699 Blessed Assurance
 E695 As Saints of Old
 E857/WP90 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

November 18, 2018 TIME AFTER PENTECOST-LECTIONARY 33

H E327/L355 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
 H E438/W627 My Lord, what a Morning
 I E553/L265 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
 Ps L185 Great God, a Blessing from Your Throne
 Ps E509/L239 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
 Ps E871/L542 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good
 Ps WP159 You Are My God
 II E604/L300 O Christ, Our Hope
 HG E512/W713 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
 HG E723 Canticle of the Turning
 HG E757/W782 All My Hope on God Is Founded
 G E705/L415 God of Grace and God of Glory
 G E769/L453 If You but Trust in God to Guide You
 S E805/L495 Lead On, O King Eternal!
 S E434/L530 Jesus Shall Reign

November 22, 2018 DAY OF THANKSGIVING

H E693/L407 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
 H E858-9/L543 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
 Ps WP41 Give Thanks
 Ps WP73 I Will Sing, I Will Sing
 Ps E833/L560 Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices
 HG E680-1/L362 We Plow the Fields and Scatter
 HG E733/W771 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
 HG E589/L447 All Depends on Our Possessing
 G E694/L412 Sing to the Lord of Harvest
 E682 To God Our Thanks We Give
 S E839-40/L533-4 Now Thank We All Our God
 G E881/L557 Let All Things Now Living
 S E856/L532 How Great Thou Art
 E879/L561 For the Beauty of the Earth
 E689/L409 Praise and Thanksgiving

November 25, 2018 CHRIST THE KING

H E416/L179 At the Name of Jesus
 H E660/L377 Lift High the Cross
 I E834/L526 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
 I E831/L544 The God of Abraham Praise
 I E408/L522 Come, Thou Almighty King
 I E490/L198 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
 Ps E825/L252 You Servants of God
 Ps E824/L554 This Is My Father's World
 Ps WP94 Majesty
 II E435/L27 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
 II E434/L530 Jesus Shall Reign
 HG E727/L421 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth
 G E392/L158 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
 S E631/L315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
 S E854/L525 Blessing and Honor

ASSESSING THE COST OF SACRED WORK

Many people feel called to their work and respond to job demands in ways that reflect a sense of vocation. But do we expect clergy to perform their calling with even greater devotion and sacrifice? Because clergy define their work as sacred, taking care of themselves may always be a lower priority. One writer describes the high cost of sacred work in this way: “if your backdrop is burning bushes and having a child at age ninety, or if it’s bumping into an angel with premarital plans for you . . . who are you to turn down a relatively minor request like leaving vacation to perform a funeral?”¹

The Latest Numbers

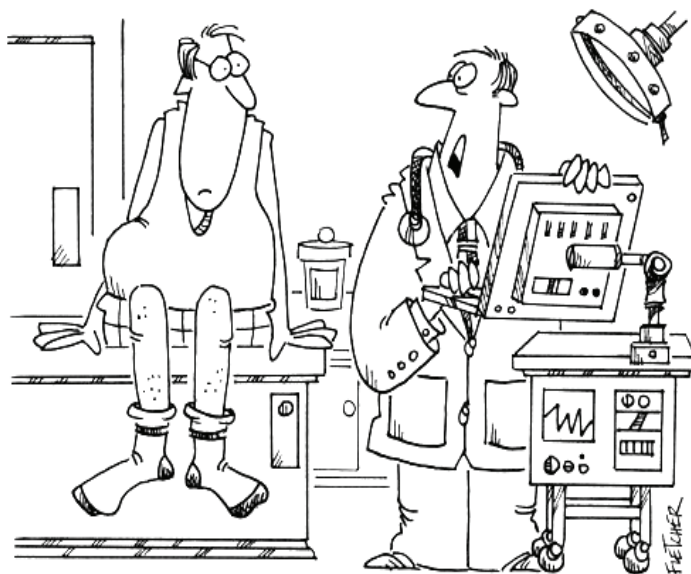
Findings from a ten-year, longitudinal study suggest that unraveling all the complexities of clergy health and well-being is not easy. Although the study drew from a large number of United Methodist clergy, the research results mirror findings from other Protestant clergy samples. This landmark study also carefully tracked intervention efforts and evaluated how individual clergy might change their health status and habits over time.²

Physical health. Just as health insurance costs for the general population continue to climb, the same holds true for clergy. In fact, these costs for clergy remain higher, partly because clergy submit more health care claims.³ National studies reveal clergy have higher rates of obesity than the general population, regardless of age. Obesity causes and complicates other health issues, especially chronic diseases, such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, and heart disease.⁴ Lack of exercise and a damaging diet contribute to weight gain as well as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, stress, and other health negatives.

Mental health. Levels of depression among clergy remain higher than the U.S. population as well. The study found 8.7% of clergy suffer from some depression (compared to 5.5% of the U.S. population). Both male and female clergy demonstrated these higher-than-average rates of depressive symptoms. This surprising finding runs counter to what appears in the general population, where

females typically present much higher depression rates than males. However, among clergy, the opposite pattern surfaces: twice as many male clergy report depressive symptoms compared to males in the U.S. (8.8% to 4.4%).⁵

What might be some of the causes behind these higher clergy depression rates? There are probably more reasons than can be explored here, but some possibilities include aging (the average age of clergy continues to scale upward), side effects of medications, long hours, presence of congregational conflict, unrealistic clergy expectations about ministry, excessive demands by congregants, and serving as the first line of support in difficult life circumstances (illness, death, divorce).⁶ Yet another factor could be self-selection. Some clergy who went through traumatic life events may seek out ministry as a healing experience. Their own life encounters could make them especially sympathetic to others' suffering and form their approach to ministry. Henry Nouwen wrote about "the wounded healer," who exemplifies how one's own suffering can serve as a source of strength and hope for others.⁷



"WALKING THE WALK ISN'T ENOUGH...
IT'S TIME TO TRY SOME LIGHT JOGGING."

The good news: More than two-thirds of the study's clergy qualified as "flourishing" compared to only about half of the U.S. population. Clergy are more likely to report being happy, satisfied with their life, filled with a sense of direction and meaning, and enjoying many warm and trusting relationships.⁸ What appears to be a contradictory finding, given the higher-than-average depression rates, confirms what other researchers discovered. Clergy consistently demonstrate remarkable resiliency and better-than-average psychological and social functioning. These measured positives simply do not lie on the same continuum as depression, anxiety, or stress.

Hope-Filled Implications

What do these recent results say to clergy, those who care about them, and those who wish to see congregations strengthened by healthy leadership?

For clergy. After hearing about the health initiative, large numbers of clergy wanted to participate in the health program—so many that new groups had to start in waves every six months. The protocol called for assessment on key components of physical health once they agreed to participate, including weight, waist circumference, blood pressure, HDL cholesterol, and triglycerides. Even before clergy began to participate fully in the program, they showed significant improvements in these metabolic syndrome indicators, which are linked to heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Awareness and frequent monitoring of physical health indicators resulted in improved outcomes and seeing improvements helped motivate pastors to stick to an exercise plan and continue healthy eating. Screening for potential risks and access to health care is essential for long-term outcomes.

Unfortunately, the program failed to decrease rates of depression or stress symptoms. Although pastors were encouraged to nurture their family and friendships, other components of mental and social health—financial and other context stressors—went largely unaddressed.⁹ These findings underscore that clergy cannot obtain better health alone without the support of congregations and their denominational leaders.

For congregations. Lay leaders play an important role in supporting healthy behaviors in clergy. Encourage the pastor to take a day off a week, pursue a relaxing hobby or interest, get regular exercise, and spend time with family and friends. Other ways to provide stress-reducing support include honoring the boundary between ministry and personal time, offering a

Sabbatical, providing funds for continuing education or personal study (books), or granting time for participation in clergy peer groups.¹⁰ Refrain from insisting that every ministry task is equally important and must be carried out by the pastor. When pastors find ways to spend more time on their joy-filled ministry tasks, they feel greater satisfaction in ministry.

For denominations. The most highly satisfied pastors cite their denomination as a critical partner in their ministry effectiveness. Judicatory leaders can advocate for adequate salaries, housing allowances, healthcare benefits, and pensions, even for clergy in part-time positions. And they can encourage pastors to seek help with physical, psychological, or family issues.

Too many denominations struggle to provide health care resources at the regional or judicatory level. Because the bargaining advantage of national-level organizations yields better and more cost-effective benefit plans, denominations should explore new, national strategies. Further, the obligation to ensure access to full benefits and equal compensation, regardless of age, gender, or race, rests with denominational bodies.

Assessing the Rewards

For clergy: What gives you joy? How does your passion for ministry best connect to your congregation's needs?

For congregations: Have people in the congregation made too many demands on the pastor during the past year? How often have people been critical of things the pastor has done? How does your congregation make the pastor feel loved and appreciated?

For denominations: Do we regularly check in with our clergy to listen to their concerns and needs? How are we planning to improve the ministry environment to promote better clergy health?

1. Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell and Jason Byassee, *Faithful and Fractured: Responding to the Clergy Health Crisis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2018), 24.

2. Ibid., xx-xxii.

3. Ibid., xvi.

4. Ibid., 84.

5. Ibid., 37-38.

6. Ibid., 3.

7. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society* (New York City: Doubleday, 1972).

8. Proeschold-Bell and Byassee, 114.

9. Cynthia Woolever, "Big Ministry Trends for 2014," *The Parish Paper*, January, 2014.

10. Cynthia Woolever, "How to Avoid Pastor Burnout," *The Parish Paper*, January, 2013.

DON'T DISAGREE, DELIBERATE

HOW TO LEAD COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS IN YOUR CHURCH

The church is no stranger to controversy. Chapter 15 of the Book of Acts describes a heated debate among the apostles at a gathering in Jerusalem. Should Gentiles be welcomed as Jesus' followers or only Jews who kept Moses' law by getting circumcised? When they resolved the matter, the letter they sent out to the churches acknowledged God's work in the midst of disagreement: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," they wrote, that even non-Jews should be welcomed (Acts 15:28). Yet if disagreement about church matters can be holy, what about community matters? Should church leaders ever discuss issues of public concern and ask community members to join them? If so, how?

Creating Space for Conversation

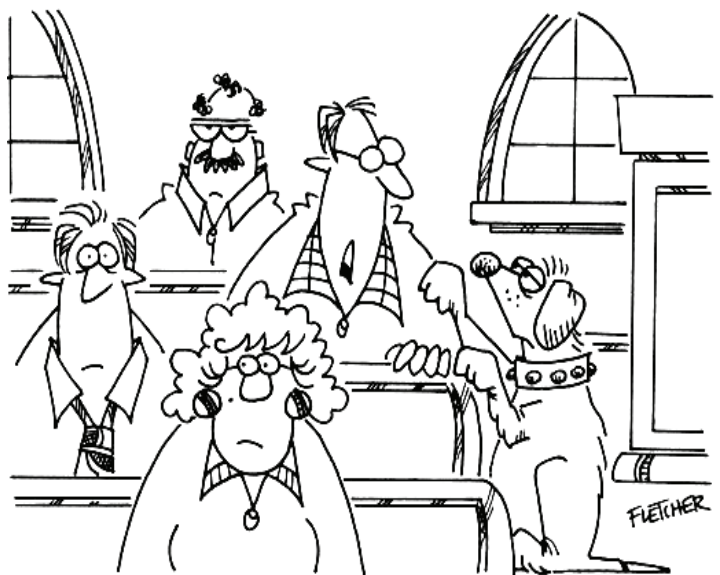
During an election season, some churches offer forums in which candidates for public office speak to the community about public issues. According to one research study, 16% of mainline Protestants, 12% of other Protestants, and 8% of Roman Catholics are members of congregations that hosted such forums.¹ In addition to candidate forums, a newer model has emerged for discussing issues of public concern that emphasizes fairness and respect among participants. Sometimes called a "deliberative forum," this highly structured meeting is designed so that everyone gets a chance to speak and provide their perspective, others listen respectfully, and all in attendance discuss the options so that the best solutions emerge.² While deliberative forums go by many names and take a variety of forms, they all share a structured process, one that requires advance preparation from the participants and aims to include a diverse group of people.³

A Deliberate Process for Deliberative Work

The Reverend R. Gregg Kaufman, an Evangelical Lutheran pastor in Jacksonville, Florida, began experimenting with deliberative forums as a way to introduce churches to dialogue about public issues. The inspiration

for Reverend Kaufman's work came from the Kettering Foundation (www.kettering.org), a nonprofit foundation that gathers community leaders to find ways to make democracy work better. With advice from a group of pastors hosted by Kettering, Reverend Kaufman began to use deliberative forums in several churches in the Jacksonville area. A few months before the presidential election in 2016, Kaufman held one at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral on the topic of political dysfunction.

Using a guide designed by the National Issues Forum Institute, *Political Fix: How Can We Get American Politics Back On Track?* Kaufman laid out the process for the group: First, he invited everyone to speak about a personal stake they have in the issue. Next, he presented ground rules that emphasized listening and respect. Then he added a twist: no talk about the Trump/Pence or Clinton/Kaine presidential tickets. The goal was to find ways to talk about political dysfunction and solutions to the problem in a way that



"JUST RELAX, BUDDY...
THEY SAID EVERYONE WOULD GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK."

encouraged respectful speaking and listening. The issue guide presents three options for consideration:

1. Break the grip of special interests: The key to addressing gridlock and dysfunction in government is to rein in special interests and curb the influence of big money.
2. Increase responsibility: Our best hope of fixing American politics is to restore individual responsibility in communities and at every level of government.
3. Fix the mechanisms of politics: The mechanisms of government are no longer responsive to the will of the people. We need major structural changes to make the system work as it was intended to.

Discussing politics with strangers can be intimidating, even with topics that might appear easy to reach consensus about. Some participants arrived at the meeting tense, expecting heated arguments. Before the discussion got very far along, however, the tenor of the group began to shift. “Speech that was like shaky steps on thin ice began to take on the feel of a driveway basketball game,” according to an observer who later wrote about the evening. Kaufman has held over a dozen such forums in the Jacksonville area, with most of them using churches as sponsors or to provide the venue.⁴

Deliberative work tends to be exploratory and open to revision. Meetings are designed so that everyone gets a chance to speak and listen respectfully. The goal is to move toward understanding, find some common ground, and identify possible solutions. For this reason, the National Issues Forum Institute (www.nifi.org) provides four-page printed guides that present three different and sharply defined policy options. The guide asks participants to examine the options together, keeping in mind the trade-offs or disadvantages implicit in each one.

Creating a Process for Your Church: An Example

When rhetoric becomes heated around a specific community issue, church-based forums give participants the chance to cool their tempers. In 2015, for example, in the midst of public concern over police violence and community safety, two Tennessee pastors joined forces to encourage dialogue. Oak Ridge, Tennessee is also known as the “Secret City” because it was established in the 1940s as a community for workers in the federally sponsored Manhattan Project, which built the first atomic bomb. Over time, this city of 29,000 has become increas-

ingly diverse. In the summer of 2015, the largely white Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church responded to outrage over police violence nationwide by posting a message on its electronic sign: Black Lives Matter. When the pastor, the Reverend Jake Morrill, began receiving death threats, he called a meeting with his colleague, the Reverend Derrick Hammond, pastor of Oak Valley Baptist Church, a largely African American congregation in the city. At that meeting, also attended by a Roman Catholic priest and the city’s chief of police, the group decided to take the sign down and host a series of three public forums called “Community Matters.”

After considerable discussion, the group designed a process for discussing the community’s issues fairly and in depth. The process aimed to: identify the issues of most concern to the community, do research using quantitative data that would offer an objective basis for understanding the concern, identify resources that might improve the situation, and resolve the issue by taking collective action. The ground rules were simple. Participants were to 1) speak as an individual, not as a representative of a group, 2) speak to concerns without laying blame or personal attacks, and 3) “Remember there is no room for disrespect.”⁵

If Not Us, Then Who?

“One who spares words is knowledgeable; one who is cool in spirit has understanding” (Proverbs 17:27). Group discussion does not have to be twisted by anger or marred by disrespect. Deliberation is possible, even concerning controversial matters such as immigration, gun violence, or the opioid epidemic. By hosting forums, church leaders can offer a space where difficult issues get raised, and though perhaps not resolved, at least considered respectfully and fairly. Along the way, churches might help their members as well as community residents learn how to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39).

1. Mark Chaves, “Religious Variations in Public Presence,” in Robert Wuthnow and John Evans, eds., *The Quiet Hand of God*, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002), 118.

2. Tina Nabatchi and Matt Leighninger, *Public Participation for the 21st Century* (Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2015), 276.

3. Ibid., 276.

4. Linell Ajello, “Out of the Shadows of Polarization,” *Kettering Review* 34, no. 1 (Fall 2017), 23-29.

5. Derrick Hammond, “Employing Democratic Practices to Address Community Forum Concerns” presented to the Kettering Foundation, October 20-21, 2016.

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



It's time to talk.

Time for less shouting and more listening.

Less fear and more love.

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

Upcoming conversations in our synod:

June 23, 10am to Noon
Advent, Cleveland
15309 Harvard Ave, Cleveland

August 18, 10am to Noon
Grace, Hubbard
111 Hall Ave, Hubbard

September 29, 10am to Noon
NEOS Synod Office
1890 Bailey Rd, Cuyahoga Falls

November 10, 10am to Noon
Holy Trinity, Akron
50 N Prospect St, Akron

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

William Brown: 216-659-7906 william_30045@msn.com

Dirk van der Duim: 330-333-0738 pastor@gracehbbard.org

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Grace, Hubbard
111 Hall Ave, Hubbard

September 29, 10am to Noon
NEOS Synod Office
1890 Bailey Rd, Cuyahoga Falls

November 10, 10am to Noon
Holy Trinity, Akron
50 N Prospect St, Akron

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

William Brown: 216-659-7906 william_30045@msn.com

Dirk van der Duim: 330-333-0738 pastor@gracehbbard.org

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LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
HURRICANE FLORENCE

SEPTEMBER 2018

ELCA.org/disaster

Hurricane Florence is threatening more than 1 million of our neighbors in the Carolinas and elsewhere with dangerous winds, storm surge and potentially catastrophic flooding.

As a church, we're standing ready to assist our neighbors through their recovery. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with Lutheran Services Carolinas, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia and the synods in the hurricane's path to respond to this disaster. In the midst of a hurricane season that is producing strong storms, Lutheran Disaster Response is also

monitoring Hurricane Helene, Tropical Storm Olivia and Tropical Storm Isaac and is prepared to respond.

Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose homes have been devastated or who have been otherwise affected by Hurricane Florence and other hurricanes for years to come.

Your gifts designated for *hurricane response* will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Give now to support survivors of disasters.

.....
YES, I WANT TO HELP!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: *Hurricane response* \$ _____ DDG0087

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to

Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center

P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "*Hurricane response*" or "*Where needed most*" on your check's memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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**Region 6 Synods of the
ELCA**

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

October 26-27, 2018

Fri. Noon – Sat. Noon

St. Peter Lutheran Church

1079 Riverside Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Questions?

Rev. Chrysanne Timm

517-281-1124

pastorctimm@mittensynod.org

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



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

Discernment Retreat

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

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

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



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

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

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

Registration Deadline: October 1, 2018

Return this registration form and check made out to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Home Congregation _____ City, State _____

Food Restrictions/other needs _____

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7th Annual Soup Supper

To benefit Episcopal schools in El Salvador

All-You-Can-Eat Soup – Large Variety Available
with bread and dessert

Saturday, October 20, 2018

5 PM - 7 PM

St. Hubert's Episcopal Church

8870 Baldwin Road, Kirtland Hills, Ohio

Tickets: \$12 Adults
\$6 Children 12 & under
\$30 per family

Sponsored by ***Los Amigos Episcopales***

a peace and justice ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

and an Ohio 501(c)3 non-profit

www.losamigosepiscopales.org

[join us on FaceBook](#)



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Hymn Festival

Featuring



Susan Palo Cherwien, Writer

(born & raised in Ashtabula)

&

David Cherwien, Organist & Choir Director

Friday, October 12th @ 7:00 P.M.

St. Peter Episcopal Church

4901 Main Avenue

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

FMI: 440-992-8100

**Concert and 'Meet-the-Artists' Reception Free and Open to the Public
Sponsored by St. Peter Episcopal Church, Messiah Lutheran,
& Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church**

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Attention Rostered Women of the ELCA

The annual Rostered Women's Retreat is Thursday, October 18, 2018 – October 20, 2018 at Lutheran Memorial Camp 2790 State Route 61 Fulton, OH 43321. The retreat will begin with lunch at 12:00 noon on Thursday and conclude on Saturday after our 11:00am Brunch.

The theme of the weekend is Keeping our Focus. As rostered leaders we spend much of our time caring supporting, encouraging, equipping others. This can leave us physically, emotionally and spiritually drained. This retreat offers you chance to refocus yourself thought as you spend time in God's Word, a supportive community, and God's creation. As we help you Keep your Focus we will be exploring together: Where we see God, How we experience God, How we talk with God, and How we share God with others. There will also be opportunities for group building, crafting, hikes, naps, service project on camp grounds, campfire, great meals together that you don't have to prepare, worship, and time to relax and find your focus again. During the retreat there will be an opportunity to exchange books, stoles, cleric blouses, and any other items you no longer use.

Registration Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Church Name _____

Synod _____

Makes checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church with "Rostered Women's Retreat" on the Memo Line.

Registration information to be mailed with check for \$125 by Sept 30th to

Pr Carey Hovland

Peace Lutheran Church

3530 Dayton Xenia Rd

Beavercreek, OH 45434

937-426-1441

pastorcarey@peacebeavervreek.org

Please register by September 30, 2018.

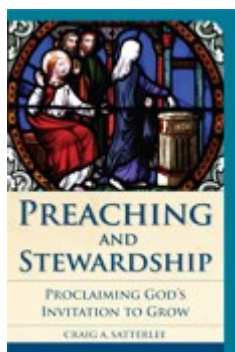
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PREACHING STEWARDSHIP

Sponsored by The North/West Lower Michigan Synod and
The Stewardship of Life Institute
A resource for Stewardship and Mission Support



Want to be more bold in preaching about stewardship?
Looking for new ways to enhance conversation about mission support?
Want to share in conversation with colleagues about how to grow stewards?
This is for you!



Two overnight trainings gleaning the best of Bishop Craig A. Satterlee's D. Min. teaching about preaching stewardship. The program will consist of presentations about the biblical basis and preaching about stewardship, a discussion on resources, and then part two will be actually sharing and critiquing sermons about stewardship.

Each participant will receive a copy of :
PREACHING AND STEWARDSHIP

WHERE: St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, Michigan

Overnight lodging in simple rooms, supper, breakfast, and lunch included

WHEN: November 4-5, 2018 and January 13-14, 2019

5pm on Sunday through 4pm on Monday

WHO: Pastors, Rostered Ministers, Synodically Authorized Ministers

COST: The actual cost of this event is \$150

With the Stewardship of Life grant **your total cost is \$85 for both sessions.**

To register email: annstavros@mittensynod.org and then send your check for \$85 to:
Preaching Stewardship, NW Lower Michigan Synod, 2900 N. Waverly Dr.,
Lansing, MI 48906

For questions contact Pastor David Sprang,
Director for Evangelical Mission
517-331-8497 or revdsprang@gmail.com or
david.sprang@elca.org

North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Craig A. Satterlee, Ph.d, Bishop
2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906
517-321-5066

