

# Opportunities for Lutheran-Roman Catholic Collaboration in 2017 In Commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation



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

## INTRODUCTION

On October 31, 2016, Pope Francis joined with representatives from the Lutheran World Federation in Lund, Sweden, to launch a year-long commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Locally, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Southern Ohio Synod are recognizing this anniversary as an opportunity to advance our ecumenical efforts towards unity in Christ. From now until October 31, 2017, we encourage joint study, prayer and service among our Catholic and Lutheran communities. In their joint statement for this commemoration, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Bishop Jeffrey Monforton of the Diocese of Steubenville and Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt of the ELCA Southern Ohio Synod stated:

*As bishops of Lutheran and Catholic communities in Ohio, we share the longing to move forward "on the way" to the unity to which Christ calls us. Here also we want to respond to this anniversary with efforts that allow us to deepen our own local relationships through shared study, prayer and service to the world. Thus, we invite our people at all levels to sustained, imaginative and prayerful engagement with one another.*

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE JOINT STATEMENT TO ENCOURAGE STUDY, PRAYER, AND SERVICE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION.](#)

This packet provides resources and ideas to help our faith communities make the most of this anniversary. This packet may be updated throughout the commemorative year. May God bless our work together to grow in our faith in Christ and spread the Gospel of love to all the world.

-- The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and ELCA Southern Ohio Synod Reformation Commemoration Task Force

**Members of the Reformation Commemoration Task Force:** Rev. Robert Abrams (Asst. to the Bishop, Southern Ohio Synod), Rachel Barber (Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Commission), Rev. Rob Bork (Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church), Rev. Larry Hoffsis (Graceworks Lutheran Services), Deacon Phil Kenzora (St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church), Janet Lewis (Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Commission), Pam Long (Regional Director, Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office), Tony Stieritz (Director, Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office), Rev. Anders Tune (Pastor, Wittenberg University), Rev. Jeff Wick (Asst. to the Bishop, Southern Ohio Synod), Fr. Chris Worland (Pastor, St. Albert Catholic Church; Dean, Dayton Deanery).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Five Ecumenical Imperatives, page 3
2. Four Methods of Interfaith Dialogue, page 4

## ***STUDY***

3. Small Study Groups on *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*, pages 5-6
4. Lutheran-Catholic Conversations, pages 7-12
5. Opportunities for Presentations, page 13
6. Traveling Exhibit, *Church Ladies Revisited: The Changing Roles of Women in the Lutheran and Catholic Faiths*, page 14

## ***PRAYER***

7. Hymn Sing to Highlight the Rich Musical Traditions of the Lutheran and Catholic Faiths, pages 13-16

## ***SERVICE***

8. Joint Service and Justice Opportunities for Catholic and Lutheran Congregations, pages 17-18

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## ***MAPS***

[CLICK HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD MAPS OF THE LOCATIONS OF ALL THE CHURCHES OF THE ELCA SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD AND ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI (EXCEPT THOSE IN HAMILTON COUNTY). FOR A LIST OF CATHOLIC PARISHES IN HAMILTON COUNTY BY NEIGHBORHOOD, [CLICK HERE](#).

## **FIVE ECUMENICAL IMPERATIVES**

A foundation for Lutheran-Catholic understanding is found in what are termed the five "ecumenical imperatives," which appear in the Lutheran World Federation and Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity document, *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017* (nos. 238-245).

### **The First Imperative:**

*Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.*

### **The Second Imperative:**

*Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.*

### **The Third Imperative:**

*Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.*

### **The Fourth Imperative:**

*Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.*

### **The Fifth Imperative:**

*Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.*

## **FOUR WAYS OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**

During his visit to the United States in 2015 Pope Francis said: “Dialogue among yourselves, dialogue in your presbyterates, dialogue with lay persons, dialogue with families, dialogue with society. I cannot ever tire of encouraging you to dialogue fearlessly” (Apostolic Journey to the United States, Sept. 23, 2015).

We can find “The Four Ways of Interfaith Dialogue” helpful in understanding what interfaith dialogue is to each of us and hope that there is a greater understanding of dialogue at all levels within and beyond our individual parish/congregational communities. These types were laid out in the 1991 document, *Dialogue and Proclamation: Reflections and Orientations on Interreligious Dialogue and the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*, by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples.

### **Dialogue of Life**

In which people of different faiths and spiritual traditions strive to live in an open and neighborly spirit—including socializing and hospitality.

### **Dialogue of Action**

In which people of spiritual commitment and faith collaborate with others in building a just society—including service and working for justice.

### **Dialogue of Religious Experience**

In which people steeped in their spiritual traditions share their ways of searching for God or the Absolute—including prayer, worship, celebration.

### **Dialogue of Theological Exchange**

In which specialists, scholars, and students seek to deepen their understanding of spiritual heritages.

# **SMALL STUDY GROUPS ON *FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION: LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC COMMON COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION IN 2017***

*From Conflict to Communion* (2013) is a document created by the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to help Catholics and Lutherans understand how far we have journeyed toward unity since 1517.

A study guide for the document was subsequently (2015) assembled by The Planning Committee of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, The Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA.

The web addresses for both documents are:

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20Conflict%20to%20Communion.pdf>

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/From Conflict To Communion Study Guide 3-13.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/From%20Conflict%20To%20Communion%20Study%20Guide%203-13.pdf)

In the fall of 2016, small group studies were conducted in the Diocese of Toledo/Northwest Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and in Auglaize County (in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati) as a trial study of the document. Leadership for these organizations adapted the *From Conflict to Communion Study Guide*, pairing it down from seven sessions to five. Each group involved 8-12 persons. The effort was a great success. We thank the Diocese of Toledo and Northwest Ohio Synod for their instrumental efforts in making this document accessible to so many members of our respective faiths.

Catholic and Lutheran congregations are encouraged to consider collaborating to host small group studies of *From Conflict to Communion* at some point during 2017.

## **Housekeeping Issues:**

- ✓ Determine how copies of *From Conflict to Communion* will be provided to participants, for example, will a church bear the cost/effort of making copies for each of its own congregation members who are participating?
- ✓ Determine an RSVP date for participating, so that enough copies of the reading materials are available. (Note that participants may be given their individual copies of *From Conflict to Communion* at the first session.)
- ✓ Determine the course of action in the event that more than 12 persons RSVP to participate (e.g., splitting up the large group, adding a second session at the same or a different time, etc.)
- ✓ Determine whether discussion questions will be provided ahead of time.
- ✓ Note that all sessions were scheduled for 90 minutes, alternating between Lutheran and Catholic host sites. A period of fellowship and refreshments at the end is optional.
- ✓ Consider opening and closing each session with prayer.
- ✓ Consider providing a time before or after a session for participants to tour the host church.
- ✓ Consider whether providing child care for participants will enhance the opportunity.

**The organization of the five sessions (as adapted by the Diocese of Toledo and Northwestern Synod groups):**

Follow the process prescribed by the *From Conflict to Communion Study Guide*, and consider the following adaptations, if you would like to shorten the series from seven to five sessions.

### Session 1

- Overview of Five Weeks
- Review *Conversation Guidelines*
- Presentation of *Four Ways to Dialogue*
- Introductions of Participants:
  - Name
  - Home Church
  - What drew you to participating in this small group study?
  - What hopes do you have?
  - What, if any, are your connections with the other faith?

Session 2: Cover Chapter 6 of *From Conflict to Communion* as outlined in the Study Guide (*The Ecumenical Imperatives*)

Session 3: Chapters 1 & 2

Session 4: Chapter 4

Session 5: Chapter 5

Participants may read Chapter 3 on their own.

### **Some Guidelines for Conversation**

*Adapted by Reverend Michael Hughes, pastor of St. Luke's Evangelical Church, Lima, from the document "Talking Together as Christians About Tough Social Issues" (Chicago: Division for Church in Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1999).*

Follow the "Golden Rule."

Listen respectfully and carefully to others.

Speak honestly about your thoughts and feelings.

Speak for yourself, rather than as a member of a group.

Give space for others to share.

Interpret everything in the best possible light.

Maintain confidentiality.

*Thanks to Father Kent Kaufman, Diocese of Toledo, and Reverend Tim Philabaum, Northwest Ohio Synod, for their work in promoting unity between Roman Catholics and Lutherans, including launching From Conflict to Communion during the fall of 2016.*

# LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS

**An overview of the collaborative series designed in the Fall 2016, by Reverend Dr. Jeff Gramza, pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Celina, and Father Ken Schnipke, CPPS, pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Celina, and St. Teresa Church, Rockford**

## **Focus and Audience**

- ❖ Note that some parishioners may be surprised that we are having joint sessions/discussions. It may not be a conversation/topic on their radar. How do we attract/encourage more to participate?
- ❖ Identify and focus on interfaith experiences that may be common to a broader group or various age strata in the broad group. Familiar experiences can be an avenue for educating about similarities in faith traditions.
- ❖ Attendees may question their own familiarity with or knowledge of faith and be hesitant to express themselves. Some may have a slightly distorted understanding of some faith dimensions. Seek to create a safe and fun/exciting environment for attendees to share by brief witness stories and working in groups of four to six persons. A panel to offer the “church answer” can help to correct any misunderstandings.

## **Preparation and Advertisement**

Please consider the following:

- ❖ Common bulletin announcement or series of announcements several weeks prior to build anticipation. Perhaps include a series of teaser questions/comments about interfaith dynamics.
- ❖ News Release for the general public
- ❖ Announcements to appear in area Lutheran/Catholic church bulletins, as well as churches of other denominations.

## **Housekeeping Issues:**

- ❖ Note that all sessions were scheduled for 90 minutes, alternated between Lutheran and Catholic host sites, and included a time for fellowship and refreshments at the end.
- ❖ Committee members arrive 30 minutes ahead of time for each ecumenical session to confirm responsibilities.
- ❖ Divide facilitation duties between representatives of both denominations, so that no one person or perspective dominates.
- ❖ Provide sign in sheets for each session for follow up contact and information. Invite people to sign in as they enter.
- ❖ Consider providing a time before or after a session for participants to tour the church.

## ***Session 1: Did you hear the joke about the Catholic priest and Lutheran pastor who walked into a bar? – A Look at the Lighter Side of Being Lutheran and Roman Catholic***

- ❖ Welcome, introduction of committee members, and prayer (5 minutes)
- ❖ Brief witness stories to begin introductions and create a safe environment for sharing (20 minutes)

- Secure four volunteers—individuals or couples to introduce themselves and then describe their funniest experience of being in worship or a gathering with a denomination other than their own. (three to four minutes per person/couple)
  - Participants then divide into groups of four to six with an equal number of Roman Catholics and Lutherans. All introduce themselves and share their funniest or most memorable experience of being in worship or a gathering with a denomination other than their own.
  - Groups invited to share their funniest story or two with the large group
- ❖ Personal reflection and understanding of being Lutheran/Roman Catholic (10 minutes)
- Each participant will be given an index card/sheet of paper with two questions: *From personal witness and lived experience what does it mean to be Lutheran? From personal witness and lived experience what does it mean to be Roman Catholic?*
  - Each participant is given an envelope to insert and seal his/her personal reflections until the last session, when all will be invited to read their responses, and see if their understanding has grown.
  - Each person is also given an index card or sheet of paper titled “Questions/topics I would like to know more about.” Participants will be invited to note any items and turn them in. Responses may guide future sessions. The cards/sheets are collected before the end of the first session.
- ❖ Small Group Questions and Answers (20 minutes)
- Each small group will be asked to discuss and answer a series of questions about the Lutheran and Roman Catholic faith understandings and traditions.
  - Large group discussion after each question will solicit small group responses.
  - Pastors or members of the panel will then offer the “Church answer” for each question. Panel consists of Task Force members.
  - Possible questions (The first four were priorities for the initial session):
    1. Each week both Roman Catholics and Lutherans profess in the creed that “we believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.” What does that mean for Roman Catholics and for Lutherans?
    2. What is the first thing a Lutheran and Roman Catholic do when they wake up in the morning and what is the last thing they do before going to bed?
    3. What is the role of Mary in the Catholic and the Lutheran Church?
    4. How do you understand the saints in your faith tradition?
    5. Other possible questions:
      - What does “Real Presence” mean for Lutherans and Catholics?
      - What are the promises of the Lutheran and Catholic churches?
      - How many books are in the bible for Catholics and Lutherans? What’s the same and what’s different?
      - What is the definition of a “sacrament” for a Lutheran and for a Catholic? How many sacraments are in the Catholic tradition and the Lutheran tradition?
      - How would you describe Confirmation in the Lutheran Church and in the Catholic Church?
      - What does it mean to be ordained in the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church?
      - What does it mean to be a pastor in the Lutheran Church and Roman Catholic Church?
      - What is the role of women in the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church?
      - What is the role of the bishop for Lutherans and Roman Catholics?



- This exercise could be repeated each session with new questions.
- ❖ Consider noting five things about which Lutherans and Roman Catholics agree. (10 minutes)
- ❖ Conclude with prayer.

## **Session 2: Martin Luther: A Closer Look at an Augustinian Monk, a Reluctant Lutheran**

- ❖ Welcome, introduction, and prayer (5 minutes)
- ❖ Personal reflection and understanding of Lutheran/Roman Catholic. (10 minutes) (Invite participants who did not attend the first session to complete the index card/paper.)
- ❖ Video Presentation on Luther followed by additional information about Luther, the Reformation, and Counter Reformation: "Opening the Door to Luther with Rick Steves"  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation\\_id=annotation\\_661203&feature=iv&src\\_vid=3GkyptKvtKQ&v=PbD7WZr\\_lMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_661203&feature=iv&src_vid=3GkyptKvtKQ&v=PbD7WZr_lMI)
  - A devout Catholic, Augustinian Priest, Professor of Theology
  - The flash point for him were indulgences (what is current theology/practice)
  - Luther on trial, with misunderstandings on both sides
  - Condemnation without alternatives
  - Review a few of the 95 thesis by Luther that were eventually carried out, e.g., Mass in the vernacular
- ❖ Small Group Questions and Answers (20 minutes; please refer to Session 1)
- ❖ Questions from attendees and answers
- ❖ Consider noting five things about which Lutherans and Roman Catholics agree. (10 minutes)
- ❖ Conclude with prayer.

## **Session 3: A Lutheran and a Catholic Approach the Pearly Gates: Topics of Faith and Eternal Life**

- ❖ Welcome, introduction, and prayer (5 minutes)
- ❖ Lutheran/Catholic teaching and discussion on the following. Break into small groups to discuss each highlighted question from Lutheran and Catholic perspective with the pastors then sharing the official teaching.
  - What is Purgatory?
  - Justification – What does grace mean to you? How to develop a simple understanding of justification. “By grace alone, in faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works.”

- Eucharist – What does the Eucharist mean to you? To your church? Real presence (consubstantiation, transubstantiation), sacrifice (anamnesis – remembering by giving thanks), communion under both species
- Ministry -- What do the words ministry and priest mean to you? Priesthood of all believers, God instituted ministry, ministry as word and sacrament, ordination, apostolic, service to universal church.

❖ Small Group Questions and Answers (20 minutes)

❖ Possibly end by noting five things about which Lutherans and Catholics agree. (10 minutes)

❖ Conclude by returning index cards from the first session to each person. Also discuss how else your congregations might commemorate the 2017 anniversary in an ecumenical way. Close with prayer.

### **Some Guidelines for Conversation\***

Follow the “Golden Rule.”

Listen respectfully and carefully to others.

Speak honestly about your thoughts and feelings.

Speak for yourself, rather than as a member of a group.

Give space for others to share.

Interpret everything in the best possible light.

Maintain confidentiality.

*\*Adapted by Reverend Michael Hughes, pastor of St. Luke's Evangelical Church, Lima, from the document “Talking Together as Christians About Tough Social Issues” (Chicago: Division for Church in Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1999).*

# **SAMPLE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT/PRESS RELEASE FOR FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION STUDY GROUPS OR LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_ (*church names*) to co-host small group studies in commemoration of Reformation anniversary

October 31, 2017, will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Pope Francis inaugurated the year-long commemoration with a visit to the Lutheran community in Sweden last October. Activities are planned throughout 2017, including in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and ELCA Southern Ohio Synod. *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017* is a document crafted by the Lutheran World Federation and Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to help Catholics and Lutherans discover how far we have journeyed together toward unity since 1517.

This \_\_\_\_\_ (spring/fall/Lent/Advent—the general time period) parishioners at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (church names) will have the opportunity to participate in five-week small group studies of *From Conflict to Communion*. The first of the ninety-minute sessions will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (church name and address). To ensure that enough reading materials are available, please register by \_\_\_\_\_ (date). For more information or to register to participate, please call \_\_\_\_\_.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ (*church names*) to co-host a series of conversations between Catholics and Lutherans.

October 31, 2017, will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Pope Francis inaugurated the year-long commemoration with a visit to the Lutheran community in Sweden last October. Activities are planned throughout 2017, including in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and ELCA Southern Ohio Synod. *From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017* is a document crafted by the Lutheran World Federation and Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity to help Catholics and Lutherans discover how far we have journeyed together toward unity since 1517.

This \_\_\_\_\_ (spring/fall/Lent/Advent—the general time period) parishioners at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (church names) will have the opportunity to participate in a three-week series to learn more about the Catholic and Lutheran faiths. The first of the ninety-minute sessions will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ (church name and address). Please register by \_\_\_\_\_ (date). For more information or to register to participate, please call \_\_\_\_\_.

**SAMPLE PARTICIPANT EVALUATION FORM FOR *FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION* STUDY GROUPS OR LUTHERAN-CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS**

1. How many sessions did you attend? \_\_\_\_
2. How was the small-group sharing for you?
3. Was the size of your group too small, too large, or just right?
4. Were the number of questions for discussion too many, too few, or just right?
5. Were the reading content and discussion questions too difficult, too simple, or just right?
6. Did you find meeting in different churches beneficial or irrelevant?
7. What did you like best about our time together?
8. What could have made our time together better?
9. Would you be interested in continuing to meet in 2017 with new content?
10. How many consecutive weeks would you prefer? 4 6 8 (Other) \_\_\_\_
11. Would meeting monthly be better?
12. If we repeat this opportunity, would you recommend it to others?
13. What other suggestions do you have for ecumenical collaboration in 2017?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church

## **A PRESENTATION BY FR. DAVID ENDRES AND DR. DAVID MENGEL**

During the commemoration year, two public presentations will be offered by Fr. David Endres and Dr. David Mengel to explore the history of the Reformation. Stay tuned for more information!

Father David Endres was appointed Dean of Mount St. Mary's Seminary and Dean of Athenaeum of Ohio in February 2016, after serving five years as professor of history, director of field education, and a member of the seminary formation team. He holds a bachelor's degree from Xavier University, a master's degree in Divinity from the Athenaeum, and master's and doctoral degrees from The Catholic University of America.

Dr. David Mengel became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Xavier University in 2016. His commitment to fostering innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and research has been informed by his work as founding Faculty Director of Xavier University's Center for Teaching Excellence. Both his teaching and his research have been informed by an interdisciplinary background in the study of the Middle Ages, first at Vanderbilt, then at Cambridge on a British Marshall Scholarship, and finally at Notre Dame, where he earned his PhD from the Medieval Institute.

## **A PRESENTATION BY DR. DONALD HUBER** ***THE REFORMATION: THEN AND NOW***

The Reformation shaped who we are as Catholics and Lutherans. How does an understanding of the Reformation help us as Christians face today's issues that stand in need of reformation?

This presentation is 30-45 minutes in length, with a time for Q & A at the end.

Dr. Donald Huber holds a doctorate in Church History from Duke University (1971), and an A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan (1973). He has been affiliated with Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, since 1969, having served the institution as a professor of Church History, archivist, academic dean, and interim president. He is currently the Fred W. Meuser Professor Emeritus of Church History for Trinity. Dr. Huber recently presented at a Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration between the Diocese of Youngstown and Northeastern Ohio Synod in the Fall 2016.

Dr. Huber will provide up to five presentations upon request of *The Reformation: Then and Now* to Lutheran and Catholic congregations between April and October of 2017. A donation of \$50 will be requested of the host organizations. Contact Rachel Barber, 419/738-4924 or [wallpaperproject@bright.net](mailto:wallpaperproject@bright.net), to initiate the brief application/scheduling process.

**TRAVELING EXHIBIT**  
***CHURCH LADIES REVISITED: THE CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN IN  
THE LUTHERAN AND CATHOLIC FAITHS***

The exhibit will feature dozens of historic photographs of women serving in Lutheran and Catholic congregations from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, accompanied by explanatory text panels. This fun traveling exhibit is available for loan in two-week periods from May through December 2017.

No previous experience assembling or hosting traveling exhibits will be required. Hosts will be invited to enhance the exhibit with a local touch, which may include photographs or artifacts. Hosts will also be encouraged to host complementary programming, which may take the form of a panel discussion or speaker, recipe exchange, or even a potluck dinner.

Hosts will be asked to provide a well-lighted, secure exhibit space that is free and open to the public at least five days per week.

Hosts will commit to deliver the exhibit to the next host site on the schedule. A donation of \$75 will be requested of the host organizations.

For complete information about applying to host *Church Ladies Revisited*, contact Rachel Barber, 419/738-4924 or [wallpaperproject@bright.net](mailto:wallpaperproject@bright.net).

# HYMN SING TO HIGHLIGHT THE RICH MUSICAL TRADITIONS OF THE LUTHERAN AND CATHOLIC FAITHS

*The folks I talk to are my fellow human beings; the ones I sing with are family.*

--Mark Noll, quoting an old German saying in "We Are What We Sing," *Christianity Today*, July 12, 1990

How about asking the music directors, choir directors, and/or organists from your respective congregations to collaborate on a hymn sing that features music from the Lutheran and Catholic traditions?

## **Things to Consider When Planning Your Hymn Sing:**

1. Pick a date and time that work for both congregations.
2. Decide which of the congregations will host. The hymn sing may well be more fun if the primary instrument(s) of accompaniment are on the same level as the congregation rather than out of sight in a choir loft. Determine how hymn accompanying duties will be split between the musicians from the participating churches.
3. Don't forget to advertise your event to other local congregations and in the general media. Lots of people love to sing in groups, and such opportunities are becoming ever more scarce.
4. If you provide a worship aid for audience members, please respect and observe copyright laws. Do NOT make unauthorized copies of hymns that are copyrighted.
5. Your hymn sing could include 10-12 hymns as well as one or two solo or ensemble presentations of hymns. (But keep the focus on congregational singing, not on performance by a few for the many.)

You need not sing every verse of every hymn, but, if you do so, break up the format a bit—have the men sing one verse, and the women another, or even incorporate a soloist on a verse of a hymn.

6. The leader of the hymn sing should be someone who is enthusiastic about the event and can encourage others to sing. Also, involve a narrator, or narrators, to provide brief information about each hymn to be sung as well as someone to lead opening and closing prayers. A time for refreshments and fellowship after the hymn sing may follow.

7. Decide on a theme for your Catholic-Lutheran hymn sing -- perhaps something like *Golden Oldies, Current Favorites, and Contemporary Hits*. Or consider choosing hymns that reflect church teachings, and use the opportunity to provide brief explanation of those teachings.

The hymn sing could reflect hymns that are now used and loved both by Catholic and Lutheran congregations. Many people don't realize how much crossover exists in current hymnody, and they will be surprised at all we have in common.

8. Alternate styles of music throughout the hymn sing. Be sure to end with a hymn that is well known and loved by all, so that your event concludes by shaking the roof to its rafters!

Hymn sings can be educational, inspiring, and great fun, and can involve members of your congregations who might not otherwise become involved in Reformation anniversary activities! Don't miss this opportunity to worship with our Christian brothers and sisters in song!



# **JOINT SERVICE AND JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CATHOLIC AND LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**

Catholic and Lutheran faiths share a belief that the Gospel of Christ must be proclaimed through action to heal a broken world. Our traditions have an immense array of ministries in charity and social justice. Already, Catholics and Lutherans work together “in the field” to protect the poor and vulnerable in our midst and care for God’s creation. The anniversary of the Reformation should also be recognized as an opportunity for Catholic and Lutheran communities to create additional opportunities to witness to Christ’s love by serving the poor and building a more just world reflective of God’s Kingdom.

## **Joint Volunteer Effort in One or More Catholic or Lutheran Congregation**

From food pantries to letter-writing advocacy campaigns, Catholic and Lutheran churches themselves host countless service and justice ministries throughout the Archdiocese and Synod. Catholic and Lutheran congregations might consider intentionally organizing joint volunteer efforts to support one of their ongoing ministries. Or, they may organize a series of volunteer efforts at each of their respective congregations. Or, they may join together to support a local, ecumenical, church-sponsored ministry.

## **Joint Volunteer Efforts in a Catholic, Lutheran or Ecumenically Sponsored Organization**

The following Catholic and Lutheran organizations in the Archdiocese and Synod might benefit from a joint volunteer effort. The handful of organizations listed here only represent those spanning many areas of our respective territories. There are many more ministries sponsored by each of our faith communities, so please stay tuned for updates.

### **Catholic-sponsored organizations:**

1. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio (serving Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Clermont, Clinton, Brown, Highland, Adams, Clark, Champaign and Logan Counties) – Programs and services include caregiver assistance, disaster relief, family and parenting services, mental health counseling, Second Harvest Food Bank (Springfield), refugee resettlement, senior services and Su Casa Hispanic Center. Call (513) 241-7745.
2. Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley (serving Montgomery, Greene, Preble, Miami, Darke, Shelby, Auglaize and Mercer Counties) – Programs and services include adoption and foster care, counseling, family support, food pantry, early childhood education center, mental health, refugee resettlement, and senior services. Call (937) 223-7217, ext. 1146 or (800) 521-6419.
3. St. Vincent de Paul District Councils (each offering a variety of services to the poor and vulnerable in their regions) – Cincinnati area: (513) 562-8841; Dayton area: (937) 222-7349; Springfield area: (937) 325-8880; St. Martin area: (513) 248-2664.

4. Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action – Opportunities for advocacy and other social justice efforts on such concerns as poverty, immigration, reentry, care for creation, rural life, hunger and global solidarity. Contact Cincinnati: (513) 421-3131, ext. 2660 or [csa@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:csa@catholiccincinnati.org); Dayton: (937) 224-3026 or [plong@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:plong@catholiccincinnati.org).

**Lutheran-sponsored organizations:**

1. Graceworks Lutheran Services -- 6430 Inner Mission Way Dayton, OH 45459, offers assisted living for seniors and persons with disabilities, senior residential communities, companionship services, and community services, such as credit counseling, food pantry and emergency assistance. Contact at (937) 433-2110. In Cincinnati, Graceworks is located at 11370 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, Ohio, offering residential services, day programming and transportation. Contact at (513) 612-6500. Also the Once Around Shop in Eaton offers affordable, gently used clothing and household items to the general public. Contact at (937) 456-6560 or email [oats.eaton@graceworks.org](mailto:oats.eaton@graceworks.org).
2. Oesterlen Services for Youth – Located in Springfield, services for youth and family include residential mental health treatment, foster care, outpatient counseling, in-home programs, and in-school programs. Contact at 1918 Mechanicsburg Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503, or (937) 399-6101.