



Southern Ohio Synod
SynodFest



**Southern Ohio Synod
SynodFest 2013
June 6-8
Wittenberg University
Pre-Assembly Packet**

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Southern Ohio Synod Assembly
Report of the Bishop
June 2013

Givens in the Southern Ohio Synod

- 28,000 square miles
- 239 congregations in 1996 (currently 220 congregations and developing ministries). The ELCA Office for Research and Planning reported in 1990 that we would lose 20-25 congregations by 2000 due to basic survival issues.
- 1/3 Rural, 1/3 Suburban, 1/3 Town and City
- 425+ Clergy and Commissioned rostered leaders
- 9 Social Service and Ministry Program Agencies: Oesterlen, Filling, ELCMA, Wernle, Graceworks (LSS-MV), LSS-CO, LOMO, and OLCM. (C.O.R.A. and F.A.R.M. have closed).
- 2 universities: Capital and Wittenberg
- 1 Seminary: Trinity Lutheran Seminary
- 60-70 persons in Candidacy Process at any given time

Since 1996, when I was called to this service as Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, I have logged:

- 750,000 miles driven within Southern Ohio Synod; That's the equivalent of driving around the earth's equator 95 times!
- 2,730,000 miles driven by Assistants to the Bishop; That's the equivalent of traveling to and from the moon six times!
- 828 official congregational Sunday/Saturday worship visits;
- Presided at 188 Ordination/Commissionings;
- Presided at 51 Funerals for Ordained/Commissioned Leaders;

- 1,997 consultations with Congregation Councils (pastoral search, conflict management, mission and planning conversations, legal and discipline related matters).
- Legal Matters ...enough legal events and issues have enabled me to me to know the ELCA Discipline Manual by heart, to understand law theory text-books, and more about Ohio laws than I ever thought possible.

Importance of Prayer, Worship, and Strategic Planning

Martin Luther once was asked how he was able to find time for prayer while he did all his writing, managing conflicts within the church, lecturing, providing theological guidance to the fledgling church, growing a family, travelling extensively, and studying. He responded that the more responsibilities and duties he had, the more he found himself relying on additional time for prayer as the only way to make a go of it all.

I am no Martin Luther, but his experience has instructed me. I could not have accomplished so much as a husband, father, bishop, and citizen, had I not devoted more time to scripture study, theological reflection, worship, and prayer. My ministry as bishop demands more time for prayer, worship, and study. In a way, prayer has been my life-saver. I cannot imagine not having time for regular, deep, and lengthy prayer time. It is truly empowering and part of my core.

Advancing God’s Mission: Vision 2020: Southern Ohio is one of the few synods with a vision and comprehensive strategic mission plan. This is faithful stewardship. We are one of the largest synods in terms of numbers of congregations, numbers of rostered leaders, financial capacity for extended ministry, and urban centers with more affiliated institutions and agencies than most synods. We have a defined rural and open-country territory with varied business and industrial activity. Having a strong strategic mission plan is the best way to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

We would not have done justice to our mission opportunities had we not developed a comprehensive strategic plan. Implementing this plan has been possible through the skills and energy of my staff and hundreds of lay people over a long period of time. Our ministry plan was adopted in 1997 by Synod Council and, in 1998 by the Synod Assembly. It had been evaluated, tested, reviewed, and updated three times since then, with constant progress reports to the Synod Council and annual reports to each Synod Assembly.

This Plan has guided our ministry activities by allowing us to say “no” when we needed to say “no,” and “yes” when we needed to say “yes.” (Often, we have had to say “not yet”). It has provided continuity and constancy and kept our energies focused on

mission and not on divisions, individual projects, passions of the moment, and visions for mission different from the one we have repeatedly affirmed as a synod.

The current progress report on all these goals and ministries is included here and will be presented during our business sessions when we deal with our vibrant and energetic mission activities. This report reflects, in one way or another, our strategy to “plan the work and to work the plan.”

Mission Institute: This institute was established in order to offer stronger support for pastors and lay leaders to:

- create ministry programs that reflect our Lutheran understanding of God’s mission;
- become more aware of changes in our society and mission environment;
- better utilize available demographic data and trends;
- study the shifting social and spiritual needs of our congregations;
- develop a congregational culture that will enhance the personal leadership gifts of disciples in mission-minded congregations;
- meet the demands of change by embedding the principles of the mission plan; and
- create a renewed mission focus needed for faithfully living and serving in an increasingly complex world.

Leadership Institute: This ministry emphasis grew out of the need to develop programs for leadership skills not available in our existing structures and institutions. We recognized that church leaders were learning in ways that differed from the way “we used to do it” and that congregations needed rostered leaders with more management expertise and stronger evangelical identity-building skills. These learning and performance gaps have widened in recent generations and require new leadership-formation programs to meet the needs of the church and its mission. As a synod, we are achieving this. Through dozens of focus groups, we came to see the need to increase our clergy’s capacity to judge and address issues with more theological precision so that our people can respond as the faithful baptized according to their varied gifts and vocations.

Ecumenical Partnerships and Advocacy: Our work here continues to develop nicely. We are at an all-time high in joint planning and mission work with our ecumenical partners especially in the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, and the Roman Catholic Church.

We have a joint campus ministry, for example. We coordinate most of our advocacy ministry at the local and state levels (domestic violence, education funding reform, disaster response, and death penalty). At the national and international levels, our ecumenical partnerships are crucial as we deal with farm policy, voting rights, health care, environmental issues, and US Foreign Aid, and jointly work against Malaria/AIDS/Hunger, cooperate in refugee relief, and advance our work in environmental and natural disaster concerns.

More joint events for ordained leaders are now necessary both for education and fellowship; along with better partnerships and coordination of ministry workshops/events among local congregations and parishes. Our bishops' staff members and ministry staff and volunteers are working ever closer with our United Methodist and Episcopal partners to plan and carry out mission and ministry-focused activities.

Although the respective bishops have coordinated these events over the years, it is now time for the local leadership in these areas to take a stronger lead part. The Southern Ohio Synod has carried on much of its advocacy work in coordination with our ecumenical partners rather than "going it alone." We have found this approach to be more theologically faithful, socially responsible, economically prudent, church unifying, and talent-releasing.

Companion Synod Partnerships and Activities

We continue to provide the blessings of increased fellowship and ministry activities with partners in other parts of the world.

In the East of Lake Victoria Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, we have always worked towards a partnership that does not lead to dependency, but to mutual investment in life-giving and evangelical ministries. We have shared seed money for farm machinery to help produce local income and services through our partners on a regional level. We have supplied advocacy and support to prevent the killings of elderly women, educate villages, and heal those whose lives have been saved. We have also supported the training evangelists and community leaders in the diocese, now led by Bishop Andrew Gulle. The Chair of our Tanzania Partnership committee is Dr. Terry Rapoch of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Centerville, Ohio.

We have partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan, through Bishop Yuri Novgorodov, to support seminary training for the church, and the life-saving work of rescuing abandoned newborns and their mothers. Pastor Peter Kruse, of Southern Ohio Synod, is vigilant in keeping our ties mission-focused.

In Germany, we have a vibrant exchange and visitation program between congregations of our synod and the Evangelical Church of North Germany (formerly the Mecklenburg

Church). The new church is led by Bishops Von Maltzahn and Ulrich. We are continuing our partnership between their Southern Ohio Partnership Committee and our Church of North Germany Committee. Our congregations enjoy a good deal of mutual fellowship and frequent awareness visits, while the Bishops are working on mission-focused educational opportunities for pastors and other leaders. Pastor Bill Rauch, of St. Paul Lutheran in Newark, coordinates our work in this partnership and accompanied me in signing a new covenant agreement between our two churches at the recent Kirchentag in Hamburg, Germany.

Our partnership with the Sinodo Espiritu Santo à Belem, in Brazil, is also strong and is achieving our goals of developing both congregational and infrastructural ties. These recent years mark the beginning of our fellowship and acquaintance building... we will rely on the Holy Spirit to help us focus our work. Our partner in Christ is represented at this assembly by Synod Pastor Joaquin Brochardt. The energetic and faithful chair of our Brazil Committee is Pastor Michael Althaus of St. Jacob Lutheran Church in Anna, Ohio.

Some of our Programs and Ministry

Congregational Numerical, Programmatic, and Spiritual Growth: Over the years, we have provided opportunity for our congregations and leaders to join in ministry enhancement activities, which have included PCOR (Partnership for Congregational Renewal), Mission Institute, Amazing Grace Summer Program, 4-G Network for Stewardship, Northern Exposure Mission Cooperative, and Grace Partners). We have recently developed the “Dwelling in the Word” ministry with Church Innovations Institute where congregational leaders join together for a Biblically based experience to launch into new ministry partnerships for strengthening our disciples and bringing more people to Christ.

Youth and Family Ministries: Many, many of our congregations have voiced a desire for stronger ministry among youth, young adults, and families in congregations. Few church councils that I have visited in past years have neglected to strongly request such synod help and resources. We now do this with faithfulness and excellence across the entire synod territory. Our contract with Gary Pecuch for this ministry is up for renewal. It currently includes enhancing the network and available resources among congregational paid and volunteer leaders. I strongly urge that this vital and growing ministry continue and get strengthened synod support.

Financial support for our affiliated agencies has been lax for years. Those with a direct service without independently incorporated boards have been higher on the synod funding list because they are almost entirely dependent on synod funding and/or basic fees. However, because of the fiscal storms we have suffered since 2007 in the general

economy and in the church, funding to all agencies and ministries across the church has been unreliable.

We have been on the road to financial recovery in 2012, and we were able to meet our secondary goal for ELCA Mission Support funding. However, we have a long way to go in order to continue crucial ministries on the synod territory while at the same time increasing our ELCA Mission Support to a higher and more acceptable level. I believe this can be done by the end of Fiscal Year 2014. Our ministry program would have hit the rocks and sunk had we not had a Spirit-led, time tested, faithful, and highly effective Vision and Strategic Mission Plan: Advancing God's Mission Vision 2020.

The strategy and goals allow us to secure funding for our Leadership Institute; and our Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry, support developing and renewing congregations; and to provide advance purchase of land for new congregations. Most of these ministries, along with our basic ministries of direct support of congregations and leaders, would have failed had the synod not had the drive and faithful foresight to establish and implement a mission strategy.

This past year, the Synod Council reviewed our Synod's Mission Plan called AGM: Living Faith, which led us toward a vision for the year 2015. In reviewing the 12 goals in the plan we celebrated that most of the original steps that were identified to achieve those goals have been completed. Some were modified in light of the ever changing dynamics of the mission field in Southern Ohio and/or changes within the ELCA, and a few were deemed to be impractical. The consensus of the Synod Council was that our current plan has served us well and now it is time to move forward with creating a new Advancing God's Mission: Vision 2020 and redefine our goals in light of that new vision. The first steps in the process were the "God Sighting" events earlier this year. At those events we heard inspiring stories of how God is at work throughout the Synod in our congregations, in the lives of people, and in the communities in which we live and serve. As we move forward we will be developing a process for building on what was shared and coalescing it into a vision and mission plan for the future so that we can "walk together" into the future that God is already bringing into being.

It is also a relief to me that we have already had a briefing by PORTICO Benefit Services (formerly ELCA Board of Pensions), and that another presentation will be made during this Synod Assembly. BE THERE! There are many important changes in the Health Care Laws and Portico policies that we have direct impact on our congregations, rostered leaders, and their families.

2013 Southern Ohio Synod SynodFest
Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio
Theme: Global Mission and Partnership
Acts 1:8

Friday, June 7, 2013	
11:30 am – 2:30 pm	Registration in HPER Center Old Gymnasium
	Plenary Session I
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Opening Hymn</p> <p>Opening of Assembly—The Rev. Callon Holloway, Jr.</p> <p>Adoption of the Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Adoption of the 2013 Agenda</p> <p>Qualifications of Synodical Bishop— Rev. Walter May, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, ELCA</p> <p>Prayer and 1st Ballot for Bishop—Mrs. Barbara Klatt</p> <p>Mission Moment—Mrs. Jan Borchers, Mission Interpreter Coordinator</p> <p>Bishop’s Report—The Rev. Callon Holloway, Jr.</p> <p>Report of Elections Committee—The Rev. Steve Kimm</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Results of 1st Ballot for Bishop</p> <p>ELCA Representative’s Report—The Rev. Albert Starr, Program Director for African Descent Ministries</p>
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Break
3:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Dwelling in the Word Bible Study —Dr. Pat Ellison
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>Prayer and 2nd Ballot for Bishop—Mrs. Barbara Klatt</p> <p>End Plenary Session I</p>
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Synod-wide Worship—Weaver Chapel
6:30 pm – 9 pm	Farewell Dinner Reception for Bishop Callon Holloway, Jr.—HPER Center

Saturday, June 8, 2012—Plenary Session 2	
8 am – Noon	Registration check in and onsite registration in HPER Center old gymnasium.
9 am – 11:45 am	<p>Opening—The Rev. Callon Holloway, Jr.</p> <p>Report of Elections Committee—The Rev. Steve Kimm Results of 2nd Ballot for Bishop</p> <p>Report of the Council Secretary—Mr. Roy Hart</p> <p>Report of the Synod Council VP—Mrs. Barbara Klatt</p> <p>Report of the Synod Council Treasurer—Mr. Mike Knilans</p> <p>Report of Assembly Committees</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Report of the Reference and Council Committee—The Rev. Peter Kruse and The Rev. Bob Abrams</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Report of the Nominating Committee—Mrs. Jane Lane</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Report of the Elections Committee—The Rev. Steve Kimm</p> <p>Mission Moment—Mr. Stephen Barnes, Fifth Lutheran, Springfield, Mission Interpreter</p> <p>Report of the Synod Council (30 minutes)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2014 Fiscal Proposal—Mr. Mike Knilans</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2014 Compensation Guidelines—Ms. Desirée Tryloff</p> <p>Companion Synod Partnership and Global Mission—The Rev. Bishop Juri Novgorodov, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan</p> <p>Report of Assembly Committees</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Report of the Elections Committee—Rev. Steve Kimm</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">First General Ballot Voting and Results</p> <p>Top 7 Nominees for Bishop (3-5 minute) Presentations—Mrs. Barbara Klatt</p> <p>Prayer and 3rd Ballot for Bishop—Mrs. Barbara Klatt</p> <p>3rd Ballot for Bishop Results—Rev. Steve Kimm</p> <p>Mission Moment—Mrs. Ann Vosskuehler, First Lutheran Church, Springfield, Mission Interpreter</p> <p>Companion Synod Partnership and Global Mission—Pastor Joaninho Brochardt, Bishop, Sinodo Espirito Santo Belem, Brazil</p> <p>Report of the Elections Committee—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Second General Ballot Voting and Results—If Needed</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Housekeeping Announcements</p> <p>End Plenary Session 2</p>
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Break for Lunch

Saturday, June 8, 2012—Plenary Session 3

1:15 pm – 4:00 pm

Companion Synod Partnership and Global Mission—The Rev. Larry Hoffsis and Epiphany Lutheran Church, Dayton

Companion Synod Partnership and Global Mission—The Rev. Andrew Gulle, Bishop, East of Lake Victoria Diocese, Tanzania

Question and Answer by 3 People Who Received the Most Votes from 3rd Ballot for Bishop

4th Ballot for Bishop & Results—Mrs. Barbara Klatt

Report of Assembly Committees

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee— The Rev. Peter Kruse and
The Rev. Bob Abrams
Resolutions

Mission Moment—Mrs. Arlene Dykeman, Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, Mission Interpreter

Break

Dwelling in the Word Bible Study—Dr. Pat Ellison

5th Ballot for Bishop & Results—Mrs. Barbara Klatt

Protocol and Response Committee Report—The Rev. Katie Kerrigan

Closing of SynodFest/Synod Assembly—The Rev. Callon Holloway, Jr.

Adjourn

RULES OF PROCEDURE

- I. To make parliamentary procedure effective and interesting in a convention where many are not acquainted, the following courtesies and adherence to good parliamentary procedure will be appreciated.
 - A. To obtain the floor, please
 1. Go to the appropriate floor microphone (For/Against)
 2. Address the chair
 3. Identify yourself by giving your
 - a. Name
 - b. Congregation, agency, or institution
 - c. Town or city
 4. Speak slowly, loudly, clearly
 - B. The right to speak on the convention floor includes
 1. Lay voting members representing their congregation
 2. Ordained ministers on the clergy roster
 3. Active associates in ministry on the clergy roster
 4. Members of the Synod Council
 - C. The right to vote includes
 1. Lay voting members of congregations who have been accredited to the Assembly by proper registration
 2. Ordained ministers under call on the clergy roster who have been accredited to the Assembly by proper registration
 3. Retired ordained clergy who have requested and received accreditation
 4. Active associates in ministry who have been accredited to the Assembly by proper registration
 5. The officers of this synod and members of the Synod Council not otherwise elected

(Continued on side 2)

II. Supplementary Rules

- A. Speeches: Unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Assembly, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to two (2) minutes.
- B. Point of Order: Any member may submit a point of order or procedure to the chair and may, if necessary, interrupt a speaker for that purpose.
- C. Withdrawal of a Motion: Any motion or amendment may be withdrawn by permission of the Assembly.
- D. The chair may interrupt proceedings at any time to receive reports of voting or call for balloting.
- E. The rules contained in The New Robert's Rule of Order shall govern the Assembly in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Rules of Procedure. The word "day" shall be constructed as "meeting."
- F. Motions shall be submitted in writing on the form provided.
- G. Proxy and/or absentee voting is not permitted.
- H. A majority of registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- I. Unless otherwise provided for in the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution and Bylaws, on the second ballot for any election, the voting will be limited to two persons for each open position receiving the highest number of votes on the previous ballot.
- J. Unless otherwise provided for in the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution and Bylaws, on the third ballot for any elections, a plurality shall be sufficient for election.
- K. Resolutions presenting new business to the Assembly shall be submitted to the Synod Office no later than March 15 each year for consideration at the Synod Assembly. Each resolution shall promptly be referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee. Any resolution submitted to the Synod Assembly after the written deadline may be introduced at the assembly provided that the Reference and Counsel Committee has reviewed the resolution and a two-thirds vote of the assembly permits. Resolutions which fail to meet these conditions may be referred to the Synod Council.
- L. The Reference and Counsel Committee shall be appointed no later than thirty days before the commencement of the Assembly. The committee shall receive and review resolutions submitted to the Synod Assembly. The committee shall put resolutions in proper form and order. Other substantive alterations may be made only with the sponsor's consent. The committee is required to report all resolutions referred to it by the deadline with one of the following responses: (1) no recommendation, (2) recommend passage; (3) recommend defeat; (4) recommend referral. The committee shall recommend a time in the agenda to place resolutions before the assembly.
- M. The Reference and Council Committee shall receive requests for distribution of material at the Assembly and grant approval or disapproval.
- N. The Reference and Council Committee shall receive requests for time on the agenda for synod groups or persons not presently on it.
- O. Voting by the assembly may be carried out by means of an electronic voting system, except when the Chair deems otherwise.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2013

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Jan. 1, 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was born. As you gather for your synod assembly, may our 25th anniversary year become the occasion to look back with gratitude to God and look to the future with hope in Christ. Our anniversary theme, “Always being made new,” is God’s promise in Christ Jesus.

How would you describe the past 25 years of life and service together as the ELCA? These words come to mind:

- Continuity** We are a church deeply rooted in the faith that is shared with every generation. Our faith is the Holy Spirit’s work through the gospel. It is formed and nourished in worship, strengthened through prayer and study, lived out in our varied daily callings and is often tested. We are a church rooted in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, tradition and in the rich histories of congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.
- Change** How can we begin to summarize the pace of change these past 25 years? The capacity to be connected through technology is mind-boggling. The tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, gave us a sense of vulnerability and fear. The U.S. religious landscape is dominated by religious pluralism, the growth of “nones” – people with no religious affiliation – and perspectives on social, economic and political issues that are passionate and often polarizing.
- As the ELCA, we have grown in multiple ways and we continue to be transformed by the global body of Christ. We have six full communion partner churches and have adopted 11 social statements. The actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on human sexuality brought joy and new possibilities for ministry for some and caused painful conflicts and separation for others. What began as a five-year initiative designed to encourage members, congregations and synods to become fluent in the language of Scripture, continues today as we are a “Book of Faith” church. We have created a constellation of worship resources with “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” as our core resource, accompanied by “Prayer Book for

Armed Services,” “Libro de Liturgia y Cántico,” “This Far by Faith” and the “Chinese Lutheran Book of Worship.”

Challenges

There are challenges before us that could cause us to turn inward and become preoccupied with the future of the various parts of the ELCA. Among these are loss of baptized membership; congregations with decreasing resources; ELCA membership that is 95 percent white and where the median age of an ELCA member is about 16 years older than the U.S. population; and financial challenges facing ELCA-related ministries, institutions and agencies, including our seminaries. While these challenges are serious, within them we also find hope as they call us to renewed commitment to work together with imagination, passion and courage.

Commitments

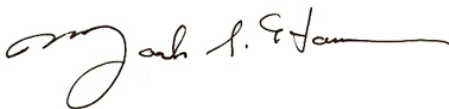
Anniversaries are wonderful opportunities to renew our commitments to one another as we proclaim Christ and engage in God’s mission for the life of the world. Together, let us be a church that:

- Supports all the baptized, as we live out our varied callings to be disciples of Jesus Christ in our daily lives;
- Serves the gospel – through vibrant new and renewed congregations;
- Gives a clear evangelical Lutheran witness to the gospel, building upon the strong foundation of the ongoing Lutheran Reformation;
- Prepares wise, courageous, imaginative and diverse evangelical leaders to serve in church and society;
- Deepens and extends our global and ecumenical partnerships as we serve God’s mission of restoring community and reconciling relationships;
- Welcomes all with radical hospitality, while confronting the barriers of attitudes and action that exclude people from full participation in church and society; and
- Grows generous and faithful stewards of God’s abundant gifts.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. For us, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom to boldly participate in God’s work in the world for our next 25 years together.

Thank you for your partnership, gifts and ministry in proclaiming God’s reconciliation in Christ. May the Holy Spirit bless you as we live and serve together, trusting in God’s baptismal promises.

In God’s grace,



Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Primavera 2013

*“Por lo tanto, si alguno está en Cristo, es una nueva creación.
¡Lo viejo ha pasado, ha llegado ya lo nuevo!”
(2 Corintios 5:17)*

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo:

El 1 de enero de 1988 nacía la Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América (ELCA, por sus siglas en inglés). Ahora que se reúnen para su asamblea sinodal, que este año de nuestro 25 aniversario se convierta en la ocasión de examinar nuestro pasado con gratitud hacia Dios y de mirar al futuro con esperanza en Cristo. El tema de nuestro aniversario, "Siempre siendo renovados", es la promesa de Dios en Jesucristo.

¿Cómo describirían los últimos 25 años de vida y servicio juntos como ELCA? A nuestra mente acuden estas palabras:

Continuidad Somos una iglesia con raíces profundas en la fe que se comparte con cada generación. Nuestra fe es la obra del Espíritu Santo por medio del Evangelio. Se forma y nutre en la adoración, se fortalece por medio de la oración y el estudio, se vive en nuestros diferentes llamados cotidianos y se pone a prueba con frecuencia. Somos una iglesia cimentada en las Escrituras, las Confesiones Luteranas, la tradición y las generosas historias de congregaciones, sínodos y la organización nacional.

Cambio Resulta extremadamente complejo resumir el ritmo de los cambios en estos últimos 25 años. La capacidad de conectarse por medio de la tecnología es alucinante. Los trágicos sucesos del 11 de septiembre de 2001 nos generaron una sensación de vulnerabilidad y temor. El panorama religioso de EE.UU. está dominado por el pluralismo religioso, el aumento de los "ninguna" –personas sin afiliación religiosa– y de perspectivas sobre cuestiones sociales, económicas y políticas que generan pasión y, con frecuencia, polarización.

Como Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América, hemos crecido de múltiples maneras y el cuerpo global de Cristo sigue transformándonos. Tenemos seis iglesias compañeras de comunión plena y hemos adoptado 11 pronunciamientos sociales. Las decisiones sobre sexualidad humana de la Asamblea General de la ELCA de 2009 fueron fuente de alegría y nuevas posibilidades de ministerio para algunos y generaron conflictos dolorosos y separaciones para otros. Lo que empezó como una iniciativa de cinco años diseñada para alentar a los miembros, las congregaciones y los sínodos a

dominar el idioma de las Escrituras sigue vigente hoy pues somos una iglesia del "Libro de la Fe". Hemos creado una constelación de recursos de adoración con "Adoración Evangélica Luterana" como nuestro recurso fundamental, acompañado por "Prayer Book for Armed Services" (Libro de oración para las fuerzas armadas), "Libro de Liturgia y Cántico", "This Far by Faith" (Hasta aquí gracias a la fe) y "Chinese Lutheran Book of Worship" (Libro luterano de adoración en idioma chino)

Retos

Ante nosotros tenemos retos que pueden impulsarnos a encerrarnos en nosotros mismos y preocuparnos por el futuro de las diferentes partes de la ELCA. Son, entre otros, la pérdida de miembros bautizados; congregaciones con recursos reducidos; una membresía de la ELCA integrada en un 95% por personas de raza blanca y con una edad media superior en 16 años al promedio de la población estadounidense, además de los retos financieros que enfrentan los ministerios, instituciones y agencias relacionadas con la ELCA, incluidos nuestros seminarios. Aunque estos retos son serios, en ellos también encontramos esperanza pues nos llaman a un compromiso renovado para trabajar juntos con imaginación, pasión y valor.

Compromisos

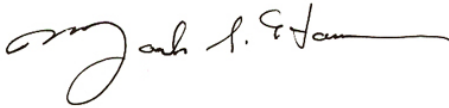
Los aniversarios son oportunidades maravillosas para renovar nuestros compromisos mutuos al tiempo que proclamamos a Cristo y participamos en la misión de Dios para la vida del mundo. Juntos seamos una iglesia que:

- Sostiene a todos los bautizados y bautizadas mientras vivimos nuestros diferentes llamados a ser discípulos de Jesucristo en nuestras vidas diarias;
- Sirve al Evangelio – por medio de congregaciones dinámicas, tanto nuevas como renovadas;
- Da un claro testimonio evangélico luterano del Evangelio en base a los sólidos cimientos de la continua Reforma luterana;
- Prepara líderes evangélicos valientes, imaginativos y diversos para que sirvan en la iglesia y la sociedad;
- Profundiza en nuestras asociaciones globales y ecuménicas, y las amplía, mientras servimos en la misión de Dios de restablecer la comunidad y reconciliar las relaciones;
- A todos recibe con hospitalidad radical al tiempo que se opone a las barreras de las actitudes y acciones que impiden a las personas participar plenamente en la iglesia y la sociedad, y
- Cultiva a personas que sirven como generosos y fieles mayordomos de los abundantes dones de Dios.

Somos una iglesia que comparte una confianza viva y valiente en la gracia de Dios. Para nosotros, esta fe parte de la buena nueva de Jesucristo y nos otorga la libertad para participar con valentía en la obra de Dios en el mundo para nuestros próximos 25 años unidos.

Gracias por su compañía, dones y ministerio para proclamar la reconciliación de Dios en Cristo. Que el Espíritu Santo los bendiga mientras vivimos y servimos juntos, confiando en las promesas bautismales de Dios.

Con la gracia de Dios:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark S. Hanson
Obispo presidente

Biographical Information for Rev. Albert Starr, Jr.
ELCA Representative

Began work as Director for African Descent Ministries for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in March of 2009.



Prior to accepting the call to the Chicago office, Rev. Starr served as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles, California from Sept. of 1982 until March of 2009.

Together with his wife, Judith, Pastor Starr studied at the Makumira Theological College near Arusha Tanzania, East Africa as a part of completing the Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio in 1982.

In addition to Tanzania and Kenya, Pastor Starr's ministry travels have taken him to Hong Kong China, Moscow Russia, Tallinn Estonia, Budapest Hungary, Warsaw Poland and other countries within the former Soviet Union. During sabbatical 2007, Pastor Starr had the privilege of visiting churches in Addis Ababa, southern Ethiopia and the ancient churches at Lalibela. A highlight of the sabbatical included touring Ghana west Africa and being in Independence Stadium in Accra for the national celebration of the "50th" anniversary of Ghana's Independence.

Pastor Starr served on the Board of Directors for Los Angeles Metropolitan Ministries and the Los Angeles Chapter of One Church One Child. He served as the founding chairman of the New City Parish Coalition, a Los Angeles based network of Lutheran congregations in the greater Los Angeles area.

In September of 2009, Rev. Starr was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus Ohio.

His call to ministry has always included a strong notion of serving God by serving God's people. As a pastor /teacher he takes great delight and special joy in helping to lift up and engage the gifts and talents of people of African descent and others, celebrating their capacity for building a stronger church and a better world to the glory of God through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Starr and his wife Judith have two adult children, their daughter Jordann and their son, Temesghen. He is the first of seven children born to Albert and Eunice Starr of Durham, N. C.

*"...I know the plans I have for you says the Lord,
Plans to prosper you not to harm you, to give you A future with hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

Rev. Albert Starr, Jr.
Program Director for African Descent Ministries
Congregation Synodical Missions Unit
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 773.380.2916 albert.starr@elca.org

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD Congregational Giving

February 2012 through January 2013

Name	City	Number	Regular Mission Support	Other Gifts rec'd by SOS	TOTAL
Abiding Christ Lutheran(#4755Fairborn	Fairborn	04755	18,428.16	400.00	18,828.16
Advent Ev. Lutheran Ch(#4538Upper Arling	Upper Arlington	04538	18,000.00	4,038.35	22,038.35
All Saints Lutheran Chur #4684 Cincinnati	Cincinnati	04684	749.97	0.00	749.97
All Saints Lutheran Church (#4535Worthi	Worthington	04535	85,200.00	4,552.50	89,752.50
Alleluia Lutheran Church(#30472Plain Cit)	Plain City	30472	2,042.60	0.00	2,042.60
Ascension Lutheran Ch #4687 Cincinn	Cincinnati	04687	1,400.00	160.00	1,560.00
Ascension Lutheran Church #4513 Columbus	Columbus	04513	2,800.00	227.00	3,027.00
Atonement Lutheran Church (#13098Cincin	Cincinnati	13098	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00
Augsburg Lutheran Church(C#13099Cincinnati)	Cincinnati	13099	3,703.21	3,420.85	7,124.06
Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church (#4699Springfi	Springfield	04699	3,543.00	1,000.00	4,543.00
Bethel Lutheran Church #13198 Grove City	Grove City	13198	15,511.70	839.62	16,351.32
Bethel Lutheran Church(#13059Russell)	Russell's Point	13059	830.00	1,627.23	2,457.23
Bethlehem Lutheran Church(#13253)	Middletown	13253	1,617.00	288.00	1,905.00
Brandt Evang Lutheran #4694	Tipp City	04694	3,007.00	136.00	3,143.00
Calvary Lutheran Church #4512 Chillicothe	Chillicothe	04512	6,500.00	1,367.00	7,867.00
Calvary Orth Lutheran Church #30984 Lancaster	Lancaster	30984	98.16	176.00	274.16
Christ Evan Lutheran Chur(C#4536Heath)	Heath	04536	21,825.00	226.00	22,051.00
Christ Lutheran Church (#13127Bexley)	Bexley	13127	53,532.93	1,877.56	55,410.49
Christ Lutheran Church Of Hamburg4521Lanc	Lancaster	04521	600.00	425.10	1,025.10
Christ Lutheran Church(#04646Athens)	Athens	04646	22,921.35	1,256.00	24,177.35
Christ The King Luth Ch#4667 St. Clairsv	St. Clairsville	04667	3,900.00	73.00	3,973.00
Christ The King Lutheran Church #4742Center	Centerville	04742	8,282.00	2,481.00	10,763.00
Christ The King Lutheran Church #16192 West Che	West Chester	16192	6,000.00	1,867.00	7,867.00
Christ's Ev. Lutheran Church04652Cambridge	Cambridge	04652	9,349.50	1,053.50	10,403.00
Clinton Heights Lutheran Church(13128Col)	Columbus	13128	14,000.00	1,115.00	15,115.00
Covenant Lutheran Church(#07617)St Paris	St Paris	07617	1,583.32	1,000.00	2,583.32
David Ev. Lutheran Church 13084 Canal Winc	Canal Winchester	13084	8,891.32	2,575.00	11,466.32
Drumm's Lutheran Church (#13293 Thornville)	Thornville	13293	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Emanuel Lutheran Ch #13306 Logan	Logan	13306	2,001.00	487.00	2,488.00
Emanuel Lutheran Ch Montra 13256	Anna	13256	2,858.15	365.00	3,223.15
Emanuel Lutheran Ch #13277 Phillipsburg	Phillipsburg	13277	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Emmanuel (Zeigler) Lutheran #7618 Lancaster	Pleasantville	07618	600.00	106.00	706.00
Emmanuel Lutheran Ch.(#4758 Germantown)	Germantown	04758	2,030.50	1,072.00	3,102.50

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD Congregational Giving

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Name	City	Number	Regular Mission Support	Other Gifts rec'd by SOS	TOTAL
Emmanuel Lutheran Church(4653Coshocton)	Coshocton	04653	8,498.00	1,126.42	9,624.42
Epiphany Lutheran Church (#13155) Dayton	Dayton	13155	45,000.00	4,552.00	49,552.00
Epiphany Lutheran Church (C#13278Pickeri)	Pickerington	13278	45,755.00	2,810.00	48,565.00
Faith Ev. Lutheran Church(C#4688Wilmington)	Wilmington	04688	16,899.94	5,264.00	22,163.94
Faith Lutheran Church C#13259 Mt Vernon	Mt Vernon	13259	1,666.66	13,403.56	15,070.22
Faith Lutheran Church(#13131Whitehall)	Whitehall	13131	33,430.83	6,959.23	40,390.06
Faith Lutheran Church(C#30336Baltimore)	Baltimore	30336	7,100.00	100.00	7,200.00
Faith Lutheran Church(C#4537Jackson)	Jackson	04537	4,800.00	616.00	5,416.00
Faith Lutheran Church(C#4685Oxford)	Oxford	04685	34,500.00	1,844.68	36,344.68
Fellowship Lutheran Church(#7584Columbus)	Columbus	07584	504.42	18,459.96	18,964.38
Fifth Ev. Luth Church #4704 Springfield	Springfield	04704	3,137.32	1,030.00	4,167.32
First English EV. Lutheran Ch(#4675Cincin	Cincinnati	04675	3,900.00	200.00	4,100.00
First English Lutheran Ch(C#13061Ashville	Ashville	13061	6,033.00	2,339.00	8,372.00
First English Lutheran Church#4522Lancast	Lancaster	04522	10,799.42	1,501.00	12,300.42
First English Lutheran Ch #4514 Columbus	Columbus	04514	500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
First Lutheran Ch #4745 Dayton	Dayton	04745	8,017.29	5,987.58	14,004.87
First Lutheran Church #13285 Portsmouth	Portsmouth	13285	400.00	0.00	400.00
First Lutheran Church (#04713 Xenia)	Xenia	04713	19,500.00	1,564.00	21,064.00
First Lutheran Church (#4701 Springfield)	Springfield	04701	1,822.21	4,225.38	6,047.59
First Lutheran Church#04690Bellefontaine	Bellefontaine	04690	26,230.02	6,113.00	32,343.02
Friedens Lutheran Church(#4743Covington)	Covington	04743	1,486.00	0.00	1,486.00
Galilee Lutheran Church(#7180Russells Poi	Russell's Point	07180	5,358.50	320.24	5,678.74
Gethsemane Lutheran Ch. #20228Columbus	Columbus	20228	16,875.00	1,295.00	18,170.00
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church(#13102Cincinna	Cincinnati	13102	8,050.00	1,700.00	9,750.00
Good Shepherd Ev Lutheran#04775West Milton	West Milton	04775	800.00	95.00	895.00
Good Shepherd Lutheran Chur#13132Columb	Columbus	13132	5,180.97	2,289.13	7,470.10
Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Ch#30019Spring	Springfield	30019	15,791.65	235.00	16,026.65
Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch. #13157Ketteri	Kettering	13157	16,328.00	376.00	16,704.00
Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch.#4676Cinc	Cincinnati	04676	116,882.56	26,352.00	143,234.56
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church#4534Washing	Washington CH	04534	0.00	2,782.75	2,782.75
Grace Ev. Lutheran Ch #13133 Pickerington	Pickerington	13133	7,008.38	1,494.95	8,503.33
Grace Ev. Lutheran Church 13121 Lancaster	Lancaster	13121	3,000.00	236.00	3,236.00
Grace Lutheran Church #13094Centerbur	Centerburg	13094	1,945.83	152.00	2,097.83

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February 2012 through January 2013

Name	City	Number	Regular Mission Support	Other Gifts rec'd by SOS	TOTAL
Grace Lutheran Church #13172 Eaton	Eaton	13172	0.00	54.36	54.36
Grace Lutheran Church #13327 Westerville	Westerville	13327	11,101.00	5,165.00	16,266.00
Grace Lutheran Church (C#13198Thornville)	Thornville	13311		50.00	50.00
Grace Of God Lutheran Ch.(#30627Columbus)	Columbus	30627	7,313.00	306.50	7,619.50
Harmony Parish Buffalo #4662	Buffalo	04662	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Holy Trinity Ev. Luth Ch.(#13264 New Lex	New Lexington	13264	3,146.00	2,122.00	5,268.00
Holy Trinity Lutheran Chu. #4516Columbus	Columbus	04516	40,433.45	732.50	41,165.95
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 04527Newar	Newark	04527	2,081.00	366.00	2,447.00
Hope EV Lutheran Church#13134Columbus	Columbus	13134	12,626.95	1,533.19	14,160.14
Hope Lutheran Church #13158 Dayton	Dayton	13158	600.00	676.47	1,276.47
Hope Lutheran Church#13103Cincinnati	Cincinnati	13103	7,541.75	543.50	8,085.25
Hosanna Lutheran Church#16097Pataskala	Pataskala	16097	11,784.97	400.00	12,184.97
Lord Of Life Lutheran Church#13229Columbu	Columbus	13229	43,649.35	756.00	44,405.35
Lord Of Life Lutheran Church#7827West Che	West Chester	07827	0.00	13,903.00	13,903.00
Lutheran Ch of the Resurrection#13104Cin	Cincinnati	13104	32,684.07	3,405.00	36,089.07
Lutheran Church of our Savior 4523Lancast	Lancaster	04523	1,060.00	0.00	1,060.00
Lutheran Church of our Savior 4749 Dayton	Dayton	04749	16,666.67	20,095.00	36,761.67
Messiah Lutheran Church (C#4712 Urbana)	Urbana	04712	333.33	0.00	333.33
Messiah Lutheran Church(#13289Reynoldsbu	Reynoldsburg	13289	27,520.00	80.00	27,600.00
Mighty Fortress Lutheran Ch4762Kettering	Kettering	04762	3,600.00	300.00	3,900.00
New Hope Ev. Lutheran (#30187 Dayton)	Dayton	30187	0.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
New Hope Lutheran Church #4644 Adamsville	Adamsville	04644	6,000.00	1,200.00	7,200.00
New Lebanon EV Lutheran Church(13218Junc)	Junction City	13218	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
New Salem Ch(#4692	Bellefontaine	04692	150.00	25.00	175.00
North Community Lutheran Ch. 13138Columbu	Columbus	13138	20,490.00	9,781.80	30,271.80
North Riverdale Lutheran Ch(#04748Dayton	Dayton	04748	2,169.57	16,505.00	18,674.57
Peace Ev. Luth Church #13159 Beaver creek	Beaver creek	13159	76,000.00	7,848.97	83,848.97
Peace Lutheran Church (C#13187 Gahanna)	Gahanna	13187	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
Peace Lutheran Church(#13058Georgetown)	Georgetown	13058	9,050.00	2,388.54	11,438.54
Peace Lutheran Church(C#7792 Hillsboro)	Hillsboro	07792	2,000.00	125.00	2,125.00
Philadelphia Ev Luth 4693 Bellefontaine	Bellefontaine	04693	0.00	9,281.07	9,281.07
Pitsburg Trinity Lutheran Ch#13280Pitsbur	Pitsburg	13280	13,411.50	3,306.00	16,717.50
Prince Of Peace Lutheran Ch(#7725 Dublin)	Dublin	07725	5,000.00	350.00	5,350.00

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD Congregational Giving

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Name	City	Number	Regular Mission Support	Other Gifts rec'd by SOS	TOTAL
Prince Of Peace Lutheran#4689	Loveland	04689	77,082.66	9,016.64	86,099.30
Providence Ev Lutheran #13080	Brookville	13080	0.00	250.00	250.00
Redeemer Lutheran Church(#13139)	Columbus	13139	16,663.00	2,520.00	19,183.00
Reformation Lutheran Church#4518	Columbus	04518	4,954.15	3,412.36	8,366.51
Resurrection Ev. Lutheran C#4520	Hilliard	04520	10,461.75	266.00	10,727.75
Resurrection Ev. Lutheran C#4680	Lebanon	04680	27,315.13	4,363.74	31,678.87
Rockway Lutheran Ch. #04707	Springfield	04707	4,070.00	1,285.75	5,355.75
Roselawn Lutheran Church #4678	Cincinnati	04678	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Salem Ev Lutheran #13326 W. Alexandria	West Alexandria	13326	2,499.99	8,210.01	10,710.00
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Ch.#4767	Miamisburg	04767	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
St Andrew Lutheran Church(C#13176)	Enon	13176	0.00	5,028.34	5,028.34
St Jacob Evangelical Lutheran(#13055)	Anna	13055	23,506.61	22,920.36	46,426.97
St Jacob Lutheran Church #4765	Miamisburg	04765	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
St Jacobs Lutheran (#4529)	Tarlton	04529	744.00	0.00	744.00
St John Ev. Lutheran #4761 W. Alexandria	West Alexandria	04761	14,252.70	4,970.79	19,223.49
St John Ev. Lutheran ChurchC#04661	Roseville/Stovertown	04661	3,475.00	871.00	4,346.00
St John Lutheran Ch (C#13182)	Franklin Furnace	13182	5,156.75	0.00	5,156.75
St John Lutheran Church (13282)	Racine	13282	2,300.00	912.00	3,212.00
St John Lutheran Church(#13174)	Logan	13174	300.00	289.00	589.00
St John Lutheran Church(#13197)	Greenville	13197		312.61	312.61
St Johns Ev. Luth Church 4772	Vandalia	04772	7,727.00	2,139.44	9,866.44
St Johns Lutheran Ch #04657	Martins Ferry	04657	2,642.00	50.00	2,692.00
St Johns Lutheran Ch(C#4766)	Miamisburg	04766	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
St Johns Lutheran Ch.(C#04744)	Covington	04744	12,592.90	3,333.41	15,926.31
St Johns Lutheran Church #13301	Sidney	13301	12,458.00	15,321.82	27,779.82
St Johns Lutheran Church (#4525)	London	04525	9,300.00	0.00	9,300.00
St Johns Lutheran Church 4672	Zanesville	04672	0.00	20,840.00	20,840.00
St Johns Lutheran Church of Philo#4660	Philo	04660	2,793.00	357.00	3,150.00
St Johns Lutheran Church(Piqua#13279)	Piqua	13279	0.00	6,679.00	6,679.00
St Luke Lutheran Church (#4656)	Marietta	04656	12,027.00	3,933.00	15,960.00
St Luke Lutheran Church 30154	Gahanna	30154	2,690.39	45,919.41	48,609.80
St Luke's Lutheran Ch(#13340)	Zanesville	13340	4,554.00	620.00	5,174.00
St Luke's Lutheran Ch(C#4532)	Newark	04532	3,217.00	1,021.00	4,238.00

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD Congregational Giving

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St Mark's Evangelical (#04756 Fairborn)	Fairborn	04756	1,386.68	2,773.36	4,160.04
St Marks Lutheran Ch (#13162 Dayton)	Dayton	13162	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
St Marks Lutheran Ch(#13166 Delaware)	Delaware	13166	3,900.00	100.00	4,000.00
St Marks Lutheran Ch(#13257Wapakoneta)	Wapakoneta	13257	11,052.75	0.00	11,052.75
St Matthew Lutheran Ch(#4686Oxford)	Oxford	04686	2,550.00	140.00	2,690.00
St Matthew Lutheran Ch(#13307 Sugar Grove)	Sugar Grove	13307	500.00	0.00	500.00
St Matthews Lutheran Ch(C#13213Ithaca)	Ithaca	13213	10,275.00	1,969.32	12,244.32
St Paul's Ev Luther #10304 Bridgeport	Bridgeport	10304	501.00	2,697.53	3,198.53
St Paul EV. Lutheran Ch(#13224Lancaster)	Lancaster	13224	8,100.00	909.00	9,009.00
St Paul EV. Lutheran Church(#04528Newark)	Newark	04528	9,173.69	1,219.00	10,392.69
St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church(#13163 Dayton)	Dayton	13163	6,000.00	1,409.50	7,409.50
St Paul Ev. Lutheran Ch#4759Greenville	Greenville	04759	0.00	3,138.63	3,138.63
St Paul Evan Luth Ch #4666 Roseville	Roseville	04666	0.00	3,556.50	3,556.50
St Paul Evan Luth Church #13105 Reading	Reading	13105	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
St Paul Lutheran Ch(#13076Botkins)	Botkins	13076	5,032.89	225.36	5,258.25
St Paul Lutheran Ch(C#13122Lancaster)	Lancaster	13122	3,500.00	143.18	3,643.18
St Paul Lutheran Ch(C#13283Pomeroy)	Pomeroy	13283	1,000.00	50.00	1,050.00
St Paul Lutheran Ch. (C#13062Ashville)	Ashville	13062	0.00	6,083.52	6,083.52
St Paul Lutheran Church #13212 Ironton	Ironton	13212	4,383.62	987.00	5,370.62
St Paul Lutheran Church #13332 Yorkshire	Yorkshire	13332	3,820.37	150.00	3,970.37
St Paul Lutheran Church #13144 Columbus	Columbus	13144	0.00	1,447.00	1,447.00
St Paul Lutheran Church #4757 Franklin	Franklin	04757	3,059.00	0.00	3,059.00
St Paul Lutheran Church (#4751Dayton)	Dayton	04751	2,208.37	0.00	2,208.37
St Paul Lutheran Church 13270 Versailles	Versailles	13270	1,507.00	45.00	1,552.00
St Paul Lutheran Church 13328 Westerville	Westerville	13328	24,136.72	4,011.28	28,148.00
St Peters Lutheran Church #13263 New Lebanon	New Lebanon	13263	0.00	200.00	200.00
St Peters Ev. Lutheran Ch.(#4524Lancaste	Lancaster	04524	13,843.00	933.00	14,776.00
St Philip Ev. Lutheran Ch(#13146Columbus)	Columbus	13146	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
St. Jacob Lutheran#13215 Jackson Center	Jackson Center	13215	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Shiloh Lutheran Church #4763 Lewisburg	Lewisburg	04763	411.00	0.00	411.00
Solomon Lutheran Church #13170	McConnellsville	13170	350.00	0.00	350.00
The Church at North Pointe (#30761Cols.)	Columbus	30761	370.85	1,200.00	1,570.85
Trinity Ev Luth Church #13106 Cincinnati	Cincinnati	13106	18,611.90	1,706.00	20,317.90

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD Congregational Giving

February 2012 through January 2013

Name	City	Number	Regular Mission Support	Other Gifts rec'd by SOS	TOTAL
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church 13147 Columbus	Columbus	13147	5,500.00	713.00	6,213.00
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church 4752 Dayton	Dayton	04752	2,541.00	1,108.00	3,649.00
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church(C#4651Bridgepo	Bridgeport	04651	795.00	0.00	795.00
Trinity Evan. Lutheran #13107 Circleville	Circleville	13107	35,001.04	3,016.67	38,017.71
Trinity Lutheran Ch(C#4673 Brookville)	Brookville	04673	10,432.00	791.00	11,223.00
Trinity Lutheran Church #04764 Lewisburg	Lewisburg	04764	7,331.55	129.00	7,460.55
Trinity Lutheran Church #13243 Marysville	Marysville	13243	15,575.00	215.00	15,790.00
Trinity Lutheran Church(#4773Versailles)	Versailles	04773	5,174.02	171.00	5,345.02
Triumphant Cross Lutheran Ch(C#4770Trotwo	Trotwood	04770	1,920.00	0.00	1,920.00
Vida Eterna Iglesia Luteran #34098	Fairfield	34098	500.00	0.00	500.00
Zion Ev Lutheran(C#13165Dayton)	Dayton	13165	8,593.00	1,472.00	10,065.00
Zion Ev Lutheran(C#13329West Jeffers	West Jefferson	13329	1,415.00	3,629.02	5,044.02
Mt Zion Lutheran Ch(4663Pleas	Pleasant City	04663	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Zion Lutheran Church #13152 Danville	Danville	13152	6,250.00	1,921.00	8,171.00
Zion Lutheran Church #40683 Middletown	Middletown	40683	450.00	22,888.00	23,338.00
Zion Lutheran Evan(C#13203Hamilton	Hamilton	13203	0.00	9,234.62	9,234.62
Zion Lutheran Church #13304 Springfield	Springfield	13304	500.00	0.00	500.00
Zion Lutheran Church #4769 Tipp City	Tipp City	04769	0.00	1,840.00	1,840.00
			1,696,421.00	506,300.66	2,202,721.66

Other Gifts are designated gifts that SOS received and used or forwarded according to the designation.

Gifts by congregations not sent through SOS are not shown on this list.

————— **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS** —————

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Synod Council
Southern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Southern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2013, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Synod. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Southern Ohio Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Hirth Norris & Garrison, LLP

Grove City, Ohio
May 6, 2013

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD
Projected Operating Results

	2012		2013	Rev 2013	2014 Fiscal Proposal
	Feb 12- Jan 13 Actual	Expenditure Authorization	Assembly Adopted	Expenditure Authorization	
4100 · Unrestricted Income					
4110 · Estimated Mission Support	1,696,421	1,515,000	1,840,000	1,701,000	1,763,000
4255 · Other Unrestricted	3,516	0	0	0	15,000
4120 · Interest	1,563	2,500	4,000	2,500	1,500
Total 4100 · Unrestricted Income	1,701,500	1,517,500	1,844,000	1,703,500	1,779,500
Less payments to Churchwide Mission Support	678,420 40%	514,875 34%	737,000 40%	612,360 36%	705,200 40%
4100 - Synod Unrestricted Income	1,023,080	1,002,625	1,107,000	1,091,140	1,074,300
4200 · Restricted Income					
4210 · ELCA Grant	100,357	85,500	0	0	10,000
4211 · ELCA Shared Staff Support	103,248	102,625	108,500	108,500	110,500
4220 · AGM Designated Funds	0	0	0	0	0
4230 · Building Income	24,892	25,000	50,000	25,000	25,000
4240 · Designated Gifts	5,441	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,500
4250 · Endowment Fund/Designated Trans	1,098	20,000	13,070	13,070	30,000
4260 · Miscellaneous Income	157,458	10,000	750	750	11,000
4270 · Roll Away the Stone	16,581	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
4271 · Bishop Appeal	17,810	0	0	0	0
4280 · Gifts Designated for use in Synod	160,818	125,000	90,000	90,000	170,000
Total 4200 · Restricted	587,703	395,625	292,320	267,320	362,000
4300 · Event Offset (Assembly reg. fees, etc.)	55,568	0	100,000	75,000	55,900
4310 · Amazing Grace Ministries	32,701	0	0	0	32,700
Income available to Synod	1,699,052	1,398,250	1,499,320	1,433,460	1,524,900

**SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD
Projected Operating Results**

	2012		2013	Rev 2013	2014 Fiscal Proposal
	Feb 12- Jan 13 Actual	Expenditure Authorization	Assembly Adopted	Expenditure Authorization	
6100 · Congregational Ministries & Support					
6110 · Committee and Task Force Expenses	466	325	300	300	500
6140 · Stewardship/Mission Support	144	13,250	1,500	1,500	10,000
6160 · Southern Ohio Synod Youth	12,764	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
6170 · Youth and family Teams	1,157	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,200
6180 Faith Trek	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	0
6190 · Worship Resourcing	0	500	500	500	0
Total 6100 · Congregational Ministries & Support	14,532	51,575	39,800	39,800	21,700
6200 · Leadership Development & Support					
6220 · Candidacy (income incl. partial offset)	9,135	5,000	5,000	5,000	9,100
6240 · Leadership Institute	13,511	20,000	20,000	20,000	14,100
6260 · Mentoring Programs	575	0	0	0	0
6270 · Rostered Leaders Conference	2,667	7,500	7,500	7,500	3,000
6285 · Lay School of Theology Exp	2,317	400	400	400	2,300
6286 · First Call Retreat	2,125	500	500	500	1,500
6290 · Testing and Evaluation	5,970	8,000	8,000	8,000	6,000
Total 6200 · Leadership Development & Support	36,300	41,400	41,400	41,400	36,000
6300 · Outreach Ministries and support					
6320 · Congregational Redevelopment	2,966	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
6330 · CSM Ministries	64,397	84,000	0	0	0
6340 · Global Mission	1,407	4,550	2,800	2,800	1,400
6370 · Grace Partners	909	0	0	0	800
6390 · New Missions	57,374	52,000	70,000	70,000	58,000
6565 · Seo Programs	315	0	0	0	300
Total 6300 · Outreach Ministries and support	127,368	150,550	82,800	82,800	70,500
6500 · Affiliates and Partnership					
6020 · Conferences	2,310	500	0	0	2,300
6510 · Capital University	600	0	1,000	500	600
6520 - LOMO Direct Grant	0	13,000	20,000	13,000	0
6530 - LOMO Amazing Grace Prog. Support	56,080	42,000	42,000	42,000	55,000
6540 · Ohio Council of Churches	2,250	1,500	4,500	1,500	1,000
6550 · Ohio Lutheran Campus Ministry	31,667	40,000	45,000	45,000	35,000
6560 · Region VI	15,727	7,500	15,000	10,000	15,800
6570 · Trinity Lutheran Seminary	15,000	20,000	25,000	20,000	15,000

**SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD
Projected Operating Results**

	2012		2013	Rev 2013	2014 Fiscal Proposal
	Feb 12- Actual	Jan 13 Expenditure Authorization	Assembly Adopted	Expenditure Authorization	
6580 · Wittenberg University	600	500	1,000	500	600
Total 6500 · Affiliates and Partnership	124,234	125,000	153,500	132,500	125,300
6600 · Communications Expense					
6610 · Communications Program	4,783	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000
Total 6600 · Communications Expense	4,783	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000
6700 · Bishop's Office & Services					
6085 · Discretionary	2,959	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,000
6090 · Ecumenical	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,400
6710 · Colloquie/Ministerium	1,610	0	0	0	1,600
6730 · Meetings & Seminars	832	2,000	2,000	2,000	900
Total 6700 · Bishop's Office & Services	6,801	8,500	8,500	8,500	6,900
6780, 6850, 7390 · Misc Teams & Committees	4,508	0	0	0	100
6800 · Synod Council Exp.					
6810 · Nominating Committee	541	500	500	500	500
6820 · Synod Council Expenses	7,998	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Total 6800 · Synod Council Exp.	8,539	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
6900 · Synod Fest					
6910 · Assembly (income includes fee offset)	13,267	20,000	20,000	20,000	14,000
Synod Fest (income includes fee offset)	36,000	46,000	46,000	46,000	36,000
Total 6900 · Synod Fest	49,266	66,000	66,000	66,000	50,000
7000 · Office Operations					
7010 · Accounting Fees	41,460	24,000	24,000	30,000	35,000
7020 · Bank Service Charges	4,188	0	0	0	4,200
7030 · Building Expenses	34,221	45,000	40,000	45,000	45,000
7040 · Computer equipment rental/replace	4,809	0	0	0	4,800
7050 · Depreciation	51,290	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,600
7060 · Dues & Subscriptions	3,033	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,800
7070 · General Hospitality	275	0	0	0	200
7080 · Insurance	8,286	15,000	15,000	15,000	21,000
7090 · Janitorial Expenses	15,219	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
7100 · Legal Services	1,298	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,300
7110 · Major Equipments rental/repair	30,844	28,600	26,000	26,000	30,000

**SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD
Projected Operating Results**

	2012		2013	Rev 2013	2014 Fiscal Proposal
	Feb 12- Actual	Jan 13 Expenditure Authorization	Assembly Adopted	Expenditure Authorization	
7120 · Utilities	12,514	12,500	12,500	12,500	11,900
7130 · Off site office supplies	1,648	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,600
7140 · Office Supplies	8,987	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,000
7150 · Office Telephone	5,522	4,500	4,500	4,500	5,500
7160 · Outside Telephone	5,033	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,800
7220 · Postage	9,409	5,000	6,000	8,000	9,400
7230 · Professional Fees Other	10,740	5,000	5,000	5,000	11,000
7240 · Mortgage Interest Exp	32,765	36,000	45,000	36,000	31,000
Total 7000 · Office Operations	281,540	217,100	219,500	223,500	252,100
7300 · Compensation, benefits, travel					
7320 · Salaries and Wages	618,023	544,000	566,320	544,000	570,000
7450 · Portico Benefits Services	174,077	155,000	165,000	180,000	210,000
7460 · Payroll tax expenses	22,392	16,000	16,000	16,000	22,000
7400 · Fringe Benefits - Other	2,650	0	0	0	2,800
7500 · Staff Travel	60,344	80,000	80,000	80,000	85,000
7300 · Staff Expenses - Other	0	3,500	3,500	3,500	0
7360 · Contract Staff	56,486	38,500	38,500	18,500	56,000
Total 7300 · Staff Expenses	933,972	837,000	869,320	842,000	945,800
7800 · Taxes	2,968				3,000
8130 · Other Expense/sale of assets	7,569				0
Total Expense	1,602,381	1,515,625	1,499,320	1,455,000	1,524,900
Net income	96,671	-117,375	0	-21,540	0

2012 Net Income results from \$20,000 Portico Wellness refund and \$32,000 Zion Lockville sale which are reserved for future purposes; and \$54,000 refund of prior year real estate tax after successful appeal

2014 Compensation Guidelines Recommendations

Compensation Guidelines are voted on and accepted by the Synod Assembly. At the April 2013 Synod Council meeting the 2014 Guidelines were approved by the Council for recommendation to the 2013 Synod Assembly. For 2014, the Council recommends that the Base Salary portion of the compensation guidelines for both Ordained Ministers and Rostered Lay Leaders remain the same, as well as all other portions of the Guidelines.

In addition, and with the emphasis by the ELCA on healthy leaders, we ask congregations to encourage their Rostered Leaders to annually take the ELCA-Mayo Clinic Health Assessment to promote health and well-being.

Role and Responsibilities of a Synodical Bishop

The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (See S8.10-†S8.12 of the Synod Constitution.)

As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who shall:

a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.

b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ordained ministers, and its other rostered leaders.

c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ordained ministry (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

d. Commission (or provide for the commissioning of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as associates in ministry; consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses; and consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as diaconal ministers of this church.

e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.

f. Install (or provide for the installation of):

- 1) the pastors of all congregations of this synod;
- 2) ordained ministers called to extraparish service within this church; and
- 3) persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod.

g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:

- 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
- 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
- 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
- 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly

concerning the synod's life and work; and

5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.

h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:

- 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
- 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ordained ministers, other rostered leaders, and congregations of this synod;
- 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
- 4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
- 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
- 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
- 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.

i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:

- 01) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod;
- 02) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
- 03) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
- 04) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
- 05) Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members;

- 06) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
- 07) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
- 08) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
- a) the names and addresses of all ordained ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; and
 - b) the names and addresses of all other rostered persons of this synod and a record of the positions to which they have been called or the date on which they become retired or disabled;
- 09) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered persons on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution and bylaws of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
- 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
- a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
 - b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered persons in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
- 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and
- 12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
(please submit in typed format)

Name: Suzanne <i>First</i>	D. <i>MI</i>	Dillahunt <i>Last</i>
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Age: 53
Date & Year of Ordination: 08/02/87

Current Position: Assistant to the Bishop Southern Ohio Synod ELCA 1996-Current

Previous Positions:
Pastor- Grace Lutheran Church, Eaton, OH 1994-2005
Associate Pastor-Peace Lutheran Church, Gahanna, OH 1990-1994
Pastor-Christ/ Faith In Christ Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH 1987-1990

Education with Earned Degrees:
Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary 1986
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science/Sociology, University of Arizona 1981

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current

Past
Marysville High School Band Boosters Organization and Chaperone 2008-2011
Rugby Booster/Chaperone 2008-2011
Ohio Reads Literacy Program Volunteer 2001-2003
Cub/Boy Scouts Den Mother 2000-2001

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current
Acting Bishop while Bishop is out of the country/sabbatical Nov.2012-Feb. 2013 and as needed
Administration/Chief of Staff
Working with congregations, councils and call committees, conflict resolution, mission planning, stewardship development, pastoral care to rostered leaders and congregations
Multiple Staff Workshops-ELCA Presenter and Leader
Region 6 Steering Committee Member
Staff Support to Women of the ELCA
Staff Support to Lutheran Men in Mission
Staff Support to Congregational Ministries Strategy Team
Staff Support to Reference and Counsel
Home Congregation Activities
Vacation Bible School- First English Lutheran Church, Lancaster, OH
Christmas Candlelight Tour-Lancaster, OH

Past

Southern Ohio Synod Voting Member to Churchwide Assembly 2001, 1989

Nimble Judicatory Workshop Presenter 2010

Staff Support to Advancing God's Mission Committee 1999-2005

Staff Support to Lutheran Youth Organization 1996-2007

Ohio Lutheran Campus Ministry Board 1992-2007

Ohio State Campus Ministry Board 1991-1992

Reference and Counsel Committee 1988-Present

Leadership and Support Strategy Team 1987-1990

Initial Interviewer for Candidacy 1987-1996

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
(please submit in typed format)

Name:

Jonathan L Eilert

Age: 42

Date & Year of Ordination: 08/23/1997

Current Position: Lead Pastor- Prince of Peace, Loveland OH 2006-present

Previous Positions:

Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry- Christ the Redeemer, Brecksville OH 2000-2006

Pastor- St. Peter, Wooster OH 1997-2000

Education with Earned Degrees:

B.A. 1993- Wittenberg University (majors: Political Science & Sociology)

M.Div. 1997- Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current

Cincinnati Ceasefire (for the reduction of gun violence) - Organizing Committee
Loveland Schools FACET (Family and Civic Engagement Team)

Past

Red Bird Mission Volunteer- Red Bird, KY
ELCA Disaster Relief Volunteer- Biloxi MS
Habitat for Humanity Cleveland Volunteer
Northwestern School District Strategic Planning Committee

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current

Chair of the ELCA Nominating Committee
Member of Wittenberg University Board of Directors
Discipleship Leadership Coach for 3DM
Assistant to the Deputy Secretary for 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
Partner in Evangelical Worship for the Southern Ohio Synod

Past

Southern Ohio Synod Hunger Taskforce
Chair of Program and Services Committee for ELCA Church Council
Chair of Reference and Council Committee for 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
Member of the Resource Proposal Group for ELCA Renewing Worship
ELCA Stand With Africa Campaign Leadership Trip Participant
President of the Camp Mowana Advisory Board
Chair of the Northeast Ohio Synod Conference Restructure Taskforce
Northeast Ohio Synod Coordinator for ELCA National Youth Gathering
Member of Northeast Ohio Synod Small Town and Rural Ministry Taskforce

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
 (please submit in typed format)

Name:	Bonnie <i>First</i>	Lou <i>MI</i>	Gerber <i>Last</i>
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Age: 55
Date & Year of Ordination: 08/03/1997

Current Position: All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, OH, Lead Pastor

Previous Positions:
 All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, OH, Associate Pastor
 Israels Lutheran Church, Paris, OH, Pastor
 Christ Lutheran Church, Bexley, OH, Intern
 Versailles Exempted Village Schools, Versailles, OH, High School Math Teacher

Education with Earned Degrees:
 Trinity Lutheran Seminary, M. Div.
 University of Dayton, MS in Ed.
 Kent State University, BS in Ed.

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current
 Worthington Community Good Friday on the Green, Coordinator
 Ohio Reformatory for Women Kairos Prison Ministry Advisory Council Kairos of Ohio
 Prison Ministry, Spiritual Director
 Cum Christo of Central Ohio, Spiritual Director

Past
 Versailles Exempted Village Schools, Versailles, OH, Teacher of the Year
 Community Vacation Bible School, Versailles, OH, Co-director
 Kinder Korner Preschool Board of Directors, Versailles, OH

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current
 Capital University Board of Trustees
 Chaplain to the Capital University Board of Trustees

Past
 Evangelism Committee, Southern Ohio and Northeastern Ohio Synods Ecumenical
 Committee, NEOS
 Assembly Planning Committee, SOS and NEOS
 Listening Post Team, SOS and NEOS Christian Education Committee, SOS Youth
 Committee, SOS

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA

BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop

(please submit in typed format)

Name: Richard P Hartmann, Jr.

Age: 55

Date & Year of Ordination: 10/16/1983

Current Position: Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, TX

Previous Positions: Senior Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Oro Valley, AZ; Senior Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Melbourne, FL; Senior Pastor & Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas; Pastor, North Community Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio; Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Bessemer, AL; Interim Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Jasper, AL; Executive Consultant, Resource Services, Inc., Dallas, TX

Education with Earned Degrees:

BA, Capital University;

MDiv, Trinity Lutheran Seminary;

MA, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current: Alumni Advisory Board, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio

Past: Board Chair, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, Tucson, AZ; President/Vice-President/Treasurer, Capital University Luncheon Club, Columbus, Ohio; Spiritual Director, Via de Cristo, La Grange, Texas; Member, Lutheran Social Services Feasibility Study, Birmingham, Alabama; President, Kappa Sigma Upsilon Alumni Association at Capital University; Class Representative, Annual Fund, and Volunteer, Phon-a-thon, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio; Member, Salvation Army Benevolent Fund Board, Bessemer, Alabama

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current: Coordinating Daily Radio Devotions, KNAF AM 910, Gillespie County Ministerial Association, Fredericksburg, TX

Past: Redevelopment Council, San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ; Synod Council, Grand Canyon Synod, Phoenix, AZ; Chair, Reference & Counsel, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly, ELCA; Dean, West Houston Conference, Southeast Texas-Southern Louisiana Synod, ELCA; Member, Clergy Consultation on AIDS, Houston, Texas; Member, Youth Convocation Committee, Southeast Texas-Southern Louisiana Synod, ELCA; Hotel Pastor, National Youth Gathering, ALC, Denver, Colorado; ELCA Atlanta, Georgia, New Orleans, Louisiana, St. Louis, Missouri; Treasurer, Alabama Conference, Southeastern District, ALC; Staff, Leadership Training School, Southeastern District, ALC; Advisor, Lutheran Council of Greater Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama; Member, Reference & Counsel Committee, Southeastern District, ALC

Honorary Degrees: N/A

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
 (please submit in typed format)

Full Name (including middle): Rev. Mark W. Nodo

Age: 55

Date & Year of Ordination: 07/12/1992

Current Position: Part-time Interim Pastor, St. Paul, St. Louisville & Clinical Counselor, Private Practice

Previous Positions: Lead Pastor, Faith Lutheran, Whitehall, OH 1996-2004
 Associate Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran, Pickerington, OH 1992-96

Education with Earned Degrees: Master of Ed.- Community Counseling, Kent State 2007
 Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary 1992
 Bachelor of Arts, Psychology , Kent State 1988

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current Donor, American Red Cross, 1980-Present

Past Intern, Southeast Mental Health, Columbus, Ohio, Sex Offender Treatment Program, 2006
 Board Member, Pride of Whitehall, 2000-2004
 Developer and Leader, Youth Blitz, 2000-2004
 Volunteer, Ashland County Mental Health, Fund-raising, 1990-91
 Member, Ashland County Habitat for Humanity, Care & Nurture Team, 1990-91

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current Facilitator, God Sightings, Tier 1, 2013

Past Chair, Rostered Leaders Planning Committee, 2012
 Training, Bridgebuilders, 2005
 Facilitator, Bridge Builder 2011- 2012
 Facilitator, Healthy Congregations, 2010
 Member, Synod Assembly, Reference & Council Committee, 1999
 Training, Healthy Congregations, 1999
 Board Member, Lutheran Memorial Camp, 1997-1998
 Participant, Clergy Seminars, Family Systems, 1999-2003

Honorary Degrees: None

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
 (please submit in typed format)

Full Name (including middle): Emlyn Ann Ott
Age: 56
Date & Year of Ordination: 08/10/1986
Current Position: Dean of Leadership Formation, Trinity Seminary; Exec. Director, Healthy Congregations, Inc.
Previous Positions: 1986-2005 - Pastor, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church; Campus Pastor-Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 2005 - present - Assistant Professor of Ministry and Pastoral Leadership; 2012 - present - Dean of Leadership Formation 2006 - present - Executive Director and CEO, Healthy Congregations, Inc.
Education with Earned Degrees: B.A., The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio M. Div., The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago D.Min., Phillips Graduate Seminary, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Significant positions or activities of service in the community
<i>Current</i> Midwest Region Leadership Development Chair, American Association of Pastoral Counselors Advisory Committee, The Ohio State/Wexner Medical Center Pastoral Care Department Leadership and Organizational Consultant for individuals as well as non-profit, congregational and denominational systems
<i>Past</i> Executive Director, Stillwater Interfaith Counseling Center, Stillwater, Oklahoma Board Member, AIDS Interfaith Network and Action, Inc. Member, College of Chaplains Ecumenical Campus Ministry
Significant positions or activities of service in the church
<i>Current</i> Interim Sabbatical Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Upper Arlington, Ohio (April-August, 2013)
<i>Past</i> Search Committee for President of Trinity Lutheran Seminary (2013) Long Term Supply Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newark, Ohio (January-June, 2012) Sabbatical Supply, First Lutheran Church, Strongsville, Ohio (May-August, 2011) Member Board of Directors and Committee Chair, The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1994-2005) Supervisor, Parish Clergy Leadership Group (2002-2005) Internship Supervisor for Luther Seminary (2002-2005) Advisory Board, Healthy Congregations project of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (1995-2005)
Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA

BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop

(please submit in typed format)

Name: *Gary A Sandberg*

Age: 50

Date & Year of Ordination: 07/10/1988

Current Position: Director of Church Relations, Trinity Lutheran Seminary / Capital Univ

Previous Positions:

Director of Mission Advancement, Trinity Lutheran Seminary 2005-2012

Sr Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Glenville NY 1998-2005

Associate Pastor, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, New Hope, MN 1992-1998

Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Monticello, MN 1988-1992

Education with Earned Degrees:

M. Div. Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1988

B.A. Capital University, 1984

Currently a student in the MBA program at Capital University, 23 of 40 hours completed
Completed Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current

Speech judge through Gahanna Lincoln High School

Various other activities of service at GLHS in support of son's activities

Past

Design Team, New Media Middle School, Columbus OH

Soccer coach: Gahanna Soccer Association, Gahanna OH

Lake Hill Soccer, Burnt Hills NY

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current

Stewardship Team, Peace, Gahanna

Frequent guest preacher on stewardship / New Consecration Sunday

Past

Confirmation Leader, Peace, Gahanna

Youth CONVO leader, Upstate New York Synod

Evangelism Team, Upstate New York Synod

Youth Ministry Team, Minneapolis Area Synod

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
(please submit in typed format)

Name:	Stephen <i>First</i>	D. <i>MI</i>	Wachtman <i>Last</i>
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Age: 49

Date & Year of Ordination: 06/07/1992

Current Position: Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Upper Arlington, Ohio (2000-present)

Previous Positions:

- Pastor-in-Mutual-Standing, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Upper Arlington, Ohio (1998-2000)
- Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Upper Arlington, Ohio (1992-1998)
- Pastoral Assistant, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pickerington, Ohio (1991-1992)
- Sacristan, Trinity Lutheran Seminary Chapel, Columbus, Ohio (1989-90)
- Intern, Trinity Lutheran Church, Frankfurt, Germany (1990-1991)
- Computer Consultant, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio (1985-1990)
- Men's Glee Club Tour Manager, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio (1982-1985)
- Support Staff, Lutheran Memorial Camp, Fulton, Ohio (1978)

Education with Earned Degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts, Capital University (1985, psychology & computer science majors, pre-sem)
- Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1992)

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current

- Y-Family Center regular volunteer with wife and daughters (2005-present)
- Developmental youth softball board member and coach (2003-present)
- Developmental youth basketball coach (2004-present)
- Captain's Parent Committee, Upper Arlington High School Girls Basketball (2013)

Past

- Y-Princess Father Daughter Tribe chief and member (2002-2011)
- Columbus City Schools Focus Group on Student Mobility (2003)

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current

- Capital University Board of Trustees Executive Committee & member-at-large (2005-present)
- Jacob's Porch Partners Convener, OSU Lutheran Campus Ministry (2012-present)

Past

- Central Ohio Conference Board chair and member (2004-2006)
- Southern Ohio Synod Worship Team chair and member (2002-2006)
- Sr. Pastor Mentoring Program participant (1999-2000)
- Southern Ohio Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Pastoral Advisor (1996-1999)
- OSU Lutheran Campus Ministry Board chair and member (1992-1999)
- Certified as Pastor Developer of ELCA mission congregations (1997)
- Southern Ohio Synod Disciplinary Committee member (1988-1994)
- Lutheran World Federation Assembly delegate, Budapest, Hungary (1984)
- Executive Council of the National Board of Luther League (1981-82)

Honorary Degrees:

- Paul D. Aufderstrasse Award for preaching, Trinity Lutheran Seminary (1992)

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
(please submit in typed format)

Name: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First Ronald MI H Last Wean</i></p>
Age: 59
Date & Year of Ordination: August 23, 1979
Current Position: Pastoral Counselor/Employee Assistance Accounts Manager, Pastoral Care and Counseling Department, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio (full time call, since 1991) Pastor of Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church (part time, since 1992)
Previous Positions: Counselor-Chaplain at Parkside Addiction Services of Lutheran General Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, (full time call, 1987-1991) Visitation Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Palatine, Ill. (part time, 1987-1989) Associate Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Celina, Ohio (full time call, 1982-1986) Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Arapahoe, Nebraska (full time call, 1979-82) Substance Abuse Technician at Talbot Hall of St. Anthony Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, (1978-1979) Chaplain at Fairfield Reformatory for Boys, Fairfield, Ohio (1975-1977)
Education with Earned Degrees: University of Cincinnati: Bachelor of Science in Pre-medical Biology (1975) Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University: Masters of Divinity (1979) CPE Residency Program for Addictions Counselor, Lutheran General Hospital, Chicago, Ill. (1986-87) University of Dayton: Masters of Counselor Education (2005)
Significant positions or activities of service in the community Current Certified Employee Assistance Professional (since 1993) Substance Abuse Professional: Department Of Transportation (since 2003)

Licensed Professional Counselor, State of Ohio (since 2006)

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, State of Ohio (since 2008)

Past

Delegate, State of Illinois Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse: First Assembly for the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse, Springfield, Illinois (Bishop Appointed from Chicago Synod, 1990)

Treasurer, Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) , Southwest Chapter, (1994-1996)

Presenter, EAPA International's 2007 Annual World Conference, San Diego, Ca.: "The Four Supervisory Tools."

Presenter, EAPA International Webinar Broadcast, 2008, "Resolving Conflict at the Workplace."

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current

Publication: "Healing Traumatized Churches: The Journey Toward Healthy, Faithful Resiliency," Xulon Press (2012)

Past

Central District - ALC, Synod Gathering, Resolutions Committee, 1980

Publication: "Ministry to Chemically Dependent Parishioners and Families," Trinity Seminary Review, Columbus, Ohio (Fall 1982)

Publication: "One Must Die," Lenten Series Drama, CSS Church Publishers, Lima, Ohio (1986)

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop
(please submit in typed format)

Name:	F. <i>First</i>	Edward <i>MI</i>	Williams <i>Last</i>
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Age: 58
Date & Year of Ordination: 09/13/1981

Current Position: Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission - 2006-Present

Previous Positions: Founding Pastor Lord of Life Lutheran Church, West Chester, Ohio 1987 - 2006 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason, Ohio 1984-1987 Sugar creek Lutheran Parish: Shanesville Lutheran Church, Sugar creek, Ohio & Zion Lutheran Church, Winfield, Ohio 1981-1984

Education with Earned Degrees: Capital University, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology 1977 Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Master of Divinity 1981

Significant positions or activities of service in the community <i>Current</i>
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<i>Past</i> <i>Lakota School District Advisory Committee, Ohio</i> <i>Lakota School District Long Range Planning Committee, Ohio</i> <i>Representative to the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati</i> <i>Lakota YMCA Board of Directors, Ohio</i> <i>Treasurer Mason Ohio Ministerial Association</i> <i>President West Chester, Ohio Ministerial Association</i> <i>Youth Sports Coach, Boys Soccer and Girls Softball</i> <i>Chaplain West Chester Ohio Special Olympics</i> <i>West Chester Ohio Habitat for Humanity</i>

Significant positions or activities of service in the church <i>Current</i>

<i>Region 6 Director of Evangelical Mission Liaison to Trinity Lutheran Seminary</i> <i>Staff Support for Southern Ohio Leadership Institute</i> <i>Staff Support Global Mission Team</i> <i>Director of Advancing God's Mission (AGM)</i> <i>Director of Outreach, Southern Ohio Synod</i> <i>Region 6 Interviewer for ELCA Congregational & Synodical Mission Unit (Mission Development Candidates)</i>
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Past

Ohio Synod Learning Committee

Ohio Synod Confirmation Ministry Facilitator

Secretary, Ohio Synod Lay School of Theology Task Force

Chair, Southern Ohio Synod Mission Partners Task Force

Advancing God's Mission Steering Committee

Advancing God's Mission: Living Faith Steering Committee

Chair, Southern Ohio Synod Outreach Team

Chair, Southern Ohio Synod Elections Committee

Secretary, Cincinnati Conference

President, Cincinnati Conference

Co-Facilitator, Consultation on the Financial Crisis & Climate Change, Leipzig, Germany

Representative ELCA Latin American Companion Synod Consultation, San Jose, Costa Rica

Staff Support Global Mission Event

Staff Co-ordinator Global Mission Event

Honorary Degrees:

Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
BIOGRAPHICAL FORM: Election of the Bishop

Name:	Rev. Dr. James E. Wilson
	<i>First</i> <i>MI</i> <i>Last</i>

Age: 61 (03/13/1952)
Date & Year of Ordination: 06/11/1978

Current Position: Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH, 1987-
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Previous Positions:
<p>Pastor/Mission Developer, Trinity Lutheran Church, Linton, IN, 1981-87.</p> <p style="text-align:center">Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, MO, 1978-81.</p> <p style="text-align:center">Intern, (dual mission development sites), Mahomet and Monticello, IL, 1976-77.</p>

Education with Earned Degrees:
<p style="text-align:center">Doctor of Philosophy, Speech Communication, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 1993.</p> <p style="text-align:center">Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, 1978.</p> <p style="text-align:center">Bachelor of Science, Personnel Administration and Management, Indiana University Kelly School of Business, Bloomington, IN, 1974.</p>

Significant positions or activities of service in the community

Current
<p style="text-align:center">Board Member, Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio/Faith Mission, 2008 – Executive Committee, Secretary, 2009- Congregation & Community Relations Committee/Chair, 2010-2013.</p> <p style="text-align:center">Member, United States Naval Academy Parents Club, 1998-</p>

Past
<p style="text-align:center">Member/Officer, Worthington Kilbourne High School Academic, Basketball, Choral, Football, Volleyball Parent/Booster Clubs (1994-2010).</p> <p style="text-align:center">Member, Worthington Schools Redistricting Team (1993-94).</p> <p style="text-align:center">Board Member, Indiana Homeless Veterans Project, 1986-87.</p>

Significant positions or activities of service in the church

Current
<p style="text-align:center">Board Member, The Deaconess Community of ELCA/ELCIC, 2007 - Vice Chairperson of Board, 2009 - Committee Chair, Communications, 2007-2013.</p>

Past

Partner, Jacob's Porch, Lutheran Ministry on the OSU Campus, 2012-

Interim Professor of Homiletics, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, 1991, 1992, 2012.

Internship Supervisor, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, (14 interns).

Ministry in Context Supervisor, Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH, (18 students).

Chair, Advancing God's Mission Task Force #3 (Lay Ministry), Southern Ohio Synod, 2001-02.

Member, Advancing God's Mission Task Force #7 (Missions), Southern Ohio Synod, 2001-02.

Member, Tanzanian Task Force, So. Ohio Synod, 2000-02.

Board Member, Central Ohio Conference, So. Ohio Synod, 1990-96.

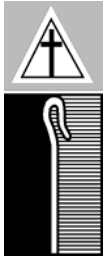
Board Member, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Indiana/Kentucky, 1984 -1987.

Board Member, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., region 11, 1979-81.

Board Member, Lutheran Family and Child Services of Missouri, 1978-81.

Holden Village Staff, Lutheran Retreat Center, Chelan, WA, 1978.

Honorary Degrees:



Southern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

300 South Second Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215
 614/464-3532 FAX 614/464-3422
www.southernohiosynod.org

Nominations Form for 2013 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly

I. Please print information about the nominee.

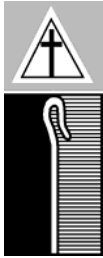
Name of Nominee							
Address							
City / State / Zip							
Telephones	Day:	Evening:			Other:		
Email							
Congregation							
Conference (Circle one)	CI	CO	DA	NW	MU	SC	
Roster (Circle one)	Lay	Associate in Ministry		Clergy	Deaconess	Diaconal Minister	
Gender (Circle one)	Male		Female				
Person of Color						___ Yes	___ No
Primary Language other than English						___ Yes	___ No
Age (Check one)	___ Youth	___ 20-29	___ 30-39	___ 40-49	___ 50-59	___ 60+	
Consent	Has this person consented to this nomination? (Check one)					___ Yes	___ No

II. Place an X next to the position for which you are nominating this person.

Synod Council	
	Central Ohio Conference – Lay Male (2013-2017)
	Scioto Conference – Lay Female (2013-2017)
	At Large – Lay Female (2013-2017)
	At Large – Lay Male (2013-2017)
	Central Ohio Conference – Clergy (2013-2016)
	Muskingum Conference – Lay Female (2013-2015)

Other			
	Committee on Discipline – Clergy <i>(2013-2019) 6 to be elected</i>		Consultation Committee – Clergy <i>(2013-2019) 6 to be elected</i>
	Committee on Discipline – Lay Female <i>(2013-2019) 3 to be elected</i>		Consultation Committee – Lay Female <i>(2013-2019) 3 to be elected</i>
	Committee on Discipline – Lay Male <i>(2013-2019) 3 to be elected</i>		Consultation Committee – Lay Male <i>(2013-2019) 3 to be elected</i>

Continued on side 2



Southern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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III. Please tell us why you feel this person is qualified to hold this elected position within our synod. This information will be used by the Nominating Committee to better inform them about nominees and help them in their discernment process.

IV. This section is to be completed by the nominee. Please print.

Tell us about yourself as it relates to the position for which you being nominated.

Congregational Experience (List no more than 3 examples)

Synodical/Churchwide Experience (List no more than 3 examples)

Community Experience (List no more than 3 examples)

Keys to Columns:

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Synod Council, Central Ohio-Lay Male (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	<p>Neal Coryell, Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus; Chair of Worship Committee (current); Chair of Community Ministry Committee; Member of Chancel & Bell Choirs (current)</p> <p>Voting Member, Churchwide Assembly 2007; Synod Assembly Voting Member 2000, 2007-2009 & 2011-2013; Member of Synod Nominating Committee 2011-2013</p> <p>Member, Columbus Gay Men's Chorus; Former Dresser with Opera Columbus; Volunteer at LSS Central Ohio Food Pantry</p>
	M			6	<p>James Renshaw, Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus (35 years); Congregational Council for 3 terms, currently President; Christian Education/Youth Experience Committee; Confirmation & Sunday School Teacher (25 years)</p> <p>Synod Assembly attendee</p> <p>Boy Scouts of America; Assistant Scoutmaster (25 yrs); Ohio Attorney General's Office, Charitable Law Section, 16 years Investigation Manager; Past board member of Alliance for Cooperative Justice</p>

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Synod Council, Scioto Conference-Lay Female (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Janice Lane, Member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Chillicothe; Served 2 two year terms as Congregational President; On council for 7 years; Member of Building Committee (past) Synod Elections Committee (past); Synod Reference and Counsel Committee (past) Worked as warden of male prison and worked with community to be a good neighbor. Part-time church secretary (current)
X	F			6	Carol Swank, Member of Faith Lutheran Church, Jackson; Church council president; Served several terms as church council secretary; Faith Lutheran's WELCA President (2008-present) Current Synod Council member; Synod Nominations Committee (past); Synod Assembly representative for congregation Board of Jackson Area Ministries; Works with Jackson Ministerial Association & Jackson Food Program; Volunteer Fire Fighter Liberty Township

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Synod Council, At Large-Lay Female (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Patricia Heinlein, Member of Grace Lutheran Church, Pickerington; Altar Guild, Nursery helper; WELCA (Congregational) Counselor for Synod youth gatherings Zanesville Christian Women's Group; Volunteer at local senior center; Attend ecumenical senior exercise group
	F			5	Jodi Keith, Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cincinnati; Church Council; Nursery School Board Chair; Active in a variety of congregational roles Southern Ohio Synod voting member numerous times; Hospitality organizer for 2012 Global Event; Candidate for ordained ministry Chair of City of Montgomery Beautification and Tree Commission; Active in Sycamore High School Band Boosters; Graduate of City of Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy

Synod Council, At Large-Lay Male (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Terry Rapoch, Member of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Centerville; Church council President (current), President Elect (2011-2012); Member (2006-2007); Confirmation Guide (2005-2006); Chair, Tanzania Ministry (2005-present) Chair, Synod Tanzania Task Force (2006-present); Member, Synod Global Mission Task Force (2010-present); Synod Assembly representative multiple times Member, CareSource Management Board and Audit Committee (2011-present); President, DaytaOhio/Wright State Applied Research Corp (2007-present); Technology First/Greater Dayton IT Alliance Member/Chair (2000-2006)
	M			3	Bennett Whitaker, Member Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus; Church council President; Member Evangelism, Constitution & Long-range Planning/Visioning Committees; Sunday School facilitation Lay representative to Synod Assembly 4 years; Participant in God Sightings group Academic Excellence Committee (Graduate Council, Educational Policies Committee) at SIUC; Capital University Faculty Chaperone & Group Facilitator (Petit Jean Performance Festival)

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Synod Council, Central Ohio-Clergy (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	Timothy Muller, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus; Pastor of Auckland Lutheran Parish, New Zealand (1988-1993); Pastor of St. Stephen's, South Australia (1994-2003); Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus (2007-present) Spiritual Advisor, Lutheran Youth of New Zealand (1989-1993); Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (1995-2003)
	M			4	Ralph Wolfe, Pastor of Clinton Heights Lutheran Church, Columbus; Senior Pastor at Clinton Heights, Columbus (2004-present); Assoc Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor, Ohio (1995-2004); Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Donnelsville (1990-1995) Board member and President at Jacob's Porch , OSU Campus Ministry (2005-2012); Development and Resource Team of Camp Mowana (2008-2012); Educational Ministries Team member in NW Ohio Synod (1998-2004) Advisor & volunteer with Clintonville Community Resource Center; Volunteer and PTA member at Gables Elementary and Ridgeview Middle School; Oak Harbor Kiwanis Vice President (2002-2004)

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Synod Council, Muskingum Conference-Lay Male (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Howard Gill, Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roseville; Served on council and as Council President Synod Council (past)
	M			6	Steve Schnittke, Member of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Lexington; Current and past President of congregation; Past VP of congregation Voting member of Churchwide Assembly (2009, 2011 & 2013) Past President and member of Rotary Club; Former member of Perry Behavioral Health; Member Perry County Historical Society

Synod Council—Lutheran Men in Mission (Term 2013-2017)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Ronald Moder, Member of Messiah Lutheran Church, Pickerington; Church council President (past); Church council Treasurer (current) Volunteer at Joseph's Coat; Volunteer at Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry; Thrivent Board chapter officer
	M			6	Melvin Parks, Member of David Lutheran Church, Canal Winchester; Choir member; Leader of men's group at church

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Committee on Discipline, Cincinnati Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			3	Todd Cutter, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy (8/2008-present); Campus Pastor, Newberry College, Newberry, SC (6/2006-7/2008); Associate Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Southern Pines, NC (6/2004-2/2006) Facilitator for Cincinnati Conference “God Sightings” Event (Feb 2013); Involved with Project Connect, a program assisting college students with ministry discernment, an initiative of the Eastern Cluster of ELCA Seminaries (2006-2008)
	M			3	Josh Miller, Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Cincinnati (2008-present); Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Obetz (2005-2008); Youth Director, Messiah Lutheran Church, Reynoldsburg (1996-2000) Leadership Development and Support Team Peace Corps Volunteer, Bulgaria (2000-2002); Montgomery Community Leadership Academy (2009-2010)

Committee on Discipline, Central Ohio Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			4	Bob Abrams, Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Hilliard (2011-present); Vice President, Board of Directors, Jacob’s Porch, OSU Campus Ministry (2011-present); Council President, All Shepherds Lutheran Church, Lewis Center (2004-2006) Member, Committee on Discipline, Northwestern Ohio Synod (1998-2000); Lay Voting Member Northwestern Ohio Synod (1998 & 1999); Lay Voting Member Southern Ohio Synod (2004 & 2005) Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Mercer County; Rotary Club; Regular Guest Speaker, Hilliard, Ohio Senior Center
	M			6	Carl Gaston, Pastor of Linden Lutheran Church, Columbus. Served as a pastor for 39 years total at the following congregations, St. Paul, Ironton; St. John, Sidney, Triune Broadview Heights, and three others in Ohio. President of Cincinnati Conference (1992-1993); Executive Committee, Miami Valley LSS; Nominating Committee for Southern Ohio Synod Kiwanis member; Local ministeriums

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Committee on Discipline, Dayton Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			4	<p>Laura Cavendish, Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Ingomar in West Alexandria; St. John's Leigh and Zion, Platte Center, NE (1992-1997); Luther Memorial, Omaha, NE (1997-2002); Trinity, Lewisburg, part-time (2004-2007)</p> <p>Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board; Southern Ohio Synod Leadership Institute</p> <p>Special needs parent in the area of Behavioral and Mental Health; Youth Sports Volunteer (varied leadership and support roles); West Alexandria Churches Organized for Community Action</p>
	M			5	<p>Charlie Woodward, Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Centerville (2012-present); Lead Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Westerville (2000-2012); St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Delaware (1995-2000)</p> <p>Outreach Board for Southern Ohio Synod; Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board-ELCA (6 years); Lutheran Memorial Camp Board</p> <p>Westerville Area Ministries Association member; Member Westerville Lions; Habitat for Humanity Board member</p>

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Committee on Discipline, Northwest Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	<p>Craig Fourman, Pastor of Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn (21 years); Mission and Strategy Team Northwest Conference (2011-2012); Chair, Lutheran Saints in Ministry (2011-2012) Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (2007 & 2009); Chair, Reference and Council Committee (2008, 2009 & 2010); Tri-Synodical Candidacy Committee (2001-2009) President (2007) and member of Board of Directors for Rotary Club; President, Future Fairborn Political Action Committee (2007-2011); Membership Chair, Lion’s Clubs (2012)</p>
	M			6	<p>Jonathan Schriber, Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Sidney (1985-Present); St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sidney as Associate Pastor (1984-1985); First and Bethel Lutheran Churches, Rugby, ND (1979-1984) Task Force member-formation of Northwest Conference; Member of Kazakhstan Task Force; Fall Stewardship Visitor Member of the Shelby County Drug Free Community Task Force (current); Board member (10 years) and President (5 years) Shelby County MRDD Board; Co-Facilitator of Court Ordered Anger Management Classes in Shelby and Miami Counties (past)</p>

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Committee on Discipline, Muskingum Conference--Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			5	Katie Kerrigan, Pastor of Christ's Lutheran Church, Cambridge (2012-present); Pastor, Pleasant City Lutheran Parish (2003-2012) Chair, Amazing Grace Day Camp Task Force (current); Chair Leadership Development and Support Team (past); Member First Call Education Team (past) GRACE Pantry Board, Cambridge (current); Director, Pleasant City Food Pantry (past)
	M			5	Phil Van Dam, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Martins Ferry (2006-present); Pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rouzerville, PA (2001-2005); Founding member Belmont County PAL (Presbyterians, Anglicans and Lutherans) Southern Ohio Synod Assembly Worship Coordinator (2007); ELCA Churchwide Voting Member (2011); ELCMA delegate (2012, 2013) Character Coach, Martins Ferry School District; ESL Tutor, Greenwood, IN; Hall of Honor Board Member, Martins Ferry, Ohio

Committee on Discipline, Scioto Conference--Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Janet Hatch, Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Chillicothe; Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Franklin Furnace; Pastor, Adamsville Lutheran Parish (New Hope & Zion Lutheran Churches) Synod Council; Hunger Task Force; Assembly Elections Committee Parent Surrogate, Scioto County Schools; Board Member, Counseling Center, Portsmouth; Hope Clinic, Chillicothe
	F			6	Janice Winters, Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Logan (2/2008-present), Intern and Supply at St. John Lutheran Church, Logan (8/2005-11/2007); Vice Pastor at First English Lutheran Church, Ashville (3/2010-2/2011) Mecklenberg Task Force (2009-Present); Grace Partners (2008-2009); Small Church Ministry (2008-2009) 317 Board in Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties (2009-2010); Hocking County Ministerial Association (2005-present); Scenic Hills Senior Center (2009-present)

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Committee on Discipline, Cincinnati Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	<p>Anne Miller, Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cincinnati; Stephen Ministry Leader (1997-present); Church Staff Member in Congregational Life, Youth & Family Ministries & Faith Formation (1991-present)</p> <p>Lay Voting Member to 2005 Churchwide Assembly; Chair of the SOS Strategic Team for Congregational Ministries & Support/Nurture (2002-2005); Chair of the SOS Youth and Family Ministries Implementation Team (2001-2002)</p> <p>Chapter President of National T.T.T. Society supporting camping opportunities for underprivileged 4th grade girls; PTO Executive Board (past); Boy Scout Troop Board (past)</p>
	F			5	<p>Ildiko Sherman, Member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Middletown; Congregational President (2010-2011); Church council several years; Vacation Bible School volunteer</p> <p>Synod Assembly voting member twice</p> <p>Human Rights Committee of the Southern Ohio Nurses Association (SONA) (2008-present); Board member SONA (past); Delegate to Ohio Nurses Association statewide convention (2009 & 2011)</p>

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Committee on Discipline, Northwest Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			5	<p>Sallie Anderson, Member of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Piqua; Church council as President (current), Secretary, Treasurer, Worship & Music; Evangelism Board, Congregational Life Board & Parish Education Board; Call Committee; Catechism teacher</p> <p>Dayton Conference WELCA President; Synod Voting Member to Churchwide WELCA Constituting Convention; Congregational Voting Member to Synod Assemblies</p> <p>Piqua YMCA Board; Piqua Association of Churches</p>
	F			5	<p>Katherine Obringer, Member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pitsburg; Church secretary; Sunday School Teacher; Congregational Council</p> <p>Northwest Conference WELCA Co-Leader</p> <p>Advocate for local food pantry; Served on PTO for many years; Volunteer referee for local youth leagues</p>

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Committee on Discipline, Muskingum Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Margene Brown, member of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Marietta; Church council (past); Sunday School teacher (past) Attended and volunteered at Camp Mowana Worked as an RN in hospital setting and also taught nursing; Nursing service at Washington County Jail (20 years)
	F			6	Rebecca (Becky) Nolt, member of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Marietta; Church council (past and present) Participated in sessions for clergy and lay people regarding creation of Lutheran Book of Worship Served on Negotiations Committee and Grievance Committees while teaching

Committee on Discipline, Central Ohio Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M	X		4	Frank Carter, Member of African International Lutheran Mission (AILM); Chair of AILM Church Council; Chair of Stewardship committee, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church; National President of LYF-Lutheran Church in Liberia Attended multicultural seminar in Florida; Attended Churchwide meetings in Columbus and its environs; Attend youth camp as youth counselor Union Steward; Chair of Elections Commission; Secretary
	M			5	Bradford Signet, Member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Worthington; Past Congregational President and Church Council member; Team leader of congregational Stewardship Team; Communion Assistant, Engage Ministry Board Member, Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, serving on the Compliance & Congregation and Community Relations Board Committees Past AEP Chairman for annual United Way campaigns, Past member of the United Way Health Impact Council; Past board member of the Columbus Spirituality Network

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Committee on Discipline, Dayton Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Jerry Haun, Member of Peace Lutheran Church, Beavercreek; Congregational President (5 terms over 35 year period); Pastoral call committee member; Chair, congregation 50 th anniversary celebration Churchwide Assembly voting member (past); Synod Council member for 2 terms (past); Synod Candidacy Committee member for 2 terms (past) Capital University Alumni Advisory Board, currently President-elect; State of Ohio Master Gardener Advisory Board (present); Greene County Interfaith Hospitality Network Board of Trustees (present)
	M			6	Jim Lehman, Member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Miamisburg; 35 year member of St. John's; Served on council numerous times and held the position of President 8 times; Chair of Pastoral Call Committee and member of another Pastoral Call Committee Employed as Sr. Manager in Human Resources (25 years); Started own financial and wealth management service; Served as Coach for various sports programs including soccer, baseball and cross country)

Committee on Discipline, Scioto Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Michael Northrup, Member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Chillicothe; Served as President and member of Congregational Council between 1991 and present Served on Design Review Board for City of Chillicothe
	M			6	Bill Baer, Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pomeroy; Member of St. Paul's since 1960; Served as council member for 17 years; Council President (past) Taught Sunday School; Taught Confirmation classes; Assisted with the call process for pastor at congregation Served as court appointed instructor for court referrals for alcoholics in Meigs County; Retired Elementary Educator (31 years of service); Served on Meigs County Soil and Water Conservation District for many terms

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Consultation Committee, Cincinnati Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	Fred Cook, Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Lebanon; Served several congregations as interim pastor; Certified Chaplain with College of Chaplains to work with family conflict Amazing Grace Day Camp; Work with certification process of prospective Chaplains in the Lutheran Church Wide experience in urban ministry and community development; Concentration on mental health needs of indigent and homeless community.
	F			3	Nicole Kelly, Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Cincinnati; Served as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy; Intern at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn (past)

Consultation Committee, Central Ohio Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M	X	X	5	Anthony Chatman, Pastor of St. Phillips Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus; Synod Council in Arkansas/Oklahoma Synod Youth leader for central Tennessee; Supervisor for youth in State custody.
	M			4	Chuck Peterson, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus (2009-present); St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI (2000-2005); St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Palmyra, WI (1997-2000) Works closely with his local cluster and ministerial groups; Reference and Council Committee at 2011 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly; Campus Ministry Board for Greater Milwaukee Synod (2003-2005) Taught “Contemporary Ethical Problems and Religious Perspectives,” senior capstone course at Capital University (2013); Volunteer at Faith Mission and LSS Food Pantry (2009-present); Central City Churches Board of Directors, Milwaukee, WI (2001-2005)

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Consultation Committee, Dayton Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Steve Kimpel, Pastor of Faith and St. Mark's Lutheran Churches, Dayton; Zion Lutheran Church, West Jefferson (past) Synod Stewardship Committee; Synod Lay Academy of Theology; Synod Leadership Development Board of Trustees of South Community, Inc.; Community Rep. at Wright State University Laboratory Animal Care and Use Committee; Board of Trustees of Womanline
	M			5	Ron Wean, Specialized Ministry Pastoral Counselor at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton and Interim Pastor of Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church, Kettering; Experience doing interventions regarding conflict resolution with a Presbyterian church; Organizational development with an Episcopal church Resolutions Committee in another synod Conduct webinars on conflict resolution; Conduct seminars for change management; Supervisory training for approx. 120 different organizations, both public and private.

Consultation Committee, Northwest Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Susan Nelson, Pastor of Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn; Outreach Task Force for Southern Ohio Synod; Trinity Lutheran Seminary Board Member Habitat for Humanity
	F			6	Cheryl Siegenthaler, Pastor of Philadelphia Lutheran Church, Bellefontaine; Bell Choir (15 years); Stephen Minister; Wrote booklet titled "The Sun Still Rises," a grief support devotional First Call Theological Education planning committee (past); Presenter at First Call Theological Education gathering "Small Church Means Big Mission"; Assembly Elections & Resolutions Committees (past)

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Consultation Committee, Muskingum Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			4	<p>Mark Combs, Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Zanesville (2007-present); Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Dayton (2003-2007); Pastor/Redeveloper of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Oakdale, PA (2000-2003)</p> <p>Muskingum Conference President (2009-present); Downtown Zanesville Ministerial (ecumenical) group (2007-present); Extensive experience with outdoor ministries</p> <p>Volunteer Firefighter/EMT-B/Trustee, National Trail VFD, Gratiot, Ohio; Assistant Webeloes Den Leader, Cub Scout Pack 100, Zanesville; Volunteer on Clergy Advisory Board at Genesis Healthcare System, Zanesville (past)</p>
	M			4	<p>Steve Mahaffey, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Marietta for 9+ years (current); Amazing Grace Day Camp host congregation for 9 years at offsite location in Macksburg; Ex-officio member of all committees, as well as lead the DivorceCare Ministry of the congregation</p> <p>Muskingum Conference Council for two consecutive terms (2005-2011); Call Committee member in selection of new Assistant to the Bishop for Muskingum Conference (past); Nominating Committee Member (2013)</p>

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Consultation Committee, Scioto Conference—Clergy (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	Paul Elhard, Adjunct Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Athens (2010-present); Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Logan (1997-2006); Pastor, Friedens Lutheran Church, Covington (1989-1995)
	F			6	Linea Warmke, Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Racine; Past President of Church Council; Past Chair of Stewardship, Education, Evangelism and Mutual Ministry Committee 2007 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member; 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member; Co-founder and member of the Lay School of Theology Committee Past President of Athens County Chapter Red Cross; Past Secretary of Athens County Habitat for Humanity; Volunteer Chaplain of Rock Springs Rehabilitation Center and O’Bleness Memorial Hospital

Consultation Committee, Central Ohio Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Donna Bowman, Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus; Altar Guild, Team Leader for B.R.E.A.D., a community based group to promote social justice through legislative activity; Serve at Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry Board of Trustees for Maryhaven, a facility to treat addictive behaviors primarily in low income persons; Various committees of Columbus Bar Association; Neighborhood volunteer (German Village House and Garden Tour, Art Crawl, Shakespeare in the Park)
	F			6	Barbara Renshaw, Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus (New Rome); Youth Committee; History Committee; Sunday School Teacher Attend Southern Ohio Synod Assemblies; Attend Central Ohio Conference Meeting Work at Food Pantry; Work at Faith Mission

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Consultation Committee, Dayton Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Lorrie Morris, Member of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Centerville; Past Council President; Past Sunday School Superintendant and teacher; Past Committee Chairperson for Nominating, Evangelism and Long-rang Planning Committees ELCA Abortion Task Force; Past ALC division of theological education and ministry; Past ALC synodical Vice President and Treasurer Past Nurse Administrator/Director of Women’s Health; Developed programs for socially high risk pregnant women and babies for African American Women’s Health; Board president of United Health Solutions and Teen Pregnancy Coalition
	F			6	Lynn Spatz, Member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Centerville; Congregational President (2011-2012, 2013-2014); Attended Leadership Institute as congregational representative; Stewardship chair for year round stewardship efforts Member of Mental Wellness and Recovery Task Force; Member of 4G Networking group; Hunger Task Force (past) Work with The Castle, a 501c(3) organizations that is a day drop in center for people living with mental illness.; Presented at SynodFest 2012 for Mental Wellness and Recovery Task Force; Member of the West Carrollton Property Maintenance Board of Appeals for 6 years.

Consultation Committee, Scioto Conference—Lay Female (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	F			6	Brenda Dardinger, Member of Calvary Lutheran Church, Chillicothe; Taught VBS, Sunday School and Catechism; Leader for Bible Studies; Chairperson of the Evangelism/Outreach Committee/Team Lay voting member at several Synod Assemblies Breaking the Fast; Community Prayer Group; Feed a Meal; All events raise awareness of hungry and those in need in other ways
	F			3	Beth Hedges, Member of Calvary Orthodox Lutheran Church, Lancaster; Church council (5 years); Chairperson for Call Committee (current) Attended Southern Ohio Synod SynodFest 2012

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Consultation Committee, Cincinnati Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	Steve Hoffsis, Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cincinnati (1987-present); Regular participation in worship service as a reader, communion assistant and usher; Church Council (twice); Church Council Secretary (once) Synod Constitution Committee Graceworks Lutheran Services Board (9 years); Served as Board President for 2 years and on Executive Committee for 7 years; Still serving on Nominating Committee and Investment Committee
	M			6	Will Lapp, Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Franklin; Served as Congregational President; Treasurer; Property Committee Chair Synod Congregational Ministries and Support Team (current); Reference and Council Committee; Certified Lay Worship Leader Active in the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program that provides free income tax prep for lower income 60+ persons (past 10 years); Served on sub state of OH3 State Management Team (past 6 years); Treasurer for Salvation Army money distributed through Franklin, Ohio Food Pantry

Consultation Committee, Northwest Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			5	Gary Obringer, Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Arcanum (2009-2013); Trustee for past 4 years Rebuilt Vietnam Memorial for Bears Mill; Build and donate for Toys for Tots
	M			5	Dave Tipton, Member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, West Milton; Council Member for 4 separate 3-year terms; Lay Worship Assistant (3 years); Christian Education Coordinator (2 years) Volunteer 5/2 Lunch Bunch Program; Volunteer Son Rise Breakfast; Union Steward Local 4322 CWA

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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Consultation Committee, Muskingum Conference—Lay Male (Term 2013-2019)

(one to be elected)

I	S	C	L	A	BIOGRAPHY
	M			6	Roy Bleisath, Member of Christ’s Lutheran Church, Cambridge; Council member, Operational Support Committee; Call Committee
	M			6	Keith Hanson, Member of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Marietta (19 years); Served 3 full terms on Church Council; Assisting Minister; Church Handbell Choir Member of local Family & Children First Council; Community Crisis Response Team; Licensed independent Marriage & Family Therapist



Our purpose...

To grow faithful and generous stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

4G Networking is a “fresh” approach to year-round stewardship as an *expression of faith* and way of life. This ministry is to provide *networking opportunities for pastors, congregations and seminarians through year-round educational opportunities. Theology and applications—drawing on stewardship specialists, theologians and scholars; Bible studies, resources for preaching, family systems approach—learning to be a student of yourself and raising congregational awareness of emotional response to money; Synod website with links on current stewardship theology/practice*

Biblical Principles:

God	Everything we are and all that we have comes from and belongs to God [Deut 8:17-18; 1 Chron 29:14; Ps 100:1-5; Ps 104: 27-28; 1 Cor 6:19-20].
Grace	Faith in Christ is a gift from God. Our poverty is replaced by His wealth. His riches are free; and all that not because we deserve it, but because Jesus is gracious [Jn: 3:16-17; Eph 1:7; 2:8; 2 Cor 9:8; Mark 6:4].
Gratitude	When the grace of Jesus penetrates the human heart, it rebounds back to God as gratitude, an expression of faith [Eph 4:6; 2 Cor 8:2; 9:15; Acts 20:35]. Gratitude and generosity work both ways. Generosity leads to rejoicing 1 [Chron 29:9] and joy leads people to give generously [2 Cor 8:2].
Generosity	God gives because God loves. We give out of glad and generous hearts as an expression of love and devotion to God by freely offering ourselves and our possessions to God [2 Cor:1:5; 2 Cor 5:17; 2Cor 9:11; 1Jn 3:1].

Goals for 2013....

4G Networking’s kick-off event featured Mark Allen Powell on April 20 at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Workshop I: hosted over 27 congregations with 55 lay and rostered leaders attending. Mark Allen Powell [commitment, lifestyle changes/renunciation, give freely and joyfully—both duty and delight; 2) grow congregational giving and mission support through educational breakout sessions: Money follows Mission and the Relational Ask; Youth and Family—Its Never Too Late; Capital Campaigns Made Simple; and Telling Our Story/Sharing Our Resources. Reviews were very positive and verifies the importance of 4G Networking as an on-going ministry in our synod.

Workshop II features Margaret Marcuson on August 24 at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Marcuson will explore “Money in Ministry:” family of origin issues of money—giving, receiving, borrowing, exchanging and trading self; explore personal values regarding money; and learn how all these things influence the congregation as an emotional system, as we learn how to regulate and manage our reactions to money. We will also learn how to celebrate our giftedness as congregations and write autobiography on faith and money practices.

4G Networking Team: Pr Pat Badkey, Tracy Goodpaster, Pr. Janet Hatch, Pr. Steve Kimpel, Pr. Lynn Spatz, John Mittermaier, Pr. Ed Williams-DEM, and Pr. Dona Johnson, chair. If you would like to join 4G Networking ministry please contact the synod office.

4G Networking is the Southern Ohio Synod’s approach to the ELCA Macedonia Project, a two-year initiative to grow faithful and generous stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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

April 30, 2013

At our recent Synod “God Sightings” events, Amazing Grace Day Camp was the single most-frequently cited example of “the Southern Ohio Synod” at its best. This ministry is not only a highly-effective sharing of the Good News of God’s amazing grace in Jesus Christ with children and families, but it is also a model of collaboration, being a partnership between the Synod, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, and congregations & individuals working to support this ministry.

Our vision of presenting the Gospel to the un-churched and providing a camping experience to those who may not be able to go to resident camp continues to take us into new places. Thanks to the support of many gifts from congregations and individuals from across our synod, we were able to provide funding for 16 camps (nearly 600 campers) in 2012.

Amazing Grace Day Camps during summer 2012 were:

St. John, Stovertown; St. Paul, Ironton; Augsburg, Cincinnati; Pleasant City Lutheran Parish; St. John, Zanesville; Emmanuel, Coshocton; St. John, Sidney; Messiah; Urbana; St. John, Martin’s Ferry; First English, Columbus; Holy Trinity, New Lebanon; St. Paul, Bridgeport; Bethel, Springfield; St. Luke, Marietta; Holy Trinity, Newark; Roselawn, Cincinnati.

Many thanks are due to the AGDC Task Force members for their dedication and their tireless efforts to help make AGDC run smoothly. Those serving on the Task Force with me are as follows: Rev. Jeff Wick (Synod Representative), Rod Pearce (LOMO Representative), Trina Thornton, Rev. Grace Werzinske, Dana and Rev. Bryan Kittner, Rev. Karen Torrez, and Bette Backus. I also would like to thank the Rev. Justin Van Orman who has faithfully served on this Task Force, including a term as chair, but is now stepping down from his position.

As we are all aware, budgets have been reduced across the Synod. AGDC is one of those ministries that have felt the effects of the budget cuts, even as the costs of ministry are rising. The Task Force has already cut the “extras”: Bibles, T-shirts, Christmas gifts, etc., which we used to provide. Synod funds go entirely toward the costs of LOMO programming, and we still have a shortfall: The projected cost for Amazing Grace Day Camp for 2012 is approximately **\$55,000**. The Synod budget for this ministry is **\$25,000**. For this reason, we must lean very heavily upon the third “leg” of our partnership: individuals and congregations who support this ministry with their generous contributions. Those host congregations who are able have contributed some share of the cost of their camp, but we very much need the support of other congregations and individuals. As we look forward to this summer’s camps, please keep our campers, host congregations, and LOMO counselors in your prayers, and we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this ministry with a financial contribution. We are the Southern Ohio Synod, and this is *our* ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Katie Kerrigan,
Chair – Amazing Grace Day Camp Task Force



AUGSBURG FORTRESS

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the exciting things happening at your ministry of publishing, Augsburg Fortress. Here are a few things you might not know about us:

1. We have three divisions: [Augsburg Fortress](#) focusing on creation of group use faith formation, worship and music resources for congregations (mostly ELCA and ELCIC); [sparkhouse](#), focusing on creation of group use faith formation resources for the ELCA and other mainline denominations; and, [Fortress Press](#), focusing on publishing text and reference materials for colleges, universities, seminaries, and individual readers in the areas of religion and theology.

2. One of our most exciting new resources for 2014 is [Prelude Music Planner](#), a web-based subscription resource for church musicians! Church musicians on our staff created *Prelude* to help fellow church musicians spend more time making music and less time planning for it. Here are a few features:

- *Prelude* allows church musicians to create plans easily in just a few clicks. Quickly browse hundreds of pieces based on lectionary days, keywords, skill level and more. Everything needed to create comprehensive plans is accessible from one place.
- Use date, day, voicing, skill level and other filters to help you quickly find the right music for your worship. Simply drag the anthem or other work you want to use into a folder, on screen. Planning couldn't be easier!
- Discover and purchase new music in *Prelude's* multi-publisher library. Download complete pieces to your computer instantly—with audio and full sheet music previews, you can feel confident in your new music purchases. You may also preview sheet music and listen to audio before purchasing.
- You may organize your church's existing music library by adding into your *Prelude* library. When you do this, you'll have a fully integrated planning system.

Augsburg Fortress is offering free 14-day trials for *Prelude Music Planner* and free webinars for an overview & to have specific questions answered. For more information or to sign up for these free offerings, go to <http://Preludemusicplanner.org>.



3. In addition to our extremely popular [Spark Sunday School](#) that has been offered for the past several years, in 2012 we launched two new Sunday school resources for kids:

[Holy Moly!](#) (Sunday school for preschool-grade 4)

[Connect!](#) (Sunday school for "tweens" kids in grades 5 & 6)

New content has been added in 2013 for both of these faith formation resources for kids. You can see samples of both resources (print learner & leader resources and videos at wearesparkhouse.org).

Office: 100 S. Fifth St., Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Mail: P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209  Phone: 612.330.3300  Toll-free: 800.328.4648  Web: augsburgfortress.org



AUGSBURG FORTRESS

4. Over the past couple of years, we have launched several innovative print & video based confirmation and youth resources that have been very well received by youth and their leaders!

These include:

[re:form](#)

[re:form Traditions](#) (with versions for Lutheran, Reformed & Methodist traditions)

[re:form Ancestors](#) (Old Testament & New Testament)

Samples of the print learner & leader resources and videos are available at wearesparkhouse.org.

5. [animate.faith](#) is our first ecumenical introduction to Christianity resource from sparkhouse.

Published in August 2012, it is being used in both traditional small group or adult forum settings, but also in “theology on tap” settings in pubs, coffee shops and other non-traditional faith formation settings. Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, outstanding preacher at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, is one of the seven featured teachers on the animate.faith video. In August 2013, a second resource will be published, animate.bible. In addition to Nadia, other teachers on animate.bible include Phyllis Tickle, Rachel Held Evans & Will Willimon. See wearesparkhouse.org for samples!

6. In November 2012, [Fortress Press](#) announced a new brand at the AAR/SBL (teaching theologians) conference. But, more important than the brand re-launch is our investment in Fortress Press. We have added editors and expect to publish more books (both print & a variety of digital formats) per year over the next few years in three primary areas: Fortree Education (textbooks); Fortress Academic (monographs); and Fortress Reference. You can learn more about our Fortress Press publishing plans on their website, fortresspress.com.

Thank you for your interest in and continuing support of your ministry of publishing! If we may assist you in finding faith formation or worship & music resources, please check our websites or don't hesitate to contact our Customer Care team at 800-328-4648 or your assigned Congregational Resource Representative.




I hope that you have a blessed and inspiring synod assembly! Please don't hesitate to let us know how we may assist you!

Beth A Lewis, President & CEO

ceo@augsbουργfortress.org

[@bethalewis](#)

Office: 100 S. Fifth St., Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Mail: P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209  Phone: 612.330.3300  Toll-free: 800.328.4648  Web: augsbουργfortress.org

Brazil Companion Synod Task Force

The Brazil Task Force was busy during 2012-2013.

We were able to host two students from Sinodo Espirito Santo a Belem for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering. Juliana Burzlaff and Rebeca Foester traveled first to Chicago for orientation, then to Southern Ohio Synod and finally on to New Orleans. One of our youth, Kendel Strasser, also was part of the Chicago orientation and accompanied the students throughout their stay. While in our synod, Juliana and Rebeca gave several presentations about Brazil and saw many of the ministries of Southern Ohio, met with Bishop Holloway and his staff, and even managed a day with youth from St. Jacob, Anna, Ohio at King's Island. Among the benefits that have come from this experience is the constant contact with several of the youth with each other (isn't Facebook great?) and the beginning of a relationship with a couple of the St. Jacob youth who are the same age as the sisters of Juliana and Rebeca. Thanks to St. Jacob Lutheran, Anna for sponsoring this endeavor.

During the year we added some members to our Task Force: Rev. Ralph Wolfe, Clinton Heights Lutheran and Jane Raeuchle and Rev. Bob Carter, St. Paul, Botkins. We also began a partnership arrangement between St. Paul, Botkins and the parish in Domingo Martins (Rev. Valdeci Foester). There are a couple of other partnerships that we are pursuing but that have not yet been established.

A major project has been preparing to greet and extend hospitality to Rev. Joaquin Borhardt, Pastor Sinodal (Bishop) of Espirito Santo and a delegation of four others, including Rev. Antonio da Luz from Vila Velha, who will be attending the Synod Assembly in June and an additional five others who will be arriving on Sunday the 9th of June for a full week of being in our Synod. A wide variety of visits and activities are being planned.

Thank you to all the Task Force members who have worked so diligently to make this companionship work and grow. Special thanks to Ed Williams for his support from the Synod staff. We are looking forward to another fruitful year in 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Michael Althaus

St. Jacob Lutheran Church, Anna, Ohio

Chair, Brazil Companion Synod Task Force Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Capital University

Ask. Think. Lead.

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY: WHERE BEING A LUTHERAN INSTITUTION MEANS SOMETHING

In July 2012, I accepted the appointment as director of Church Relations at both Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I am proud to be an additional liaison between the university and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its congregations, pastors and assemblies. I will serve as an ambassador for Capital among synod assemblies in ELCA Region 6 and beyond; coordinate with our president to represent Capital at churchwide assemblies; and explore opportunities to represent Capital and the Seminary jointly.

Capital President Denvy Bowman and I are working closely together to better define, enhance and communicate the role of our university as an institution of the Lutheran Church. Upon my appointment, Dr. Bowman wrote, "As a graduate of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Gary Sandberg brings dual perspective and special insight shaped by nearly 25 years of service to the Church and higher education. His education, pastoral experience and work in administration position him to reach out and strengthen relationships among constituencies both of our institutions value."

Also helping us strengthen our church ties is a good friend of yours and mine. Many of you know Pastor Denny Asp, who retired from Capital after serving for more than 30 years as director of Church Relations. Pastor Denny is now serving at Christ Lutheran Church, right across the street from the university. He is helping to facilitate a revival of the historic relationship that Capital and Christ Lutheran have shared, including being intentionally welcoming to Capital students on Sunday morning.

University Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger guides worship experiences on campus on Wednesday mornings and on Thursday evenings. Through her efforts, Capital and Trinity students have more occasions to worship together.

Capital welcomes students of all faiths. Nearly 20 percent of our undergraduates are Lutheran, and **we would love to have more!** Encourage the high school students from your congregation to take a look at Capital. Have you considered **a trip** with your youth for a campus tour and meeting with our Admission team? **Let me know when you are coming**, I would love to greet you.

I also am ready to bring Capital to you. Invite me to be with you on a Sunday morning or other times. I would be delighted to lead worship, preach or guide an education class.

Just down the hall from my office is a poster that begins, "By drawing upon the Lutheran principle of free inquiry, Capital University ..." These are the opening words to the Capital University Mission Statement. **Being a Lutheran university means something.** Capital stands ready to serve the church. Contact me to let me know what we can do for you.

In Service to Christ,



Pastor Gary Sandberg
Capital '84, Trinity '88
Director of Church Relations
gsandberg@capital.edu
office 614-236-7737 / cell 614-917-7066 (voice or text)

ELCA Region 6 Archives

In 2012, the Archives worked to share and care for Region 6's stories through preservation, cooperation, transmission, and outreach.

Preservation.

The Archives protects Lutheran stories through the proper storage of Lutheran records. The ELCA Region 6 Archives received a record 82 accessions in 2012—thank you to all of the synods, congregations, and individuals who donated records.

Cooperation.

The Archives cooperates with congregations, synods, organizations, and individuals to preserve and share Lutheran stories. Highlights for 2012 include:

- The Archives celebrated its 8th annual congregational history campaign. During the campaign, the Archives offered research assistance, congregational history help, and celebration ideas to congregations celebrating major anniversaries. The Archives also requested anniversary materials from congregations celebrating anniversaries in 2011. Thank you to all of the congregations that celebrated their history, recorded their history, and donated materials to the Archives.
- The Archives presented the “Records Management for Congregations” workshop at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and Southeast Michigan Synod Joint Assembly, and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, as well as a Congregational Archives workshop for the Southern Ohio Synod's Muskingum Conference Assembly.
- The Archives addressed 28 advice inquiries—questions from congregations and synods about preserving records, managing records, and other topics.
- The Archives received research, cataloging, processing, and other help from volunteer Rich Ferne and Trinity Lutheran Seminary students Emily Seitz and Ben Austin.

Transmission.

The Archives not only preserves, but also shares Lutheran stories. Assisting researchers is one way to share Lutheran stories: the Archives addressed 111 research inquiries in 2012. This year, the Archives continued action to better locate Lutheran stories for researchers. First, the Archives entered 50 records in the PastPerfect Cataloging software, which will allow records to be located more quickly and efficiently. Second, the Archives continued entering information into databases to better organize information about Lutheran history. Third, the Archives established a Photograph Archive to better preserve, organize, and access photographs of Lutheran stories.

Outreach.

The archivist mentored a total of 5 Trinity Lutheran Seminary Summer Sampler students in June and July. The Samplarians learned about the Region 6 Archives, Lutheran history, the role of an archivist in the church, how to become an archivist, the difference between libraries and archives, and had the opportunity to ask many questions. They also had the opportunity to do hands-on archival work, including processing papers, processing photographs, and researching inquiries, including a genealogy inquiry involving a German-language parish register. In addition, the Samplarians initiated research on topics of their own choosing—home congregations, family, and other topics of Lutheran history.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Long Morehart
ELCA Region 6 Archivist



Graceworks Lutheran Services 2013 Report to the Southern Ohio Synod

Graceworks Lutheran Services helped more than 10,000 individuals rebalance their lives in the face of challenging or changing circumstances during 2012. Through a wide range of residential and community care services, we seek to help older adults, individuals with disabilities and persons facing financial or personal challenges restore balance in their lives so that they can better experience life in all its fullness. During 2012, Graceworks provided \$4.5 million of uncompensated charity care that was not paid by user fees or government funding.

Bethany Village A total of 764 older adults lived at Bethany Village. About 450 enjoyed active lifestyles and wellness programming in the residential area, 62 people lived in assisted living residences and 252 residents received full-time skilled nursing and memory supportive care.

Bethany Rehabilitation Center A total of 735 older adults experienced skilled nursing care and individualized rehabilitation programs as they recovered from surgery or hospitalization. Sixty-nine percent of the people served returned to their previous homes after recovery.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service More than 1,700 people experienced one-on-one financial counseling. Graceworks helped 877 people through a debt management program. Housing counselors assisted 28 families to become homeowners and helped 208 families avoid foreclosure. Nearly 430 individuals received bankruptcy pre-filing counseling and 208 persons received bankruptcy pre-discharge financial education. Approximately 950 individuals learned to manage their finances through classes. Another 1,600 individuals benefited from CCCS responses to inquiries.

Friends at Home A total of 164 older adults received companionship services through 39 volunteers. The program concluded on Dec. 31, 2012 when the three-year grant agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation ended.

Graceworks Enhanced Living A total of 153 adults with developmental disabilities lived in safe, caring environments in 29 homes in Butler, Greene, Hamilton and Montgomery Counties. The day habilitation program in Hamilton County provided services for 35 adults with developmental disabilities.

Graceworks at Home Graceworks at Home provided health, therapy and personal care services to 331 older adults in Bethany Village and the surrounding Dayton-area community. Aides provided 16,360 hours of personal care with household tasks such as laundry, light housekeeping, meals, bathing, dressing, medication reminders, transportation and companionship for older adults or respite for family caregivers. Graceworks provided Medicare-certified health and therapy services for 231 individuals in their homes in Bethany Village and in the surrounding Dayton-area community.

Graceworks Housing Services More than 700 income-eligible elderly or disabled residents experienced affordable housing in 18 Graceworks apartment communities in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Employees worked to establish caring, stable environments in well-maintained buildings and helped residents find and obtain needed services.

Once Around Shop and Emergency Assistance A total of 6,404 individuals received food, clothing, or financial assistance for shelter, utilities, and medications through the Preble County Emergency Assistance program. Thousands more received affordable clothing and household items at the Once Around Shop in Eaton.

Senior Companion Program A total of 164 older persons maintained independence in their homes with assistance through friendly visits and respite care. Elderly persons in Montgomery, Miami, Preble, Greene and Clark Counties received visits from 39 trained volunteers. Senior Companions offer companionship, friendship and light assistance to mostly elderly persons.

We are thankful for the many congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod and other congregations, donors, volunteers, staff, and other friends who are an important part of the balance that enables Graceworks Lutheran Services to achieve its mission through its many ministries of Faithful Caring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Willis O. Serr II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "S".

Willis O. Serr II

President and CEO
Graceworks Lutheran Services

www.graceworks.org

Report of the Hunger Task Force

“They have eaten everything that moves!” – Rita Doppenberg, a Christian with a core conviction to end malnourishment in Guatemala

On a recent congregational immersion trip to Guatemala, by the grace of God we came into contact with a Canadian family with a passion to confront hunger and bring an end to malnourishment. I immediately felt a kindred spirit between us. The family had made several trips to Guatemala, each of increasing duration, and they had recently decided to relocate from suburban Toronto to rural southeast Guatemala, among the indigenous peoples. I was impressed by this family’s conviction and passion; even three teenage sons were on board with the move! An innocent, friendly conversation with the parents ended up in a Holy Spirit moment that I will hold onto for a long time.

Henry) So what do you think you will miss about Toronto?

Geoff) The weather. I like the cool weather. It is brutally hot here.

Rita) I think I will miss the wildlife. I love to be outdoors, walk in the woods, and enjoy the wildlife in Canada. There is no wildlife here; not even a squirrel running around. The people have eaten everything that moves!

We had only been with the family a few hours but her comment struck me! It was eerily silent in this rural Guatemalan village. This context was an example of survival of the fittest at the most literal and foundational level! Based on their testimony, it was clear to me that God had called this family into this setting. Like Abraham of old, in faith, “they went.” (Genesis 12:4)

Since the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA has declared that confronting hunger is a core conviction of our Church. There seems to be a wide range of interpretations in our congregations as to the meaning of that resolution. The interpretation of the Hunger Task Force is something close to the faith conviction of Geoff, Rita, and their sons! We believe that hunger is an affront to an abundant God and baptismal faith calls us to actively engage this sin!

Also, I was recently reminded that hunger is not limited to developing-world countries. The *Take Your Place* social action campaign is a coalition of concerned organizations and individuals in the fight against hunger. (<http://www.takepart.com/place-at-the-table/alliances>) One of their supporting organizations is *Bread for the World*. The campaign recently released a documentary titled, *A Place at the Table*. The most compelling statistic of this study of hunger in the United States is that one in six Americans is food insecure! Brothers and sisters, there is still much work to be done and if we truly believe that confronting hunger is a core conviction of our Church and Synod, then we must be engaged in the effort. In that spirit, we offer our report.

Our primary means of communication with congregations and hunger leaders in our synod is our hunger newsletter *Feed My Sheep*. The newsletter is e-mailed every two months and includes stories of congregational hunger efforts, new ideas, updates on resources available from the ELCA, seasonal information and other helpful assistance regarding hunger education. Persons interested in receiving the synodical hunger newsletter may contact Susan Truchses (struchses@gmail.com) to be placed on the mailing list. Past issues can be downloaded from the synod web site. If your congregation is doing exciting hunger ministry, Susan would appreciate a report from you that she can craft into an inspiring story. Additionally, we send out a brief hunger e-mail report as needed to communicate major events and news. The contact to be added to the distribution for this resource is Pastor Monte Stevens (montenrlc@aol.com).

Our primary effort in 2012-13 was to offer the first ever, congregational hunger leaders’ day held on March 9, 2013. Our Task Force believes that making hunger ministry a “core conviction” of every congregation in our Synod is dependent on having one local leader in every church. Toward that end, we offered this program with a goal of educating and equipping pastors and lay leaders to organize, advocate and network with others of like interest. Bishop Ralph Dunkin of the West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod was our keynote speaker. Jessica Fairfax, Coordinator for Volunteer Engagement, was our representative from the ELCA World Hunger staff. We offered a variety of workshops, some

introductory and some advanced. We shared best practices of hunger ministry in our congregations and we had a special hunger-focused worship service which provided participants with a liturgy to take home and use in their congregations. Twenty-nine persons participated and members of our Task Force all made significant contributions. By all accounts, the day was beneficial. One comment spoke for many of the participants, "Wow! I have learned so much and will go home with many wonderful ideas. Next is planning. All in all, excellent!" We have already begun plans for the second hunger leaders' day; likely late spring 2014 in the Dayton area. Our hope is that the word will get out and this program will gain a large following in our Synod.

Our Task Force would like to give a shout out to the teenagers in our Synod. Many of them participated in the ELCA *100 Wells Challenge* leading up to the 2012 National Youth Gathering. The goal was \$250,000 and our teens ended up raising over \$500,000! Many of them dropped off their offerings, walked with water jugs in an interactive learning activity, and built foam rubber wells at the Gathering with great exuberance. It could be that our teens have something to teach us about the meaning of a core conviction!

The Southern Ohio Synod was awarded ten hunger grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,500 by the ELCA in 2013, a total of \$22,100.

Our Hunger Task Force continues to work collaboratively with other organizations that are involved in confronting hunger. In 2012-13, we participated with *Kids Against Hunger* in a meal packing servant event involving teenagers. We also work closely with *Hunger Network of Ohio* in advocacy efforts at the state level and *Bread for the World* on the national and international levels.

Giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in fiscal year 2012 amounted to \$18.6 million. Giving for Southern Ohio Synod congregations amounted to \$290,036, or \$4.15 per baptized member, significantly higher than prior years. The ELCA goal is \$5 per baptized member (which our Task Force believes is woefully inadequate!). We are grateful for the increase in giving and that our Synod is approaching the ELCA goal, yet considering that confronting hunger and poverty is a core conviction of the ELCA, our sincere hope is that our Synod can raise giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal dramatically. We trust and pray that each congregation in the synod will commit itself to growing its hunger ministries and we covenant to be a resource to assist you with that work.

I am grateful to the members of our Task Force for the passion that they bring to the ministry of confronting hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, we continue to lose key lay and clergy members of our Task Force and we are always looking for more help. We would be most appreciative of pastors or laypersons with a passion for this ministry to consider joining in this work.

Peace,

Pastor Henry Zorn, chair
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Cincinnati, OH

Members of the Task Force:

Mr. Nick Bates, Pastor Glen Bengson, Mr. Dave Drumm, Ms. Linda Hall, Pastor Joene Herr, Pastor Don Moeser, Pastor Mary Molnar, Pastor Mike Poole, Pastor Monte Stevens, Mrs. Susan Truchses, and Pastor Jeff Wick, Synod Staff.



Bringing people together to experience Christ through our natural settings a programs

LOMO Synod Assembly Report

Summer Camp Retreats Environmental Education



“It was a great chance to spend time with people from my school that I don't get to spend much time with! “

“Spending time in this ‘place apart’ truly helps renew our relationship with God.”

Awesome...amazing. A true journey. You can make what you want of it...it's totally what you want to take away.



Camp is such a refreshing wonderful reminder how Christ's love can shine



“I just love the chance to set aside time for devotions as a family. It is always a refreshing time to think and pray more and feel God's presence.”

“I tried, and enjoyed, new things that I'm sure I never would have tried at home.”

“All of the staff we encountered were friendly and professional.”

“It's a fun place to be at, we do lots of things all week.”



Mental Wellness and Recovery Task Force

Our Mission...

To educate and serve our congregations and communities concerning the needs of those working towards mental health, wholeness and recovery.

The Mental Wellness & Recovery Task Force (MWRTF) is a newly developed ministry in the Southern Ohio Synod, a ministry whose focus is to raise awareness, de-mystify and de-stigmatize the myths of mental wellness and promote recovery in our congregations and local communities.

On Nov 9-11, 2012, the ELCA Church Council adopted a social message on mental illness. Declaring that the mental and emotional pain of those suffering from the disease could be one of the most far-reaching issues the ELCA will encounter. With the recent increase in school shootings [Sandy Hook elementary, Newtown, Conn and others], mental wellness is now coming to the forefront as a systemic healthcare issue. And we as a society need to ardently support thorough compassion and funding.

Mental Wellness and Recovery Task Force Vision 2013-2014:

- 1) **Published our first of three annual newsletters “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.”** The newsletter informs and educates our congregation on current topics of mental health, mental illness and recovery. Our Summer issue will include Depression and resources.
- 2) ***Equipping the Faith Community to Support Mental Health Recovery*** will be presented by by mental health advocate/professional Renee Kopache from Mental Health and Recovery Board, Hamilton County, OH, at SynodFest 2013.
- 3) **Developing a faith-based recovery/support model** to be used within our congregations for those who have mental illness and their families. Christ Lutheran, Heath has produced a video of their support group for educating our congregations.
- 4) **Dayton community Mental Illness Awareness—National Day of Prayer Event October 8, 2013**—a faith-based initiative will be organized by Christ the King-Centerville and hosted at The Castle, social/recovery program-5013c.

Links: www.SouthernOhioSynod.org;
<http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Mental-Illness.aspx>

Other websites: www.nami.org, <http://www.bringchange2mind.org/>
 www.nami.org/namifaithnet/ www.pathways2promise.org

Members of MWRTF: Helen Jane Brown, Susan Clem, Greg Darling, Sue Hanna, Pastor Bob Skipper, Pastor Kirs Sanitago, Pastor Bill Schwochow, Lynn Spatz, Yvette Van Dyke, Joyce Williams, Pastor Ed Williams-DEM, Contact Dona Johnson, chair for more information ctk.donajohnson@sbcglobal.net

Mission Interpreters
2013 Annual Report
Tell the stories of how God is changing lives through our giving

Do you have a Mission Interpreter in your church? If not, you should! Mission Interpreters tell the stories of how God is changing lives through our giving. These stories show how God is at work through the ministries of congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization of the ELCA, in large part, because of the faithful giving of our members. This ongoing sharing helps members to understand how their offerings support mission throughout the church. It also helps them to appreciate their importance and connection to the wider church. Finally, it is yet another way for members to be thanked for their support of the Lord's church.

The 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted Financial Stewardship Strategy that specifically formed a Mission Interpretation ministry. Each congregation of the ELCA is invited to identify at least one person to volunteer to serve as a Mission Interpreter. In the Southern Ohio Synod we currently have 26 active Mission Interpreters. Our goal is to have at least one in every congregation.

As the coordinator for this ministry I communicate through e-mail with my MI's and provide a variety of stories for them to share with their congregations once a month.. We hold an annual training event for our Mission Interpreters which helps them learn how to best serve in this role and gives them the opportunity to meet one another and share their thoughts and ideas.

In the past year Mission Interpreters of the Southern Ohio Synod also offered a workshop at the Global Mission Gathering in Cincinnati prior to the start of Synodfest 2012. This was just one more way to help ELCA Lutherans understand just what it is that Mission Interpreters do and why it is so important.

Every year the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the ELCA conducts a workshop for Mission Interpreter Coordinators from synods across the country. I will attend this again in August. It is a valuable resource and is always a joy to meet others who are passionate about the work of our church!

During Synodfest 2013 Mission Interpreters will bring you a few "Mission Moments" so you can catch a glimpse of what we do!

We want to grow this ministry! WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you know someone in your congregation who is passionate about the work of the church and would enjoy sharing the many different stories with your congregation and thanking them, then please have them contact me at janborchers6@hotmail.com for more information.

This is a fun ministry! I have learned so much about our church as I have undertaken this role, and I am so proud of all the wonderful work being done out there by ELCA Lutherans! We are truly living up to our motto, "God's work. Our hands." All of this is possible because of the faithful giving of our members! "Thank you" cannot be said enough!

Jan Borchers
Mission Interpreter Coordinator
Southern Ohio Synod
janborchers6@hotmail.com

Mission Strategy Team for Congregational Ministries and Support Annual Report to the Synod Assembly

The Mission Strategy Team for Congregational Ministries and Support in its reconstituted form is less than 18 months old. Much has been planned; some has been accomplished. The realities of budget constraints, both in the Synod and in the congregations, have led us to explore ways of providing support to congregations in ways different from the past. Our work has begun to focus almost entirely use of the Synod website: southernohiosynod.org.

Our discussions led to a section of the website called: *Into Your Hands*. The inaugural edition of *Into Your Hands* listed resources you can use in the parish. We started with people who want to send you “stuff” or places you can get “stuff.” We listed bookstores and other resources from our educational and ecumenical partners. Other editions are in the works now.

The four corners of our area of responsibility remain worship, adult ministries, lay ministry and adult education. As you may remember, we surveyed congregations last year to find out what mattered most to congregations.

Our intention is to make the listings time sensitive and to encourage submissions by pastors and congregations who would like to share their successes or describe areas of continuing concern. As we do that we remain sensitive to the great variation in congregational needs. Just as an example, “visibility” might mean one thing to a small rural congregation not at a crossroad and not in a town and mean something quite different to a small congregation in a large building in a declining downtown, even though they might have the same number of worshipers each Sunday.

We continue to work on the areas listed in last year’s report. Our next editions of *Into Your Hands* are planned to include: Hospitality, Visibility, Music for the Parish, and Estate Planning: Things to Think About. In late summer we will have suggestions for those who find themselves writing the Christmas program every year. Those who would be willing to share some of their own efforts will find us grateful indeed.

Southern Ohio Mission Strategy Team for Congregational Ministries and Support

Pr. Violet Meek, Chair vmEEK@columbus.rr.com

Pr. Grant Eckhart, granteck@gmail.com

Mr. Tim Fink, finktl@frontier.com

Mr. Will Lapp, wandklapp@aol.com

Pr. Mary Molnar, mrmolnar488@gmail.com

Mr. Bob Ray, 740-536-9087

Pr. Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, Assistant to the Bishop. sddillahunt@netscape.net

Muskingum Conference
2012 Report to the Southern Ohio Synod

The Muskingum Conference continues to work to bring our congregations and pastors together to support ministry in Southeastern Ohio. Year after year, the highlight of our ministry together is our annual Fall Assembly. In 2012, our Fall Assembly was hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, as a part of their 125th Anniversary celebration, where we were blessed with great worship and a wonderful meal. Our assembly included a presentation by Ms. Jennifer Long, the Region 6 Archivist, who taught us about how to maintain a congregation's archives.

The pastors of the conference continue to meet regularly for Bible study and collegial support. Our monthly gatherings offer the opportunity for study, worship, and fellowship. We are blessed with our pastors and congregations, grateful for the various gifts and perspectives that they bring to our fellowship.

We had some cause for celebration this year, as we welcomed Pr. Mike Poole to the Pleasant City Parish.

In all of this we give thanks for the blessings of our sister and brothers, as we are bound together in our baptismal identity and our common calling to service in God's kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Mark A. Combs,
Muskingum Conference President

Northwest Conference Report

The Northwest Conference continues to be a mission laboratory where congregations and pastors attempt to forge ministry, not as isolated actors but as parts of larger clusters that coordinate their mission and aid one another in it.

The conference gathered at Fairborn in February to share the stories of mission attempted, both successful and failed. The Springfield cluster reported a ministry centered in joined worship services and youth events. The Northern Exposure cluster reported on ministry by the cluster clergy to one another. The Stillwater cluster is likewise developing clergy support strategies. The Lutheran Saints in Ministry Cluster is developing a separate 501c3 in the hope of developing cluster wide ministries including staff. A common worship life has been developed and shared cluster wide VBS and Adult Education programs have been developed for the summer and fall. A common Stephen's ministry was laid aside as not feasible at this time.

The clusters continue to discover that cooperative ministry serves the mission of the church very well. We commend the cooperative model to our synod as a good way to fulfill the constitutional mandate to the conferences to be together for mission.



Oesterlen continues to adjust to our country's new economy, changes in service delivery and to adapt to the ever changing health care arena. Over the course of Calendar Year 2012, we began to experience a moderate leveling out of our Residential Program, albeit at a reduced level from years past; moderate growth in our Community Counseling Program, Foster Care Program and Community Based Programs—Wraparound / Parent Aide and Intensive Home Based Treatment. The Board, staff and stakeholders have remained loyal and supportive and for this we are blessed.

I am very proud of the flexibility and agility that our dedicated staff has shown through these significant changes. Downsizing is always more difficult than growing. We are definitely doing more with less, but trying to be smarter and more efficient with the same effort and to remain good stewards of all our resources. All hands have risen to the tasks, keeping good spirits and the safety and well-being of our children above all else. Our spectrum of mental health and social services for children and families is stronger and broader than ever before. Our staff continues to take leadership roles in the community and at the state level which is beneficial at a number of different levels to Oesterlen, our client base and the professional field.

In 2011, I reported the loss of Oesterlen's long term Residential Department Director, Jerry Kramer to cancer. The loss of Jerry and the resulting adjustment has been a challenge for us all but the program has been held together due to staff commitment and fortitude. A number of staff stepped up in very significant ways to help us continue with programming and to wrestle with the impact of Jerry's loss.

In 2012, Oesterlen was and continues to be blessed with a cadre of staff attending graduate school for their Masters in Social Work. These individuals (four) are afforded internship opportunities that in turn result in direct and indirect support of Oesterlen clients and programming. Additionally, Oesterlen supports graduate and undergraduate students in internships from nearby Colleges and Universities—typically anywhere from 2 - 6 interns. As can be imagined, this is additional work for the staff supervising the interns but it is gratifying and helpful work as well.

We are looking and praying for a better Calendar Year in 2013, and that our "trimming" will have the intended impact on scales of efficiencies to help Oesterlen continue to be a quality provider of services.

As always Oesterlen appreciates our 20 member Board of Directors and would ask that you extend your blessings and appreciation of their service to our ministry as you encounter them in your community. We thank the following Board members for their years of service on Oesterlen's Board: **Mr. Mark Roberts**, (Good Shepherd Lutheran, Springfield, At-Large Member representative), our immediate past President; **Mrs. Beverly Craig** (St. Johns/St. Paul, Akron, NEOS representative); **The Rev. Robert E. Linsz** (St. Lukes, Cuyahoga Falls, NEOS representative); **Mrs. Marli Elsass** (Grace, Wadsworth, NEOS representative); **Mr. Roger Sherrock** (First Lutheran, Springfield, SOS, representative); and, **Mr. Al Croucher** (Springfield, At-Large representative).

The current Officers for the Board of Directors are: **Mr. David Runk** (English Lutheran, NWOS, Bluffton) serving as *President*; **The Rev. Steve Nelson** (First English Lutheran, Wapakoneta), serving as *Vice President*; **Mrs. Janice Moreland** (Zion, SOS, Middleton), serving as our *Secretary*; and, **Mr. Thom Goodfellow** (Springfield, At-Large Member) serving as our *Treasurer*. SOS synodical Board Members and At-Large (AL) Board members not already noted are: Mrs. Kay Labosky, (All Saints, Worthington); Mrs. Ann Russell (Christ, Bexley), Pr. William McKee (Fifth Lutheran, Springfield); Dr. Mary Jo Zembar (AL, Springfield); The Rev. David Buchenroth (AL, Galilee, Russells Point); Ms. Jeanne Pamer (AL, Springfield); Ms. Sheila Rice (AL, Springfield); and Mr. Jay Littler (AL, Peninsula).

Yours in service to the Lord, **Donald L. Warner**, LISW-S, ACSW, CSWM , Executive Director, Toll Free (800) 404-5437; or Direct (937) 398-0211 or dwarner@oesterlen.org

2012 Annual Report from Seafarers and International House

Mission Rationale

Seafarers and sojourners (i.e. asylum seekers, domestic violence survivors and local disaster survivors) are people who travel under duress or difficult circumstances. Our mission responds to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs by offering pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance, advocacy and prayer.

Whether as a tenet of faith or as an expression of secular humanity, in the global village, there should be no outsiders. We are called to welcome the stranger as our neighbor.

Message from the Executive Director

I will fulfill the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars in heaven . . . and all nations of the earth shall gain blessing for themselves through your offspring. (Genesis 26:4)

There are over seven billion people in the world today, occupying nearly 200 square million miles of land, divided into 196 nations, 61 colonies and a half-dozen disputed territories, conversing in 1,300 different languages on 1.16 billion telephone lines and 3.15 billion email accounts. God kept his promise—we are numerous, but with all this statistical volume, how much of a blessing are we?

Even in our own little mission niche, there are over 1.25 million active seafarers, reportedly 15.2 million refugees and as many as 30 million asylum seekers. Over the least several years, Seafarers & International House has grown in its financial resources, in its port chaplain staff and in the number of seafarers and sojourners served—just look at our mission outreach in the last three years. Still, given the number of active seafarers, refugees and asylum seekers, how much of a statistical impact can we possibly have?

But statistics only tell part of the story. There are no numerical pre-requisites for being a blessing. Within a couple of hours our port chaplains can re-connect seafarers with their families by telecommunication, bring them up-to-date with newspapers and Internet hubs, and offer comfort and assurance in the face of loneliness and distress. Within a few hours, an asylum seeker is transformed from an abused inmate in an immigration detention center to a welcomed guest at our Manhattan guesthouse.. A blessing only takes a moment, but it has to be a very intentional, caring moment.

Every member of our board of directors and our staff are focused on making the lives of the seafarers and sojourners we serve just a little better. It's not about statistical victories and it's not about building monuments to mission greatness. It's just about the moment that any of us might take to be a blessing to another human being.

Peace,

Marsh Luther Drege



Southern Ohio Synod
Women of the ELCA
Annual Report

The Southern Ohio Synodical Board of Women of the ELCA has been busy during this past year.

At the Board Meetings we have spent time planning for the upcoming Convention.

The 2013 Convention will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lancaster. The dates are September 13-14, 2013 and the theme is "Bloom Where You Are Planted". The registration material will be available at the Synod Assembly and can also be found on line at www.soswomen.org We hope that many of you will join us in Lancaster.

REPORT OF TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY – SPRING 2013



This is a year of transition at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and that makes it a good time to look back at what God has accomplished through Trinity and its graduates, and to look forward with enthusiasm and awe as we contemplate the future of theological education. What does God have in mind for the Church? What is our role in that future? How can we work together to prepare the next generation of leaders for the Church?

A Presidential Transition. After twelve years as Trinity's leader, President Mark Ramseth retired at the end of January. Mark and Carol are looking forward to enjoying the next phase of their lives near family in Montana. A Presidential Search is now underway, with the expectation that Trinity's next leader will be in place by August 2013. I have taken on the responsibility of guiding Trinity through this transition, and hope to leave the seminary in a strong position for the next President.

A Curricular Transition. Trinity's faculty is acutely aware of the changes underway in higher education today, and especially in theological education. Society is changing, the Church is changing, and seminaries need to respond to these changes with appropriate adjustments to courses, degree programs (including the traditional sequence of MDiv requirements), teaching methods, and practical experiences for seminary students. The Trinity faculty is hard at work on a revised curriculum that will make a seminary education more accessible to a wider range of students, and will prepare graduates to serve in a wider range of settings.

Building on Strengths. How can any institution survive in this period of transition and uncertainty? Trinity is anchored to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that rock provides a center of gravity amidst the storms of change. Trinity also has a loyal, dedicated faculty and staff that daily demonstrate their commitment to God's mission in the world, and to Trinity's role in preparing leaders for that mission. Trinity has amazing students, alive with the power of the Spirit, eager to spread the Gospel and serve the Church, even in these uncertain times. Trinity also has strong Board leadership with a genuine commitment to theological education within the ELCA, combined with a vision for ecumenical partnerships.

Partnerships for the Future. By all accounts, the future of theological education involves networks and partnerships that can offer academic training and spiritual formation to more people in more places. Here are some examples from Trinity.

- Trinity students benefit from regional, national and global partnerships to provide contextual learning opportunities in authentic mission settings ranging from inner city and Appalachian experiences to indigenous ministries around the world. For example, I've been on Trinity's campus only a few weeks, but already I've had numerous conversations with students whose lives have been changed and whose future ministries have been strengthened by recent experiences in global mission contexts in Mexico and in the Mideast.
- Trinity students and faculty benefit from the presence of Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary on the Trinity campus. Bexley Hall students participate fully in the Trinity curriculum and our shared worship. The new relationship between Bexley Hall and Seabury-Western Seminary offers an opportunity for Seabury-Western's expertise in online and hybrid courses to strengthen the distance education offerings of both Trinity and Bexley Hall.
- Trinity students, staff, and faculty benefit from the proximity to Capital University. There are active discussions underway to explore new ways to build on this proximity for more effective collaboration that could advance the mission of both institutions, perhaps in a broader partnership that could include the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. We are also seeking ways to strengthen our historic connection to Wittenberg University.

In spite of all these changes and challenges, I am lifted up by the constant refrain of Dr. Brad Binau, TLS Academic Dean: *"What a great time to be the church, and to be a seminary, and to be in a position to make a difference!"* What we need most from you at this time of transition are your prayers and your students. Your students make us a seminary of the church, and without students, seminaries have no reason to exist. In return, we pledge to deliver graduates prepared to serve your congregations and synodical ministries with missional leadership for a gospel that the world needs now, more than ever. We deeply appreciate your support and partnership.

"Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ's Church at work in the world."

Thomas Ludwig, Interim President

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT to the SYNODS
2012

Our Mission statement: "Reflecting its Lutheran heritage, Wittenberg University challenges students to become responsible global citizen, to discover their callings and to lead personal, professional and civic lives of creativity, service, compassion and integrity."

Dr. Laurie Joyner, PhD., has been inaugurated as the 14th president of Wittenberg University and its first female president. She came to Wittenberg after serving as vice president for planning and dean of the college at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. President Joyner's academic emphasis has been in the area of sociology. Dr. Joyner actively emphasizes that Wittenberg continue to be student-centered and mission driven.

Wittenberg University continues to recognize and celebrate its Lutheran heritage in numerous ways. For example:

- The Festival Choral Eucharist for Reformation service was held on Sunday, October 28, 2012 with The Rev. Dr. Donald P. Kreiss, bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod, preaching.
- Lessons and Carols for Advent & Christmas was celebrated on December 7. This service offers a time of reflection as the Advent season unfolds. Many Wittenberg musical groups performed and members of the Wittenberg community read advent scriptures.
- The Kenneth H. Sauer Luther Symposium presented Dr. Mark Schwehn of Valparaiso University who spoke on "Lutheranism, Liberal Learning, and Work in the World"
- Wittenberg students continue to be incredibly involved in service to others. Some examples include conducting a Crop Walk, 30 hour Famine, Habitat for Humanity projects to name only a few.
- The Wittenberg Choir toured Germany and presented 8 choral performances as part of the "Year of Music", an emphasis of the 10-year celebration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses.
- Fifteen students and faculty engage in a semester of studies, internships and cultural emersion in Wittenberg Germany. Students live one block from the historic Castle Church.

Wittenberg has joined with the Lutheran World Federation to plant a tree in Luthergarten in Wittenberg Germany and on the Wittenberg University campus in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and in witness the communion within the Lutheran World Federation. The trees are a sign of the fellowship and reconciled diversity among the Christian Churches. The tree and plaque on Wittenberg's campus are located near the statue of Martin Luther and Weaver Chapel.

Weaver Chapel has been recognized as one of the 30 most beautiful college cathedrals in the world by Best College Reviews. (www.bestcollegereviews.org/features/the-30-most-beautiful-college-cathedrals/) You are invited to visit our campus and judge for yourself.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for Wittenberg University. The rich heritage of our relationship with the Lutheran Church continues to inform our vocation, mission and ministry.

Bishop Term Limit Amendment Memorial

Whereas God calls and equips people of all ages and backgrounds to service in the ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

Whereas the ELCA is organized into synods, each of which are led by duly called and elected bishops; and

Whereas each synodical bishop brings his/her own set of God-given gifts and abilities; and

Whereas, the pace at which society and the world are changing is escalating exponentially; and

Whereas, no one person is gifted with every skill and ability needed to lead in all times and situations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod, in Assembly, amend paragraph S8.51.a. to read as follows “The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected only once.”

Be it further resolved, that paragraph S8.51.01 be amended to read as follows “The bishop, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer may be reelected only once.”; and

Be it further resolved that any other paragraphs of the Synod Constitution which conflict with these proposed amendments shall themselves be amended to reflect this change; and

Be it further resolved, that these amendments take effect as soon as possible and shall apply to the election and call of the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod elected at the 2013 Synod assembly.

Signed by the following voting members of the Southern Ohio Synod:

Gary Eichhorn
Bob Miller
Rachel Lammi
Bob Ashburn
Carl Fisher

Jamie Vannoy
Peter Ray
John Mittermaier
Ron Wean

Joe Wolf
Monte Stevens
Tim Kuenzli
Steve Kimpel

Must commune 4 times

Whereas our congregations are formed by gathering around the Gospel proclaimed in word and sacrament, and not around an offering basket, and

Whereas Luther said that if a person did not commune at least four times a year that person was no Christian, and

Whereas when people have greater requirements for membership, they value that membership more, be it therefore

Resolved that the Southern Ohio Synod in Assembly memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to alter the model constitution so that in order to be considered active, a member would have to have communed four times in the previous twelve months, and that the requirement for contributions be eliminated.

Submitted by:

The Muskingum Conference

Proposed Amendment to the SOS Constitution

Whereas the Conference is a genuine expression of Church;

Whereas the Church gathered in assembly calls and then elects those chosen to lead the saints according to the model, "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:22a, 28a)

Whereas, since ancient times, local laity and clergy elected their own leadership to serve them in their behalf (for example, the election of St. Ambrose as Bishop of Milan);

Whereas, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, members of the Conference Assembly are most familiar with those who best may serve as the voice of the Conference on the Synod Council and in other elected positions of leadership within the our church;

Whereas the Conference Members of the Synod Council and of the Churchwide Assembly are the primary voice of the Conference in the larger church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S10.07.01 b.** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

One ordained minister and two laypersons, one male and one female, from each of the conferences, to be elected by the Synod/Conference Assembly and ratified by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Conference Assembly with further nominations from the floor/without further nominations from the floor. The Nominating Committee may only make nominations for these positions when the Conference fails to make timely nominations. Each position shall have at least two/one nominees/nominee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S9.03.02** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

In all elections by the Synod Assembly not otherwise provided for in this constitution and by-laws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two/one persons/person for the office to be filled; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That in By-Law **S9.03.03** of the Southern Ohio Synod Constitution be amended to read:

The Nomination Committee/Conference Assembly shall nominate persons for election as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly so that there shall be elected at least one ordained minister and one lay person from each conference. The Nominating Committee shall nominate together with a sufficient number of additional persons who shall be elected on an at-large basis. The Nomination Committee may establish such categories for nominations as are necessary to assure that the synod's delegation of voting members of the Churchwide Assembly meets the requirements of S6.04. Nominations for/from the floor shall be consistent with any categories established by the Nominating Committee.

Underlined material is to be deleted. *Italicized* material is to be substituted or added.
Location: Conference Two Memorial

Healing Wounded Churches Resolution

WHEREAS, the root word for "salvation" is "to cure, heal," and,

Whereas, Jesus' ministry demonstrates that healing is the evidence of the presence and activity of God, and,

Whereas, we have been called, through Christ's mandate and promise, to heal the wounded, and,

Whereas, the evidence of past faithfulness to the promise and mandate of healing resulted in churches founding most of the hospitals in existence today, and,

Whereas, the lack of healing in churches compromises the witness to the God who heals, and,

Whereas, churches are not immune from trauma due to leadership abuse, neglect, bullying, harassment, and theft, and,

Whereas, workplace studies show that "trauma is not limited to physical harm, but leadership abuse, bullying, harassment, neglect, or theft becomes a detriment to the health, success, commitment, and productivity of the workplace," and,

Whereas, "it is critical that employers have plans in place to prevent and manage workplace trauma," and,

Whereas, despite many wounded congregations, Southern Ohio Synod has not identified wound care plans, criteria, and informed resources to directly heal the wounds of churches and individuals, and,

Whereas, an institutional focus on securing the budget, programming, or doctrinal compliance in a church that has been traumatized is not a wound care plan sufficient to heal a traumatized church, and,

Whereas, to delay implementing wound care plans to wounded churches only makes permanent unhealthy survival patterns which impede the focus, life, health, and mission of the church, and,

Whereas, those church bodies who have explicitly named "healing" in their vision and mission statements, which is also reflected in their organizational planning and structure, are expanding, while those church bodies that do not name healing or reflect it through their organizational planning and structure, are contracting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Ohio Synod take responsibility for

its own history of further wounding itself and others by resorting to institutional solutions instead of developing wound care plans, through individual and corporate confession, and,

Be it further resolved that the SOS begin to make amends by incorporating the word “healing” into its mission and vision statements and by encouraging individual congregations to do the same, and,

Be it further resolved that the SOS encourage congregations to take time in worship to let people speak the names of those in need of healing as well as to celebrate those who have been healed, and,

Be it finally resolved, that the SOS make further amends by identifying and developing wound care protocol for churches which include: the organizational structure to debrief the trauma, the community resources to assist in processing the trauma, and the informed and trained leadership to assist in transforming the wounded into wounded healers.

AND FURTHER, LET THE SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD MEMORIALIZE THE ELCA, to include trauma education as part of the seminary curricula where leadership candidates become empowered to articulate and identify trauma's effects on the thinking, behavior, and relationships of people, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify and articulate the difference between unhealthy, post trauma survival patterns versus healthy relationship patterns, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify and articulate their own trauma histories before taking the trauma histories of those churches they serve, and,

Be it further resolved that seminary curricula educate and empower candidates to identify, develop, and implement basic post trauma wound care plans which also include identifying First Responder Community resources which can aid in the assessment, intervention, and development of wound care plans, and,

Be it finally resolved that all leaders be trained, healed, and empowered to proclaim and celebrate a theology from the cross, where, as God transformed the Trauma of the Cross into a sign of life and blessing, so does God transform all our traumas to signs of life and blessing for the world.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
MIGHTY FORTRESS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND,
MIGHTY FORTRESS CHURCH COUNCIL, KETTERING, OHIO

Resolution regarding Clergy burnout

Whereas pastors are regularly burning out from their duties, and

Whereas this leads to clergy leaving the ministry, and

Whereas this also leads to short pastorates, and

Whereas this leads to health problems for pastors, and

Whereas the synod says that it is concerned that pastors have good health, and

Whereas longer pastorates and healthier pastors leads to greater growth in congregations, be it therefore

Resolved that a task force be formed to give greater detail in the compensation guidelines concerning sabbatical leave.

Submitted by:

The Muskingum Conference

For Admin Use Only

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY CHECK-IN CARD

Please complete this card and present it at the time of check-in.

Voting Member

- Associate in Ministry
- Clergy
- Deaconess
- Diaconal Minister
- Female Lay Voting Member
- Male Lay Voting Member
- Retired Clergy (Voting Privileges Granted)
- Synod Council Lay Voting Member

Non-Voting Member

- Retired Associate in Ministry
- Retired Clergy (Voting Privileges Not Granted)
- Retired Deaconess
- Retired Diaconal Minister
- Rostered Leader On Leave from Call
- Visitor (Includes Seminarian, Student, Spouse)

Attendee Information

Prefix _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Congregation _____ City _____



CAMPUS BUILDINGS:

1. Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center
2. Bayley Alumni House
3. Bayley-Diehl House
4. Benham-Pence Student Center
5. Benjamin Prince House (*President's House*)
6. Blair Hall
7. Carnegie Hall
8. Center for Civic & Urban Engagement
9. Chakeres Memorial Theatre
10. Health, Physical Education and Recreation Center
11. Hollenbeck Hall
12. Joseph C. Shouvin Center
13. Koch Hall
14. Krieg Hall
15. Matthies Honors House
16. Physical Plant Building
17. Recitation Hall
18. Recitation Hall Annex
19. Student Development/ Dietrich House
20. Synod Hall
21. Thomas Library
22. Weaver Chapel
23. Weaver Observatory
24. William A. McClain Black Culture House
25. Zimmerman Hall

RESIDENCE HALLS AND APARTMENTS:

29. Ferncliff Hall
30. Firestine Hall
31. Keller Place Apartments
32. Morris J. Knauss Greens Student Residences
33. Myers Hall
34. New Residence Hall
35. Polis House
36. Sprecher Place Apartments
37. Tower Hall
38. Woodlawn Hall

GREEK HOUSES:

Fraternities

39. Beta Theta Pi
40. Lambda Chi Alpha
41. Phi Gamma Delta
42. Phi Kappa Psi

Sororities:

43. Alpha Delta Pi
44. Delta Gamma
45. Gamma Phi Beta
46. Kappa Delta
47. Sigma Kappa

CENTERS, INSTITUTES AND VENUES:

1. Bayley Auditorium
26. Bill Edwards Field/Betty Dillahunt Field
4. Bookstore
48. Commencement Hollow
28. David B. and Georgiana S. Albright Tennis Complex
4. Doppelgangers
17. East Asian Institute
27. Edwards-Maurer Field
8. Food Co-op
4. Founders
13. Kissell Auditorium
49. Myers Hollow
11. Ness Family Auditorium
10. Pam Evans Smith Arena
4. Post 95
7. Witt Cam