



OUR MISSION: Empower, equip and encourage the people of God to make Christ known

Rummage Sale Season

Letting Go of the Ineffective

“The Right Reverend Mark Dyer, an Anglican bishop known for his wit as well as his wisdom, famously observes from time to time that the only way to understand what is currently happening to us as twenty-first-century Christians in North America is first to understand that about every five hundred years the Church feels compelled to hold a giant rummage sale. And, he goes on to say, we are living in and through one of those five-hundred-year sales.”

[Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence*, Baker Books © 2008, p. 15]



2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the moment that initiated what we know as the Reformation: Martin Luther’s posting of 95 theses challenging the church’s theology and practices around grace and salvation. As it turned out, these theses were also something of a rummage sale sign.

Now, five centuries later, much of the North American church is experiencing a time of significant challenge and change. In many ways we are sorting through what we have accumulated over the years to see what is and is not faithful and effective in this new day. The Spirit is calling us to again identify central gospel necessities, to let go of what is no longer faithful or effective, and to embrace new and renewed ways of being church for the sake of God’s mission of healing, hope, and reconciliation in the world. The 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation is a good time to engage this work of prayerful discernment together and to do so with humility and in partnership with sisters and brothers of other traditions, including our Roman Catholic siblings.

Our Bishop’s Youth Day (October 30, 2016) will serve as something of a kickoff of our synod observance of the Reformation anniversary (<http://iksynod.org/2016/07/27/bishop-day/>). We also hope to sponsor a couple of synod-wide ecumenical worship services in 2017. And, of course, our Synod Assembly June 1-3 in Covington, KY

will include Reformation anniversary observances and themes.

Overall, however, my hope is that local mission centers and conferences across the synod will find ways to observe the Reformation anniversary through ecumenical experiences as well as through deep exploration of the core gospel truths that drove that first reformation and can fuel and direct the one to which the Spirit is calling us today.

Here are a few ideas and resources to assist local planning:

- Augsburg Fortress has created a wonderful Reformation 500 Sourcebook and is producing excellent Reformation studies materials. These can be found at <http://ow.ly/zp423049guj>.
- We have an excellent denominational Reformation resource website: <http://www.elca500.org/>.
- Three recently published resources would be great for reading and discussion, especially with Roman Catholic sisters and brothers:
 - o [From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017](#) Lutherans and Roman Catholics together tell the story of the Reformation, summarize key theological themes from Martin Luther, provide commemoration ideas, and point toward the future. This and other resources can be downloaded from the Lutheran World Federation website: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/reformation-2017>.
 - o [One Hope: Re-Membering the Body of Christ](#) (Fortress Press) is appropriate for study and discussion among members of Lutheran and Roman Catholic communities together.
 - o [Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist](#), a summary of 32 theological and other commitments that are no longer church dividing between Roman Catholics and Lutherans, would stimulate helpful discussion between Lutheran and Roman Catholic rostered

leaders. This book may be purchased from Augsburg Fortress or a PDF downloaded from the ELCA website: <https://www.elca.org/Declaration-on-the-Way>.

- The North Carolina Synod has commissioned and made available a great Reformation 500 coloring book, perfect for adults and children alike: <http://www.nclutheran.org/events/docs/Ever-Reforming-Coloring-Pages.pdf>.
- And don't forget Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's challenge for all mission centers and members of the ELCA to get reacquainted with Martin Luther's Small Catechism in 2017. A study edition can be ordered from Augsburg Fortress and it's also available in an app for Apple and Android devices (look for Small Catechism from Augsburg Fortress in the iTunes App Store and Google Play).

Check out our synod website (<http://www.iksynod.org>) for more resources over the coming months, as well as opportunities to share ideas and plans with others.

+Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Seasonings: Christmas Worship Planning

October 22, 2016

Christ the Savior, Fishers IN



Seasonings is a series of one-day workshops to nurture creative and effective worship planning within the parish. Each Seasonings event focuses on a particular liturgical season. The I-K Worship Committee will offer the second in the Seasonings series, focusing on worship planning for Christmas, at Christ the Savior Church in Fishers, IN, on October 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Hank Langknecht will again be the plenary presenter. Workshop tracks for preachers, lectors, worship committee members, musicians, artists, assisting ministers, council members, and mission planners will include sessions both in liturgical foundations and practical applications.

For more information on the Christmas Seasonings Workshop, go to our website, www.iksynod.org and click on "Seasonings" under the Ministries tab at the top of the homepage or follow this [link](#).

The seasons of Advent and Christmas will be here before you know it. What are you waiting for?! Register today!

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday



A team of 24 from Trinity, Linton, IN, packed healthy lunches for delivery to emergency room staffers, firemen, and for anyone involved in a volunteering project on September 11 for Greene County's 9/11 Volunteer Day. "We've got 200 lunches under construction," said Pastor Sparks. "Every ingredient purchased locally," she smiled. "It's called 'Gods Work, Our Hands,'" said Sparks of the service-based holiday. Trinity Lutheran obtained a grant from Thrivent Financial in preparation for the day.

Faith, Owensboro, KY, also had a very successful "God's Work, Our Hands" activity on September 11. They made about 50 birthday kits for local shelters and tied 9 fleece blankets for LWR. The birthday kits have plates, napkins, candles, and small toys in a plastic bag for boys and girls and are given to the HELP Office and local shelters to assist with children's birthdays.



The I-K Synod is gearing up to share "Stories of God in Action" in the coming months! Keep an eye out to see how your congregation can be a part of the unfolding narrative!