



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## 2012 GLOBAL MISSION REPORT

Enabling the congregations of the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod to proclaim Jesus Christ throughout the world is the focus of efforts by the Global Mission Committee. This is done through strengthening Companion Synod relationship, advocacy for peace in the Middle East, supporting Missionaries, forming Sister Congregations, offering Gifts of Hope and caring for people in need worldwide.

### 2012 Reflections

#### Looking Back

Displays at Assembly  
Namibia Consultation and Trip

VD Blankets Delivered in Namibia  
Bishop's Presence in Namibia  
MEWG Resolutions:

1.  
Ir  
an

2. Holy Land Trip  
MEWG Attendance Growing  
Slovakia Youth Exchange  
Encuentro and El Salvador  
Visits Malaria Campaign

#### Looking Ahead

Reduction in budget

D

### Companion Synods

#### Namibia – Lowell Knauff, Chair

A companion Synod's Consultation was held in Windhoek among the four ELCA Synods that relate to Namibia and the three Lutheran churches in Namibia from May 17 through May 20. Bishop Graham, Pr. Allard, Pr. Knauff and Kathy Tobias participated in the consultation. Pr. Michael Kuchinsky and Ellie Wegner also sat in on the consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to evaluate the relationship among the Lutheran churches in Namibia and the four ELCA Synods that have a companionship connection.

After the consultation a visitation trip occurred from May 15 – June 5, 2012. The visitation group included, in addition to those previously named, Pr. Jane Halpern, Rhoda Kluge, Mark Victorson, Betty Frederick, Elsa Allard, Yvonne Knauff and Kristyna O'Hop.

The group was mostly well received although some issues inhibited transparency. One very positive note was the group's experience and visit with Englehardt Eueab, Director of the Hostel Program of the ELCRN. A follow-up letter was received by Pr. Allard thanking him for the group's visit and a donation of \$6,508. Much of the gift was from the Woodbridge Rotary Club. There are currently 19 hostels in ELCRN.

Because of the Companion Synod Consultation and the visitation trip, the annual Pastor Exchange was not held in 2012.

Pr. Allard has done a great display of the 2012 visit to Namibia and it is available for congregational use.

A request has come from Friends of Namibian Children. In May \$1,400 was given to the hostel program and then in August another check for \$1,000 was sent. If anyone is interested in contributing, the address is: Janet Wenk Friends of Namibia, Box 5572, Phoenix, AZ 85010.

A request was received from Bishop Josafat Shanghala of the Western Diocese of ELCIN to furnish the newly consecrated bishop of the Ovambo People in Angola with a crozier. The Ovambo People live in both Northern Namibia and Southern Angola. As well, Bishop Shanghala requested assistance with the provision of new vestments. Bishop Richard Graham approved a special gift of \$1,000 from Metro D.C. Synod funds toward these needs.

It was noted that Bishop Zephaniah Kameeta of ELCRN was awarded his 3<sup>rd</sup> doctorate.

E-mails were received from Sylvia Heita and Veikko Munyika and shared with the committee.

Companion Synod Sunday 2013 was celebrated on January 27 with Namibia as the focus.

Pr. Knauff will be moving out of the Synod and stepped down as chair of the Namibian Task Force. Kathy Tobias and Mark Victorson from St. Matthew's will co-chair the Task Force.

#### **Sister Congregations:**

A twentieth sister congregation was formed in 2012 between Holy Trinity, Falls Church, and Oshakatti Parish (ELCIN).

Abiding Presence, Burke, VA	Onayena (ELCIN) Christ
the King, Great Falls, VA	Xhorixas (ELCRN)
Community, Sterling, VA	Swakopmund (ELCRN)
Covenant, Woodbridge, VA	Oshikali (ELCIN)

Emmanuel, Bethesda, MD	Onemanya (ELCRN)
Emmanuel, Vienna, VA	Soweto (ELCIN)
Faith, Arlington, VA	Immanuel Keetmamshoop (ELCRN)
Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA	Onaingalo (ELCIN)
Holy Cross, Herndon, VA	Olulongo (ELCIN)
Hope, Annandale, VA	Ongwadiva (ELCIN)
Hope, College Park, MD	Olupandu (ELCIN)
King of Kings, Fairfax, VA	Ondobe (ELCIN) Paulus, Rehobeth (ELCRN)
Our Redeemer, Washington, D.C.	Eengolo (ELCIN)
Peace, Waldorf, MD	Epembe (ELCIN)
Reformation, Washington, D.C.	Martin Luther Komasdahl (ELCRN) Cluistus Kriche (DELK)
St. Andrew, Centreville, VA	Oniipa (ELCIN)
St. Luke, Silver Spring, MD	Mupini Parish
St. Johns, Rockville, MD	Ohaanda (ELCIN)
St. Matthews, Woodbridge, VA	Okahao (ELCIN)

**El Salvador – Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair**

**Campaign for the Pastor's Endowment Fund:**

- The team worked to promote the Pastor's Endowment Fund and launched the \$12,000 in 2012 campaign. \$10,194.18 was raised and contributed to the fund. The team plans to continue to support fundraising for this important mission to provide stability to the funding for ministry in El Salvador.

**Gifts of Hope:**

- The Endowment Fund continued as an option for Gifts of hope; additionally, an opportunity to give towards food/milk was provided.
  - Endowment Fund: \$2,300
  - Food/Milk: \$3,190

**April:****Synod Assembly Presence:**

- Representatives staffed a table at the Synod Assembly to raise awareness of the needs of the church in El Salvador, specifically the campaign for the Pastor's Endowment Fund.

**August:****Mission Trip:**

- A group of 6 people traveled to El Salvador: Kelly, John and Katie Baugh, Phil Loar, Marge Youngwerth and Margarethe Klieber. They visited with Neuva Esperanza, Pr. Leonel's congregation in the northeast part of the country and other congregations to continue to build relationships.

**Fall:****Pastor Visitation to US:**

- Began exploring the possibility of having Pastor Norma and Raphael and their family come for a visit. Financial assistance was offered for the visa process, although by the end of 2012, this had not gone beyond discussion to action.

**Encuentro:**

- The Steering Committee for the Pastor's Endowment Fund held a meeting with Bishops from the ELCA in San Salvador prior to the Encuentro to engage continued support and advocate for making the fund a focus for the offering at the National Assembly in 2013.
- Marge Youngwerth and Marion McInturff attended the Encuentro in El Salvador.
- King of Kings officially entered into a Sister Congregation relationship with Neuva Esperanza in November at the Encuentro.

□ **Slovakia – Mary Bartholomew, Chair**

The Youth Exchange went. Two youth and an adult companion (Natalia, Sona and Peter) were hosted by members of St. Luke Lutheran Church to accompany their youth to the ELCA National Youth gathering in New Orleans. Favorable reports were received from the Slovak youth and St. Luke youth and host families.

Pr. Wee has arranged for a seminar to be held in Wittenberg, Germany. "Here We Walk" is the theme of the 2013 Wittenberg Seminar scheduled for July 22-27, 2013. A six-day seminar with lectures on "The Ongoing Reformation: Economic Disparity and Public Policy" will be shared with our Slovak Companion Synod as part of the Luther Decade. Pr. Wee distributed an initial rendering of the promotional brochure and Kathy will work on finalizing it. In addition to Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt and Eisenach will be visited. Reservations should be placed by March 1, 2013. Brochures will be distributed to the churches. Estimated cost is \$1,500.

Drs. Mikal and Katka Valco from the Lutheran Education Center in Martin, Slovakia, and Zilina University in Zilina, Slovakia, are currently teaching at Roanoke College. They have met with Dr. Paul Wee in the planning for the "Here We Walk" seminar and with Bishop Richard Graham in exploring ways to further the Companion Synod relationship shared by the Metro D.C. Synod and the Evangelical Churches of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia.

An ELCA Missionary Profile for Rev. Miriam Schmidt and her husband Jeremy Blyth was distributed. Miriam serves as the pastor of the Bratislava International church and is the coordinator of the YAGM program in Central Europe. Jeremy serves as associate to this role.

Christina Volbrecht, our YAGM in Slovakia, has requested that we consider sending computers and related materials/programs to the Lutheran Seminary in Bratislava. Because of financial constraints, probably not much will happen this year, but it will be considered as a Gift of Hope for 2013.

Mary concluded her role as chair of the Slovakia Task Force. She will be replaced by Rosemary Burton who previously chaired this group. Mary will continue to help coordinate the Wittenberg trip.

□ **Middle East Working Group – Nathan Rich, Chair**

*The Middle East Working Group of the ELCA Metro D.C. Synod works to implement the resolutions of the Synod and Churchwide assemblies in support of the “ELCA Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine.” We provide resources to congregations to learn more about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.*

MEWG met 2/6, 3/11, 5/20, 9/10 and 10/21. Participants were Jean and Dan Martensen, Rev. Michael Gutzler, Janelle Neubauer, Paul Verduin, Dora Johnson, Nathan Rich, Rev. Phil & Mavis Anderson, Kathy Tobias, Anne Lipe, Karin Brown, Rev. Ray Ranker, Rev. Michael Wilker, Parry Carlson. We were also introduced to former Young Adults in Global Mission in Jerusalem: Marta Spangler, Jarrod Jabre, Laurin-Whitney Gottbraith, and Kendra Kintzi.

Jan. 31: Sent announcement about availability of MEWG to present and facilitate discussion on Kairos Palestine to Karen for Synod announcements and posted the announcement on the Synod’s Facebook page.

Feb. 8: Jean Martensen sent a letter on behalf of MEWG to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Mosque in Chantilly, VA that was seriously vandalized in February, and the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, expressing sadness, dismay, and support.

Feb. 26: MEWG and Church of the Reformation hosted a talk and reception with Bishop Munib Yunan of ELCJHL (and President of LWF) when he was here to be part of a panel on “Preventing Incitement and Promoting Peace” at U.S. Institute of Peace.

April 21: **Sabeel-DC Spring Workshop: How to Make Justice and Peace in Holy Land Part of Your Church’s Faith Journey** was attended by some MEWG members. MEWG made a \$50 contribution to help defray costs.

April 28: **Synod Assembly:** The MEWG prepared and submitted a resolution which advocated that trips to the Holy Land will be planned in a way that shows solidarity with the ELCJHL. This resolution passed without much discussion. Some members of the MEWG also submitted a resolution to promote peace with Iran; a RESOLVED clause calling for advocacy with the U.S. Administration to avoid military action, was removed on the floor. Nathan Rich set up a table with Holy Land resources, and prepared a flyer focusing on Holy Land travel.

**Response to essay on Positive Investment in Christian Century:** The essay, published April 26, 2012, advocated for a strategy of “Positive Investment” in Occupied Palestinian Territory, instead of economic measures (BDS) directed toward elements which support occupation, as the best way to be engaged in the

situation in the Holy Land. Members of MEWG submitted a rebuttal essay to *Christian Century* in June.

June 17: MEWG arranged dinner at the Comfort Inn on New York Avenue for gathering of about 40 people from around the U.S. involved with the **ELCA Peace Not Walls Campaign**.

June 18-19: **Churches for Middle East Peace annual advocacy conference** was held at CUA and on Capitol Hill. MEWG paid scholarships (half the registration) for 3 people to attend.

Our dedicated member, **Dora Johnson**, passed away in late June. A memorial service was held in August at Christ, DC. We mourn our loss, with great gratitude for her service and witness. In her honor, the Synod has established a **Dora Johnson Memorial Fund**. MEWG has not yet determined a use for this fund; we are contemplating something that would involve both Americans and Palestinians and are seeking input.

Friday, Dec. 21: MEWG hosted a **reception for Bright Stars of Bethlehem**. Beth Nelson Chase showed a video about Diyar Consortium and answered questions about the ministries there. Attendance was about 15 (including MEWG); and 7 new faces.

Bishop Graham participated in the annual **Simulcast Christmas Service** on Dec. 22 at the Washington National Cathedral with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

In 2013: **June 7-17 Holy Land Trip** – “Walking with Christians in the Holy Land” An experiential learning trip for young adults (18-35) in the Metro D.C. Synod – is being led by Ray Ranker and Karin Brown in conjunction with the Metro D.C. Synod young adults.

#### **ELCA Malaria Campaign – Dorothy Sorrell, Chair**

The ELCA Malaria Campaign continues to work toward making malaria history in the eleven African countries where the ELCA has established relationships. ELCA giving has totaled \$6,653,546 of its \$15 million goal, and the Metro Washington DC Synod has contributed almost \$150,612 of its \$250,000 goal, as of March 1, 2013. The Malaria Campaign will continue through 2015.

The program of treatment, education and prevention is already having remarkable results. Church ministries, clinics and hospitals are distributing medicine to prevent and treat malaria. Pastors and church volunteers are being trained to diagnose and treat malaria, and teach others in the communities.

Insecticide-treated mosquito nets are being distributed, and water treatment projects implemented to eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

At the beginning of the Malaria Campaign, a child under the age of five years old died every 30 seconds because of malaria. At this time a child dies every 60 seconds, not a good number, but certainly much improved over previous numbers. In Zimbabwe malaria cases were reduced by half over a two year period, and the number of deaths at one elementary school went from five to seven per year to none. Similar success is occurring in other countries as funding is received and programs implemented.

Dorothy Sorrell, Metro Washington DC Synod Malaria Coordinator, is available to meet with congregations and assist them in planning a Malaria Campaign. She can be contacted at (703)591-2236 or djsorrell1@verizon.net

**Gifts of Hope**

**Namibia:**

Toys & Food for Children (ELCRN)	\$ 4,144.81
Transportation for Village Pastors (ELCIN)	3,388.75
Books for Seminarians (ELCRN & ELCIN)	2,199.59

**El Salvador:**

Food for a Family	\$ 3,365.44
Salary Support for a Pastor	2,348.90

**Slovakia:**

Lockers for preschools	\$ 1,648.60
------------------------	-------------

**Missionary Support**

All Saints Lutheran Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,000.00
First Trinity Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,000.00
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA	Stephen Deal	\$ 2,000.00

Grace Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,500.00
Holy Trinity Falls Church, VA	Stephen Deal Stephen Deal	\$ 3,792.78 \$ 1,250.00
King of Kings Fairfax, VA	Stephen Deal Stephen Deal	\$ 1,000.00 \$ 1,000.00
St. John Rockville, MD	Eric & Wendolyn Trozzo	\$ 2,000.00
St. Luke Silver Spring, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 2,500.00
St. Nicholas Huntingtown, MD	Philip Knutson Philip Knutson	\$ 1,559.23 \$ 1,500.00

**Missionary Sponsorship Current Covenants**

All Saints, Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,500.00
Community Sterling, VA	Robin Strickler	\$ 400.00
First Trinity Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,000.00
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA	Stephen Deal	\$ 2,000.00
Grace Bowie, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,500.00
Holy Trinity Falls Church, VA	Stephen Deal	\$ 4,000.00
Janis & George Grogan Potomac, MD		
John C. Steward Washington, DC	Stephen Deal	\$ 400.00

Junhui Liu Lorton, VA	Dorcas Wang	\$ 4,800.00
King of Kings Fairfax, VA	Stephen Deal	\$ 1,000.00
St. Luke Silver Spring, MD	Stephen Deal	\$ 2,500.00
St. Nicholas Huntingtown, MD	Philip Knutson	\$ 1,500.00
St. Pauls Washington, DC	David & Mary Kuck	\$ 2,500.00
Trinity No. Bethesda, MD	Stephen Deal Andrew & Barbara Hinderlie	\$ 2,000.00 \$ 2,000.00

**Metro D.C. Synod Global Mission Committee**

Pastor Bob Allard, Chair, Global Mission Committee

Barbara O'Keefe, Secretary

Mary Bartholomew, Chair, Slovakia Companion Synod Task Force

Pastor Lowell Knauff, Chair, Namibia Companion Synod Task Force

Jane Hanlon & Kelly Baugh, Co-Chair, El Salvador Companion Synod Task Force

Nathan Rich, Chair, Middle East Working Group

Phil Anderson  
Foltz  
Rhoda Kluge  
Barbara Piotter

Kathy Tobias Ann  
Dora Johnson  
Ruth Manchester  
Dorothy Sorrell

## Missionary Sponsorship Gifts from congregations and W-ELCA units in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, ELCA

Report Date Range from 1/1/2012 to 3/28/2013

Name	Address	City, State	Date	Designation	Amount	Recognition Credits Type
All Saints Lutheran Church	16510 Mount Oak Rd	Bowie, MD 20716-3823	4/5/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$1,000.00	Synod to Congregation
First Trinity Lutheran Church	309 E St NW	Washington, DC 20001-2711	10/19/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$1,000.00	Synod to Congregation
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	100 W Luray Ave	Alexandria, VA 22301-2032	8/23/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$2,000.00	Donor
Grace Lutheran Church	2503 Belair Dr	Bowie, MD 20715-2609	3/22/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$1,500.00	Donor
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	3022 Woodlawn Ave	Falls Church, VA 22042-1826	8/16/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$3,792.78	Synod to Congregation
			1/25/2013	Deal, Stephen	\$1,250.00	Synod to Congregation
King of Kings Lutheran Church	4025 Kings Way	Fairfax, VA 22033-3200	2/10/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$1,000.00	Donor
			2/11/2013	Deal, Stephen	\$1,000.00	Donor
St John Lutheran Church	4629 Aspen Hill Rd	Rockville, MD 20853-2842	1/22/2013	Trozzo, Eric and Wendolyn	\$2,000.00	Donor
St Luke Lutheran Church	9100 Colesville Rd	Silver Spring, MD 20910-1654	3/5/2012	Missionary Sponsorship	\$1,666.66	Donor
			4/5/2012	Deal, Stephen	\$2,500.00	Synod to Congregation
St Nicholas Lutheran Church	1450 Plum Point Rd	Huntingtown, MD 20639-9215	6/26/2012	Knutson, Philip	\$1,559.23	Donor
			2/22/2013	Knutson, Philip	\$1,500.00	Donor
					\$21,768.67	



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## Report of the "New and Renewing Congregational Mission Table"

### The Mission of the New and Renewing Mission Table is:

To encourage all the baptized of the Metro DC Synod to see themselves as disciples and missionaries for the renewal of the church and to live into Jesus' Great Commission, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them...." (Matthew 28:19-20), and,

To work with Mission Planners, Full Communion, ecumenical partners, pastors, lay leaders, all people of faith and good will to envision and plan for new missions in our Synod, and to work with existing congregations and ministries to make disciples in the places where we live and serve. By the grace of God and through your mission support we celebrate the following:

### Two new congregations are under development!

+ **La Sagrada Familia**, Langley Park MD A new mission start among Latinos from El Salvador living in one of the poorest communities in our region. The Rev. Rosario Hernandez Cruz, Pastor Developer 2013 Funds: \$23,000 from ELCA, + \$17,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget + \$25,000 from Bethany Funds

+ **River of Grace Lutheran** Church, Dumfries VA Our newest mission in Dumfries, VA. (re-start of Christus Victor that closed) The Rev. Connie Thomson, Pastor Developer 2013 Funds: \$30,000 from ELCA, + \$20,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget, + \$47,000 Bethany Funds + \$6,000 from Metro 200 Funds.

### Two congregations are planning on becoming full ELCA Congregations:

+ **In Christ Fellowship** of Washington, DC is a Tamil (Indian) Congregation that meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bethesda. In April they were granted status as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community and are on schedule to be received as a congregation by 2015. The Rev. Chandran Lite, Pastor. 2013 Funds: \$15,000 from the ELCA, + \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod (Mission Fund)

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Lutheran** Church is forming out of the Oromo Evangelical Church of Washington DC. They worship at Grace Lutheran in Washington and are scheduled to be received as a full ELCA congregation in 2013.

**Three worshipping communities are developing as a part of existing congregations!**

+ **San Marcos / St. Mark's**, Springfield, VA A thriving Latino community as a part of an established congregation. The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Pastor.

2013 Funds: \$10,000 from the ELCA, + \$13,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **Santa Maria / Augustana**, Washington, DC. A Latino ministry that is a part of an established congregation and serves people near and further away from the Church. The Rev. John Kidd

2013 Funds: \$10,000 from the ELCA, + \$15,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **The Amharic Community at Peace**, Alexandria, VA. A growing Ethiopian community of faith that is a part of an established congregation. They just called the

Rev. Alebachew Engedayehu.

2013 Funds: \$14,000 from the ELCA, + \$5,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

**Two New Congregations Continue to Grow!**

+ **Oromo Resurrection** Evangelical Church of Kensington, MD The newest congregation in our Synod. Organized in 2012, they are quickly out growing the building that was donated to them by an ELCA congregation that closed. Modest mission support continues. The Rev.

Teka Fogi, Pastor.

2013 Funds: \$24,000 from the ELCA, + \$4,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget

+ **The Oromo Evangelical Church** of Washington, DC. A congregation of Ethiopians who are ethnically and linguistically Oromo. Organized in 2010, they are the largest Lutheran congregation in Washington. Under development for almost 20 years, they still receive financial support from the Synod and ELCA.

2013 Funds: \$32,000 from the ELCA, + \$9,000 from Metro DC Synod Budget, +

**A New Venture to Reach Young Adults is Supported!**

+ **University of Maryland**: The Synod is providing a ministry grant for a new 3 year initiative to reach young adults on and off campus to begin in the fall of 2013. Learnings will be shared with congregations.

**A New Effort is Underway to Help Congregations Flourish!**

The Synod has Created "**The Journey**:" A three year program involving over 30 congregations learning how to adapt their ministry to a changing society. (See the Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli's Report)

Up to \$40,000 from the Bethany Funds

**A Redevelopment is Explored**

**Good Samaritan Lutheran** Church, Latham MD had declined into the teens in worship and is now undergoing an assessment and test study to determine if a redevelopment is viable.

**Go Grants are like Venture Capital for Congregations to Try New Things!**

The Synod offers grants to congregations that want to try something new in reaching out to their neighbors. In the last three years these...

+ **Luther Place** in Washington was able to do outreach to young adults in the Arts Community.

+ **Epiphany**, Burtonsville sponsored an outreach conference and received coaching for mission.

+ **King of Kings** in Fairfax began a project to reach out to families with children who have disabilities and invite them to worship.

And last but not least!

+ **Shepherd of the Hills** Lutheran Church, Haymarket VA. Has just completed the building of a new sanctuary in an area that has seen a lot of new development. The Synod has co-signed for the loan and given a \$30,000 (Metro 200 and Faith Funds) to support the effort and made a \$300,000 deposit (on loan from Bethany Funds) into the bank that is holding the note. They were able to do this only because of you, the members of this Synod!

When we realize that the call of the Gospel compels us to respond to Jesus' Great Commission the New and Renewing Mission Table is ready to be a partner in the dialogue. **Members of the Mission Table: Mr. Wendell Anderson, Rev. Dave Bohannon, Rev. Steven Buechler, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Gary Rhinesmith, Rev. Margrethe Kleiber, Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch (Director Evangelical Outreach and Stewardship)**

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Vought, Chair



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION TABLE

Report for 2013 Synod Assembly

### Purpose of the Stewardship and Mission Table

- \*Be a Resource to Help Congregations with their Stewardship Ministry (Financial)
- \*Grow Support for the Larger Church/Synod

### TASK 1 - BE A RESOURCE TO HELP FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Our focus in 2012 was on lifting up Best Practices for Stewardship Ministry, items such as: 1) \*Using a Narrative Budget; 2) send quarterly Giving Statements with a Mission Letter; 3) Send "targeted" pledge letters (for people at different stages of life); 4) use Electronic Giving; and 5) making sure you send thank you's for pledges/givers. We continue to lift up those as very good practices and are happy to help churches that wish to learn more.

### "CAN YOU SPARE 60 SECONDS FOR A SIMPLE SURVEY?"

Over the last 2 years, our Table has created several surveys and sent them out via email, web, facebook, and personal contact with the request "Can you spare 60 seconds to help us out?" These online surveys were to help us understand each church's Stewardship practices and "patterns". That has been vital information and helps us do our work more effectively. Every time we've sent out a survey, we've received more than 50 responses (67% or more) that's a very good result. Thanks so much.

**Our focus over the last 4-6 months has been on developing a New Stewardship Resource for Metro DC Congregations called "EMBRACE GENEROSITY". We encourage you to utilize this resource as part of your annual campaign this year.** A few quick notes re: the EMBRACE GENEROSITY resource:

- A printed version will be *handed out at the synod assembly*.
- Electronic versions will be posted on the synod website that you can adapt and "make your own". (PDF version as well as an MS Word version)
- We suggest using a devotional book and discussion guide called Generosity: Moving Toward a Life that Truly Life by Gordon MacDonald. We feel so strongly about this resource that we are handing



is

out a copy to every person who attends Synod Assembly this year. (Note-you'll receive a copy when you sign in to the Assembly) Read it. Use it. Inspire others to use it as well. Pastors- "Don't let it get stuck on a dusty bookshelf!" Lay Voting Members: If you think your Pastor will let their copy rot on the shelf, you have our permission to wrestle them to the ground, steal their copy, and get it in the hands of your Stewardship chair. (Just kidding. . . . .but, you get the point!)

- The resource reminds you of the Best Practices we lifted up a year ago and gives suggestions on how you might strengthen your Stewardship Vision in 2014.
- The resource also includes the Metro DC 2014 Narrative Budget

I look forward to sharing this resource with you at the 2013 Synod Assembly and am very grateful for the work of our Table in helping put it together.

### **TASK 2 -GROW SUPPORT FOR THE LARGER CHURCH/SYNOD**

As you challenge your church members to grow in their financial generosity, we want to keep pulling together as a synod. As we ask our members to think about increasing their proportional giving, let it be the same for each church in our synod. Let's keep stepping forward for the sake of helping our Synod grow and prosper.

#### Thank you to all the Congregations that Responded with the Statements of Intent

This year the Synod created an online method for reporting anticipated Mission Support. More congregations responded than in years past and this helps us to more responsibly plan activities.

#### Gifts of Hope Costs Are Reduced by the Synod

In 2013 the Synod is contributing \$4,000 toward the operational expenses of Gifts of Hope. This reduces the costs of the beneficiary organizations and ensures that the greatest amount of money raised goes to the member agencies. Our goal for 2014 is \$6,000. Total expenses are over \$16,000 annually.

#### Metro 200 Concluded

We want to thank everyone who has given to support Metro 200. This was a program in our Synod that asked members to give \$200 a year in support of new church development. Because of your generosity, these funds were used to purchase the building that now houses River of Grace (formerly Christus Victor). Some funds were also used for the development of Belmont Ridge Church of the Resurrection, a new mission start that showed promise but did not work out. These funds, finally also helped establish Global Peace Lutheran Fellowship, and new congregation that is developing along the I270 corridor and is now currently meeting at Evangelical Lutheran in Fredericksburg, MD. The Stewardship and Mission Support Table has decided to discontinue this fund and is reassessing the needs for new congregational starts with a new effort next year.

Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium Continues its Work in a New Way:  
Exceeds 38 million in Planned Gifts

In January of 2013 the Consortium dissolved and the work of planned giving will continue in the Synod through Alice Benson supported by the ELCA Foundation. The grand total of planned gifts, receipts or expectancies, among the members over the 22 year history of the LPGC is \$38,891,286. These results were the accomplishments of four LPGC directors: Nancy Brown, Arlyn Sathoff, Stan Rose and Alice Benson. Alice Benson, as Regional Gift Planner, will operate under the auspices of Metro Synod and the ELCA Foundation, with the ELCA Foundation as managing partner.

The following motions were presented and adopted, unanimously:

1. A. That any remaining funds after expenses as of January 31, 2013 be transferred into a designated account with the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod. These monies may be used for the purpose of promoting planned giving and generosity within the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod.

B. The funds may be used with the consent of two of the following people: The ELCA Foundation person who has responsibilities for Planned Giving in the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod; the Synod Staff person with Stewardship responsibilities; and the Chair of the Stewardship and Mission Support Table.

2. That any property, other than monetary funds, be given to the ELCA Foundation.

A further final, motion was adopted:

3. Moved that the Board sanction Alice Benson write to former LPGC members and others as appropriate, asking them to continue to provide support for the Planned Giving effort now lodged in Metropolitan DC Synod.

**LET US BE OF SERVICE**

This spring, we've made personal visits to Christ Lutheran in Fairfax, Shepherd of the Hills in Haymarket, VA, and also had the opportunity to speak to the Interns of from the DE/MD and Metro DC Synods. Those were wonderful opportunities which we hope will bear fruit in the days to come. If you would like assistance or support for your congregation's Stewardship Ministry, please contact the Stewardship and Mission Table. You can contact me, Dave Sonnenberg at ([pastordave@goserve.net](mailto:pastordave@goserve.net)) or Phil Hirsch at ([phirsch@metrodcelca.org](mailto:phirsch@metrodcelca.org)) if you have any questions.

**STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION TABLE MEMBERS**

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg (Chair); Pastor Phil Hirsch (Director of Evangelical Mission); Pastor John Kidd; Pastor Travis Kern; Alice Benson; Ruth Manchester; Robert Sargeant; Carolyn Sowinski; and Rose Beeson

\*If you'd be interested in serving with us, we meet 4 times a year (face to face) and conduct regular online discussions. Let me know if you are interested in serving at [pastordave@goserve.net](mailto:pastordave@goserve.net)

Submitted by:

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Chair (with additional information supplied by Pastor Phil Hirsch)

***Embrace***

***Generosity***



***Metro DC Synod***

***Stewardship Resources***

## INTRODUCTION

This is a new resource developed by and for the congregations of our synod. We hope it will give pastors and other Stewardship leaders a template of ideas to use. If you are planning a Stewardship Campaign this fall, this material might be particularly useful as it outlines a five-week suggested program beginning on September 29, 2013, though it is adaptable to any date. May this effort bless the people of your congregation with the extraordinary generosity that we first know through God in Christ.

As Christian leaders in the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, we are called to help unleash the generosity of our members, freeing them to experience one of God's greatest gifts -- giving! If we want to help others "embrace generosity," we must take definitive action.

**This fall we invite you to consider using some of these resources as part of your Stewardship Campaign. Consider setting aside five weeks in which you:**

1. Have your members use a 30-day devotional called Generosity: Moving Toward Life That Is Truly Life. (see page 6)
2. Hold weekly discussions on Generosity (four weeks). Discussion guides are provided in the book. (see page 7)
3. Plan a sermon series to "Embrace Generosity" (see pages 8-12).  
Lectionary and non-Lectionary ideas presented for 9/29 - 10/20.
4. Present four Mission Moments in worship. (see page 13)
5. Have a Commitment Sunday with a time of member fellowship. (see page 14)
6. Craft a Narrative Budget. (see pages 20-23)
7. Plan a follow-up strategy for post-Commitment Sunday plus 2014 introduction. (see pages 15-16)

All we have is a gift from God — our time, our talent, and our financial resources. If we can help others discover the joy of living the generous life, we have done profound and life-changing work. As Loren Mead, educator and Episcopal priest, once said, "God is always calling us to be more than we are right now." Let's help people do that this year. Let's help **embrace generosity** so that our members, our churches, and our synod can "be more than we are right now."

## EMBRACE GENEROSITY

***“Generosity is something we want for you, not from you!”***

***Pastor Andy Stanley***

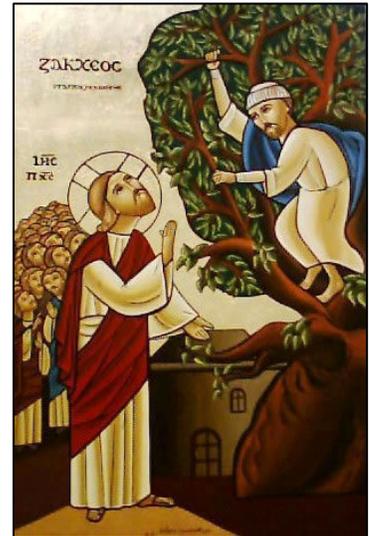
To “**embrace**” something is to:

1. Clasp or hold close, usually with great affection.
2. Eagerly accept something or someone;
3. Take up willingly or eagerly.

In the lectionary, October 30 - November 5 (Lectionary 31) is the story of Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10). You might consider: 1) using that text on All Saints Sunday this year, 2) using it as your Stewardship Commitment Sunday text, or 3) simply be reminded of its powerful message as you lead your congregation in a Stewardship emphasis this year. Zacchaeus’ story is a story of “EMBRACING GENEROSITY.”

Many of us grew up singing Zacchaeus’ song (hint -- “Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he . . .”) but the emphasis was on being vertically challenged. It appealed to us as kids when everyone was so much taller. But, we missed the message's power.

As a tax collector in the 1st Century world, Zacchaeus was viewed skeptically by others. He was considered a “taker”; one who put his interests before the needs of others, and one who lacked credibility. But, one day he meets Jesus and Jesus treats him differently. Jesus invites himself over for lunch and as my friend David Misenheimer likes to say, “Something must have happened at that lunch.” In the course of that lunch, there must have been food. There must have been conversation. But, no doubt — something happened at lunch! For after lunch, Zacchaeus is so moved by his connection to Jesus, he unleashes a pledge to give in a profound way. Rather than “take,” he is moved to give back. In gratitude Zacchaeus says, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay him back four times as much.”



And then what does Jesus say? “Today *salvation* has come to this house.” The word for *salvation* also means “healing” and “wholeness”! Zacchaeus encountered the loving embrace of Jesus and he quickly embraced the generous life.

May we do the same with the people of the Metro DC Synod this fall -- help them experience the embrace of God that they also might experience, like Zacchaeus did, the healing that comes from living a generous life.

***Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Chair of Stewardship and Mission Table***  
***pastordave@goserve.net***

## “Embrace Generosity” Timeline



### PRE-CAMPAIGN WORK

#### Summer 2013

Church Council develops 2014 Narrative Budget.

Order copies of the devotional "Generosity."

Recruit leaders for "Generosity" discussion groups (4 weeks).

Establish date for kick off for Stewardship Campaign along with date for Commitment Sunday.

#### Synod Assembly

Distribution of “Generosity” devotional.

#### Approx. 6 Weeks Before Kick Off

Pastor writes newsletter article on fall series and offers encouraging words for devotion/small group discussion.

#### 3-4 Weeks Before Kick Off

First letter sent by Stewardship Chair announcing dates and times of discussion groups and information about picking up “Generosity” devotion book.

#### 2-3 Sundays Before Kick Off

Have books available in lobby for members to pick up/purchase. Have church roster available to mark off those who have "picked up a copy."

### CAMPAIGN PHASE

#### One Week Before Kick Off

Members begin doing the daily devotions in preparation for first discussion group.

#### Week 1 - Kick Off

First Sunday of Sermon Series “Embrace Generosity.”

Mission Moment #1 in Worship.

Small Group Discussion Session 1.

**Week 2** Second Sunday of Sermon Series “Embrace Generosity.”  
Mission Moment #2 in Worship.  
Small Group Discussion 2.

**Week 3** Third Sunday of Sermon Series “Embrace Generosity.”  
Mission Moment #3 in Worship.  
Small Group Discussion 3.  
Second letter sent with 2014 Narrative Budget and  
2014 Ministry Year Pledge Card.

**Week 4** Fourth Sunday of Sermon Series “Embrace Generosity.”  
Mission Moment #4 in Worship.  
Small Group Discussion 4.

**Week 5** Commitment Sunday Worship.  
Commitment Sunday Fellowship.

## **POST-COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**Between Week 5-6** Send Thank-You Letter to pledgers (suggest hand-signed by Pastor). *Continue to send thank-you letters as further pledges come in!*

**After 3 Sundays** Send a Stewardship Campaign progress letter and an invitation to pledge to those who have not yet pledged (with self-addressed, stamped envelope).

**Sunday Bulletin (for 4 weeks)** Share progress on pledging.

## ACTION ITEM #1 - PROVIDE DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Provide every household in your church a copy of Generosity: Moving Toward Life That Is Truly Life by Gordon MacDonald. You can buy it for your members, pay a portion of the cost, or ask people for a contribution to cover the expense. Whatever you decide, make sure you get it in people's hands.

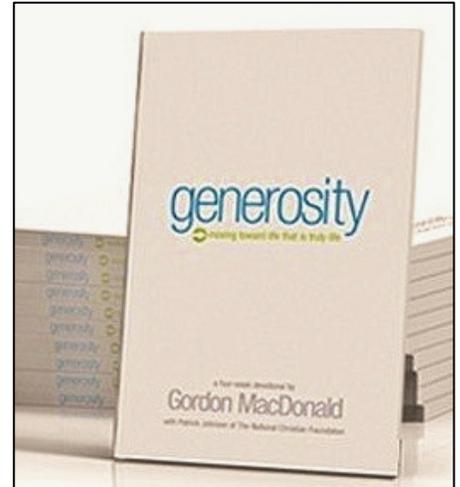
Generosity: Moving Toward Life That Is Truly Life is a 30-day devotional that includes a discussion guide for weekly group gatherings. Members are asked to read the devotions each day and then gather weekly with a group to discuss what they've been reading.

### COST

If you have an Amazon Kindle, you can get the devotional for \$3.99

**Paperback copies available at [GenerousChurch.Com](http://GenerousChurch.Com) for \$5.50.**

**Enter the discount code DCELCA (normal price is \$6/book). Discount expires on 5/1/2014.**



### HAND OUT DEVOTIONAL EARLY

It's our suggestion that you hand out this book 1-2 weeks before you have your first discussion class! Ask people to read Week One in preparation for the first discussion group.

### A GIFT FOR YOU

We want you to really consider using this resource, so we are going to put a copy in your hands!

**A copy will be given to each voting member at Synod Assembly. You will receive your copy when you register.** Give one to your Pastor and get one to your Stewardship Chair. Don't let it sit on a shelf. Read it and pass it on!

*"Generosity by Gordon MacDonald is a very insightful book and builds on the core understanding that 'all we have is a gift from God.' It focuses on gratitude and appreciation in a way that is exceedingly helpful. It's one of the best devotionals on giving that I've encountered.*

*I highly recommend the book to others."*

*Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Gaithersburg, MD*

## **ACTION ITEM #2 - FORM WEEKLY DISCUSSION GROUP(S)**

As you prepare to hand out the devotional, Generosity, invite people to be a part of a small group discussion. This can be your Sunday adult class topic for four weeks, a midweek option, or a small group gathering. Decide what works best for your church. Key: Make time for people to talk together on the topic of generosity.



### **HOW MANY WEEKS OF DISCUSSION?**

Four weeks.

*Note: The fourth discussion gathering should occur one week before your Commitment Sunday.*

### **RECRUIT FACILITATORS**

You will need to train several facilitators to help lead small group discussions. Hand out copies of Generosity to some key Stewardship leaders, Council members, or others who will read the entire book in advance, familiarize themselves with the material, and commit to helping with all four discussions. We suggest that you have a meeting with facilitators *after they* have read the book and become familiar with all the material. Having a question and answer time before you launch them as group leaders will allow them to own the Generosity approach.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

A discussion guide for the weekly gatherings is included in the book.

[www.Generouschurch.com/](http://www.Generouschurch.com/) also has some additional videos which are free that you can download for use.

### **OTHER BENEFITS**

In some churches, you simply don't get enough time to engage in conversation with others. An intentional small group experience can help connect people to each other in a more profound way. The first few moments of these small groups can certainly be dedicated to "catching up" or "checking in" with each other.

### **A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO PASTORS**

Pastors, make sure that you use the opportunities in advance to champion participation in the small group experience. Use sermons, newsletters, a temple talk, and/or announcement time to encourage maximum participation. Don't hesitate to send a personally signed note to every person in the church. Key: Use the opportunities that you have to encourage people to participate.

## **ACTION ITEM #3 - PREACH ON “EMBRACING GENEROSITY”**

Preach a sermon series that looks at Generosity from multiple angles. Below are some ideas for a non-lectionary based series and one based on lectionary texts.

### **Use Devotional Themes from “Generosity” Each Week**

As there are four weeks to the devotional, Generosity, pick one of the texts for the week and preach on that story. Then, pick a fifth Sunday Story to use as the Commitment Sunday message.

### **Example of Non-Lectionary Ideas for a Five-Week Series**

**Week 1      It All Starts with Jesus: Portrait of God’s Generosity**

Text -- John 13:1-17, 34

**Week 2      Giving Grounds Us**

Text -- I Timothy 6:6-19 & Luke 16:19-31

(Assigned on 9/29 in the Lectionary)

**Week 3      When Giving May Not Make Sense**

Text -- I Kings 17

Note: Giving is an act of faith and trust in ongoing provision.

**Week 4      The Barnabas in All of Us**

Text -- Acts 4:32-37 (Barnabas and the generosity of the Early Church)

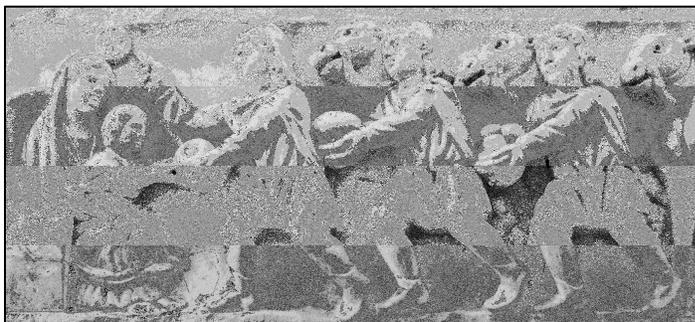
Note: Generosity is contagious, powerful, and good evangelism.

**Week 5      Commitment Sunday:**

**The Great Length to Giving, Giving as Worship**

Text -- Matthew 2 (The Magi)

Note: We don’t often hear this Epiphany story as a Stewardship message but it’s a powerful witness of generosity and gratitude.



# Embrace Generosity: Preaching Notes on Lessons for Stewardship

## Sermon Series for September 29 – October 20

The following notes contributed by Pastor John. S. Kidd of Augustana Lutheran Church offer a reading of the assigned texts that connects them to the Stewardship theme “Embrace Generosity.”



### SEPTEMBER 29

**Amos 6:1a, 4–7**

**Psalm 146**

**1 Timothy 6:6–19**

**Luke 16:19–31**

**Notes:** From beginning to end, today’s texts challenge the preacher to live the vocation of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.

The first Lesson begins with the word “alas.” “Alas for those who are at ease.” Alas for those who lounge comfortably in their well-furnished homes with a healthy stock portfolio, enjoying food and drink, channeling music through their ear buds that block out everything else ... and are not aggrieved by the damage to God’s people and community.

The Gospel story of the rich man and Lazarus does not get any of us off the hook. Consumed by his own consumption and tossed into Hades, the rich man pleads for forgiveness, for relief, and for the dead Lazarus to do something extreme that will get his brothers’ attention so that they can change their ways. But Abraham says, “No, you blew it” -- and they have chosen to ignore Moses and the prophets. You have had lots of chances and warnings but you pursued your parties, comforts, and profits while people round you suffered.

Timothy tells people that they need to “embrace generosity.” “As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty ...<sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,<sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”

The Psalmist describes how embracing generosity affects people: “<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.”

The Gospel proclaims two things: God ultimately comforts the afflicted Lazarus and all who are ignored by the comfortable ones. And God blesses those who embrace the generosity that God extends to those whom life has bent down with hunger, blindness, imprisonment, and the hardship of being widowed or orphaned.



## OCTOBER 6

**Habakkuk 1:1 - 4; 2:1 - 4**

**Psalms 37:1 - 9**

**2 Timothy 1:1-14**

**Luke 17: 5 - 10**

**Notes:** Preachers are called to plant and cultivate trust and faith in the hearts and minds of their listeners. Where last week's texts challenged listeners to find happiness by placing their hope in God whose generosity is abundant, this week's readings point to trust and faith in God as the foundation on which embracing generosity finds solid footing. But this footing is not easily gained.

As Habakkuk laments, "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise." Based on what he and we see, wouldn't it be smart to watch, look and listen but not take any risks by putting ourselves out there? God responds with a new vision saying, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it." People who are constantly in a rush need large print signboards that can be read at 65 miles per hour.

Paul tries large print for Timothy: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." In this spirit Paul is not afraid of boldly stepping out of his comfort zone. As he explains it, "I know the one in whom I have put my trust."

The Psalmist picks up this theme:

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Trusting in the Lord is the foundation for embracing and doing what is good. And delighting in the Lord rolls into the realization of the desires of one's heart. But that leaves the BIG QUESTION: What is your heart's desire?

This is a question for a lifetime. In your heart of hearts, what do you want? As I have listened to shut-ins, hospital patients, fiancés, Confirmation class kids, and others, from heart after heart the answer that I repeatedly hear is to be embraced by people "whom I can trust"... "in whom I can put my faith"... "whom I can love and who will love me back"... "to whom I can give myself with confidence that I will be treasured more than I treasure myself." So, the disciples' request of the Lord makes sense: "Increase our faith."

And Jesus tells them that even the puny faith they already have can produce incredible bounty. The microscopic mustard seed can grow to the size of a mulberry tree. Faith is a multiplier ... a geometric progression. Faith is an imagination-stretcher that pushes and pulls one into visions of what can be and overshadow one's biggest and best ideas. Its dimensions are incredibly generous. Embracing even the puny seed of faith that one has in one's heart this fall takes one onto the arms of God. And God's arms stretch out with us in them to share and care for the world. When we embrace God we embrace generosity.



**OCTOBER 13**

**2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c**

**Psalm 111**

**2 Timothy 2:8–15**

**Luke 17:11–19**

**Notes:** Are you thankful, preacher? Do you give thanks that God somehow manages to lift you up every seventh day to go into the church, proclaim God's word and celebrate Christ's living presence in your life through the sacrament? Odds are that the answer is no.

The last two weeks' texts challenged readers to find happiness by placing their hope in God and lay a foundation of trust and faith that are the solid footings we need to embrace God's generosity. This week's question is, "How does one respond when God embraces one with generosity?" And the answer is usually "Not well."

Those who learned their Catechism will recall how Martin Luther turned "Give us this day our daily bread" into a petition that we might receive God's gifts with grateful hearts. It seems human nature is not predisposed toward gratitude and that thanksgiving may be countercultural in a consumer society that has elevated purchasing and consumer debt to the level of civic duties for the good of the economy. So how do you react when God's arms generously reach out to embrace you?

In today's Gospel, nine of ten lepers whom Jesus cured did not return to praise and thank Jesus for what he did. The one who did "prostrated himself (i.e. lay down on his belly face first in the dirt) at Jesus' feet and thanked him." To make matters worse, he was a Samaritan whom Jews would continue to ostracize while his nine home-boy colleagues would be reintegrated into society. In short, the one who gained the least was the thankful one.

These little zingers continue with Namaan in the first Reading. This most powerful Aramean military general is a leper who, though feeling disrespected by Elisha, follows his instructions in the paltry Jordan River and is cured of his disease. Humbled but healthy, he shows up on Elisha's doorstep ("he came and stood before him") to offer a gift of gratitude. It seems that the outsiders, the Samaritan and the Aramean, are the thankful ones and the insiders are not. The nine insiders said nothing and offered no gifts.

In this mix, in his epistle to Timothy, Paul advises that "if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself." We act in bad faith when we fail to respond to God with thanks for the generosity extended to us. But it is God's nature to keep placing trust and faith in us. Paul points to a yet higher bench mark set by God's generosity and a more profound depth for the thanks due to God from us. As today's readings present God's generosity, they push their listeners to acknowledge the extreme generosity to which God's arms will reach out for them and the profound depths from which their "thanks be to God" should come.



**OCTOBER 20**

**Genesis 32:22 - 31**

**Psalms 121**

**2 Timothy 3:14, 4:5**

**Luke 18:1–8**

**Notes:** Preacher, when it comes to what you say to people about God's, take to heart Paul's admonition to Timothy in today's Epistle: "I solemnly urge you: Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching." In other words, be gutsy! And tell people they need to be gutsy too!

The first lesson provides Jacob as a role model for gutsiness. Daring to take on God in a wrestling match, he proves unshakeable. Permanently disabled by a karate chop to the hip, Jacob still holds on. When God tries the "times up" trick, Jacob says, "Not yet ... not until you have given me your blessing." And God makes a concession and changes his name to Israel while saying, "You have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." This is what happens to people whom God embraces when they embrace God in return. As Israel puts it, "I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."

The parable of the widow's refusal to let go of her quest for justice speaks to the power of embracing and not letting go. She simply wears down the judge until he rules in her favor. Jesus then asks, "Will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them."

Nonetheless, Jesus follows up with the gutsiest question of today: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Will God's people have had the guts it takes to embrace and not let go of God? Or, counting on God for unrelenting faithfulness, will they simply "let go and let God" find them wherever they are and fix them however damaged they have become?

God generously extends divinely human arms to embrace us. Jacob relentlessly embraced God and God's blessing beyond hurt and pain. How gutsy is our commitment to embracing God and God's generosity? Paul advised Timothy, "Be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable."

Jacob, Paul, the widow and Timothy cannot embrace and persist in the generosity of God on our behalf. They simply show us that we can respond to God's generosity to us by gratefully wrapping our very human arms around God's divine generosity.

Happy are they who set all else aside and, with all their trust and faith, embrace generosity!

## ACTION ITEM #4 - MISSION MOMENTS

As part of “Embrace Generosity” congregations are encouraged to schedule three or four Mission Moments during the Stewardship Campaign to emphasize commitment. Mission Moments can be presented during worship and work particularly well preceding the offering.

### **Why do we give Mission Moments?**

We give mission moments to help people understand where their offerings are going. Sometimes people don't realize how integral their offerings are to the life of the church. It is your giving that makes the ministries of your congregation possible. Mission interpretation is all about telling stories of what God is doing through our giving. Furthermore, we give Mission Moments to thank people. We are so grateful for their generosity and we want them to know it.



### **What should a Mission Moment include?**

Though Mission Moments are flexible, try to keep them between two and three minutes so that you don't lose members' attention.

If you have a screen in your sanctuary, consider recording the Temple Talk in advance and showing it during the worship service.

The most effective Mission Moment tells a story. Choose one story (the time the soup kitchen patron brought in his own donation; the meaningful lesson a teacher learned from a Sunday School student) and focus on that. Make sure that you include *why* this story made an impression on you. It's your personal testimony that makes the story compelling. Your enthusiasm is more inspiring than statistics.

Lastly and most importantly, Mission Moments should always thank everyone for their generosity. Help people understand that these ministries would not be possible without generous gifts of time and service as well as financial support.

### **What makes an effective Mission Moment?**

Choose stories or topics that are most interesting to the speakers. If your congregation would like to lift up the story of its food pantry, ask a food pantry volunteer to share a story. You can reinforce the message of your Mission Moment in several ways: Include the same story in the Sunday bulletin; expand upon the presentations in the church newsletter; display pictures, story summaries, quotes and graphics on a bulletin board; and use mission interpretation stories on your congregation's Web site. We encourage you to vary your presentations to show how offerings support ministries at congregational, synodical and churchwide levels.

### **Public speaking has always made me nervous. Do you have any tips?**

Yes! Practice beforehand. Rehearsing will help you sound more prepared and help you identify any trouble areas. Know your time limit and stick to it. And lastly, be positive and upbeat.

## ACTION ITEM #5 - COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Designate a Commitment Sunday no later than Christ the King Sunday (November 24, 2013).

**A few words of advice:**

**Plan a special service** in which the preacher/worship leaders can help the church celebrate the joy of collective generosity.

**Have an intentional time in the Commitment Sunday service to fill out pledge cards.** We recommend that your Stewardship Leader, Guest Speaker, or Council President come forward and provide specific instruction before the pledge cards are handed out. People should be invited to come forward and place their cards on the altar.



**Here's a possible script to use:**

*"We have been focused these last several weeks on Generosity. We began the journey with the key reminder that God is the most gracious and generous giver of all. We are God's children and entrusted to represent him in this community. As God is generous to the core, we strive to do that with all that we've been given -- our time, our talent, and our finances.*

*This morning, I invite you to join me in making a commitment of your finances: To say thanks to God for your blessings and to help further God's work through the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church. When we commit to something, we are doing something very significant. We are stating that we will do something specific and carry it through.*

*I invite you today to join the people of this church in committing to growing in generosity in the coming year. I am going to ask the ushers to come forward and hand out the pledge cards. Take a moment, say a prayer, fill out your pledge card by stating what percentage of income you will give in the coming year, then bring it forward and place on the altar.*

*We bring it to the altar because our giving is an act of worship. It's an act of gratitude. It's our promise to share and live as generous followers of Jesus. We have been saved by God's grace and it's our responsibility to give back: To share this good news as God's hands and feet in this world.*

*When you're done, come and join in a time of food, fellowship, and conversation in the social hall."*

**Have a special Fellowship time.** Go the extra mile and have a special breakfast or lunch as part of the day. Have people sit at tables for conversation while they eat. As part of that time, consider showing a slide show of your ministry. As they say, "a picture is worth 1,000 words." Show photos of your congregational members serving and making a difference. If you don't have a projector and/or laptop, consider borrowing one for this occasion. If you need help making a Powerpoint presentation, just ask in an upcoming worship service. Some adult or teenager will gladly lend a hand and have all the expertise you need.

## ACTION ITEM #6 - START THANK-YOU LETTERS

**It's incredibly important that you acknowledge every pledge quickly and personally.**

A sample thank-you letter is included in this packet.

We recommend that the thank you be personally signed by the Pastor (albeit prepared by others or staff). Pastors: Use this letter to jot some other personal notes of thanksgiving, i.e. "John, I am so grateful for your ongoing help with the Property Committee. Your efforts have made a huge difference this year."



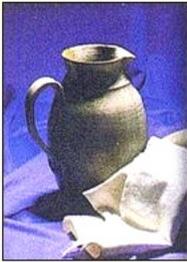
## ACTION ITEM #7 - AFTER COMMITMENT SUNDAY

**Keep sending the thank-you letters as pledges come in.**

**Post Pledge Progress** for four Sundays in bulletin and keep the message positive!

**Send a reminder letter** 15 days after Commitment Sunday to those who have not responded. No guilt. Celebrate the giving that has occurred and invite them to join in on the generous giving. Note: Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the pledge card so they can reply promptly to your church.

**Create an online Pledge Card** to follow up with others. You may use a tool like Survey Monkey (surveymonkey.com) and alert people they can respond with a commitment that way as well. (Good Shepherd Gaithersburg can provide a sample if you need an example Email Dave Sonnenberg at [pastordave@goserve.net](mailto:pastordave@goserve.net).)

	<b>2014 PLEDGE RESULTS</b> As of November 10, 2013 So far — \$XXX,XXX from 193 households <i>Thanks for your generous support of Your Church's and God's ministries</i> <b>INCREASES:</b> 146 households, including 29 new pledges <b>SAME:</b> 35 households <b>DECREASES:</b> 12 households <i>Total of \$xx,xxx in increased commitments</i> <b>MAKE A PLEDGE FOR MINISTRY YEAR 2014 — it's not too late!</b> 1) Fill out a pledge online at <a href="http://www.yourchurch.net/stewardship">www.yourchurch.net/stewardship</a> 2) Additional Pledge Cards in Lobby — return completed card to church office. <i>Questions to Business Manager at <a href="mailto:office@yourchurch.net">office@yourchurch.net</a> or 301-xxx-xxxx.</i>
---	---

## ACTION ITEM #8 - CRAFT 2014 STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Below are a number of “best practices” that our Stewardship and Mission Table encourages you to implement in the coming year.

### ACTION ITEMS TO CONSIDER

-- Consider using the Augsburg Fortress Envelope Mailing Program. With this program, envelopes are conveniently mailed directly to your members' homes on a monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual basis. Each member will receive an individually addressed set that includes weekly Sunday offering envelopes and any Special Fund envelopes.

-- Send Mission Letter each quarter with Giving Statement to each household.

-- Incorporate Giving education into New Member classes, and consider providing every new household with a copy of the "Generosity" devotional.

-- Preach on Financial Giving at least once per quarter in 2014.

-- Consider a class on financial education (i.e. Financial Peace).

-- Encourage electronic or online giving.

-- Create Electronic Giving Cards so e-givers can put something in offering plate.

-- Invite Alice Benson (ELCA Regional Gift Planner) to do a forum on Legacy Giving in your church.

-- Assign your Stewardship Committee/Church Council to read one of the following:

Not Your Parent's Offering Plate by Clif Christopher

Whose Offering Plate Is It? by Clif Christopher

Rich Church, Poor Church by Clif Christopher

Enough by Adam Hamilton

-- Pray for Generosity in your public prayers often.

-- Pray for the Ministry of our Synod often.

-- **Ask for help. If you'd like support, touch base with a member of the Stewardship and Mission Table.**



# RESOURCES AND SAMPLES



**In the pages that follow are samples  
that you can use/adapt  
as part of your  
“Embrace Generosity” Campaign  
with your church.**

**FIRST LETTER SAMPLE**  
**Sent 3-4 Weeks Before Kick Off to Fall Campaign**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To “**embrace**” something is: To clasp or hold something close, to eagerly accept something or someone; and/or take something up willingly or eagerly. One of the great hopes of any church ministry is to “unleash” disciples into the world who have embraced generosity as a core value. Generous disciples, like the early Christian church, have a profound impact and leave an incredible mark on the world. Who among us has not had our lives enriched by someone who has been a witness of extreme generosity?

This fall, to help us grow in our faith and commitment to Christ, we are participating with other congregations in the Metro DC Synod in a program called “Embrace Generosity.” As part of this program, we are asking you to read a daily devotional called Generosity: Moving Toward Life That Is Truly Life which are going to be available in the church lobby on ( \_\_\_\_ insert date). A generous donor in our church has purchased copies for every household in our church!

In addition to reading that simple daily devotional, we invite you to gather with others around God’s Word and join a discussion group for one hour, each Sunday for four weeks. The discussion groups are based on the weekly readings. Sign up at the church or by email \_\_\_\_\_. Each Sunday a member of our congregation will share a Mission Moment as to what God is doing in his or her life through the ministry of our congregation. On Sunday, November \_\_\_\_ we will celebrate Commitment Sunday here at “My Lutheran Church \_\_\_\_\_.” Together we hope to share a message of God’s abundance and our commitment to greater service and generosity to Christ and his church.

I hope you will be a part of this opportunity to pray, talk, worship and give.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND LETTER SAMPLE**  
**Sent 12-14 Days Before Commitment Sunday**

Dated

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**November** \_\_\_\_ is our church's Commitment Sunday. This fall, I have been so pleased as many of you have been reading the 30-day devotional Generosity and then gathering on Sunday mornings for discussion. Many of you have told me how valuable those discussions have been and also how you've gotten to know others in our church home much better. We've also been blessed with several wonderful Mission Moments in worship, in which we've heard how our ministry has been changing the lives of our members in profound ways.

To prepare us for Commitment Sunday, I have included information to help you in your discernment in making your Stewardship commitment. The first item is a Narrative Budget that gives you a sense of what we do with the money that is given each and every Sunday, and the impact that it has on lives. The second is a worksheet for reflecting on your own level of giving and an invitation to grow as we seek to serve Christ in mission. Finally, I am including a copy of the 2014 Pledge Card. I invite you to prayerfully consider what percentage of your income God is calling you to give in 2014, in gratitude and appreciation for all he has done in your life.

Your generous giving will help our church move forward in profound and important ways in 2014.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

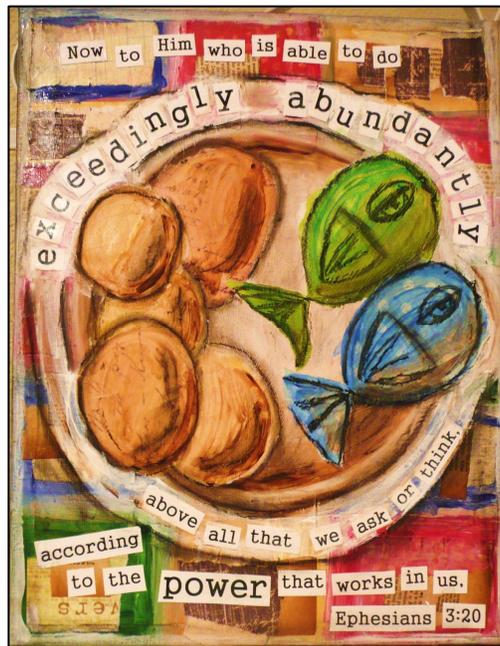
Attn: Narrative Budget  
Giving Guide Worksheet  
2014 Pledge Card

## SAMPLE NARRATIVE BUDGET OF CHURCH MINISTRY

A narrative budget of ministries is a great tool to explore the fruits of the stewardship of church disciples.

While a church's budget is focused on the amount of money necessary to keep the ministry, a Narrative Budget of Ministry instead highlights the ministries the church provides.

A sample Narrative Budget is on the pages that follow.



If you would like help crafting a Narrative for your ministry year, please contact the Stewardship and Mission Team and they can help you.

Some resources are posted on the Stewardship and Mission Page on the synod's Web site. [www.metrodcelca.org](http://www.metrodcelca.org). Go to far right tab "For Congregations" and visit the Stewardship and Mission link (near bottom). Other Narrative Budgets are there as well.

# NARRATIVE CHURCH BUDGET SAMPLE

## MY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2014 Ministry Year Narrative Budget



According to Matthew, the last words of the risen Christ to His disciples are these:

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18-20*

From the very beginning of the Christian Church, then, discipleship has been our God-given charge. Everything we do at **My Lutheran Church** \_\_\_\_ is in response to this charge. As a large church with many resources, we recognize we have a profound opportunity to bring people closer to God and each other in our day and age. We take that task very seriously.

The **Ministry Year 2014 Budget** reflects ministries and mission, new and ongoing, which help us fulfill our charge of growing as disciples and making disciples of others. Our generous giving -- our commitment of time, talent, and financial resources -- makes the fulfillment of this charge possible. Your gifts to the **Ministry Year 2014 Budget** will help us grow 21<sup>st</sup> Century disciples through the ministries and mission of the church. Your commitment to support **Our Church's** ministry is like the fuel that is needed to drive a car. Without it, you can't get very far. However, when you pledge and give faithfully, you are helping to provide the fuel that strengthens, encourages, and equips 21<sup>st</sup> Century disciples for their frontline daily ministries.

**Our hope is that you will read this with joy and enthusiasm, and you will respond by offering a pledge on Commitment Sunday, \_\_\_\_ insert date. By making a commitment to “unleash the generosity” in your own life, you will help our church move ahead in profound ways. Thanks in advance for sharing from your God-given financial resources.**

***Please Bring Your Pledge Card to Worship:  
Commitment Sunday \_\_\_\_ Insert Date***

***You're invited to join us for a celebration brunch  
in the Fellowship Hall after each worship service.  
There is no Sunday School that day,  
so that all can enjoy the time for food and fellowship.***

## MINISTRY YEAR 2014 BUDGET

To be this church in 2014, we anticipate using your gifts in the following ways to provide for the ministries, programs, and mission of this congregation. Our **Ministry Year 2014 Budget** of **\$451,000** is designated to support the implementation of our Master Ministry Plan for the benefit of all members of this congregation and community. The figures are projections that include the further development of all ministry areas. Amounts for each segment include allocations for professional program staff compensation, benefits, and expenses.

<b>Social Outreach and Benevolence Ministry</b>	<b>\$67,650</b>	<b>15%</b>
---	-----------------	------------

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."  
(Matthew 25:40)*

*\*My Lutheran Church has had a strong commitment to social ministry throughout its history. We support numerous outreach programs in our local community; many of which directly minister to the homeless and the poorest of the poor. Organizations such as my favorite soup kitchen are but a few examples of groups we support financially and with "hands-on service." In addition, My Lutheran Church will support a second Disaster Relief Trip this Summer to Mississippi as well as our summer work camp for teenagers. Additional funds are given to our National Church and the ELCA Disaster Response Fund. In 2014, we plan to step up our giving percentage to the ELCA to 7.5% in hopes of reaching 10% in the next several years.*

<b>Worship and Music Ministry</b>	<b>\$81,180</b>	<b>18%</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------	------------

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1)*

At the heart of our church life are those sacred times when we gather to sing, pray, hear the Word, and celebrate Communion. Our pastoral staff dedicates time each week for sermon planning and preparation. They work hard to make sure that Sunday messages are relevant and help make a connection between the Biblical texts and our daily lives. Many of our new members tell us that they chose to join our congregation because of the vibrant, enthusiastic, and high-quality music that is a regular part of our worship experience. We are blessed to have the resources to provide both Traditional and Contemporary worship each Sunday, which enables us to reach out to people who yearn to hear the Gospel but have different musical preferences. We also provide an informal worship service each Wednesday evening. Additionally, our office staff spends a considerable amount of time in the preparation and production of our weekly worship bulletin which guides the worshiper through the entire worship service.

<b>Christian Education Ministry</b>	<b>\$27,060</b>	<b>6%</b>
-------------------------------------	-----------------	-----------

*Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)*

Children, youth and adults are enriched spiritually through Sunday morning and Wednesday night studies, Confirmation and First Communion classes, retreats, parenting classes, workshops, and a multitude of other opportunities. In August 2014, our Vacation Bible School week will likely reach as many as 75 youth and include more than 25 helpers. We will develop additional small-group opportunities in 2014 that focus on people learning and growing in faith together. Pastor will begin a second Adult Bible Study on Thursday evenings for Young Adults this fall.

<b>Children, Youth, and Family Ministry</b>	<b>\$36,080</b>	<b>8%</b>
---	-----------------	-----------

*"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to these."  
(Mark 10:14)*

We are blessed with many young people in our church. The youth and families which make up our congregation come from many different parts of the county and thus, it is very important for us to provide

fellowship opportunities for people to gather. Fellowship and service opportunities are provided for children and youth throughout the year. Our Middle School and Senior High Youth will have several retreats, lock-ins, a week-long summer work camp, in addition to the weekly youth group.

<b>Evangelism and IT Ministry</b>	<b>\$27,060</b>	<b>6%</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------	-----------

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

Inviting people and intentionally making the effort to include new people is part of the Christian identity. Our evangelism efforts include advertising in the local movie theater, yellow pages, and through our Internet ministry. Our Web site is dynamic and continually supplies updated information for members and guests alike. Sermons are recorded each week and videos posted to YouTube. Our Facebook page has more than 200 participants and is continuing to grow.

<b>Parish Life Ministry</b>	<b>\$18,040</b>	<b>4%</b>
-----------------------------	-----------------	-----------

*How good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity. (Psalm 133:1)*

Helping to connect people to other people in the church is incredibly important. Parish Life includes such things as our Stephen Ministry care-giving program, the Church on Wednesday (COW) program, the Sunday morning coffee and fellowship, as well as many of the emerging small group ministries. Groups such as the Women's Book Club, the Thursday morning breakfast, Dinners for Eight and Every Single One are but a few examples of groups that have formed for fellowship and to intentionally build relationships.

<b>Property and Facilities Ministry</b>	<b>\$94,710</b>	<b>21%</b>
---	-----------------	------------

*And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)*

It would be nice if the only thing that we needed was a tent like the Israelites in the desert. Congregations like *My Lutheran Church*, however, need equipment, resources, and a sizeable physical plant to provide a place to nurture all the ministries of the church. In addition to hosting our congregation's ministries, our facility enables us to provide space for the *My Church's Preschool* and many community groups. Examples of community use of our facility include Alcoholics Anonymous, Kumon Math, Kindermusik, a Korean Church, and many more.

<b>Administrative Support for Ministry</b>	<b>\$99,220</b>	<b>22%</b>
--	-----------------	------------

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles ... also those able to help others, those with gifts of administration. (1 Corinthians 12:27-28)*

*My Lutheran Church* is blessed with many programs and opportunities. To support these ministries and to ensure that good coordination occurs, we need to provide adequate staff, supplies, and equipment. We are blessed with good and faithful workers in the office who work diligently to ensure that our growing congregation is supported and cared for on a daily basis. Administrative support also includes the ministry of taking care of finances, our computer database, preparing the bulletins and written publications, and countless other tasks that are needed in running a growing church.

<b>TOTAL MINISTRY YEAR 2014 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$451,000</b>	<b>100%</b>
--	------------------	-------------

## INVITATION POSTCARD SAMPLE

<b>COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS COMING!</b>
-------------------------------------

***When?***

**Sunday, \_\_\_\_ insert date at all Worship Services.**

***What to Bring?***

Please bring your Pledge Card to the worship service you will be attending. We will have a time for a collection of these gifts and a time for blessing of these God-given resources during our worship. If you can't be there on Commitment Sunday, you may return your Pledge Card by mail or deliver it to the church at your earliest convenience.

***An Invitation to all!***

Please join us for food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after each worship service. There will be no Sunday School on \_\_\_\_ insert date so that all can join us for this celebration.

-----

**My Lutheran Church**

Address

Metro DC City, State

Phone number

[www.mychurchwebsite.org](http://www.mychurchwebsite.org)

**Mailing Address for Member**

## GIVING GUIDE WORKSHEET

Annual Income	Weekly Income	15%	12%	Tithe 10%	8%	7%	5%	3%	1%
10,400	200.00	30.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	14.00	10.00	6.00	2.00
15,600	300.00	45.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	21.00	15.00	9.00	3.00
20,800	400.00	60.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	28.00	20.00	12.00	4.00
26,000	500.00	75.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	35.00	25.00	15.00	5.00
31,200	600.00	90.00	72.00	60.00	48.00	42.00	30.00	18.00	6.00
36,400	700.00	105.00	84.00	70.00	56.00	49.00	35.00	21.00	7.00
41,600	800.00	120.00	96.00	80.00	64.00	56.00	40.00	24.00	8.00
46,800	900.00	135.00	108.00	90.00	72.00	63.00	45.00	27.00	9.00
52,000	1000.00	150.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	70.00	50.00	30.00	10.00
65,000	1250.00	187.50	150.00	125.00	100.00	87.50	62.50	37.50	12.50
78,000	1500.00	225.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	105.00	75.00	45.00	15.00
91,000	1750.00	262.50	210.00	175.00	140.00	122.50	87.50	52.50	17.50
104,000	2000.00	300.00	240.00	200.00	160.00	140.00	100.00	60.00	20.00

***What is your percentage of giving right now?***

***Action Item: Challenge yourself to increase your giving by 1% of your weekly income, and to consider similar growth at least annually, moving toward and beyond a tithe (10%).***

## PLEDGE CARD SAMPLE

### 2014 Ministry Year Commitment Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



In 2014, I will give from my God-given resources to help strengthen and further God's mission here  
**at My Lutheran Church.**

I will give \_\_\_\_\_(specify amount) **or** \_\_\_\_\_% of my income:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a weekly basis
- \_\_\_\_\_ a bi-weekly basis
- \_\_\_\_\_ a monthly basis

I would like information about Electronic Giving

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ No

I have remembered My Lutheran Church in my Estate Plans

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_\_\_ No

## THANK-YOU LETTER SAMPLE

DATE

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you very much for your commitment to the ministry and mission of \_\_\_\_\_ Church. We are so grateful for your generosity and gracious pledge toward the 2014 Ministry Year. We hope to accomplish a lot this year and we are blessed by dedicated followers of Jesus like you.

If at any time during the year you need to change your commitment, just let me know.

Again, thank you so much.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

**Commitment for 2014:**

\_\_\_\_\_ %     \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week / per month / yearly



### **A NOTE FROM BISHOP RICHARD H. GRAHAM**

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

*2 Corinthians 9: 8 (NRSV)*

Friends, when Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, he was trying to help them grow. He wanted them to understand more deeply what it meant for them to be followers of Jesus. He wanted their life together to be filled with peace and integrity. He wanted their witness in their culture to be inviting and open-hearted and honorable. He wanted them to use their financial resources to build up the whole Church and to care for those in need.

Paul and the Christians in Corinth did not have an easy relationship. But Paul’s letters to the congregation in that ancient city are still full of hope and of advice we can use today. Many of the Christians in Corinth were slaves or laborers. None of the Christians had anything like the wealth we take for granted. But Paul told them that God would give them more than everything they needed. With the abundance they were receiving, Paul said, there would always be enough for them to be generous in their own sharing.

We live in a culture now that feels diminished and even maybe endangered. People around us are aware of how much they don’t have. And sometimes Christians like us believe that God has given us just enough to get by, just enough to take care of ourselves and our families. But in fact most of us are wealthy people. We have more than we need, and with all that we have received, there is this great blessing: we are always able to be generous.

The spirit of generosity is not something we have to work up for ourselves. The spirit of generosity is God’s gift to us. This spirit pulls us closer to God and to the world around us. In society, this spirit makes a witness about our faith in God and our confidence that God keeps promises.

The question before us is never, “What do I have to give?” It isn’t even, “What can I afford?” The question is, “How can I be generous?” God will always make it possible for us to be generous, because God loves us and God is always at work loving the world through us.

# 2014 MISSION SPENDING PLAN NARRATIVE

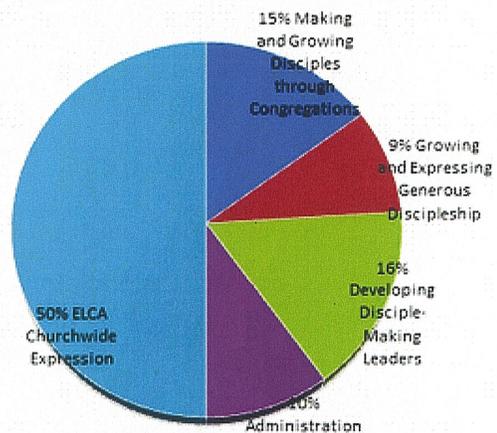
According to Matthew, the last words of the risen Christ to His disciples are these:

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20*

From the very beginning of the Christian Church, making disciples has been our God-given charge. What we do as congregations, synods and the ELCA is in response to this charge of Christ. We have come to understand that the primary task of the synod is to nurture congregations as they make disciples for Jesus Christ.

The Ministry Year 2014 Mission Spending Plan reflects ministries and mission, new and ongoing, which help us fulfill our charge of growing as disciples and making disciples of others. Our generous giving- our commitment of time, talent, and financial resources- is what makes the fulfillment of this charge possible.

THANK YOU for your partnership and generous support of our work together.



To be the church in 2014, we anticipate using your gifts to provide for the ministries, programs, and mission of this synod. Our Mission Spending Plan of \$1,853,800 is designated to support the work of the church in the ways outlined below. The figures are projections.

Amounts for each segment include allocations for professional program staff compensation, benefits, and expenses.

*"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours" 1 Corinthians 1:2*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**\$919,000**  
**50%**

The ELCA is 4,059,785 baptized members in 9,638 congregations and 65 synods across the United States, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. This "churchwide expression" of our church supports congregations and synods in the work we do. These funds are used to help start new congregations and renew existing ones. They fund a Director for Evangelical Mission in most every synod. The ELCA provides one governance structure that helps maintain a sense of identity and purpose as a Lutheran church in the country. Together as one big church we are able to reach all over, supporting ministries in 90 countries around the world.



*"And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'" Matthew 4:19*

Outreach is broadly defined as those activities that focus on the ways and means whereby we go about making and nurturing disciples for Jesus. Outreach activities of the synod are those activities that directly or indirectly help people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and or helping them to grow in the faith beyond the initial point of acceptance. This includes most of what the synod does in caring for congregations and includes its focus on young adults. Funding here represents our efforts to start new congregations and help renew existing ones.

**Making and Growing Disciples through Congregations**  
**\$287,700**  
**15%**

## 2014 Mission Spending Plan Narrative



*"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." | Timothy 6:18-19*

Stewardship is broadly defined as the care for anything and everything that God has given us which can include our physical spaces, our environment, our health, and our financial resources. Stewardship activities of the synod are those activities that support other organizations, congregations, and or individuals in helping them to carry out their missions. This includes support for Gifts of Hope, camps and campus ministries, ecumenical relations and global partnerships.

**Growing and  
Expressing Generous  
Discipleship**  
**\$161,650**  
**9%**

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11*

One of the most important thing a synod does is to recruit and oversee the training and placement of leaders for congregations. This includes pastors, deacons, associates in ministry and lay leadership.



We also do this through the support of our seminary at Gettysburg, First Call Theological Education and Project Connect and candidacy. We lead retreats for congregational leaders, organizing events such as Together in Mission, the Bishop's Convocation and Synod Assembly.

**Developing Disciple-  
Making Leaders**  
**\$294,600**  
**16%**

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles . . . also those able to help others, those with gifts of administration." | Corinthians 12:27-28*

The Metro D.C. Synod is blessed with good and faithful workers in the office who work diligently to ensure that our busy synod is supported and cared for on a daily basis. Administrative support also includes the ministry of taking care of finances, our computer database, preparing the Leadership Ledger and communications and countless other tasks that are needed to run a synod office.

**Administration**  
**\$190,660**  
**10%**



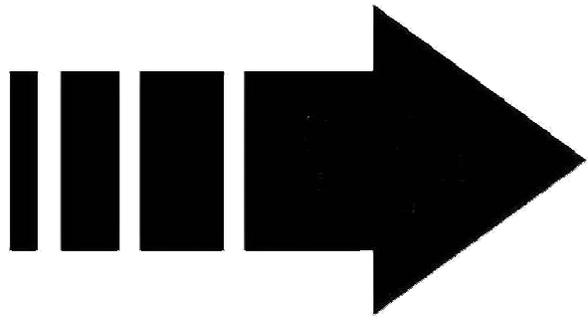
To Each Church of our Metro D.C. Synod:

Your contribution given through your congregation to the Ministry Year 2014 Mission Spending Plan is nearly the sole resource that will help us grow 21st century disciples through the work of the synod and ELCA. Your commitment to support the larger ministry of our church is like the fuel that is needed to drive a car. Without it, you can't get very far. However, when you give faithfully, you are helping to provide the fuel that helps strengthen, encourage, and equip 21st century disciples for their frontline daily ministries in our congregations, communities and far beyond.

**TOTAL MINISTRY YEAR  
2014 MISSION SUPPORT**  
**\$1,853,610**  
**100%**

Thank you for helping us fully fund our mission in 2014.

## **SHARING OUR RESOURCES**



**MATERIALS CONTAINED IN THE BOOKLET "EMBRACE GENEROSITY"  
MAY ALSO BE DOWNLOADED IN ELECTRONIC FORM AT  
[www.metrodcelca.org](http://www.metrodcelca.org)  
on the Stewardship and Mission Page (congregations tab)**

**ALL PARTS OF THIS BOOKLET MAY BE DUPLICATED FOR USE  
IN CONGREGATIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.  
GOD BLESS YOU!**

### **Stewardship and Mission Table Members**

Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Chair  
pastordave@goserve.net 301-869-1780 x101

Pastor Phil Hirsch, Director of Evangelical Mission  
phirsch@metrodcclca.org 202-417-3678 x 221

Pastor John Kidd

Pastor Travis Kern

Alice Benson

Ruth Manchester

Robert Sargeant

Carolyn Sowinski

Rose Beeson

-----

Penny Risen of Good Shepherd Gaithersburg, Editor & Graphics

*Note: We want to give credit to the Metro New York Synod, which has been shepherding a synod-wide Stewardship emphasis for several years. Portions of this document are from its faithful work.*



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## REGION 8 REPORT of Region 8 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America To Synod Assemblies

While no one particularly enjoys reading constitutions and by-laws, it is important for churchwide, synodical and congregational leaders to ground their understandings of regions using Chapter 18 of the ELCA Constitution which defines regions "as a partnership between groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities," (August 2009 ELCA Constitution, 18.01, p. 141), going on to state that the function of the "regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region," (18.11.11, p. 141).

Keeping all of that in mind – along with the Region 8 bishops perspective that it is not the region that creates program, but, that the region works with programs that others recognize as valuable to fulfill the Constitution's description of the Region's role – what follows is a brief description of several activities here in Region 8.

While not all regions operate in this manner, Region 8 finds value in cooperating on some key aspects of the First Call Theological Education (FCTE) program. Primarily this means the planning and implementing of a Region 8 FCTE Annual Conference; the office works with a Region-wide advisory council in planning. I also take primary responsibility for the details to arrange this event – from publicity to contracts to registration to evaluation to hospitality. In addition to the conference, each synod also provides more synod context opportunity.

In addition to my service at every synod's candidacy committee meeting, I serve as the 'go to' person for all things candidacy. This varies from month to month, but, includes arranging Theological Review Panels and Candidate Assessment Panels (as well as the follow-up report writing) and responding to the particular questions that often stymie synod staff people. Each year we hold a Region-wide candidacy gathering for each synod's candidacy staff and committee chair person; also invited are any number of colleagues in ministry from across the region. In 2012 we utilized the expertise of Sr. Sylvia Countess to more deeply understand the deaconess community's candidacy process as well as the skill of several LTSG colleagues to discuss the implications for candidacy of the changed Association of Theological Schools' guidelines for Masters of Divinity degrees. This resulted in the agreement to work cooperatively on a Region 8 project in the areas of candidacy and theological

education. Region 8 bishops totally support this ongoing work and we anticipate having a plan in place by early 2013.

The Region hosted two Region-wide consultations or think-tanks during this past year. The focus of the first was the determination of areas where we might think in new ways about the church and its structures, identify interesting ways for synods in Region 8 to relate with one another and to do their work, and consider concerns related to finances and partners. The second focused on the particular area of how the Region's congregations are served by Word and Sacrament ministry; during this conversation participants also discussed various partnerships across synod lines and region-wide where work could continue.

I also hosted several other meetings, such as a Region 8 Bishops meeting for discussion of first call assignments, Region 8 Bishops visit to the LTSG campus, the ELCA Bishops visit to the LTSG campus, a Region 8 CSM Unit gathering, the Region 8 Global Mission/World Hunger/Companion Synod/Malaria Campaign gathering, and the Region 8 DEM's meetings with LTSG faculty.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Gable, Diaconal Minister



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## Report of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries To the Synods of Regions 7, 8 and 9

Since its founding in 1995, the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries (ECLS) has fostered strong collaboration between the three eastern schools and other partners, enhancing our common task of theological education for a broad spectrum of students and lifelong learners. In these challenging times when all seminaries seek new approaches to forming leaders for the Church, we are also engaged with the other ELCA seminary clusters, our regional synods and additional partners in the search for financial sustainability. Efficiencies are being realized by working together and sharing strategies.

A separately incorporated entity, the Cluster is governed by a Board of Directors made up of board chairs and other officers from each of the three schools. One of the three seminary presidents serves in rotation as Cluster executive director. With only modest core funding from the seminaries, the Cluster has been blessed to receive over \$6 million in grants from foundations to support common projects and subsidize seminary budgets.

### Current Collaborative Programs

- The Cluster's *One Library Under Three Roofs* links the collections at Gettysburg, Philadelphia and Columbia, providing students, faculty and other borrowers with access to a vast array of books, periodicals and e-resources.
- Through the Cluster-sponsored *Project Connect*, hundreds of young persons have been invited to "consider their callings" over the past half-dozen years. The project has fostered multiple vocational discernment arenas, and developed a broad network of "discernment advocates" equipped to support those in their late teens and early twenties as they seek to follow God's call and claim on their lives. With the ending of large-scale funding by the Lilly Endowment this past year, full-time director Don Johnson has concluded his work. A more modest Lilly grant helps sustain key components of *Project Connect*, now under the direction of the three seminaries' Admissions officers.
- Given the geographical proximity of the two Pennsylvania seminaries, Gettysburg and Philadelphia have joined forces in field education, combining placement and supervision of CPE and internship under the direction of Profs.

Rick Carlson and Leonard Hummel. Other faculty sharing opportunities continue to be explored.

**Future Cluster Directions:** Following the merger of LTSS with Lenoir Rhyne University, the Cluster is exploring new directions for the coming years. A generous planned gift by the late Dr. Dorothy Marple offers financial resources to the Cluster and member schools for expanded courses and other offerings in the area of ecumenics.

**With Appreciation:** The Cluster is grateful for support to theological education and our seminaries from our partner synods and churchwide organization. Special appreciation is expressed to AIM Donald Johnson for his seven years of service with *Project Connect*.

Rev. John Richter, Cluster Board Chair

Rev. Michael Cooper-White, Ex. Director



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg  
2013 Report to the Synods of Region 8

*Bearing witness at the crossroads of history and hope, Gettysburg Seminary proclaims Jesus Christ to a restless world by preparing our students for faithful discipleship.*

Reporting to our constituent synods in this 187<sup>th</sup> year, Gettysburg Seminary seeks to exercise the highest stewardship of the faith and resources entrusted to us. Gettysburg stewards its mission with particular care for those students the church sends our way, through an extraordinary faculty and other leaders who lend their time and wisdom, and by means of public witness centered around our unique history on Seminary Ridge. We remain thankful that Region 8 leads the ELCA in seminary financial support; and that so many members and congregations respond with generosity to undergird theological education and ministerial formation.

**History: Schmucker Hall Readied for Seminary Ridge Museum:** For over a half century, Seminary leaders hoped to rehabilitate the Seminary's venerable "Old Dorm." In 2012-13, the dream has been realized in partnership with the Adams County Historical Society. Seminary and Museum staff and volunteers now prepare for its Grand Opening to the public July 1<sup>st</sup>. Offering a unique focus on religious convictions that fueled the battle over slavery, the building's role as a field hospital and as strategic lookout, the Seminary Ridge Museum's dedication by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and others is viewed as the capstone event of the 150th anniversary of the great Civil War battle.

**Extraordinary Teachers:** Faculty members teach, receive accolades, publish and invent new ways of offering theological education to the whole church. Every member of the LTSG faculty is noteworthy. In 2012, two colleagues—Dean Robin Steinke and Dr. Kristin Johnston Lergen—were recognized by their alma maters, respectively, with distinguished alumna awards. Multiple books authored by faculty were published during the year, including a biography by newly retired Dr. Nelson Strobert of Daniel Alexander Payne, one of the Seminary's most illustrious students in the 19th century. Several additional very significant faculty publications were issued this past year.

**Expanding Access: The Gettysburg Spring Academy:** The faculty created a newly expanded experience around Spring Convocation that offers a stimulating week long experience for students, seekers, interested lay persons, rostered leaders and prospective students. First offering this spring was *Proclaiming Liberty: The Unfinished Work of Freedom, Faith, and Living in a Fallen World*.

**Care for God's Creation:** "Campus greening" efforts were recognized nationally when Gettysburg was one of only 12 seminaries invited to become a charter member of "Blessed Earth," an emerging coalition dedicated to environmental stewardship grounded in the Christian faith. Campus greening efforts stepped forward in classrooms and in the Schmucker Hall rehabilitation featuring geothermal heating and cooling and seeking LEED certification.

**Stewarding Generosity in the Crossroads Campaign:** Originally slated to raise \$12 million for scholarships, endowment, special programmatic efforts and campus development, the campaign exceeded \$23 million in gifts, annual giving, pledges, and planned gifts. With the larger share of commitments and receipts dedicated to endowment or deferred until "planned gifts" come to fruition, and with declining support from churchwide and synodical sources, the Seminary remains challenged to meet its current year budget. Even stronger stewardship, through such measures as expanded strategic partnerships, expanded donor support and pedagogical creativity will be required of seminaries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and Gettysburg will strive to meet every challenge placed before us.

**In One Word: Thanks --** For all who have responded generously, and for all who continue supporting the Seminary's mission with your prayers, advice, encouragement of prospective students, and in all other ways, we shout out a heartfelt "thanks be to God"!

*The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, President  
of the Board*

*The Rev. Glenn Ludwig, Chairman*

**Gettysburg College**  
Report to Synod Assemblies  
2013 Report

Grace, mercy and peace!

Gettysburg College and the ELCA supporting synods to Gettysburg College share common values. One value that stands out amongst our shared values has to do with education and formation of maturing young adults.

We educate and support maturing young adults in the development of habits of mind and heart that will aid them in making this a more peaceable and just planet. At Gettysburg, we often talk about our graduates becoming citizens of the world, engaged in their professional and personal lives in such ways as to make their communities stronger. The vocation of learning is also a call to wisdom, to the sort of disciplined life that makes humanity and wholeness not disparate realities, but, a very present actuality.

Born in the context of a University, the Lutheran Christian community has placed, since its inception, a high premium on education. As a highly selective, national liberal arts college, Gettysburg College remains faithful to those values that are in keeping with the heart of this tradition. Today, Gettysburg College is working on increasing diversity and internationalization amongst students, faculty and staff.

Among the core values that Gettysburg College seeks to instill are:

- The worth and dignity of all people
- Critical thinking, communication skills, sensitivity to the human condition, and a global perspective
- A free and open marketplace of ideas and the exploration of the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life
- A commitment to service
- The residential college as a model community

Gettysburg College also encourages students to be self-reflective and to recognize the interconnectedness of learning and core life values.

Gettysburg College prides itself on the distinctiveness that may be found here both through location and dedication. One of the hallmarks of a Gettysburg education is the relationship that develops between students and faculty both in and outside of the classroom.

At Gettysburg, students may find themselves alongside faculty retracing the roots of the Civil Rights movement, researching the benefits of fish oil with their professor, promoting grassroots development in

Nicaragua, or videotaping Viking ruins in the British Isles. Or they may find themselves discussing class work (and other weightier matters of life) over dinner at a faculty member's house.

The charter of Gettysburg College states its purpose:

to serve the cause of liberal education in changing times, by providing a community of learning both inside and outside the classroom committed to the discovery, exploration, and evaluation of the ideas and actions of humankind, and to the creative extension of that developing heritage, and the promotion of music, the arts, theater, leadership and volunteerism within the local, regional and global communities.

As we look to the future we witness increasing attention being given to globalization and internationalization by current and future generations of students. These students expect and, quite frankly, need to be at the forefront of cultural and political shifts across the globe.

In a world where the challenges of the present may seem daunting, Gettysburg College understands that the best way to protect the future is by preserving integrity and maintaining the highest quality in teaching, learning, research and service.

We hope that you will continue to share our common mission by encouraging young people to matriculate here! Here they will find a home away from as in a community that welcomes and supports them as they become global citizens.

Blessings and peace!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Donnell, II".

The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Donnell II  
Chaplain of the College  
Adj Prof - Religious Studies  
Gettysburg College  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
phone: 717-337-6280  
[donnell@gettysburg.edu](mailto:donnell@gettysburg.edu)



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## The University of Maryland, College Park Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM)

After 47 years of faithful ministry to the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland, **Pastor Elizabeth Platz** retired on June 1, 2012. Thanks Pr. Beth for all you have done for students, faculty, staff, the synod and all of our churches!

Pr. Ray Ranker is now serving full time as the Lutheran Chaplain. This is an exciting time at the ministry, and we continue to try and **walk with Jesus**, as he invites us to "**Follow me**". We continue to evaluate our programs and envision our future. Our understanding is that Campus Ministry is not supposed to be a youth group for college students, nor is it supposed to be a club where the Lutherans can just hang out. As we continue to engage in faith formation, leadership development, and discipleship building, we go forward with the understanding that we are a ministry with and to the University community, and we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

This report includes activities from the past year and plans for the future.

### 2012-2013

- Gathered Tuesday nights for food, a program and worship.
- **Partnered** with the Baltimore LCM to have two retreats, focused on **leadership and getting to know Jesus**, and a service spring break trip focused on **poverty and homelessness**.
- **Confirmed** a new Christian (Affirmation of baptism- baptized as a baby but not raised in the church) as she is exploring her new found faith in community with the Lutheran Students.
- **Visited over twenty congregations**, as either Joyful Noise, our student Praise band, the Campus Pastor making a visit, or as a group visiting young adult friendly churches.
- The Joyful Noise **benefit concert** raised hundreds of dollars for N Street Village.
- Thanks to the vision and leadership of UMD students, planned and organized both a **Latino youth event** and a **Multicultural youth event**.
- Worshipped twice now with the **St. Dymus** community in Jessup on a Friday night (Our prison ministry)
- Have planned a **Roadtrip** to a Native American reservation in May as part of a Taize retreat
- Launched a new website, [www.lutheranterps.com](http://www.lutheranterps.com)

- Continue our **CARing** and **En Camino** programs, matching college students with at-risk children in Langley Park. We also collected over 300 backpacks for students in need, and over 100 coats.
- Engaging **alumni and friends** with special events, including a Homecoming tailgate and Maryland Day barbeque.

#### **2013-2014: Plans for the future**

- Start student led **small groups** that will focus on where God is at work in our lives, using a triangle to represent the relationships we keep in balance: Up (with God), In (those included in the group) and Out (those who do not know the Good News).
- Continue to envision what our Tuesday night gatherings need to look like in order to be more welcoming and inviting to those who are searching for a place to walk with God in community with others.
- Thanks to a grant from the Metro DC synod, we will hopefully be matched with a **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** member who will help with ministry and administratively.

**A Special Thanks** to all those congregations and individuals who prayed for us, gave money to support the ministry, cooked a meal for the students, sent us care packages, helped collect backpack supplies, coats, gloves or books. **Without your support, this ministry is not possible!**

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. Ray Ranker, Chaplain, and Kirsten Petersen, President of the Lutheran Student Association



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES & SERVICES 2012REPORT

Continuing in its tradition of over 122 years of care, National Lutheran Communities & Services (NLCS) and its communities continued their transformation to meet the ever-changing needs of seniors and their families while always making certain that the physical, social and spiritual needs of our residents are paramount.

The Village at Rockville (TVAR): 2012 was a year of considerable change at Rockville. In February, the new short-term rehabilitation unit opened with 33 private rooms available for sub-acute physical and occupational therapy. The remodeled dining area opened in the spring, offering cafeteria and restaurant-style dining. In December, Jana Broughton was named the Executive Director, coming to TVAR after serving as executive director of several long-term care facilities in Michigan and of a senior housing organization in Northern Virginia. During 2012, TVAR provided care and services to nearly 850 individuals. Furthermore, residents no longer able to afford the cost of services received approximately \$5 million in benevolent care.

The Village at Orchard Ridge (TVOR): In January, 2012, construction at the site in Winchester, Virginia, was barely out of the ground. By the end of the year, preparations were well underway for the first residents who moved in on February 4, 2013. As a new senior community in the Shenandoah Valley, TVOR will provide independent living, assisted living, assisted living/ memory care, extended nursing services and short-term rehabilitation. A wide range of income levels can be accommodated, as TVOR offers both tradition entrance fee and monthly rental options.

The Legacy at North Augusta (TLNA): As the first not-for-profit senior community in the Staunton, Virginia, area, TLNA was granted its federal tax exemption in February,

2012. It is also the first retirement community in Virginia in which each apartment is licensed as both independent and assisted living. Should a resident need assistance, he or she will not be required to move into a separate unit. This will also enable couples to stay together, rather than being separated, if only one requires greater care. TLNA is a rental community with no long-term commitment required. In 2012, approximately \$60,000 in benevolent care was provided to residents whose financial resources had diminished.

NLCS: At NLCS, planning continues for its next community, The Village at Crystal Spring in Annapolis, Maryland. Pending receipt of all necessary permissions and approvals, it is hoped that Crystal Spring will welcome its first residents in 2016. In addition, NLCS initiated its Community Impact program and issued its first Community Impact report for calendar year 2012. This program will extend the outreach of NLCS beyond its community boundaries by providing educational and other services to seniors and their families as well as agencies and institutions.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

**Mission Investment Fund**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through MIF, congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries may purchase a variety of **investments** that offer adjustable or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

MIF uses these investments to make low-interest loans to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries. Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$663 million and net assets of \$184 million at year-end 2012, MIF maintained a capital ratio of 27.9 percent – a ratio significantly greater than the capital required by bank regulators and the level maintained by most financial institutions.
- At year-end 2012, investments by congregations, their members, and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$473 million, and loans for capital projects to more than 760 ELCA ministries totaled \$452 million.
- Throughout its nearly 100-year history, MIF and its predecessors have always returned full principal and interest to its investors.

## Investments and Loans in the Metro DC Synod

### As of December 31, 2012:

- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 159 individuals and 44 congregations and ministries, including the Metro DC Synod, totaled **\$16,248,230**.
- Fifteen congregations and ministries were supported by **\$13,648,599** in Mission Investment Fund loans.

### MIF Representative for the Metro DC Synod:

The Rev. Kent Peterson; Telephone (276) 698-7970; Email: [kent.peterson@elca.org](mailto:kent.peterson@elca.org)

Mission Investment Fund ~ 8765 West Higgins Road ~ Chicago, IL 60631  
Tel: 877-886-3522 ~ Web: [mif.elca.org](http://mif.elca.org)

DRAFT Resolution for 2013 Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod (ELCA) Assembly  
**ACCOMPANIMENT, AWARENESS-RAISING, & ADVOCACY  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND**

**Submitted by:** Middle East Working Group, Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod (Nathan Rich, Chairperson, and Pastor Phil Anderson, at Assembly)

**Version:** After editing by Reference and Counsel, May 17, 2013.

**WHEREAS** the prolonged Israeli occupation of and building of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the blockade of Gaza cause a great deal of suffering for Israelis and Palestinians<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** transfer of populations to occupied territory is illegal under international law<sup>2</sup>, and years of protest by the U.S. government about Israel's continued promotion of settlement expansion has not brought about an end to this practice; and

**WHEREAS** the *Peace Not Walls* campaign<sup>3</sup> of the ELCA is focused on Accompaniment, Awareness-raising and Advocacy as priorities for response to the situation in Israel-Palestine; and

**WHEREAS** the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution<sup>4</sup> supporting positive investment in Palestinian goods and services and commending the "ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens" to its members, congregations, synods and agencies; and

**WHEREAS** the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly resolved<sup>5</sup> "to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the "Peace, Not Walls" campaign" such as "exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements"; and

**WHEREAS** the 1995 ELCA Social Statement *For Peace in God's World*<sup>6</sup> "[acknowledges] that the responsible use of sanctions may on occasion be the most effective and least harmful measure to lead states to stop oppressing their people..." and that bringing about peace with justice, including promotion of just political structures, is the work of the church, and in support for just political structures; and

**WHEREAS** on October 5, 2012, fifteen U.S. Christian leaders, including ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA, sent a letter<sup>7</sup> to all members of Congress asking them to "undertake careful scrutiny to ensure that our aid is not supporting actions by the government of Israel that undermine prospects for peace;" and

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gapal1257.doc.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc/statute/99\\_corr/cstatute.htm](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc/statute/99_corr/cstatute.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.elca.org/~media/Files/CWA11/2011\\_Preliminary\\_Minutes\\_7.pdf](http://www.elca.org/~media/Files/CWA11/2011_Preliminary_Minutes_7.pdf) (p.173)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www2.elca.org/assembly/votingmatters/minutes/Plenary11PrelimMinutesFinal.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Peace.aspx>, 5.C; p19

<sup>7</sup> <http://blogs.elca.org/peacenotwalls/files/2012/10/12oct5letteraboutaid.pdf>

DRAFT Resolution for 2013 Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod (ELCA) Assembly

**WHEREAS** Metro DC synod has resolved<sup>8</sup> the Kairos Palestine document to be “an authentic perspective of Palestinian Christians on the state of affairs in their homeland,” and “an expression of their commitment to finding peace, justice, and reconciliation with their brothers and sisters through the way of the Christ we follow together;” and

**WHEREAS** the Metro DC Middle East Working Group<sup>9</sup> continues to offer resources and people to congregations to facilitate learning about these issues; therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly affirm its support for the work of *Peace Not Walls* as the means by which the ELCA implements its strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine, and for our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as they remain faithful to the Gospel amid the injustices of occupation.; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of this synod to contact appropriate elected representatives in Congress for the states and districts covered by the Synod and encourages members of the synod to contact their elected representatives in Congress, urging them to hold hearings to examine Israel’s compliance with the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, as requested in the October 5, 2012 letter from Christian leaders; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of this synod to report to the 2014 synod assembly how many congregations in each conference have offered an opportunity for study and discussion of the Kairos Palestine document.; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly **Memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly** meeting in 2013 to commit to socially responsible economic practices by:

- 1) directing the Church Council to develop and implement social-criteria investment screens that pertain specifically to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and recommending their adoption by Portico<sup>10</sup> and;
- 2) urging members with money invested with Portico to make individual choices about how their retirement funds are invested so as to avoid supporting companies that benefit from the Occupation; and
- 3), encouraging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors, and to boycott products and services provided by companies<sup>11</sup> that benefit from or support the ongoing Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem or blockade of Gaza.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://metrodcelca.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/11synasmwebkairospalestine.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcadcmewg> or contact <Nathan@wiamep.org>

<sup>10</sup> Portico Benefit Services is a ministry of the ELCA, providing pension and investment services for ELCA rostered leaders and lay employees.

<sup>11</sup> These are companies which operate enterprises in Israeli settlements in Palestinian Territories, such as Ahava and Sodastream (see <http://theipmn.org>), or companies which supply goods or services in support of the Occupation, such as Hewlett-Packard and Veolia (see <http://www.neumc.org/pages/detail/178>).

Resolution to the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

**TITLE: The Community of St. Dymas**

Whereas, in Matthew's gospel [Matthew 25:34a, 36b, 39-40] we read, "Then the King will say... I was in prison and you came to visit me," and to the question, "When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" responded, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"; and

Whereas, Hebrews 13: 3 calls us to "Remember those who are in prison, as if you were together with them in prison," and

Whereas, the Proposed ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice entitled *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*, to be considered for adoption at the church-wide assembly in August 2013, urges "Synods, congregations, and individuals" to "support and join in ministry to those incarcerated," and

Whereas, The Community of St. Dymas, a congregation supported by both the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and the Delaware-Maryland Synod and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a unique congregation called to minister to inmates within correctional institutions of the Maryland Department of Corrections (currently serving in four locations in the Jessup and Hagerstown areas) and to those members who have been released to return to society; and

Whereas, The Community of St. Dymas seeks to affirm and extend the love of God's creation, encourage spiritual growth, and enable people to live lives of service and witness by providing weekly offerings of Word and Sacrament, Bible studies, and other spiritual teachings; and

Whereas, The Community of St. Dymas has, for over twenty-eight years supported the faith journeys and enriched the spiritual lives of many, both inside and outside these correctional institutions by proclaiming the Gospel and administering the sacraments according to Lutheran teachings; and

Whereas, Christian believers both receive and give blessings by worshipping with other believers within the prisons, by welcoming those brothers and sisters who are returned to us, and by praying for the ministry of The Community of St Dymas to those who are incarcerated in the correctional institutions; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage its members and congregations to designate the third Sunday in October , 2013 and in years following as "Community of St. Dymas Sunday" by

- Publicizing Community of St. Dymas Sunday in church communications,
- Inviting congregational members to share their talents of leading worship, providing music, leading Bible studies, assisting with financial record keeping, mentoring and to testify to the ministry in their local congregations enabling awareness of St. Dymas' witness among the incarcerated,
- Designating a special offering on that day for The Community of St. Dymas,

- Considering the addition of The Community of St. Dysmas as a ministry line item in the congregation's budget and committing to the Community of St. Dysmas with an annual pledge,
- Offering prayers for the members and ongoing ministry of The Community of St. Dysmas,
- Promoting an ongoing awareness of The Community of St. Dysmas within the congregation in the worship and educational settings, through written and spoken communication provided by the Community of St. Dysmas and by inviting the pastor or other St. Dysmas representatives to speak at your Adult Sunday Forum and/or preach at your worship service.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Gerry F. Rickel, Pastor of The Community of St. Dysmas

Paula S. Thistle, Associate in Ministry for The Community of St. Dysmas

Dave Larrabee, Council Co-Chair of The Community of St. Dysmas, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Montgomery Village, Maryland

Members of Council - The Community of St. Dysmas



17 **WHEREAS,** marriage has been recognized for same-gender couples in  
18 twelve states and the District of Columbia and within the  
19 territory of eighteen synods of the ELCA, which together  
20 minister to more than 1.5 million Lutherans (about 35% of total  
21 ELCA membership); and

22 **WHEREAS,** four additional states (Illinois, Hawaii, Oregon, and New  
23 Jersey) are widely reported to be considering legislation  
24 recognizing marriage for same-gender couples between  
25 2013 and 2015, encompassing six additional synods that  
26 minister to more than 310,000 Lutherans (a further 7% of the  
27 total ELCA membership); and

28 **WHEREAS,** the Supreme Court of the United States is currently  
29 considering the constitutionality of two laws: the federal  
30 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California's Proposition  
31 8, both of which restrict the individual and family protections  
32 afforded by marriage; and

33 **WHEREAS,** individuals, congregations, and pastors have requested  
34 advice and resources to assist in their mission to support  
35 same-gender couples and their families; therefore be it

36 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
37 assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

38 1. to invite and encourage conversations among this  
39 church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the  
40 Conference of Bishops regarding the growing trend in state  
41 and federal laws towards marriage equality and how all the  
42 expressions of the ELCA can respond to the needs of the  
43 neighbor, including discussion and sharing of resources that  
44 would be most helpful for those wishing to support lesbian,  
45 gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples and  
46 their families as we seek to grow into this new reality; and

47 2. to invite and encourage conversations among this  
48 church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the  
49 Conference of Bishops regarding ways that this church can  
50 advocate for equal protection under the law for same-  
51 gender couples and their families; and

52  
53  
54  
55  
56

3. to invite and encourage the ELCA Church Council and the churchwide organization to make provision(s) for Voting Members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as the church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013–05      Secretary's Number: 7.1.5.1-2

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: 23 May 2013

## MEMORIAL

**Title:**                      **Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity**

**Submitted by:**        **Rev. Thomas Knoll, Rev. Roger Berner, Rev. Renata Eustis, Rev. Craig Endicott, Rev. Philip Gaines, Morris Goff (Voting Member), Rev. Theresa Hannon, Rev. Sherman Hicks, Rev. Richard Hoehn, Rev. Raymond Michener, Rev. Wendy Moen, Rev. Mark Olsen, Rev. Glen Sea, Rev. Norman Theiss, Rev. Tiffany Towberman, Rev. Michael Wilker**

- 1    **WHEREAS,**                      it is currently legal in 29 states to discriminate in the workplace  
2    on the basis of sexual orientation, and in 34 on the basis of  
3    gender identity; and  
4
- 5    **WHEREAS,**                      employees should be judged on the quality of their work and  
6    nothing more; and  
7
- 8    **WHEREAS,**                      legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on  
9    the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender  
10     identity while providing for a broad religious exemption, has  
11     been introduced in every Congress since 1994; and  
12
- 13 **WHEREAS,**                      the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 1397/S. 812) is  
14     an example of such legislation; and  
15
- 16 **WHEREAS,**                      the ELCA's Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust  
17     states that "While Lutherans hold various convictions  
18     regarding lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships,  
19     this church is united on many critical issues" (p. 19). This  
20     church:  
21     1)        "supports legislation and policies to protect civil  
22     rights and to prohibit discrimination in housing,  
23     employment, and public services." (p. 19)  
24     2)        "has called upon congregations and members  
25     of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-

26 gender couples and their families and to advocate for  
27 their legal protection.” (p. 19)  
28 3) “will advocate for public policies that support  
29 and protect families.” (p. 24)  
30 4) “will attend to the need for equal protection,  
31 equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the  
32 law, and just treatment for those with varied sexual  
33 orientation and gender identity. Such individuals are  
34 disproportionately and negatively affected by patterns of  
35 stigma, discrimination, and abuse;” and  
36

37 **WHEREAS,** the 1997 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a memorial by  
38 79.8% to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act  
39 and to affirm advocacy “in support of laws barring  
40 discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual  
41 orientation” (see CWA resolution CA97.06.29), therefore be it  
42

43 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
44 Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly  
45 to call upon Congress to take up and pass legislation that  
46 would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of  
47 actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity  
48 while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further  
49

50 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
51 Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly,  
52 to urge the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran  
53 Church in America, synodical bishops, clergy, and other  
54 church leaders to speak publicly in support of legislation that  
55 would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of  
56 actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity  
57 while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further  
58

59 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
60 Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly  
61 to urge the laity to make this Assembly’s position and the  
62 ELCA’s position known to their Members of Congress in the  
63 United States House of Representatives and United States  
64 Senate.



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013–07      Secretary's Number: 7.1.7.1-2

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: 23 May 2013

## MEMORIAL

**TITLE: Safe and Responsible Use of Firearms**

**Submitted by: Rev. Thomas Knoll, Rev. John Kidd, Alfie Rulis, Rev. John Wetzel,  
Rev. Charles Oberkehr**

- 1    **WHEREAS,**                    in Christian faith, we are called to trust in God, to worship the  
2    One who comes as Prince of Peace and to serve as  
3    peacemakers, seeking God's shalom for all the world; and  
4
- 5    **WHEREAS,**                    the Lutheran understanding of freedom is that God makes us  
6    free but that with freedom comes the responsibility to serve  
7    one's neighbor in love; and  
8
- 9    **WHEREAS,**                    we grieve with those in Newtown, Connecticut and other  
10     communities who have suffered from gross acts of violence  
11     involving irresponsible use of firearms; and  
12
- 13 **WHEREAS,**                    United States Supreme Court decisions have upheld the "right  
14     to keep and bear arms," these decisions also have made it  
15     clear that this right is not unlimited;<sup>1</sup> and  
16
- 17 **WHEREAS,**                    every day, on average, 86 people in the United States die  
18     from gun violence and another 196 are shot and survive<sup>2</sup> and  
19     victims are "disproportionately young," making firearms a  
20     leading cause of death among juveniles;<sup>3</sup> and  
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,**                    in addition to injury and death, gun violence contributes to  
23     other economic losses involving medical expenses, lost  
24     productivity, lower property and tax values, the cost of which  
25     has been estimated at \$325 per resident per year; therefore,  
26     be it  
27
- 28 **RESOLVED,**                    that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, meeting in  
29     Assembly, urge the people of its congregations to

30 demonstrate responsible use of any guns in their possession  
31 and responsible stewardship in the storage and use of their  
32 guns, and be it further,

33  
34 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, meeting in  
35 Assembly, urge its congregations to engage people in their  
36 communities in a year of prayer, reflection and education on  
37 ways to curb gun violence, and to assure responsible use of  
38 guns in service of our neighbors, be it further,

39  
40 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, meeting in  
41 Assembly, urge congregations to partner with other faith  
42 communities to call for an end to gun violence, and be it  
43 further,

44  
45 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, meeting in  
46 Assembly, direct our bishop and encourage members of the  
47 synod to urge elected officials at state and federal levels of  
48 government to develop and enact legislation to promote  
49 gun safety including: tighter regulation and oversight of gun  
50 sellers; require background checks for everyone purchasing a  
51 gun, including private transactions; require firearms handling  
52 safety classes for all firearms purchasers; ban military style high  
53 capacity weapons and high-capacity magazines more than  
54 10 rounds; prohibit firearm purchases for high-risk groups and  
55 enact stronger child access to guns prevention laws<sup>5</sup>, and be  
56 it further,

57  
58 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, meeting in  
59 Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide assembly  
60 to develop an investment screen for civilian firearms to be  
61 used by those responsible in the ELCA to invest church funds  
62 and by Portico Benefit Services as it develops criteria for the  
63 ELCA Retirement Social Purpose Funds.

---

<sup>1</sup> Webster, DH, Vernick, JS, Vitti, K., McGinty, EE, Teret, SP, and Frattaroli, S. The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, Bloomberg School of Public Health; October, 2012.

[http://www.ihsp.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper102512\\_CGPR.pdf](http://www.ihsp.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/WhitePaper102512_CGPR.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System; Reported in Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence [www.bradiycampaign.org/XShare/Facts/Gun\\_Death\\_and\\_Injury\\_Stat\\_Sheet\\_3\\_Year\\_Average\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.bradiycampaign.org/XShare/Facts/Gun_Death_and_Injury_Stat_Sheet_3_Year_Average_FINAL.pdf). Retrieved 04/22/13.

<sup>3</sup>Webster et al; The Case for Gun Policy Reforms in America.

<sup>4</sup> Shapiro RJ, Hassett KA. The Economic Benefits of Reducing Violent Crime: A Case Study of 8 American Cities. Center for American Progress, Washington, DC, June, 2012; cited in Webster et al.

<sup>5</sup>Recommendations offered by the Children's Defense Fund: Protect Children, Not Guns; The Truth About Guns (March 29, 2013)



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013–08      Secretary's Number: 7.1.8.1-2

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: 23 May 2013

## RESOLUTION Criminal Justice

Submitted by:      Augustana Lutheran Church, Rev. John Kidd, Barbara Solt

- 1    **WHEREAS,**                    in April 2013 a Proposed Social Policy The Church and  
2                                    Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries was approved by the ELCA  
3                                    Church Council for presentation at the August 2013  
4                                    Churchwide Assembly, and  
5
- 6    **WHEREAS,**                    this Statement resulted from an earlier Draft Policy Statement  
7                                    on Criminal Justice which was reviewed and commented  
8                                    upon by many throughout the church; and  
9
- 10
- 11    **WHEREAS,**                    this Proposed Social Policy reflects the input of commentary  
12                                    by members of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod as  
13                                    well as others throughout the church, and  
14
- 15    **WHEREAS,**                    there is evidence that concern regarding inequities and  
16                                    inefficiencies of the US criminal justice system has been  
17                                    receiving considerable discussion in the public forum, for  
18                                    example:
- 19                                    • An increasing number of civic advocates have called for  
20                                    a comprehensive review of the effectiveness, efficacy  
21                                    and justice of the U.S. prison system;
  - 22                                    • The United States Sentencing Commission has called for a  
23                                    return to judicial discretion for many crimes now covered  
24                                    under mandatory sentencing guidelines that have resulted  
25                                    in a drastic increase in the number and duration of  
26                                    incarcerations; and
  - 27                                    • The ELCA was a signatory organization supporting the  
28                                    passage of the Second Chance Act of 2008, which  
29                                    provides for increased services to prevent recidivism and  
30                                    to assist former prisoners to make successful transitions to  
31                                    community life; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS,** a series of implementing resolutions regarding the Proposed  
34 Social Policy The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the  
35 Cries will be presented to voting members of the ELCA  
36 Churchwide Assembly in August, 2013, be it therefore,  
37

38 **RESOLVED,** that the Metro Washington, D.C. Synod in assembly,  
39 express gratitude to the ELCA Task Force on Criminal Justice  
40 for the good work done in developing Hearing the Cries, and  
41 be further  
42

43 **RESOLVED,** that the Metro Washington, DC Synod in assembly extend its  
44 efforts to discuss and articulate an effective and faithful  
45 approach to criminal justice in our society today by doing the  
46 following:  
47

48 a) Encourage the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod  
49 voting members of the Churchwide Assembly to vote in  
50 favor of The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the  
51 Cries;  
52

53 b) Encourage synod-wide and/or regional gatherings of  
54 persons and organizations that have long been active in  
55 criminal justice reform and services, to raise awareness  
56 and develop working relationships among our members  
57 and the wider community  
58

59 c) Facilitate the use of social media (e.g., the Metropolitan  
60 Washington D.C. Synod website, web-conferencing,  
61 Facebook, and so forth) to facilitate networking and  
62 dissemination of knowledge regarding the issues raised in  
63 the Proposed Statement so as to equip our membership  
64 and others of good will for ministry and advocacy  
65 concerning criminal justice ; and  
66

67 d) Encourage congregations of the Metropolitan Washington  
68 D.C. Synod to commit themselves to pray for healing,  
69 justice and reconciliation for all touched by the criminal  
70 justice system, including those who work in and set policy,  
71 crime victims, those incarcerated and their families.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Congregational Membership:   
Name

City, ST

### Occupational History:

- Payroll and Benefits Benefit Counselor – US House of Representatives
- HR Specialist – US House of Representatives

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Chair – Property Committee
- Chair – Evangelism Committee
- Member - Choir
- Member (former) Church Council

### Community Involvement:

### Demographic Information (Please check all that apply):

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:

*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:

*Name*

*City, ST*

## Occupational History:

## Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

## Participation at Congregational level:

Church Council, Community Sterling 2004-2007

---

church choirs, special ensembles, soloist, assisting minister;  
Finance committees, call committees, nominating committees, building fund  
teams, stewardship chair, library

---

---

### Community Involvement:

Christmas in April; LINK food pantry; Avon Walk;

---

Singer for charity events, retirement homes, non-profit opera companies

---

Adjunct and faculty advisor roles: Georgetown, George Mason

---

Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male       Female

Rostered     Lay

African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander

Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino

American Indian/Alaska Native

Person with a primary language other than English



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Congregational Membership:   
Name

City, ST

### Occupational History:

- Presently working as an Project Leader in IT industry for the client Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC);
- Previously worked in NIH as a project;
- Manager, and worked in Dept of Veteran Affairs as Software QA lead;
- Worked as an Software Test Lead in Fannie Mae for 4 and half years

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- I am an Evangelist, visited many churches in MD-Delaware synod , worked with Bishop Rev. H. Gerard Knoche and addressed MD-Delaware women conference in 2007.
- And was one of the guest speakers in 2010 MD-Delaware Women conferences in Ocean City.
- Closely worked with Charleen Walker-Horton who is Church Wide Board member sharing the word in multiple clusters meeting in MD and Delaware and closely worked with Marilyn Hembrock ,
- Previous President Women of ELCA MD-Delaware Synod, visiting different multiple churches, groups of women throughout the synod .

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Participating as Assistant Minister in Holy Cross Lutheran church and helping Pastor Douglas Jones in the worship services. And actively involved in Holy Cross activities.

### Community Involvement:

- Working for an Nonprofit Christian Organization called EXODUS which was founded and established by me being the Executive Director. Which works for the poor and

downtrodden especially between Elderly Women and Widow's, Girl Child Education etc. This is based in Southern part of India which is closely working with Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church ministry.

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Medical Adherence Patient Navigator/Case Manager @ Whitman-Walker Health (2010 – Present)
- Full-time Caregiver/Care Manager @ Home (2008 - Present)
- Executive Assistant @ George Washington University Medical Faculty & Associates (2003-2008)
- Special Assistant to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) @ Georgetown University Law Center (2000-2003)
- Executive Assistant @ Riggs Bank (1996-2000)

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Delegate @ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Assembly (2013)
- Delegate @ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Metropolitan Washington DC Synod Assembly (2012)

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Member Holy Comforter Lutheran Church (1983- Present)
- Acolyte (1983 – Present)
- Council President (2012-Present)
- Hospitality Chair (2010-Present)
- Council Member (1996-1998)
- Newsletter Editor (1996)

### Community Involvement:

- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) ® Event Volunteer (2012)
- International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) ®
- Member District of Columbia Chapter (2005- Present)
- Chapter President (2007-2009)
- Chapter President (2010-2012)
- DE-MD-DC Division Board Member (2010-2011)
- Avon Breast Cancer Three Day – Crew Manager (2000)
- AIDS Walk Washington Logistics Manager (2010 & 2011)
- AIDS Walk Washington – Volunteer (1998 – Present)

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- 2003 – Present; Vice President, Federal Relations, Tax; American Council of Life Insurers
- 2000 – 2003; Director of Government Affairs; National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
- 1995 – 2000; Legislative Director; U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell (R-GA)
- 1991 – 1995; Legislative Assistant; U.S. Senator David Boren (D-OK)

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- 2008 Lutherans Concerned North America National Assembly; San Francisco, CA
- 2010 Lutherans Concerned North America National Assembly; Minneapolis, MN
- 2012 ReconcilingWorks (ne Lutherans Concerned North America) National Assembly; Washington, DC

### Participation at Congregational level:

- 2006 – present; Lutheran Church of the Reformation; Member
- 2006 – 2008; Lutheran Church of the Reformation; Windows Restoration Fundraising Committee; Member
- 2007 – 2008; Lutheran Church of the Reformation; Stewardship Committee; Member and Chair 2008 – present; Lutheran Church of the Reformation; teller and teller captain

### Community Involvement:

- 2005 – present; Q Street (bridging lobbyists who are LGBT with LGBT equality organizations); Member, Steering Committee, and President
- 2006 – present; Lutherans Concerned North America (now ReconcilingWorks); Member and Communications Director (2006 – 2010) for Metro Washington DC Chapter
- 2012; Chair of ReconcilingWorks Day on the Hill for ReconcilingWorks National Assembly; Washington, DC

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female  
 Rostered     Lay  
 African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander  
 Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino  
 American Indian/Alaska Native  
 Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Congregational Membership:   
Name

City, ST

### Occupational History:

- 2006-2013 Adjunct Prof Strayer University/PHD Student Oklahoma University, Arlington, VA
- 2001-2005 Adjust Prof, Strayer University, Woodbridge, VA
- 2000-2001 Auburn University Montgomery AL, Visiting Assistant Professor
- 1997-2000 Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska, Assistant Professor
- 1994-1997 Graduate Student, Auburn University, Auburn, AL
- 1980-1994 Communications Computer Officer, Unites States Air Force
- 1973-1979 Non Commission Officer, USAF Avionics Maintenance, United States Air Force

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Past member of Call Committee

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Property Trustee/Council Member, Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington, VA
- Treasurer, Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, Bellevue NE
- Assisting Minister
- Attends two bible studies per week
- Maintains property issues
- Member FLC men's group
- Cooks breakfast on special occasions and assists with weekly coffee fellowship after services.

**Community Involvement:**

- Chair, Hyacinth's Place, Washington, DC. Housing for Black homeless women with mental problems;
- Initiation Master, Rites of Passage USA;
- Member, PRISCM Coalition
- Spiritual Advisor, Spirits of Our Ancestors African Dance and Drum

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:

*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:

*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Student at Brentsville District High School

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Attended the 2012 Synod Assembly
- Was elected to and serve on Synod Council
- Went to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Attended the synod youth event, Chrysalis

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Have played in the church bell choir and sung in the singing choir since the 5th Grade;
- helped with youth events and have been co-leader of the youth Sunday for two years;
- helped with VBS since 6th grade;
- has gone on numerable Service trips;
- attends youth events whenever possible

### Community Involvement:

- Sits on the Democratic Party Brentsville Magisterial District's Committee;
- Volunteered with the Obama Campaign in 2012; served at a food bank in DC;
- Is helping with a community garden through the church to help feed the poor;
- Went to New Jersey to help rebuild after Hurricane Sandy

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female  
 Rostered     Lay  
 African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander  
 Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino  
 American Indian/Alaska Native  
 Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Pastor, Bethany Lutheran, Chicago, IL;
- Pastor, Christ-Ascension Lutheran, Philadelphia, PA;
- Director, African-American Leadership Center, ELCA-DO, Lanham, MD;
- Pastor, St. Michael's Truth Church-ELCA, Mitchellville, MD (current)

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Metro DC Synod Executive Committee; Metro DC Synod Council;
- African National Ministries- ELCA, Steering Committee;
- Multicultural Summit, ELCA-CSM;
- Liturgical Committee, African-American Lutheran Hymnal;
- Lutheran Campus Ministry-Howard University;
- The Lutheran World Federation Council;
- Vice Chair, Dept. of World Service, Lutheran World Federation, Geneva.

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Pastor
- Story teller;
- Percussionist (African Traditional Music).

### Community Involvement:

- Chair, Hyacinth's Place, Washington, DC. Housing for Black homeless women with mental problems;
- Initiation Master, Rites of Passage USA;
- Member, PRISCM Coalition
- Spiritual Advisor, Spirits of Our Ancestors African Dance and Drum

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:

*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:

*Name*

*City, ST*

## Occupational History:

- Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran, Fairfax, VA 2010-present
- Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Smithsburg, MD 2005-2010
- Pastor, Bethel Lutheran Manassas, VA 2002-2005

## Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- ONE Campaign DEMD SYNOD 2006-2010
- Dean, Washington County Conference, 2006-2010
- Synod Council DEMD SYNOD 2008-2010
- Synod Council Metro DC 2011-2013

## Participation at Congregational level:

## Community Involvement:

- Board of Directors of Serve, Inc. Manassas, VA 2003-2005
- Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity Manassas, VA 2004-2005
- Mission leader Hurricane Katrina 2005-2010 (5 trips)

## Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male       Female

Rostered     Lay

African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander

Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino

American Indian/Alaska Native

Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:

*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:

*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Pastor, Epiphany, Mount Vernon Alexandria, VA
- Pastor Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Hempstead, NY
- Exec Director, Long Island United Campus Ministries

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Synod Council, Potomac Conference

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Life Bridge Services, Veterans ministry
- Hurricane Sandy Winter Coats Drive
- Partners in Care ministry.
- Board of Directors, "Legal Immigration Services of Long Island"

### Community Involvement:

- VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement)
- VIC (Ventures In Community)

### Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male       Female

Rostered       Lay

African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander

Arab/Middle Eastern       White/Caucasian       Latino

American Indian/Alaska Native

Person with a primary language other than English

THANK YOU!



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:

*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:

*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Pastor – Epiphany Lutheran (2009 – present)
- Special Education teacher (1995 – 1999)

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Member of Synod Council
- Member of Synod Assembly Planning Team
- Chair Reference and Council
- Member of Creation Care team

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Pastor
- Sunday school Director (as lay person)
- VBS director (as lay person)

### Community Involvement:

- Board of Directors for Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Board of Directors for East County Citizens Advisory Board

### Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male       Female

Rostered     Lay

African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander

Arab/Middle Eastern       White/Caucasian       Latino

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- 2012 to Present: Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax City, VA Interim Pastor
- 2010-2012: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Falls Church, VA, Associate Pastor
- 2005-2007: St. Anne's Lutheran Church, London, United Kingdom, Associate Pastor (PT)
- 1998-2004: ELCA Global Mission, Chicago, IL, South Asia Program Director/Asia Desk
- 1993-1998: Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA, Associate Pastor

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- 2011 to 2013: Metro DC Synod Council
- 2012 to Present: New and Renewing Mission Table
- 2012 to Present: Reference and Council
- 1995 to 1998: Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders, President
- 1994 to 1998: Commission for Multicultural Ministries, Steering Committee

### Participation at Congregational level:

- N/A

### Community Involvement:

- Interim Ministry Network member

### Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- 09/2012-Present Self-employed in Administrative Services
- 06/2007-09/2012 Manager at NVI, Inc; Sales Consultant at Capital Vision Svcs.

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Division for Church in Society (2004-2009)
- ELCA Churchwide Assembly / Young Adult Convocation (2005)
- East Coast Project Connect Retreat (2005)
- Member, African Descent Lutheran Association (2013)

### Participation at Congregational level:

- 11/2011-Present Organist/Pianist,
- Assistant in leading worship(2003-2011), Bethany [Forestville, MD]
- Council Secretary(two terms); Bethany [Forestville, MD]
- Council President(2011), Bethany [Forestville, MD]
- Worship Planner(2011), Bethany [Forestville, MD]
- Ecumenical Committee Lead(2011), Bethany [Forestville, MD]

### Community Involvement:

- Member, US Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Liaison, Partnership for Renewal in Southern & Central Maryland

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- VA Liason for Health Care (social worker) Washington, D.C. VAMC; May 2010-present
- Social Worker, Moncrief Army Hospital, Fort Jackson, SC; Dec 1986-May 2010

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Co-leader, Spouces program, 2012 Federal Chaplains Retreat

### Participation at Congregational level:

- 2011, 2012 Christmas Tree – volunteer
- 2012 Crop Walk participant
- 1998 Chair, Kindergarten Board, Asbury Methodist Church, Columbia, SC

### Community Involvement:

- 1995-2008 Boy Scouts of America – multiple positions

### Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Executive Director of Lifeline Partnership, which serves persons with developmental disabilities.
- Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Congregational Care at Luther Place, Washington DC.
- Prior to seminary practiced law in Washington DC for almost 20 years in a variety of positions.

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Metro DC Synod representative to the Board of Trustees for National Lutheran Communities and Services (formerly the National Lutheran Home)
- (2011-present)

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Served in many capacities while a lay member at Luther Place including Council president

### Community Involvement:

- Active with organizations providing services and advocacy to persons with developmental disabilities.

### Demographic Information *(Please check all that apply):*

Male       Female

Rostered     Lay

African-American/Black

Asian/Pacific Islander

- Arab/Middle Eastern       White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
*(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)*

Congregational Membership:   
*Name*

*City, ST*

### Occupational History:

- Senior Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon VA
- Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville MD
- Executive Director, Lutheran Ministry with the Developmentally Disabled, Washington DC
- Director of Resource Development, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Arlington VA
- President, Atlantic Beverage Corporation, Washington DC
- General Manager, Ace Beverage Company, Washington DC
- Assistant Store Manager, W. Bell & Co, Rockville MD

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Chair, Synod Assembly Planning Team
- Dean, Virginia Conference
- Acting Dean, Montgomery Conference
- Secretary/Treasurer, Montgomery Conference
- Synod Finance Team
- El Salvador Companion Synod Task Force

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Everything

### Community Involvement:



- Chaplain, Fairfax County Police Department
- Treasurer, Lutheran Social Services
- Treasurer, NOVACO

- Corporate Board, Fellowship Square Foundation
- Board of Governors, University of Maryland
- Chair, Human Rights Commission, City of Rockville
- Institutional Review Board, Reston Hospital
- Ambassador, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013-03

Secretary's Number: 7.1.3.1-2 Revised

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: 23 May 2013

## MEMORIAL

**TITLE:** ACCOMPANIMENT, AWARENESS-RAISING, & ADVOCACY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND

**SUBMITTED BY:** Middle East Working Group, Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod (Nathan Rich, Chairperson, and Pastor Phil Anderson, at Assembly)

- 1 **WHEREAS** the prolonged Israeli occupation of and building of settlements in the West  
2 Bank and East Jerusalem and the blockade of Gaza cause a great deal of  
3 suffering for Israelis and Palestinians<sup>1</sup>; and  
4
- 5 **WHEREAS** transfer of populations to occupied territory is illegal under international law<sup>2</sup>,  
6 and years of protest by the U.S. government about Israel's continued  
7 promotion of settlement expansion has not brought about an end to this  
8 practice; and  
9
- 10 **WHEREAS** the Peace Not Walls campaign<sup>3</sup> of the ELCA is focused on Accompaniment,  
11 Awareness-raising and Advocacy as priorities for response to the situation in  
12 Israel-Palestine; and  
13
- 14 **WHEREAS** the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution<sup>4</sup> supporting  
15 positive investment in Palestinian goods and services and commending the  
16 "ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens" to its members,  
17 congregations, synods and agencies; and  
18
- 19 **WHEREAS** the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly resolved<sup>5</sup> "to underscore the call for  
20 economic initiatives by this church and its members in the "Peace, Not Walls"  
21 campaign" such as "exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products  
22 produced in Israeli settlements"; and  
23
- 24 **WHEREAS** the 1995 ELCA Social Statement For Peace in God's World <sup>6</sup> "[acknowledges]  
25 that the responsible use of sanctions may on occasion be the most effective  
26 and least harmful measure to lead states to stop oppressing their people..."

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gapal1257.doc.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc/statute/99\\_corr/cstatute.htm](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/icc/statute/99_corr/cstatute.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.elca.org/~media/Files/CWA11/2011\\_Preliminary\\_Minutes\\_7.pdf](http://www.elca.org/~media/Files/CWA11/2011_Preliminary_Minutes_7.pdf) (p.173)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www2.elca.org/assembly/votingmatters/minutes/Plenary11PrelimMinutesFinal.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Peace.aspx>, 5.C; p19

- 27 and that bringing about peace with justice, including promotion of just  
 28 political structures, is the work of the church, and in support for just political  
 29 structures; and  
 30
- 31 **WHEREAS** on October 5, 2012, fifteen U.S. Christian leaders, including ELCA Presiding  
 32 Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA, sent a letter<sup>7</sup> to all members of Congress  
 33 asking them to “undertake careful scrutiny to ensure that our aid is not  
 34 supporting actions by the government of Israel that undermine prospects for  
 35 peace;” and  
 36
- 37 **WHEREAS** Metro DC synod has resolved<sup>8</sup> the Kairos Palestine document to be “an  
 38 authentic perspective of Palestinian Christians on the state of affairs in their  
 39 homeland,” and “an expression of their commitment to finding peace,  
 40 justice, and reconciliation with their brothers and sisters through the way of  
 41 the Christ we follow together;” and  
 42
- 43 **WHEREAS** the Metro DC Middle East Working Group<sup>9</sup> continues to offer resources and  
 44 people to congregations to facilitate learning about these issues; therefore  
 45 be it  
 46
- 47 **RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly affirm its support for  
 48 the work of Peace Not Walls as the means by which the ELCA implements its  
 49 strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine, and for our sisters and  
 50 brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as  
 51 they remain faithful to the Gospel amid the injustices of occupation.; and be  
 52 it further  
 53
- 54 **RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of  
 55 this synod to contact appropriate elected representatives in Congress for the  
 56 states and districts covered by the Synod and encourages members of the  
 57 synod to contact their elected representatives in Congress, urging them to  
 58 hold hearings to examine Israel’s compliance with the U.S. Foreign Assistance  
 59 Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, as requested in the October 5, 2012  
 60 letter from Christian leaders; and be it further  
 61
- 62 **RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly direct the bishop of  
 63 this synod to report to the 2014 synod assembly how many congregations in  
 64 each conference have offered an opportunity for study and discussion of the  
 65 Kairos Palestine document.; and be it further  
 66
- 67 **RESOLVED** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in assembly Memorialize the  
 68 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting in 2013 to commit to socially responsible  
 69 economic practices by:  
 70 1) directing the Church Council to develop and implement social-criteria  
 71 investment screens that pertain specifically to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict  
 72 and recommending their adoption by Portico<sup>10</sup> and;

<sup>7</sup> <http://blogs.elca.org/peacenotwalls/files/2012/10/12oct5letteraboutaid.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://metrocelca.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/11synasmwebkairospalestine.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcadcmewg> or contact <Nathan@wiamep.org>

<sup>10</sup> Portico Benefit Services is a ministry of the ELCA, providing pension and investment services for ELCA rostered leaders and lay employees.

73 2) urging members with money invested with Portico to make individual  
74 choices about how their retirement funds are invested so as to avoid  
75 supporting companies that benefit from the Occupation; and  
76 3), encouraging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors, and  
77 to boycott products and services provided by companies<sup>11</sup> that benefit from  
78 or support the ongoing Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East  
79 Jerusalem or blockade of Gaza.

---

<sup>11</sup> These are companies which operate enterprises in Israeli settlements in Palestinian Territories, such as Ahava and Sodastream (see <http://theipmn.org>), or companies which supply goods or services in support of the Occupation, such as Hewlett-Packard and Veolia (see <http://www.neumc.org/pages/detail/178>).



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference and Counsel Number: 2013-06

Secretary's Number: 7.1.6.1

Title: Expression of Thanks and Gratitude for service and

Submitted by: Synod Assembly Planning Team

Received:

- 1 **Whereas,** Mr. Harold Sargeant, AIM, has served the Metropolitan Washington  
 2 D.C. Synod for 6 years as the Synodical Administrator and has  
 3 faithfully carried out his duties with care and diligence; going  
 4 above and beyond expectations on a regular basis and;  
 5
- 6 **Whereas,** he has served God's church in many and innumerable ways which  
 7 have advanced God's kingdom and, with a special recognition to  
 8 his home congregation St. Mark's in Springfield, Virginia;  
 9
- 10 **Whereas,** his gentle nature and dry humor always made others comfortable  
 11 and made to feel welcome and;  
 12
- 13 **Whereas,** he is retiring from his position to enjoy life to the fullest in  
 14 Pennsylvania therefore be it:  
 15
- 16 **Resolved,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod expresses its sincere  
 17 appreciation and love for his contribution to the proclamation of  
 18 the Gospel of Jesus Christ and  
 19
- 20 **Further be it resolved,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod extends blessings to  
 21 him, Donita, and his entire family for good health and best wishes  
 22 for the future.



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013-03

Secretary's Number: 7.1.3.1-2 Revised

Received by the Secretary of the Synod: 23 May 2013

## RESOLUTION

**TITLE:** The Community of St. Dysmas

### SUBMITTED BY:

The Rev. Gerry F. Rickel, Pastor of The Community of St. Dysmas;  
Paula S. Thistle, Associate in Ministry for The Community of St. Dysmas; Dave Larrabee,  
Council Co-Chair of The Community of St. Dysmas, Christ the Servant Lutheran;  
Members of Council - The Community of St. Dysmas

- 1 **Whereas,** in Matthew's gospel [Matthew 25:34a, 36b, 39-40] we read, "Then the King  
2 will say... I was in prison and you came to visit me," and to the question,  
3 "When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" responded,  
4 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and  
5 sisters of mine, you did for me'; and  
6
- 7 **Whereas,** Hebrews 13: 3 calls us to "Remember those who are in prison, as if you  
8 were together with them in prison," and  
9
- 10 **Whereas,** the Proposed ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice entitled The  
11 Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries, to be considered for  
12 adoption at the church-wide assembly in August 2013, urges "Synods,  
13 congregations, and individuals" to "support and join in ministry to those  
14 incarcerated," and  
15
- 16 **Whereas,** The Community of St. Dysmas, a congregation supported by both the  
17 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod and the Delaware-Maryland Synod  
18 and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is  
19 a unique congregation called to minister to inmates within correctional  
20 institutions of the Maryland Department of Corrections (currently serving in  
21 four locations in the Jessup and Hagerstown areas) and to those members  
22 who have been released to return to society; and  
23
- 24 **Whereas,** The Community of St. Dysmas seeks to affirm and extend the love of God's  
25 creation, encourage spiritual growth, and enable people to live lives of  
26 service and witness by providing weekly offerings of Word and Sacrament,  
27 Bible studies, and other spiritual teachings; and  
28

29 **Whereas,** The Community of St. Dysmas has, for over twenty-eight years supported  
30 the faith journeys and enriched the spiritual lives of many, both inside and  
31 outside these correctional institutions by proclaiming the Gospel and  
32 administering the sacraments according to Lutheran teachings; and  
33

34 **Whereas,** Christian believers both receive and give blessings by worshipping with  
35 other believers within the prisons, by welcoming those brothers and sisters  
36 who are returned to us, and by praying for the ministry of The Community  
37 of St Dysmas to those who are incarcerated in the correctional institutions;  
38 therefore, be it  
39

40 **Resolved,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod in Assembly encourage its  
41 members and congregations to designate the third Sunday in October ,  
42 2013 and in years following as "Community of St. Dysmas Sunday" by  
43

- 44 - Publicizing Community of St. Dysmas Sunday in church communications,
- 45 - Inviting congregational members to share their talents of leading worship,  
46 providing music, leading Bible studies, assisting with financial record keeping,  
47 mentoring and to testify to the ministry in their local congregations enabling  
48 awareness of St. Dysmas' witness among the incarcerated,
- 49 - Designating a special offering on that day for The Community of St. Dysmas,
- 50 - Considering the addition of The Community of St. Dysmas as a ministry line item in  
51 the congregation's budget and committing to the Community of St. Dysmas with  
52 an annual pledge,
- 53 - Offering prayers for the members and ongoing ministry of The Community of St.  
54 Dysmas,
- 55 - Promoting an ongoing awareness of The Community of St. Dysmas within the  
56 congregation in the worship and educational settings, through written and  
57 spoken communication provided by the Community of St. Dysmas and by  
58 inviting the pastor or other St. Dysmas representatives to speak at your Adult  
59 Sunday Forum and/or preach at your worship service.



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference and Counsel Number: 2013-09

Secretary's Number: 7.1.9.1

**Title:** Expression of Thanks and Gratitude for service of Harold Sargeant, Associate in Ministry (AIM)

**Submitted by:** Synod Assembly Planning Team

**Received:** 23 May 2013

- 1 **Whereas,** Mr. Harold Sargeant, AIM, has served the Metropolitan Washington  
2 D.C. Synod for 6 years as the Synodical Administrator and has  
3 faithfully carried out his duties with care and diligence; going  
4 above and beyond expectations on a regular basis and;  
5  
6 **Whereas,** he has served God's church in many and innumerable ways which  
7 have advanced God's kingdom and, with a special recognition to  
8 his home congregation St. Mark's in Springfield, Virginia;  
9  
10 **Whereas,** his gentle nature and dry humor always made others comfortable  
11 and made to feel welcome and;  
12  
13 **Whereas,** he is retiring from his position to enjoy life to the fullest in  
14 Pennsylvania therefore be it:  
15  
16 **Resolved,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod expresses its sincere  
17 appreciation and love for his contribution to the proclamation of  
18 the Gospel of Jesus Christ and  
19  
20 **Further be it resolved,** that the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod extends blessings to  
21 him, Donita, and his entire family for good health and best wishes  
22 for the future.



# Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reference & Counsel Number: 2013-6    Secretary's Number: 7.1.6.1-3

Title:        Memorial in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)

Submitted by: Rev. Craig Endicott, and Rev. Philip Gaines, Morris Goff (Voting Member), Rev. Sherman Hicks, Rev. Richard Hoehn, Rev. Thomas Knoll, Rev. Raymond Michener, Rev. Wendy Moen, Rev. Glen Sea, Rev. Norman Theiss, Rev. Tiffany Towberman, Rev. Michael Wilker

- 1    **Whereas,**                    under current U.S. immigration law, a U.S. citizen or legal  
2                                    permanent resident is permitted to sponsor his or her spouse, child,  
3                                    or parent for permanent resident status; and  
4
- 5    **Whereas,**                    U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are not permitted to  
6                                    sponsor their same-gender partners for permanent resident status;  
7                                    and  
8
- 9    **Whereas,**                    twenty-five other countries allow their citizens to sponsor their same-  
10                                    gender partners in the immigration process<sup>(1)</sup>; and  
11
- 12   **Whereas,**                    there are approximately 36,000 bi-national, same-gender families in  
13                                    the U.S.<sup>(2)</sup>; and  
14
- 15   **Whereas,**                    35% of male bi-national couples and 39% of female bi-national  
16                                    couples are raising more than 17,000 children<sup>(3)</sup>; and  
17
- 18   **Whereas,**                    due to the inability of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to  
19                                    sponsor their same-gender partners, these families can be forced  
20                                    to live abroad, thus uprooting their children, disrupting their careers,  
21                                    and breaking ties with their families, communities, and places of  
22                                    worship; and  
23
- 24   **Whereas,**                    current immigration law does not provide for equal justice and  
25                                    equal protection for gay and lesbian citizens and legal permanent  
26                                    residents; and  
27
- 28   **Whereas,**                    the ELCA has a long-standing commitment to comprehensive  
29                                    federal immigration reform; and  
30
- 31   **Whereas,**                    a bill called the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) has been  
32                                    introduced in the Federal legislature to amend the Immigration and  
33                                    Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in immigration by  
34                                    permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and of  
35                                    lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident  
36                                    status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and of lawful

37 permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in  
38 connection with permanent partnerships; and  
39

40 **Whereas,** the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, in assembly in 2012  
41 memorialized the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly “to join the  
42 Faith Coalition for the Uniting American Families Act in support of  
43 passage of the Uniting American Families Act and its inclusion in  
44 comprehensive immigration reform,” therefore be it  
45

46 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, in Assembly,  
47 memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon  
48 President Obama and elected officials in Congress to support and  
49 to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) or  
50 its equivalent as a component of comprehensive immigration  
51 reform; and be it further  
52

53 **RESOLVED,** that if a bill for comprehensive immigration reform is passed before  
54 the start of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and if the bill  
55 does not include UAFA or its equivalent, the Metropolitan  
56 Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the  
57 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for the reintroduction of  
58 UAFA in the U.S. legislature; and be it further  
59

60 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
61 assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to  
62 commend  
63

64 Bishop Thomas M. Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod,  
65 Bishop James A. Arends, La Crosse Area Synod,  
66 Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod,  
67 Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Montana Synod,  
68 Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod ,  
69 Bishop Richard H. Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod,  
70 Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Delaware-Maryland Synod,  
71 Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod,  
72 Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez, Caribbean Synod,  
73 Bishop Dean W. Nelson, Southwest California Synod,  
74 Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod,  
75 Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Metropolitan New York Synod,  
76 Bishop Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod,  
77 Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod, and  
78 Bishop Martin D. Wells, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod  
79

80 for their courageous witness and their stand for justice in adding  
81 their names to the February 2013 Faith Coalition for UAFA letter <sup>(4)</sup>;  
82 and be it further  
83

84 **RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, meeting in  
85 assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to  
86 encourage the clergy and other leaders of congregations in this  
87 church to support the Uniting American Families Act in writing,

88 preaching, praying, and teaching; by financially supporting  
89 organizations working for immigration reform; by participation in  
90 public discussions and rallies in support of immigration reform and  
91 the UAFA; and by communicating with their elected  
92 representatives encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support a  
93 just, comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration law that includes the  
94 principles of UAFA.

---

(1) Immigration Equality Action Fund (<http://immigrationequalityactionfund.org/legislation/summaries/>)

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.

(4) Immigration Equality Action Fund:

[http://immigrationequalityactionfund.org/images/FaithCoalition\\_SignOnLetter.pdf](http://immigrationequalityactionfund.org/images/FaithCoalition_SignOnLetter.pdf)



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod  
2013 Synod Assembly

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate for the position of:

\*Candidate's name:   
(Title, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

Congregational Membership:   
Name

City, ST

### Occupational History:

- Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, DC, 2001- present
- Worked in Guatemala doing human rights work with Witness for Peace and women's literacy and development work, 1990-94
- Associate Director, World Peacemakers, Church of the Savior, Washington, DC 1988-89
- National Field Organizer, Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, 1984-88

### Participation at Synod or Churchwide level:

- Internship Supervisor, Lutheran Theological Seminary - Gettysburg, 2005 - present
- Latino Ministry Strategy Committee (1997-98, 2004 - 2007)
- Presider at Iglesia Santa Maria, Oversight Committee for Langley Park Ministry
- Synod Council,
- Interim Dean, DC Conference

### Participation at Congregational level:

- Prior to Seminary (1994) I was involved in the following activities: assisting minister, retreat leader, home visitation, adult education leader, sanctuary for Central American refugees.

### Community Involvement:

- Volunteer, Powell Elementary, Lafayette Elementary, DC Bi-lingual (all DC)
- Board of Directors, Guatemala Human Rights Commission

**Demographic Information** *(Please check all that apply):*

- Male       Female
- Rostered     Lay
- African-American/Black       Asian/Pacific Islander
- Arab/Middle Eastern     White/Caucasian       Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Person with a primary language other than English

**THANK YOU!**