



# BULLETIN

BRINGING GOD'S MESSAGE OF LOVE IN CHRIST JESUS TO ALL THE WORLD

## The Lutheran Church – International

*and the*

## World Lutheran Parish

NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Members of the LC-I Family,

As we enter the final months of 2022, we are given an opportunity to express our gratitude for all the blessings we have by God's grace. The month of October has always seemed invigorating to me. We see the color of the turning leaves here in the Northeast, Central, and Mid Atlantic regions of the United States it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the beauty of God's creation. Our brothers and sisters in ministry in California, the Caribbean and Puerto Rico, South America and Africa have different seasonal climate changes. But in all cases, we can stand in awe of God's goodness to us in the natural world that He created as our home. October is also a month that reminds us of change that happens in nature and in our individual lives. But God's love for us remains constant.

The end of October brings Halloween. In the United States we make this a major celebration. In the LC-I we take special notice of the real significance of the remembrance. It is a part of our constant stature as an evangelical catholic body within the universal Christian church.

Young persons, and many not so young persons, dress up and party on Halloween. Other countries have different customs, but many of them are following our example in making Halloween a time for fun and commercial activity. In the context of all this, it is easy to forget that Halloween is an old way of saying "All Hallows Eve," marking the evening before the important religious commemoration of **All Saints' Day**.

### *We Remember Our Faithful Departed*

This feast day on the church calendar helps us to remember that as Christians, we are all called to be God's holy people, His saints. We honor those who

have gone before us in the faith. But Christ alone is the source of our salvation and the focus of our prayers. As Lutherans with an Evangelical catholic understanding of the Christian faith we honor those who have gone before us in the Faith. In the LC-I family we especially remember Pastor Arthur Sziemeister, and Pastor Harvey Van Harten III, the Reverend Dr. Herbert Michael, and the Reverend William Coleman in our prayers and loving memories.

With the same regard we are grateful for the life and ministry of Ken Smith, husband of LC-I Vice-President Alice Smith. All will be sorely missed.

### *2022 Synod Happenings*

This issue of the Bulletin contains information on the recent Synod held in person at First Church in Lyons New York. Due to rather significant problems with my back at that time I was not able to attend in person. Vice President Alice Smith appointed Secretary Bishop Richard Horn to preside at the meetings. A report on the

activities and actions of the Synod meetings is provided in this issue of the BULLETIN.

We welcome two new pastoral members who were received by affirmation of ordination:

\*The Reverend Rodney L. Eberhardt, Cumming, Georgia.

\*The Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Robson who serves as the interim pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ in Rosedale, Queens.

The Executive Board and Synod assembly also approved Deacon Eric Frank who was ordained by Bishop Bischoff. The Reverend Deacon Frank is called to serve at Zion Lutheran Church at West Jefferson, Ohio.



++Robert W. Hotes  
Archbishop, Lutheran Church International

\* The Reverend Gary V. Ettlemeyer of Belvidere, New Jersey was approved by the Board for the list of LC-I pastors. He was not able to be present at the Synod meeting but will be formally received as a pastor member at a later date.

One of the items on the agenda was the LC-I Constitution, as revised. The full text of the Constitution is posted on the LC-I website. As there have been several significant additions to the Bylaws it is highly recommended that each member of the LC-I community reviews the new text.

There were other important items of business at the Synodical sessions. After many years of devoted and creative service, Bishop Richard Horn retired from his post as LC-I secretary. Bishop Jeffrey Bischoff was elected to fill the post. Bishop Jeffrey has served as editor of the BULLETIN in the past and will do a great job as Secretary. Bishop Richard continues as Missionary Bishop for the Western Diocese.

Alice Smith graciously consented to be re-elected as LC-I Vice President and Pastor William Wigmore III was re-elected to continue as LC-I treasurer.

May God bless and keep you in His grace as we move toward the advent season!

++Robert

### *Also from Our Archbishop's Desk*

\***Please note:** The LC-I central office number has changed. Messages can be left at 315-946-9251. Please do not hesitate to call 217-691-3090 if you would like to speak to the Archbishop directly. Texts are always welcome. We would love to hear news of your ministries.

\***The Very Reverend David Rogers, Dean Emeritus,** reports that his ministries in Northern Indiana are proceeding. He is developing a specific North West Indiana website and is meeting with two groups. We look forward to additional details on his ministries in the future and thank God for them.

\***Dues for clergy and congregations** are payable in January 2023. You may pay them early if that is convenient for your 2022 records, Please send dues to The Reverend William Wigmore III, LC-I Treasurer, 15 High Street, Lyons, New York 14489. As a reminder, annual dues are \$75.00 for clergy and \$150.00 for congregations, payable in U.S. currency.

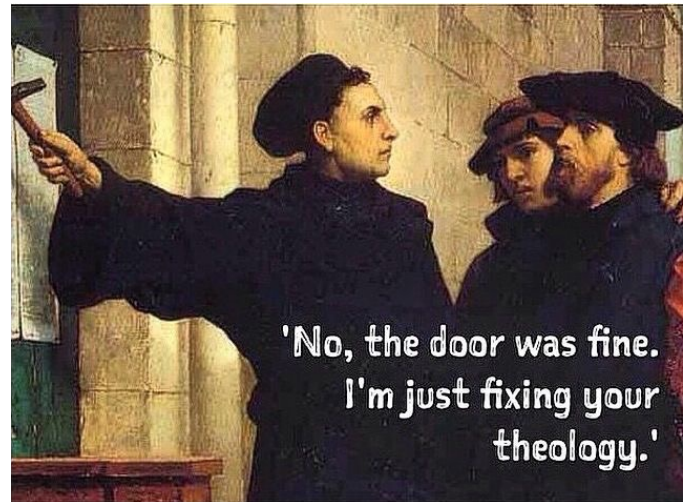
\***Don't forget** to check out the revised LC-I Constitution on our website. The by-laws contain updated membership information.

\***Please pray** for our LC-I brothers and sisters in India. We look forward to continuing our support for ministries in India under the care of Missionary Dean Prasad. More details on how we all can help will come later.

\***One of the hallmarks of the LC-I** is our enduring and consistent identity as an evangelical catholic church body. In our remembrance of the Reformation, we reaffirm our Lutheran understanding of God's gift to us in the church universal and the power of the historic Lutheran/catholic liturgy.

\***During the coming months** we will feature articles focusing on our evangelical catholic identity on Scripture and in light of the Book of Concord.

\***Don't forget to check out our Facebook page** curated by Pastor Art Hebbeler and our website curated by Pastor William Wigmore.



### A Note to Our Readers

Submissions of interesting articles for the BULLETIN are welcome. All articles must include contact information of those submitting them for direct follow-up by interested readers. The contents of articles are the sole responsibility of persons submitting them and do not express the position of the LC-I Board or its Archbishop, unless so indicated.



# SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

These prayers have been requested through communication to the Archbishop's office. Please include them in your personal prayers and in the prayers of your congregation and let us know of others to be included in our prayers.

## WE PRAY FOR...

- **Katherine Kelly** for healing and strength.
- **Ute Kattner-Horn** in thanksgiving for recuperation and strength.
- **The people of Ukraine** as they continue to fight for their freedom and independence.
- The **memory of firefighters** who have died in the line of their duty and service. National Firefighters' Memorial was on Sunday, October 9, 2022.
- **Those in Puerto Rico and Florida** recovering from severe hurricane damage.
- **Those who mourn the deaths of loved ones** from disease and disaster, from violence and war.
- **Our newly ordained Deacon Eric Frank** and the members of Zion, W. Jefferson, Ohio.
- **Pastor Rajendra Prasad** and those he serves following an armed attack during a prayer meeting.
- **The memory of Queen Elizabeth II** and her graceful service to the United Kingdom and to the cause of peace throughout the world.



- **King Charles III** as he carries the responsibilities of service to the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms and as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.
- **Those who seek freedom** from repression, torture and death, seeking asylum in the United States.
- **Firefighters and other first responders** in lives of service despite dangers.
- **Those who are traumatized** by events beyond their control and ability to "normalize" the response.



## WE PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING FOR...

- The elected and re-elected officers and members of our Synod.
- Our newly rostered LC-I Pastors and Deacon that they may be blessed as they work with us for the building of the Kingdom.
- All the saints in the Church Militant, and in thanksgiving for all the saints in the Church Triumphant.
- Our new contacts for partnership in ministry in Africa.
- All members of the LC-I Executive Board.
- *For personal use, your additional prayers...*

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## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!

### *Annual Synod Meeting Highlights – Reception of New Members, Election of Officers*

We welcome the following Pastors and Deacon to the Clergy Roster of our Synod:

PASTOR GARY V ETTLEMYER  
PASTOR THOMAS ROBSON  
DEACON ERIC FRANK (Ordained)

We also congratulate and give thanks for the following persons who have been elected as officers of our Synod.

#### **Alice Smith**

A delegate from First Church, Lyons NY, Alice was re-elected as LC-I Vice-President for the term ending in 2023.

#### **Bishop Jeffrey Bischoff**

Elected as LC-I Secretary for the term ending in 2026, succeeding Bishop Richard Horn who served for the past ten years.

#### **Pastor William Wigmore**

Re-elected as LC-I Treasurer for the term ending in 2024. Pastor Wigmore continues to serve as the LC-I Webmaster and Chair of the Media Outreach Committee.

#### **Mitzi Eberhardt**

A delegate from First Church, Lyons NY, Mitzi was elected Delegate Representative to the Executive Board for the term ending in 2025, succeeding Ute Kattner-Horn.

#### **Pastor Rodney Eberhardt**

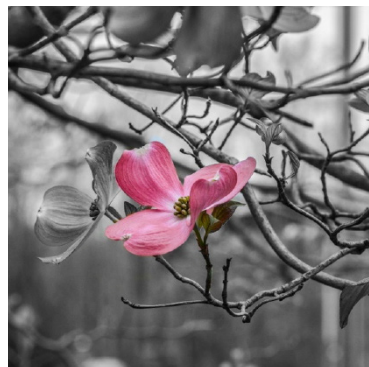
Elected Clergy Representative for the term ending in 2025, succeeding Pastor Arthur Sziemeister who served until his death earlier this year. Pastor Eberhardt has also been appointed to succeed Pastor Sziemeister as Chair of the Pastoral Education/Theological Committee.

#### **Pastor Gary Ettlemeyer**

Appointed to serve as Editor of the **LC-I BULLETIN**, succeeding Bishop Horn. Although not a member of the Executive Board, Pastor Ettlemeyer will continue to work closely with Archbishop Hotes, the officers, and others to improve the communication within and about the Lutheran Church–International. The new email address of THE BULLETIN is **Bulletin.LCI@gmail.com**. Pastor Ettlemeyer may also be reached at 908-310-6886 or garyettlemeyer@mac.com

## The Dogwood Flower

As early as the year 1598 the dogwood tree was first described as “a small tree with a cluster of beautiful small flowers.” The European version of it was called a whipple tree.

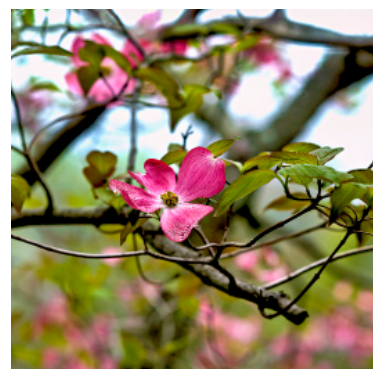


The native version of the dogwood in North America is called the Flowering Dogwood. Early Americans used them during their wedding ceremonies to symbolize love and fidelity. Other interpretations of the flower and its petals

include purity, determination rebirth, and hope. In the Christian tradition the petals form a perfect cross, thus it is associated with Easter.

During the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry. The dogwood is said to have been a much larger tree, possibly the largest tree in Jerusalem. Many believe the wood used to crucify our Lord was dogwood. As we say goodbye to the green, growing, and fertile days of summer and enjoy the blessings of God’s wonderful bounty in the fall, we know the cold and darkness

of winter will soon arrive. However, the bleakness of winter will not overshadow the joy of knowing our wonderful God will bless us once again with rebirth and renewal not only through the gifts of the



earth’s bounty, but also through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter. Right before we relive the wonderful story of what He has done for us, we will see the dogwood flower once again, because it is among the earliest of the first trees to blossom in the spring.

— Photos and article: Pastor Gary Ettlemeyer, gargin@comcast.net

#### ***A Reminder...***

*Dues in support of the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church – International are payable at the start of each calendar year. A form for submitting your contribution is include at the end of this issue of the BULLETIN.*

## 2022-2023 LC-I OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

*(Terms end as indicated.)*

### Archbishop

The Most Rev. Dr. Robert W. Hotes  
Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org

### Vice President (2023)

Alice Smith  
KenAliceSmith@gmail.com

### Secretary (2026)

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Bischoff Bishop, Mid-America  
Diocese  
Secretary@LutheranChurchInternational.org

### Treasurer (2024)

The Rev. William H. Wigmore, III  
Treasurer@LutheranChurchInternational.org

### Delegate Representative (2025)

Mitzi Eberhardt  
MVE5022@gmail.com

### Clergy Representative (2025)

The Rev. Rodney L. Eberhardt  
RevRodney14@gmail.com

### Bishop, Northeastern Diocese

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Aubrey N. Bougher  
BpANB@ptd.net

### Bishop, Caribbean Missionary Diocese

The Rt. Rev. Juan O. Cepero  
BpJuan@gmail.com

### Missionary Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Richard W. Horn  
Bp.RWHorn@gmail.com

### Bishop Emeritus

The Rt. Rev. Richard M. Johnson  
Faith1944@bellsouth.net

## ERIC MICHAEL FRANK ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE



On Saturday, August 27, 2022, Eric Michael Frank was ordained to the Diaconate at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Montpelier (West Jefferson), Ohio by the Bishop Ordinary of the Mid-America Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Bischoff. Assisting with the ordination were the Rev. Deacon Norbert Mayer of the Mid-America Diocese, and the Rt. Rev. Aubrey Bougher, Bishop Ordinary of the Northeastern Diocese.

Deacon Eric has been working in a lay minister capacity with the people of Zion for the past year, and is now a candidate for priestly ordination. He has served in the U.S. Navy, as a county sheriff's deputy in Florida, and also worked on tug boats out of the Gulf of Mexico. Most recently, he has been working with youth in schools. Eric has experience as a lay leader and catechism instructor and holds a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Deacon Eric lives in south central lower Michigan with his wife, Amanda, and their three sons Jordan, Colin and Ian. Please keep him, his family, and the people of Zion in your prayers.

“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”  
Blessed Dr. Martin Luther: “Treatise on Christian Liberty”

## 2022 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The summary of the proceedings of the 2022 Annual Synod have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Board. They will be submitted to the 2023 Annual Synod for acceptance. In the meantime, if you wish to review them, you may request a copy from the LC-I Secretary.



## AMENDED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Members and Friends of the LC-I:

At the 2022 Annual Synod of the Lutheran Church - International, amendments to the Constitution were approved. As provided in the Constitution, it has taken effect immediately upon passage. If you have any questions about the Constitution, please contact your diocesan bishop or any member of the Executive Board. Copies have been emailed to our members and friends. In addition, it may be accessed at the following link. Just copy and paste it into your browser:

[https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2dd65e00-9688-4351-8bdc-a3bf83abb8e9/downloads/CONSTITUTION%20AND%20BY-LAWS%20\(amended%202022\)%20\(1\).pdf?ver=1666196707204](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2dd65e00-9688-4351-8bdc-a3bf83abb8e9/downloads/CONSTITUTION%20AND%20BY-LAWS%20(amended%202022)%20(1).pdf?ver=1666196707204)

–Bishop Richard Horn

“Thanks giving is good but thanks living is better.”

– Matthew Henry

## THE PLAQUE

Submitted by The Rt. Rev. Richard W. Horn

I love to look at the residents’ shelves as I walk along the hallways. Some folks set up graceful tableau, some celebrate holidays or seasons. There are shrines, clever signs, jokes, and lots of flowers and plants. One day a couple of weeks ago, I saw a plaque. It said:

I believe  
Black Lives Matter  
Women’s rights are human rights  
No human is illegal  
Science is real  
Love is love  
Kindness is everything

I knew as soon as I read it that I wanted to write my own credo. The social justice aspects expressed are beautiful. But I needed to add God to the mix. My statement needed to be short but inclusive. And so, I confidently started my first draft. Then I quickly moved to the second and third. The task took much more thought and yes, prayer, than I expected, but ultimately turned out to be a much more worthwhile endeavor than I expected.

I believe in God as revealed in Jesus  
God is love, the author and Father of all  
All humankind is created in the image and likeness  
of God and thus all lives are precious  
Each human being has a unique combination  
of talents, strengths, and weaknesses  
We work better together  
Love is love, and I get no vote in who you love  
Kindness (charity) is everything

If you are inclined, write your own credo and share it.

– Christine Burley (ChristyLBurley@gmail.com)

*Christine Burley was consecrated as a vowed member of the Little Sisters of the Assumption (LSA) religious community, trained in nursing, caring for women and children, and serving in advanced clinical practice and administration. Now residing in the Cedar Crest Community, an Erickson independent living facility in New Jersey where Ute Kattner-Horn and Bishop Richard Horn also reside, Christine wrote this article for the Cedar Crest Catholic Community COMMUNICATOR, September 2022. Used by permission.*

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all  
wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual  
songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

*Colossians 3:16*

# 2023 DUES INVOICE

FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE LIFE AND MISSION  
OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL

Clergy and Lay Minister Membership Dues: \$75.00 U.S.D.  
Congregations / Communities of Faith Membership Dues: \$150.00 U.S.D.

Payments are required for good standing and credentialing and are due at the start of each calendar year. These dues are required for ordained and lay members and communities of faith who have been received and included on the official ministerial roster of the LC-I. All additional contributions, gifts, and bequests are gratefully received.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Individuals or congregations unable to meet their responsibility for 2023 dues are asked to please contact their bishop as soon as possible to make arrangements for a full or partial waiver for 2023. Your financial obligation may be adjusted or excused only upon your request.*

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## MY PERSONAL RECEIPT – 2023

2023 Dues and Contributions to Lutheran Church – International  
*Keep this portion for your records.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ministerial/Congregational Dues      \_\_\_\_\_ Voluntary Contributions to LC-I

Please detach or copy the form below and send or email it to the Treasurer of the LC-I.  
You will receive an acknowledgement to confirm receipt of your dues/contribution/gift/bequest.

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SEPARATE HERE AND SUBMIT WITH PAYMENT

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL

### 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ 2023 Dues for Ministerial Members: \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ 2023 Dues for Congregations and Communities of Faith: \$150

\_\_\_\_\_ Gift      \_\_\_\_\_ Bequest (*Amount*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory      \_\_\_\_\_ In Thankfulness

For \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ or Electronic Funds Transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: The Rev. William Wigmore, Treasurer  
15 High Street  
Lyons NY 14489

OR PastorWigmore@gmail.com (1-215-416-9591)

