



BULLETIN

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

The Lutheran Church – International

and the

Lutheran World Parish

LENT 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ in the LC-I Family,

May I take this opportunity to wish you a most holy and spiritually rich Lenten Season. In the tradition of the universal church, Lent is a time for gaining new insights into our life in Christ. I am blessed to report to our LC-I church body that we are both stable and dynamic in our work among God's holy people. We are engaged in a variety of ministries in Christian service, including pastoral leadership as we care not only for our own LC-I congregations, but also for ministries to other Lutheran congregations who maintain orthodox Christian theology and liturgical practices.



++Robert W. Hotes, Archbishop

Lenten Meaning & Practices

During the Lenten Season we reflect upon how we may better understand the goodness of God the Father in sending His Only Begotten Son to die on the Cross for our sins.

Lenten prayer and meditation also afford us the opportunity to renew our understanding of our ministries as a living and thriving church body in the One, Holy, and Apostolic universal (catholic) Christian church. In my opinion, continuity of doctrine and practice are two of the beauties of our life in Christ; they are also at the core of our stress on the historic apostolic succession of clergy for the entire Christian church.

It is often suggested that one "give up" something for Lent. I have always had a personal, philosophical and theological problem with that point of view for my own spirituality. A prime question for me with regard to "giving up" something during this important penitential season is this: Since God is the Creator and Master of all, how can I, as a mere human, give up what I do not own?

Repentance

We Can't Do It on Our Own

In reflection, it seems to me that the idea of individual "giving up" of things for Lent echoes the Old Testament idea of sacrifice for sin. We know in faith that Christ's sacrifice alone is sufficient for the forgiveness of sin. Using personal activities as a means to focus our gratitude for Christ's suffering can make sense if done in a correct understanding. No action of ours counts in earning salvation. Christ has done it all. We can be comforted in that reality. In the Christian church's history, Lent has always been a time for repentance and penance for sin.

Saved Through the Cross

The Holy Scriptures assure us that the blood of Christ provides abundant forgiveness for both the original sin of the human race and all individual sins. In the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness at worship we are encouraged to regret our individual sins and be confirmed in our intentions to be better in our actions and thoughts. The word for this is "repentance," based on the idea that we need to do a 180 degree turn away from sin and turn toward God in Christ Jesus in seeking forgiveness. In other words, through repentance we completely turn our backs to sin and face God rather than the other way around. In our humanity we are incapable of doing that on our own.

Blessed Dr. Martin Luther said, "We are beggars. This is true." He saw salvation from the view of the foot of the Cross. He knew it was only through the Cross that we receive full forgiveness for our sins. Lent enables us to better understand repentance as we seek forgiveness. It leads us to the foot of the Cross as well. We do this in the love of Christ with gratitude for His saving grace.

Giving up bad practices and denying ourselves material goods in Lent are good provided they are done in the right spirit and with integrity. Walking with Christ on the way to the Cross on Calvary means much more than secular practices of “mindfulness.” It may be thought of as a way to be united in spirit with Christ our brother who is also our King and the Lord of all creation.

I would like to suggest an activity for us in the LC-I which would be of great benefit to the LC-I ministries in addition to any penitential practices. This activity would require commitment and courage in spreading the good news of the Gospel through the ministries of the LC-I.

Would it be possible for each one of us in the LC-I community of faith to make a conscious effort this season to spread the good news of Christ’s ministry through our church body? Might we dedicate individual prayers for the success of our various ministries and for the welfare of all our members?

One of my favorite mentors, Bishop Huron Manning of the Southern Episcopal Church, used to remind all clergy, “God saves souls one at a time. Don’t be afraid to reach out in the name of Christ.” Because it is God’s grace that accomplishes the work of the church, each one of us can make a vital difference in bringing the light of Christ to the world — one soul at a time.

May this season be full of peace and gratitude for the blessing of salvation in Jesus Christ. And may God bless you and keep you in His grace, now and always!

++Robert

A REMEMBRANCE

The Most Reverend Huron Clay Manning

Former Presiding Bishop, Southern Episcopal Church
– Archbishop Robert W. Hotes

It seems as though it was just a few weeks ago that we celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord during the Christmas season. During my long life, by the grace of God, I have noticed that it seemed many of the faithful servants and saints in the Lord’s grace are taken to be with Him at that time. As a behavioral scientist, I am aware of the reasons that are often given for this phenomenon, including the stress arising from the secular expectations of the Christmas season. Secular explanations are interesting but certainly not sufficient for people of faith. God calls His people home when He wants to do so.

At this Christmas time the LC-I witnessed the calling home of Pastor John Shilling, one of the most faithful and stalwart clergy members of the LC-I.

While I was privileged to know Pastor John and serve as his Archbishop for several years, I defer the opportunity to honor him in these pages to Pastor Bill Wigmore, who more than any other person in the LC-I knew the character and graciousness of Fr. John.

In these paragraphs, I offer a few brief comments to acknowledge the passing of Huron Clay Manning, former Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church who was an important figure in the early life of the Lutheran Church-International.

I was not present at the founding of the International Lutheran Fellowship in 1967. However, I understand from those who were part of that original effort that early on it became evident that an episcopal structure for the new group would be efficient and important. It was this determination that led to the episcopal structure of the International Lutheran Fellowship and the eventual basis for the organizational structure of the Lutheran Church – International.

To my knowledge, Bishop Manning went to meet the Lord in the first part of December 2023. I did not receive any direct notification, but a copy of the obituary was sent to me around mid-December. There was no mention of his decades of service to Christ’s church in the obituary. Yet even in his last days he remained dedicated to the service of God’s people through Word and Sacrament.

Bishop Manning was in a care facility but he made the effort to exercise priestly and pastoral care for others. I received videos of Holy Communion services that he conducted for a few residents. He was in a wheelchair but fully vested in pontifical garments. Bishop Huron was a churchman to last moment.

We are grateful and give thanks to God for Bishop Manning’s service to the Lord for our benefit in the Lutheran Church – International.

++Robert



The Most Reverend Huron Clay Manning

Also from Our Archbishop's Desk
Additional Prayer Requests and Thanksgiving
(Note: You are encouraged to make requests.)

- For the welfare of the Christian Church in Asia. Many expressions of Christ's church on earth are under persecution and repression in these days. This repression is touching LC-I missionary efforts in India. Because of the political and social climate in India at the present time, the LC-I is not able to continue to support the India ministries financially. This is not a decision on the part of the LC-I. Pictures of one of the ministries of the church under Pastor Prasad's care appear elsewhere in this edition of the BULLETIN.
- For the congregation and clergy of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ as they continue their search to call a permanent pastor.
- For Pastor James Townsend and the people of St. Paul's in Sacramento California.
- In remembrance of LC-I pastor John Schilling.
- In gratitude for the faithful ministry of Pastor Arthur Hebbeler in his faithful curating of the LC-I Facebook page. Many individuals join this site each month.
- In gratitude for the service of Bishop Richard Horn, Assistant to the Archbishop and Missionary Bishop for the Western Diocese.
- For Dean Rodney Eberhardt who is recovering from surgery and from a recent accident, and for his spouse, Mitzi, who serves as LC-I Vice President. He serves as the Dean of the LC-I Ministerial Formation Institute.
- For the ministries and intentions of Bishop Juan Cepero.
- For the ministries and welfare of the Very Reverend William Babbitt.
- For the ministries of Father Gene Fortune.
- For the ministries of the LC-I deacons and deaconesses. May they be filled with the joy that comes through service.
- Please pray that we might find other locations and forms of ministerial outreach for our Synod!



The Rev. John Robert Schilling III

Father John entered God's eternal kingdom peacefully on December 2, 2023. He was born in the Fountain Hill Section of Bethlehem, PA on January 9, 1937 and he was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. John graduated from Fountain Hill High School in 1954. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1958 with a degree in Sociology and Theology and went on to study and graduate from The Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia in the Mount Airy section of Germantown, PA. He was ordained May 28, 1961, at St. John's Overbook Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Reverend Schilling was the longtime Pastor of St. John's Tincum Memorial Lutheran Church in Essington, PA from 1974 until his retirement. Before then, he was pastor at Old Goshenhoppen Lutheran Church in Woxall, PA, and Zion's & St. John's Reed's Lutheran Church in Womelsdorf, PA. In 2003 Father John became a member of the International Lutheran Fellowship that later became the Lutheran Church-International in 2010. He was a fountain of information and his advice was always appreciated at the various LC-I meetings and Synods.

Reverend Schilling was a founding member of the Goshenhoppen Historians, a Charter Member and past President of the White Ironstone China Association, and a life member and former Chaplain of the Essington Fire Company. He was also a member of the Tincum Township Historical Society and was an integral part of the Chaplain program at Taylor Hospital. An avid antique collector, clockmaker, woodworker, and organ builder, Father John knew something about everything, and he loved to tinker. If he couldn't be found in his garage or the back alley, he was probably at the beach in Ocean City, NJ where he had maintained a summer home since 1978.



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. Prayers, thoughts, and joyful remembrances may be sent to the Archbishop: dbldoc@sbcglobal.net

- For the speedy recovery of Maureen Bougher who had a medical procedure recently.
- For the health concerns and recovery of Bishop Jeffrey Bischoff and spouse, Cherie, who had COVID recently. Bishop Jeffrey continues his treatment and recovery from cardiac issues.
- For the recovery of Shelly Tribett, music minister at St. Paul's, Myersville, MD.
- For the special intentions of Archbishop Robert and spouse, Lynn.
- For Pastor Rajendra Tanuku Prasad and all the Saints in India and other Christian missions and ministries suffering persecution in Asia.
- For persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- For those suffering from war and turmoil in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza.
- For peace with justice throughout the world.
- For the work of the LC-I Institute for Ministerial Formation, under the guidance of Dean Rodney Eberhardt.
- For the Latin-focused ministries of the Lutheran Church – International in South and Latin America, Brazil, and the United States.
- For all deacons, pastors, and bishops of the LC-I.
- For all members of the Lutheran World Parish.

- For the good people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ, Rosedale, Queens as they continue their search for a new called pastor, and for Pastor Tom Robson who is serving so well as their Interim Pastor.
- For the special ministries of Deacons Christine Watts, Anna Haye, Sam Sooppersaud, Sevika Sooppersaud, Eric Frank, Norbert Mayer, and Helena Morris.
- For all of the members of the LC-I family who are in special need of the comfort of God's grace as well as healing and improved health.
- For special prayers for all those suffering in mind, body or spirit.
- For the Lutheran Deaconess Association, collaborators in ministry with the LC-I, especially Lisa Polito, Executive Director of the LDA as she encounters new ministries in her retirement.
- For the ministries of LC-I Deaconess Christine Stephenson.
- For those traveling during the winter season. May God guide them and keep them safe in His care.

"No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes."

Martin Luther

To Our Readers

The Editors of the LC-I and Lutheran World Parish BULLETIN are always eager to receive news of interest to the friends, members, and ministries of the LC-I. Articles in this BULLETIN reflect the opinions of their authors and are not to be understood as official statements by the LC-I. All items must have relevance to the identity and mission of the LC-I as expressed in our Constitution. A copy of the Constitution is available on the LC-I website. The LC-I reserves the right to approve all content as well as the right to copyright any material published with permission of the authors.

2023-2024 LC-I OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Terms end as indicated.)

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The people, clergy, and bishops
of the LC-I Contributing.

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the
Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

Martin Luther

25th Annual Synod Meeting

St. Meinrad Archabbey

June 17-19, 2024

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Registration Form Elsewhere In This Issue

Reservation Deadline – June 1, 2024

After its last meeting, the Synod Assembly Venue
Committee made a recommendation for the 25th
Annual Synod that was approved by the Synod's
Executive Committee.

Mitzi Eberhardt
LC-I Vice President



St. Meinrad, IN 47577

2024 Annual Synod XXV
Monday – Wednesday (Afternoon)
June 17 – 19, 2024

Nearest airports:

Louisville, Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana.
One person, lodging and meals is \$243.00;
Two persons, lodging and meals is \$362.80.

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE INCLUDED
IN THIS ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN.**

Save a Stamp!

Mail your registration along with your Annual Dues!



Back to Basics for Lent!

Three principle areas of emphasis are usually mentioned for the observance of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Works of Love. Each has its merits when done with an attitude of spiritual preparation for the arrival of Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Another way of observing Lent might be by setting aside an hour of time each week to return to Luther's Small Catechism:

Ash Wednesday

The Ten Commandments

Lent 1

The Creed

Lent 2

The Lord's Prayer

Lent 3

The Sacrament of Baptism

Lent 4

The Office of the Keys and Confession

Lent 5

The Sacrament of the Altar

Maundy Thursday

Christian Questions and Answers

Each part may be done by reading alone or with another person. Following the reading, you may find it beneficial to ask yourself or share the important question, "What does this mean?" What better way is there to prepare for our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection than to return to basics? Give it a try!

– Rev. Gary Ettlemeyer

BULLETIN Newsletter Deadlines

The Executive Board encourages you to submit information, pictures, and stories about the great fellowship and mission activities of your congregation. Help us make the BULLETIN more and more interesting with each issue. The following dates are the deadlines for the remainder of 2024.

Lent: January 15, 2024

Easter tide: March 18, 2024

Pentecost and Ordinary time: May 6, 2024

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SOMETHING?

2024 DUES – 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 included on the last page of this issue. Your response during the Lenten season would be greatly appreciated!

"Every week I preach justification by faith to my people, because every week they forget it."

Martin Luther

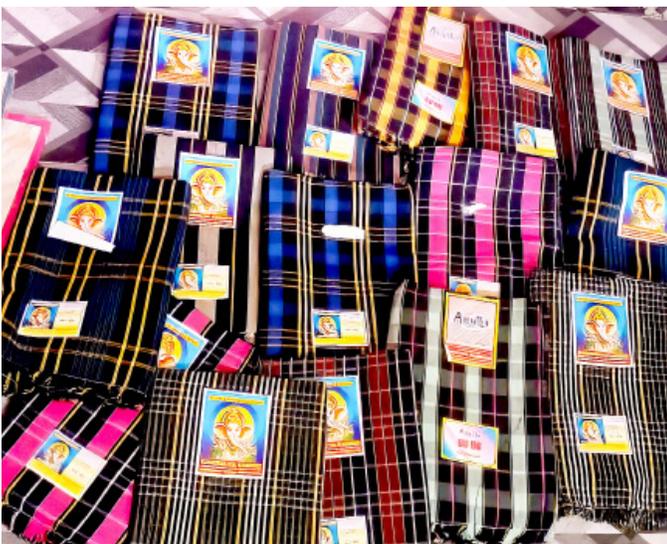
Christian Evangelism and Social Ministry Programs Severely Restricted in Asia

According to reports from Christian News sources in Asia such as the Union of Catholic Asian News, several restrictions are being put in place in Asian countries to limit Christian evangelism and social services in that part of the world. This trend has had important implications for the work that has been done in the name of Christ in India.

Unfortunately, it is not feasible for the LC – I to financially support the ministries under Pastor and Missionary Dean Rajendra Tanuku Prasad in India any longer. This is because of Indian government policies. Such ministries have included benevolent outreach in the name of Christ as well as presentation of the Gospel. One such activity, the distribution of clothing by

LC–I-related ministries to needy persons, is pictured below along with photos of worship and gatherings in that wonderful, faithful community.

Although we are not able to provide monetary support, the Lutheran Church–International continues its support through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We are not alone in this situation. The Indian Government is applying restrictions on the efforts of other Christian agencies such as the order of Roman Catholic nuns founded by Mother Theresa of Calcutta. May we hold our sisters and brothers in the LC-I and other communities of the Universal Church prayerfully in our hearts until by God's grace, we may be able to provide support in other forms.







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*First Lutheran Church, Lyons, New York
LC-I Headquarters Church and Archbishop's Office*

Reminder – 2024 Dues

FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE LC – I
Clergy and Lay Minister Membership Dues: \$75.00 U.S.D.
Congregations / Communities of Faith Membership Dues: \$150.00 U.S.D.

Please maintain your good standing and credentialing! The 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: Unable to meet your responsibility for 2024 dues? Contact your bishop as soon as possible.

2024 LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL 2024
2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

_____ 2024 Dues for Ministerial Members: \$75

_____ 2024 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**

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REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Synod XXV of the Lutheran Church – International

Monday, June 17 - Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Annual Synod Registration: Includes Room & Meals

Single - \$243.00

Double - \$362.80

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2024

Number Attending: _____ Registration Confirmed _____ Registration PAID by _____

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)

=====PLEASE RETURN THE ABOVE WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE =====

Annual Synod XXV of the Lutheran Church – International

June 17-19, 2024

Hosted by the LC – I Southern Diocese

Location: St. Meinrad Archabbey

200 Hill Drive

St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Annual Synod Registration

\$243.00 Single \$362.80 Double

(Fee Includes Room & Meals)

Nearest Airports: Evansville, IN and Louisville, KY

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2024