



BULLETIN

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

The Lutheran Church – International

and the

Lutheran World Parish

MAY 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the LC-I Family,

As part of the universal/catholic church we rejoice in the remembrance of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are also preparing for our Annual Synod.

By God's grace we are able to meet in person again this year. We are looking forward to a joyous time of meeting together for worship and planning for our service to the Lord's kingdom. As an integral component of the universal (catholic) Christian church, we in the LC-I have important challenges and opportunities for growth in faith and service.

This year's Annual Synod will be held on June 26–28 (Monday thru Wednesday). Monday is set aside for the Pre-Synod/Executive Board Dinner. The actual Annual Synod is Tuesday and Wednesday, although Monday will be hosted by the LC-I Southern Diocese.

Through the graciousness of Anglican partners in ministry the worship and meetings will be held at Holy Family Episcopal Missionary Church in Maryland, thanks to the kind offices of Father Dan Funk, a priest of the Episcopal Missionary Church, who is well known to many of us.

As indicated elsewhere, the church is located at 26130 Frederick Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871. It is conveniently located in the Frederick Maryland/Washington DC area served by three major airports: IAD (Dulles), BWI (Baltimore)/DCA (Reagan).

Clergy are invited to vest. The color for the principal celebration of the Lord's Supper (Mass/Holy Communion) will be red. Green stoles are appropriate for other services.

This newsletter contains information on lodging for the gathering. The registration fee which

will include meals during the sessions has been kept at \$60.00 per person as in the last few years. Rooms at the hotel include a complimentary buffet breakfast.

I urge you to make reservations as early as possible. Our site is in the Frederick, Maryland area which is a tourist destination. The hotel itself is close to shopping, dining and entertainment. Frederick offers many attractions for shopping and dining. Due to the popularity of the area, hotels fill up fast in the Summer. Be sure to register early!

Hoping to be able to greet you personally at our meeting, I pray that God may continue to bless our ministries together in His name.

++Robert



++Robert W. Hotes
Archbishop, Lutheran Church International

"Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people; one must hold to them, and see how they believe, live and teach."

– Martin Luther



Holy Family Episcopal Missionary Church

26130 Frederick Road Clarksburg MD 20871

(Parking is available on the North side of the chapel.)

Archbishop Robert's Personal Memories
Bishop Emeritus Richard Johnson
Memorialized



Some in the LC-I and former International Lutheran Fellowship knew Bishop Richard Johnson for a longer period of time than I, but perhaps none respected him more. Over the years of our ministry together I developed a profound admiration and a deep love for the man as a colleague, pastor, presbyter and bishop.

Although no mention of the International Lutheran Fellowship (the predecessor of the LC-I) or the Lutheran Church–International was made in Bishop Johnson's published obituary, he was an integral part of this ecclesial body. He was present and played a role in the beginnings of the group. As a Bishop he worked closely with Presiding Bishop Huron Manning of the Southern Episcopal Church to aid in the development of the LC-I as a particularly Lutheran constituent part of the church catholic.

As one of the co-consecrators at my Episcopal consecration by SEC Presiding Bishop Manning, Bishop Johnson aided in the communication of the historic Apostolic heritage and succession of orders in the Old Catholic lines to the LC-I. He helped me to continue this lineage in laying hands as a co-consecrator of other bishops. Above all +Richard was a dedicated cleric and a true servant of the Universal Church. He was also a dear friend.

+Richard's ministry with us in the LC-I was a gift from God. May we be grateful for it, I know I am. The LC-I will miss you, Bishop Richard.

May he rest in peace,

++Robert
Archbishop

From Faith Johnson
Wife of Bishop Richard M. Johnson

Thank you for your condolences and the ministry of the church shared together; he loved the fellowship that was so dear to him.

*In Christ,
Faith Johnson*

Special Prayer Request from Archbishop Hotes

Archbishop Hotes has informed us that Deacon Norbert Mayer was involved in an auto accident on Good Friday while returning home from a funeral at which he was presiding near Bellevue, OH. He was evacuated by helicopter to Toledo Hospital with a severe shoulder injury. He was released to rehabilitative care at Bellvue Care Center. Surgery and follow up treatments may be required. Bishop Hotes says that he is in good spirits as always, and Deacon Norbert is hopeful that he will resume his regular activities soon. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

(Update: Pastor Gary Ettlemeyer spoke with Deacon Norbert on Sunday, April 30th. As already noted, he is in good spirits and is on the mend. His daughter is providing care for him and results of MRI readings are pending. He hopes to be able to be in attendance at the Assembly in June.)

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write."
– 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. 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 and the right to copyright any material published with permission of the author(s).



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 safe travel for all who will attend our Annual Synod.
- For Deacon Norbert Mayer, recovering from a serious automobile accident.
- For Maurine Bougher, wife of Bishop Bougher as she recovers from recent illness.
- For our brothers and sisters in India and for Missionary Dean Tanuku Prasad.
- For friend, the Reverend Don Schedler as he recovers from hip surgery.
- For Shannon and Joann and others asking our prayers, that they might have strength, healing and hope.
- For all those in the LC-I who are in special need of God's healing grace.
- For our ministries in Brazil, Central and South America, and the Caribbean under the Episcopal guidance of Bishop Juan.
- For the faithful ministries the Superior of the Order of St. Francis – Lutheran, the Very Reverend William Babbitt.
- For all members of the Lutheran World Parish.
- For all deacons, pastors and bishops of the LC-I.
- For our partners in ministry in the Lutheran Diaconal Association.
- For the ministries of Dean Emeritus Pastor David Rogers.

- For special remembrance in prayer for the congregation and Pastor of St. Paul's, Sacramento CA.
- For the special intentions of Pr. John Schilling.
- For the special ministries of Pastor William Gies.
- For prayers in remembrance of Bishop Emeritus Richard Johnson. (*Bishop Johnson's service to the LC-I is remembered elsewhere in this issue.*)

WE PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING FOR...

- Our Archbishop and all of our Bishops, past and present for their spiritual guidance and prayers.
- For the special ministries of Pastor John Schilling, Pastor Art Hebbeler, Pastor William Gies, the Very Rev. Tanuku Rajendra Prasad, Dean of the Missionary Diocese of India, and Bishop Richard Horn, Missionary Bishop for the Western Diocese.
- For the special ministries of Deacon Anna Haye, Deacons Sevika and Samnarain Sooppersaud, Deacon Christine Watts, Deacon Helena Morris, Deacon Norbert Mayer, Deaconess Christine Stephenson, and our friend and associate in ministry, Pastor Nelson da Costa Filho in Brazil.
- For Pastor Bruce Hackman and the great work he is doing as a manager of Catholic Charities ministries in San Pedro, California. As an ordained Lutheran Pastor rostered with the LC-I, he enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Catholic Charities organization. He is planning on being with us at our upcoming Synod in June.
- For our loved ones and all the saints in the Church Triumphant who are feasting at the heavenly banquet table.
- Our brothers and sisters at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ, Rosedale, Queens, NY as they prepare for their 110th Anniversary Celebration on May 7, 2023.
- For all members of the LC-I Executive Board.

"Man kann einen Christen ohne Gebet ebensowenig finden wie einen lebendigen Menschen ohne Puls."

"No one can be a Christian without prayer any more than one can be a living person without a pulse."

– Martin Luther

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

Bulletin

The Rev. Gary V. Ettlemeyer, Editor
garyettlemeyer@mac.com or gargin@comcast.net
Cherie Gerwin Bischoff
cgerwi@live.com
The Bishops of the LC-I Contributing

Chrism Mass Celebrated at Christ, Rosedale April 6, 2023



L to R: Pastor Robert M Rainis, Clergy Guest; Deacon Sevika Sooppersaud, Christ, Rosedale; Bishop Bougher; Deacon Anna Haye, St. Paul's, Coney Island; Pastor Thomas A. Robson, Christ, Rosedale

Institute for Pastoral Formation Established

We are blessed that the Executive Board has approved the formation of an Institute for Pastoral Formation under the leadership of Pastor Rodney Eberhardt, who will be its Dean. The Institute will function under the authority of the LC-I Board and will provide continuing theological education for LC-I members and clerical candidates. More details will be forthcoming.

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 elsewhere in this issue.

Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving 110th Congregational Celebration to Be Held

The Archbishop, Bishops, Pastors, Religious, and all members of the Lutheran Church – International join in offering prayer, praise and thanksgiving on the occasion of the 110th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ, Rosedale, Queens, New York. Special plans are being made for a wonderful celebration of the congregation's mission and ministry for over a century. Details may be had from the church's event organizer, Beth Damm Diodato (631-338-6470) or Interim Pastor Thomas Robinson (516-329-4463). This congregation is a living witness to the best expression of our Lutheran identity in Word and Sacrament.



Exterior View of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ
Northeastern Diocese, Lutheran Church – International



Interior View, Christ Church, Rosedale



View of the Main Altar, Christ Church, Rosedale

With thanksgiving we recall that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ is celebrating its 110th anniversary. This gives us the opportunity to bring to the attention of all our LC–I congregations and members the special ministries of Word and Sacrament that are enjoyed throughout the Synod. To that end, we hope that all of our congregations will provide information, photos, and articles for us to highlight in future issues of the BULLETIN.

On the following page we offer a glimpse into the life of the wonderful pastor and members of Christ, Rosedale as they worship, hold their Annual Congregational Meeting, and participate in the ecumenical service held in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Following the pictures from Christ, Rosedale we have included some photos of the good people of First Lutheran, Lyons, New York, a wonderful congregation that is also the home of our Synod and our Archbishop's office.

Christ, Rosedale: Annual Meeting & Participation in Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer



Pastor Robson Preaching



Deacon Sam Sooppersaud serves as Lector at Mass



Annual Meeting – Deacon Christine Watts, Pastor Robson.



John Mahes Reads Reports at the Annual Meeting



St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Very Reverend Stephen Foster Makes Announcements



Pastor Robson Preaches at the Ecumenical Service

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

The photo of the church may be found elsewhere in this issue. The Pastor and good people of First Lutheran, headquarters of the Lutheran Church–International and our Archbishop's Office have shared these photos with us for this issue. There's nothing like a good Lutheran coffee hour! We hope to share some photos of worship as well as some background information on this very special congregation. Stay tuned!





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

Reminder –2023 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 2023 dues? Contact your bishop as soon as possible.

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)

REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Synod XXIV of the Lutheran Church – International
Monday, June 26 to Wednesday, 28, 2023
Annual Synod Registration: \$60.00/Person

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 XXIV of the Lutheran Church – International
June 26–28, 2023

Hosted by the LC – I Southern Diocese

Location:

Holy Family Episcopal Missionary Church
26130 Frederick Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

Annual Synod Registration: \$60.00/Person
(Includes meals at Synod meetings.)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Fairfield Inn
5220 Westview Drive
Frederick, MD 21703
201-631-2000

Hotel accommodations are to be arranged directly by each individual. Special rates apply.

Please be sure to mention Lutheran Church – International when you make your reservations!

\$129.00/Night, Includes Complimentary Breakfast Buffet.

Annual Synod Reminders and Further Information

As stated by our Archbishop, the **Annual Synod is Monday, June 26 to Wednesday, June 28, 2023.**

The normal order of business and worship for the Annual Synod is to be conducted Tuesday and Wednesday. Monday is set aside for the Pre-Synod/Executive Board meeting and dinner.

You are reminded to make reservations for your stay as soon as possible. Don't forget to mention that the reservation is for LC-I participation in order to get the special daily rate for your stay.

With regard to worship, clergy are invited to vest. The color for the principal celebration of the Lord's Supper (Mass/Holy Communion) will be red. Green stoles are appropriate for other services.

Copies of our Constitution and By-laws are readily available. If you don't already have one, the following articles regarding active membership as well as specific Annual Synod provisions are provided here for your review. If you would like to receive a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, please contact our Synod Secretary:

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

Active Members

Article IV, Section 8.1: Active Members

All members (communities of faith and ministers in the Lutheran Church – International), including those who are retired, are expected to fulfill their respective ministries (Article IV), attend and participate in ministerial and diocesan activities and the Annual Synods of the Lutheran Church - International, and to fulfill the obligations of membership including financial support through the payment of annual dues as established by an Annual Synod. The Archbishop and the Diocesan and Missionary Bishops will provide pastoral oversight to those under their care and can waive obligations as necessary and appropriate, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Upon recommendation of the Executive Board, those ministers and communities of faith who fulfill their obligations, or for whom certain obligations are waived, will be considered active members of the Lutheran Church - International and have the right to vote and hold office in the Lutheran Church – International and to receive clergy or community of faith credentials (Article VIII, Section 3f). Those not considered active members remain in the care of the Lutheran Church – International but will be urged to increase their faithful involvement in the life of the Lutheran Church – International.

“But know that to serve God is nothing else than to serve your neighbor and do good to him in love, be it a child, wife, servant, enemy, friend....If you do not find yourself among the needy and the poor, where the Gospel shows us Christ, then you may know that your faith is not right, and that you have not yet tasted of Christ's benevolence and work for you.”
– Martin Luther

Annual Synod

Article V, Section 1: The Annual Synod

The members of the Lutheran Church – International shall meet in an Annual Synod at a place and on the dates determined by the Executive Board. Notice of the time and place of the Annual Synod shall be given by mail or electronic means not less than 60 days prior to the Annual Synod to the members eligible to vote at the Annual Synod. The Annual Synod is the legislative and fellowship meeting of all ministers (ordained and commissioned) and delegates from all communities of faith on the roster of members of the Lutheran Church – International. The decisions of the Annual Synod other than directives in this Constitution and By-Laws shall constitute the policy and authority of the Lutheran Church - International. The quorum for an Annual Synod is those in attendance. The members belong to one of three Houses: the House of Delegates, the House of Clergy, and the House of Bishops (Article V, Sections 2, 3 and 4). All delegates have the right of voice and vote; all ministerial members have the right of voice, and all active ministerial members (Article IV, Section 8.1) have the right to vote. The simple majority of those present and voting, with all Houses concurring on issues, shall be sufficient to adopt a motion unless otherwise required by the Constitution. Votes may be taken simultaneously unless the chair requests separate votes by Houses. The chair of the Annual Synod is the Archbishop or, in his absence, the Vice-President or the Secretary.

“The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God; love brings the person to people.”
– Martin Luther