



BULLETIN

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

The Lutheran Church-International and the Lutheran World Parish

Pentecost 2025

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

This edition of the LC-I *Bulletin* is devoted to the prayerful and loving memory of Pastor Gary Ettlemyer. Gary+ was a dedicated LC-I minister and presbyter whose many talents were of great benefit to the LC-I as well as to its archbishop. I have the fondest personal memories of Gary+. He always began his written communication to me with "Kind Archbishop." That he found me to be kind was a great encouragement to me in ministry. Please take time to read the article by Bishop Bougher eulogizing Gary's+ ministry and life in service to the Lord.

With all of the faithful of the universal Christian Church, we in the Lutheran Church-International feel not only sorrow for the loss but also gratitude for the life and ministry of our departed brother in Christ, Francis, and we give thanks to God for His grace in the election of Leo XIV, as the new Bishop of Rome. While solidly Lutheran in our understanding of Christian doctrine, we fervently pray for the unity of the Church Universal. This is our position and unique role as an Evangelical Catholic body.

The passing of Francis and the process of selecting a new Bishop of Rome focuses the attention of the world on the Christian Church and those who work for the Kingdom of Christ on earth. We are a special and dynamic entity among those workers, steadfastly Lutheran in our understanding of the universal church while we pray and work for the unity of the Body of Christ on earth.

With the election of Pope Leo XIV, our understanding of the universal church enters a new period of optimism and hopeful expectations for the work of the Lutheran Church - International. In my ecumenical work by chance, I am acquainted with two Lutheran pastors who attended theological training with Robert (Bob) Prevost in his early seminary days in the Chicago U.S.A area. They were impressed.

As many of us may remember, the days of the 1960s and 1970s were a time of *aggiornamento* as The Second Vatican Council called it. The idea was to bring the Church "up to date." Some feel that it went too far, others said that it did not go far enough. But at least channels of communication were opened which still continue today. Perhaps in his role as *Pontifex Maximus*, or supreme bridge builder between heaven and earth, a title inherited from pagan antiquity, we will be able to cross the Tiber in both directions to meet in understanding of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church as described in the Augsburg Confession.

In my opinion, the Lutheran Church - International can play a crucial role as bridge builders in helping the church of Christ realize the true meaning of catholicity. Without compromising our evangelical catholic profession, we are evangelical Lutheran witnesses of the apostolic



++Robert W. Hotes, Archbishop

Christian faith once delivered, speaking truth to power through our Christian lives and worship.

We cherish the rich heritage of the liturgy of the Western tradition without compromising the Lutheran understanding of Faith, Word, and Christ alone. By God's grace we can humbly be a beacon for the light of mutual Christian understanding. The Feast of Pentecost is a time of abundant joy, peace, and grace. These weeks after the Feast offer us a chance to rejoice in spiritual rebirth as we see the signs of growth and renewal in the natural world around us. Seeing new life flourishing out around us reminds us of the joy we have in our new life in Christ through His death on the cross and glorious resurrection and our baptism.

We can have joy in renewed hope for the future. And we must accept our responsibilities as members of the LC-I in bringing the light of the Gospel in the true catholic understanding to all people.

Therefore, I urge you to make plans to affirm your attendance at our Synod meeting. Full details are provided in this edition of the *Bulletin*. Members who are in good standing are those who are up to date on their LC-I dues and have made every effort to attend the annual Synod meetings unless explicitly excused by their diocesan bishop or the archbishop. Check the By-Laws of the Constitution for details and it is recommended that you print a copy and bring it with you. It is available on the LC-I website.

Our Synod gathering for 2025 promises to be a joyous event with the nomination and election of a new Bishop Ordinary for the Southern Diocese and reception of new clerical members. And, with heartfelt thanks for God's blessings, we will welcome the newly-called pastor of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ in Rosedale, Queens, New York to the LC-I clergy.

We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your input. Please make every effort to be present. Accommodation will be provided for individuals who are unable to attend due to health or distance constraints. Please contact your bishop or the archbishop.

With every prayer for God's grace on our ministries together,

++Robert





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.

WE PRAY FOR...

- ◆ All who have suffered loss of homes and loved ones due to the devastating storms in our country.
- ◆ For those still suffering the loss of loved ones and their homes in North Carolina.
- ◆ For the families who have been reunited with loved ones released from captivity in the Middle East and for those yet to be released that they may be restored to health and wholeness.
- ◆ For all captives who have been deprived of their freedom throughout the world, that the hearts of leaders of all nations may be filled with compassion and forgiveness.
- ◆ For those suffering from illnesses in mind, body or spirit, especially those in the LC-I family.
- ◆ For the family of Pr. Wigmore at First Church, Lyons, NY.
- ◆ For all traveling during the summer season. May God keep them safe in His care.
- ◆ For those suffering through wars and natural disasters in other parts of the world.
- ◆ For all who suffer persecution for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially those in the LC-I family in Asia.
- ◆ For those planning the 2025 LC-I Synod Assembly and for those who will be attending Synod Assembly.
- ◆ For the people of Ukraine, as they continue to fight for their freedom and independence.
- ◆ Those who mourn the deaths of loved ones from disease and disaster, from violence and war.
- ◆ For Virginia (Ginny) Ettlemeyer, widow of Pr. Ettlemeyer, and sons, Michael and Martin, as they mourn the loss of their husband and father.
- ◆ For Deacon Eric Frank and the members of Zion, W. Jefferson, Ohio.
- ◆ For those who seek freedom from repression, torture and death, as they seek asylum in the United States.
- ◆ For firefighters and other first responders in lives of service that they be protected from all danger and harm.
- ◆ For our President and all elected officials, give them wisdom and strength to know God's will and to do it. Help them to remember that they are called to serve the people as

lovers of truth and justice.

WE PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING...

- ◆ For our Synod officers and members of our Executive Board as they work to further the mission and ministry of our Synod.
- ◆ For all of our rostered LC-I pastors and deacons, that they may be blessed as they work with us for the building of the Kingdom.
- ◆ For all the saints in the Church Militant, and in thanksgiving for all the saints in the Church Triumphant.

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.

The deadline for articles for our _____ issue is _____.

Please help us with relevant materials to make the upcoming season more meaningful than ever for our readers.

*<https://lutheranchurchinternation.org>

BULLETIN

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

2024-2025 LC-I OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Terms end as indicated)

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The Most Reverend Doctor Robert W. Hotes
Archbishop@LutheranChurchInternational.org

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Missionary Bishop

The Right Reverend Richard W. Horn
Bp.RWHorn@gmail.com



SEND IN YOUR
REGISTRATION

DUE JUNE 2

Annual Synod XXVI

DATES:

JUNE 23—25

The Synod will start with dinner on Monday evening, June 23, and end after the Closing Pontifical Eucharist on Wednesday, June 25.

LOCATION:

The Claggett Center

3035 Buckeystown Pike

Adamstown, Maryland

Nestled in the rolling hills of Frederick County, this center has wonderful views of Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy River Valley!

The added bonus is that it is only an hour's drive from three international airports!

COSTS

CHRISTIANE INN

1 Queen Bed

Private Bath

2 Nights Lodging, 6 Meals

One Person: Lodging & Meals \$348.00

Two Persons Sharing the Room:

Lodging & Meals \$530.00

Registration forms are available in this issue of the *BULLETIN* newsletter! Take a look at The Claggett Center online: www.claggettcenter.org

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Limited financial assistance may be available for attendance at the 2025 Synod gathering. Consideration will be based on individual cases. Those interested should make their requests known to their Bishop Ordinary. Approval will be determined by the LC-I Board.

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Friend”

by The Reverend Terrence L. Weber, STS KTJ

During the summer of 1983 I first met Gary Ettlemyer. I was being interviewed for the call as associate pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Greenport, Long Island, New York. Gary just happened to be the parish deacon, who after my interview with the senior pastor, was given the job of showing me around. I soon learned that Gary was a person who would become my treasured friend.

Gary was ordained on August 28, 1984, and joined the pastoral staff of St. Peter's Church. From that time on we had a close relationship. There were many pastoral duties that brought us together daily to which our mutual friendship and respect grew even deeper. In fact, whenever we celebrated mass we both wanted the other to serve beside us. We were like an old married couple. We got to know each other's mannerisms so well that we anticipated what the other needed simply by a glance of our eyes. Gary was like a brother to me even serving as my best man. In 1989 Gary left St. Peter's and I left in 1990. Over the years as our vocations took us in different directions, we always remained cherished friends.

The one thing I remember most about Gary was his faithfulness. First and foremost, he was faithful to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was a faithful husband to Ginny, a faithful father to Michael and Martin, a faithful grandfather, a faithful friend, and a faithful pastor to his parishioners. For our purposes, I want to concentrate on his faithfulness as a pastor. There was not a time since we became friends that Gary did not give it his all when undertaking a project. He was that kind of a guy. We worked side by side for many years at St. Peter's and Gary amazed me how he lovingly, thoroughly, and painstakingly cared for those who came to him for pastoral advice. He strengthened his flock and friends because of his faithfulness. When people had no idea what to do in time of crisis, Pastor Gary always knew what to do or say. He would find a way to guide them. Gary was faithful in his celebration of the liturgy, in his preaching and teaching of God's Word, in his personal prayer, and in his study and preparation. Working on a pastoral staff involved doing many things you may not be too thrilled about. Whenever Gary got such an assignment, he always threw himself into it. While I might have grumbled and complained, Pastor Gary would always smile and put the best construction on whatever it was. He had a positive attitude towards most things. In being a faithful pastor to his flock, Gary would give you more than you bargained for. In later years, when Gary and I would commiserate on the phone, I always had to make sure I had the time to give him. We both became quite animated in our lengthy conversations, but it was Gary who would take the discussion to the nth degree. No matter how much time passed between our conversations, we always picked up as if it were the next day. Though I was ordained five years before him, Pastor Gary taught me a great deal about the faithfulness of a pastor, a mentor, and a friend.

Gary had many other outstanding qualities, but he never blew his own horn. He sought perfection in all that he did. Photography was his hobby. It was a skill he taught himself. Working with his photographic equipment during these last years helped him to occupy his mind with something else other than his health issues. Gary challenged himself to take an ordinary picture and work with it repeatedly until it was a spectacular piece of art; until it was just what he wanted.

The day before Pastor Gary entered the fullness of eternal life, we had quite the discussion on the telephone comparing notes about our latest health issues. I was stunned to return home after mass on Sunday the next day to receive a message that Gary died earlier that morning. It was February 23rd. When our lives took different turns, I missed seeing him and talking with him daily. Most of all, I missed celebrating mass with him and working with him. I was glad that our paths crossed so many years ago. I do miss him but take comfort in knowing he is at rest in the arms of a loving Savior. “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

+ + + +

REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Synod XXVI of the Lutheran Church – International

Monday, June 23, 2025 to Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Annual Synod Registration Includes Room and Meals

Single - \$348

Double - \$530

PLEASE REGISTER BY MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

No. Attending: _____ Registration Confirmed _____ Registration PAID by _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

[Diet Restrictions/Food Allergies](#) _____

SEND TO: The Rev. William Wigmore, Treasurer

15 High Street

Lyons, NY 14489

OR PastorWigmore@gmail.com

(215) 416-9591

====PLEASE RETURN THE ABOVE WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE BY JUNE 2, 2025====

Annual Synod XXVI of the Lutheran Church – International

June 23 – 25, 2025

Hosted by the LC-I Southern Diocese

Location: The Claggett Center

3035 Buckeystown Pike

Adamstown, MD 21710

Annual Synod Registration:

Single: \$348

Double: \$530

(Fee Includes Room and Meals)

Nearest Airports from The Claggett Center are:

Dulles Int'l. – 40 Miles

Ronald Regan Washington Nat'l. – 47 Miles

Baltimore/Washington Int'l. – 62 Miles

POINTS OF VIEW...

(Note: The reflections presented in this section are the opinions of the individual authors and are not official statements by the LC-I Board or its officers.)

“Faced With All This, What Can We Say?”

+Richard W. Horn

In the letter of Saint Paul to the Christians in Rome, Paul (the same persecutor Saul) was writing to people who understood and experienced unjust persecution at the hands of the ruling government, the Romans. It was not a “pretty” experience for the early Christians, as it would not be for Paul in the days ahead. The persecution was brutal and often deadly. For those undergoing the tragic persecution, hope was barely known. Paul knew the effects of the persecutions he perpetrated and also later experienced. Yet, even with this prospect facing himself, Paul wrote “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” [Romans 8:18] The source of hope, Paul says, is not only for the future, but that the Holy Spirit helps us and intercedes on our behalf.

As he continues in Romans (chapter 8), Paul asks “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” [Romans 8:31, 34] Paul responds with a resounding “No!” Nothing “in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Romans 8:37-39]

But what about us, today? Are Christians, or anyone else in our lifetime or experience facing any kind of unjust persecution, imprisonment, or even death? Saint Paul is shouting out to us with words of encouragement and hope, but he is also pleading with us to speak out in response!

Within the past 100 years, unjust and tragic events happened in Germany when the people supported a far-right leader who promised food and economic recovery from within. After installation as Chancellor of Germany in January 1933, that leader (Adolph Hitler) blamed all Germany’s problems on the opposition parties, which he then banned. Within months, everyone was required to submit to Hitler’s decrees, including all of the government officials, civic and social organizations, and even the churches. The Weimar Constitution of 1919 was suspended by the Enabling Act of 1933, laws were ignored, new laws instituted, loyalty to Hitler was demanded. Punishment for opposition could be imprisonment, deportation or exile, even execution. Speaking out could be dangerous, or even fatal!

One outspoken leader in the “Confessing Church” which opposed the decrees and anti-Jewish requirements imposed on the church, was Dr. Martin Niemöller. The subservience of the church to the Nazis in 1933 compelled Niemöller to speak out in sermons and speeches against the Nazi regime. By 1937, Niemöller had been arrested and imprisoned for seven months; but almost immediately after his release from prison, Hitler demanded that he be rearrested as “Hitler’s Personal Prisoner,” and sent to Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps in “protective custody.” Niemöller remained a prisoner from then until his liberation by the Allies seven years later, on April 29, 1945. Niemöller’s close friend in the Confessing Church, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, however, was executed in Berlin’s Flossenbürg Prison on April 9, 1945, just days before Allied liberation, and three weeks before Hitler’s suicide.

In January, 1946, Martin Niemöller spoke to an assembly of the Confessing Church in Frankfurt, lamenting the German people’s overall fear of Nazi revenge and oppression - and the silence of intellectuals, even of the clergy, and of himself. **Silence and acquiescence allowed untold violence and horrors against unsuspecting and vulnerable people** by authorities using the judiciary, police, military, vigilantes and even neighbors.

“We preferred to keep silent. We are certainly not without fault, and I ask myself again and again, what would have happened, if in the year 1933 or 1934—there must have been a possibility—14,000 Protestant pastors and all Protestant communities in Germany had defended the truth until their deaths? If we had said back then, it is not right when Hermann Göring simply puts 100,000 Communists in the concentration camps, in order to let them die. I can imagine that perhaps 30,000 to 40,000 Protestant Christians would have had their heads cut off, but I can also imagine that we would have rescued 30–40 million people, because that is what it is costing us now.”

Marcuse, Harold. [Martin Niemöller's famous confession: "First they came for the Communists ..."](#). University of California at Santa Barbara.

Martin Niemöller reflected on his submission and silence:

“I kept silent until it was too late!”
First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Jew.

*Then they came for me—
and there was no one left who could protest.*

All this happened in the name of a “national revival” operating out of revenge, making demands of total obedience. Political prisoners, immigrants, even citizens, were forcibly depatriated, “undesired” people deported without charges, trials or appeals and due process. “Forced labor” concentration camps in foreign countries to which anyone could be forcibly, and unjustly, sent to die – and millions did die.

As Saint Paul said to the Romans, he is saying to us, too: **“Faced with all this, what can we say?”** After the attack on America, September 11, 2001, everyone in America was reminded that:
“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING!”

None of us lives in Nazi Germany! Police are not the East German “Stasi,” or the KGB. But Martin Niemöller was right; and the Peaceful Revolution that started in the churches in Leipzig (1989) was equally right. Both reminded everyone, everywhere, that, while the authorities can come for us, imprison us, or even kill us, they can’t do that to ALL of us. A contemporary speaker in our day, Sen. Cory Booker (NJ), reminds us that *“the power of the people is always greater than the people in power.”* Like our ancestors in faith, the early Christians in Rome, we should shout out boldly in the face of persecutions and injustices, filled with hope, knowing that God has won the victory and that none of these persecutions and injustices cannot ever stop the love of God from us or by us!

Don’t be afraid to speak out. Don’t fear the persecutors. The battle isn’t over, but the victory is already won! ***Speak out boldly, without acquiescence, without silence!***

*Bishop Richard W. Horn
May, 2005*



THE VALLEY FORGE PRAYER

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

George Washington (1732-1799)



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

Reminder—2025 Dues

FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE LC-I

CLERGY AND LAY MINISTER MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$75.00 USD

CONGREGATIONS / COMMUNITIES OF FAITH MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$150.00 USD

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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL

2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

_____ 2025 Dues for Ministerial Members: \$75

_____ 2025 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)

Requiescat in pace:
The Reverend Gary V. Ettlemeyer
1947-2025

Born in Gloversville, New York, on July 23, 1947, Gary V. Ettlemeyer spent much of his childhood in White Plains, New York, Alabama, and Georgia. In 1958, he returned with his family to Tarrytown, New York, where his father acquired a funeral business. Following graduation from Sleepy Hollow High School in 1965 (*Regents, Honors in Spanish*), he received his B.S., Ed. in Elementary Education with a Minor in Spanish from Wagner College, Staten Island, New York, in 1969. He began his teaching career at Trinity Lutheran School, Staten Island, while finishing his degree at Wagner. He also taught at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island for two summers.

Following his work at Trinity, he was employed as an elementary teacher in the Mattituck School District in eastern Long Island from 1970 until his pastoral ordination in 1984. While there he received his M.A. from the State University at Stony Brook in 1972. While teaching and being called to the ministry, he studied at the George Mercer, Jr. Memorial School of Theology (Episcopal), Garden City, New York. During this period, he was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Greenport, where he was later council president and presbyterally ordained a deacon, assisting regularly at the altar and additional diaconal ministry during the pastorate of The Rev. William A. Coleman (himself later a clergyman of LC-I). Under the supervision of the East Coast Synod, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) and Christ Seminary – Seminex, St. Louis, he completed the equivalent course requirements for the M.Div. from Seminex and was certified by his synod for Ordination in July, 1984.

Pastor Ettlemeyer was ordained by the Reverend Dr. Rudolph P. F. Ressmeyer, Bishop of the East Coast Synod, on the feast of St. Augustine, August 28, 1984, at St. Peter's. Participating in his ordination were future LC-I pastors Coleman, Weber, and Bougher. His initial call was to a three-fold form of ministry: Pastoral Assistant at St. Peter's; Director of Chaplaincy at the San Simeon by the Sound Nursing Home (owned and operated by the congregation), and CEO of the San Simeon Retirement Community then under development.

In 1987, Pastor Ettlemeyer was called as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Yonkers, New York, where he served through 1992. While there, he served on the Worship Committee of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA, in which he had become a member through the merger of the AELC with others to form the ELCA in 1987.

In 1992, he was called to be the Pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lynbrook, New York, where he served until 1998. While at St., John's he was Chaplain to the Lynbrook Fire Department and the Lynbrook Police Department. He was honored as "Man of the Year" by the Village of Lynbrook for activities related to those two departments and also served on the Board of the Inter-denominational Housing Program of Long Island.

In 1998 he was called to be Pastor of Spruce Run Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glen Gardner, New Jersey, where he served until his retirement from active ministry in 2019. While there he was an ordained minister of the ELCA's New Jersey Synod. At Spruce Run he was instrumental in establishing the Spruce Run Preschool. He also served as Chaplain of the Glen Gardner Fire Department while still maintaining his chaplaincy status in Lynbrook. During his ministry in Spruce Run, he also served in the morgue at "Ground Zero" after 9/11 in his capacity as a Fire Department Chaplain. This also was due to his being raised in his family's funeral business.

In 2014 Pastor Ettlemeyer accepted a request to participate in the Clergy on Call for the Office of the County Prosecutor of Hunterdon County, serving on call one or two days per month. In 2016 he completed state requirements to become a certified Disaster Response Crisis Counselor (DRCC) and Chaplain under the Certification Board and the Mental Health Association of New Jersey.

He also actively participated in One Voice – Faith Communities of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, an organization that brings together law enforcement, the Safe Communities Coalition, and faith-based community leaders to have "one voice" in addressing issues of substance abuse, crime and safety in communities. Working closely with the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, One Voice promises education and cooperation between community faith-based leaders, chaplains, and law enforcement.

After retirement from the active ministry, he became increasingly convinced that the ELCA had drifted far from the teachings of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, which he had sworn to uphold in his ordination vows. In February 2022 he made this clear by submitting his resignation from the ministerial rolls of the ELCA. In June, 2023, Pastor Ettlemeyer was received to the ministerial rolls of the Lutheran Church – International by affirmation of ordination in apostolic succession at the annual synod. He was then called to service as Assistant to the Archbishop, Assistant to the Bishop of his diocese, and Director of Communications for LC-I, which included being editor of our

newsletter the *Bulletin*.

On November 22, 1969, Pastor Ettlemeyer was married to his wife, Virginia (nee Nelsen), whom he met while they were at Wagner College, from which she received her B.S. in Nursing degree. She retired from nursing after a fruitful career in ICU/CCU nursing, providing private critical care nursing, and working in post-partum maternity care. They have two sons who are married and three grandchildren: Michael (married to Annelies van der Wateren – son Andrew Robert) and Martin (married to Frances X. Carias – children, Gary Thomas and Sophia Grace).

After retirement Pastor and Ginny maintained their residence in Belvidere, New Jersey. He was always interested in all things Lutheran and was an avid photographer and woodworker.

On August 24, 2024, a Solemn Festival Eucharist with Renewal of Ordination Vows celebrated the 40th anniversary of Pastor Ettlemeyer's ordination at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Blairstown, New Jersey, with Pastor Ettlemeyer presiding. LC-I Bishops Bougher and Horn, and LC-I Pastor Weber concelebrated, with Bishop Bougher preaching.

On the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 23, shortly after having completed work on the latest *LC-I Bulletin*, and while working on LC-I work at his computer at home, Pastor Ettlemeyer suddenly fell to the floor and died. Approximately 75 friends, family, and former parishioners again gathered at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Blairstown to celebrate a Requiem Eucharist of the Resurrection for Pastor Ettlemeyer on Friday, February 28. Bishops Bougher and Horn concelebrated, with Bishop Bougher delivering the sermon. Family members participated as lectors and in presenting the gifts. On Saturday, March 1, Bishop Bougher presided at Pastor Ettlemeyer's burial at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, New York.

May Pastor Gary V. Ettlemeyer, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Readers are requested to pray for the family and their welfare in these days, and especially for Mrs. Virginia Ettlemeyer, Fr. Gary's widow, who has been under medical care in these days following Pr. Ettlemeyer's funeral.

Prepared from the Anniversary of Ordination bulletin and other documents by Bishop Bougher.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord for they rest from their labors.





Pastor Robert M. Rainis and Deacon Sevika Sooppersaud at the passing of the peace during mass prior to the congregational meeting to extend him a divine call at Christ Church on April 6.



Kim Nicholas, immediate past president of Christ Church



Christ Church parish hall at the congregational call meeting



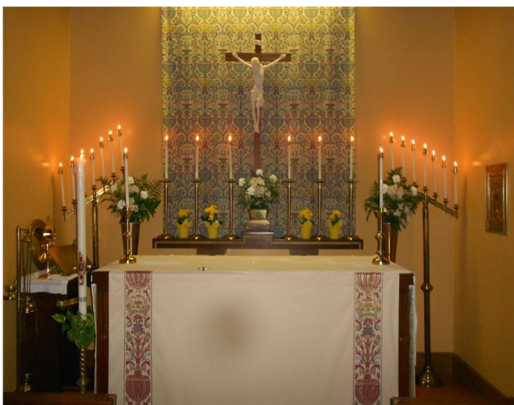
Crystal Gleich and Judith Bartlett, members at Christ Church, at the mass prior to the congregational meeting to extend a call to Pastor Rainis.



Maundy Thursday, Consecration of the Oils at the Chrism Mass at Christ Church



Good Friday - Christ Church
Rosedale, NY



Easter Sunday at Christ Church
Rosedale, NY

