



# BULLETIN

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

## The Lutheran Church-International and the Lutheran World Parish

Pentecost – Pre-Synod 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the LC-I Family,

I pray that you are experiencing rich blessings and joys during this glorious season of Eastertide and Pentecost! As we all know, the blessings of the Feast of the Resurrection and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit acknowledged and commemorated through the Feast of Pentecost guide and strengthen us throughout the year, but, in my mind, these days of rebirth and renewal are special to those of us who are Christians in the Lutheran and evangelical catholic understanding. For us in the LC-I, these days of new beginnings in 2026 offer great opportunities for increased and transformed service to the Lord's Kingdom.

The days and weeks of Eastertide and Pentecost offer to us special hope for renewed strength and confidence in ministry. As I have often remarked, I firmly believe that



++Robert W. Hotes, Archbishop

media showed crowds of young men and women at sunrise services in New York City. It seems too good to be true. But perhaps it is not. God's grace works miracles in unlikely circumstances.

Commentators are searching for "logical" explanations. Some suggest that the new American Pope has somehow kindled the curiosity of Generation Z. Others suggest that young people, especially Generation Z, are bored with cell phone life and feel a need for increased human contact in this lonely age of advancing and ever-encroaching applications of Artificial Intelligence. But perhaps those of us who are blessed with the gift of faith have another answer, an answer that does not shortchange those who whole heartedly wish to invest their lives in the love and service of Christ. In my opinion, the LC-I can be, and is, a

the LC-I has a special role to play in the service of God's Kingdom. In these troubled days when Christians and non-Christians alike are searching for the truth and the stability of faith, the solid evangelical catholic position and teaching of the LC-I can be a "mighty fortress" and a bulwark against chaos and despair.

So often in my years of ministry, including twenty-plus as presiding bishop and later archbishop of the LC-I, the days before and after Easter Sunday were filled with reports of the decline of Christianity and the bankruptcy of traditional Christian faith. News media at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> presented gloating pictures of almost empty pews populated by a few silver-headed faithful. Along with articles lionizing non-Christian forms of faith, articles and TV programs gloried in the pronouncement that in this age formal religion is a waste of time. Perhaps not dead but irrelevant. Aging congregations and empty pews on Good Friday and Easter Sunday in 2025. Those were the images fed to us by the media in 2025.

Not this year. Not in 2026. Reports from Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox parishes and seminaries show increasing interest in vocations to the priesthood among young men. And urban parishes were reported to have seen increased attendance by people in their twenties at services during Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection itself. Pictures online and in social

light on the path to walking with Christ in these troubled days.

The LC-I made a commitment as a church body to serve Christ's people as an evangelical catholic church body. That commitment is firmly grounded in the truthful understanding of the Augsburg Confession. Over the years our understanding of what God's will is for the shape of this service has evolved. But our goals of service and theological understandings remain the same.

We in the LC-I have been given many gifts, both to each of us as ministers in Christ's name, and to the LC-I as a church body. In the spirit of service, we listen to the words of St. Paul in traditional, copyright-free English:

### 1 Corinthians 12:3, 6-13 (KJV)

*3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

*6 And there are diversities of opera-*

*tions, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

*7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

*8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

*9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

*10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

*11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

*12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

*13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

When it was founded in 1967 as the International Lutheran Fellowship, the LC-I had a different form and appearance. But although the understanding of what we are called to be and do in the Lord's service has developed, the nature and commitment of the LC-I as stated in our Constitution remains the same:

## **Article II DOCTRINE**

### **Article II, Section 1: Doctrines**

As an evangelical Christian Fellowship in general and a Lutheran fellowship in particular, the Lutheran Church - International accepts and acknowledges the Holy Scriptures as the divinely inspired and revealed Word of God, inerrant and wholly reliable, and the only infallible rule and standard for faith and practice. The Lutheran Church - International is unreservedly and without compromise dedicated to the "holding fast the faithful Word" of the Holy Scriptures (Titus 1:9), and to the "contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). It accepts and confesses not only the three oldest creeds of Christendom (the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian) as faithful summaries of the central truths of Scriptures, but also the unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true exposition of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity together with the further development of these doctrines as contained in the Lutheran Confessions found in the Book of Concord in the sense that these confessions themselves declare in the Preface of the Formula of Concord.

### **Article II, Section 2: Name Change**

This article shall not be changed except for the name of this church body (Article I).

## **Article III PURPOSE**

### **Article III, Section 1: Biblical Purpose**

To fulfill its biblical and confessional mandate, the Lutheran Church - International, in accordance with Acts 2:42, shall promote:

- a. worship of God centered in Word and Sacrament (*leitourgia*);
- b. proclamation of the Good News of Jesus (*kerygma*);
- c. teaching of Christian Truth within the Church (*didache*);
- d. communion of saints in loving fellowship between Christians (*koinonia*);
- e. spiritual Life of Prayer, Bible-reading, and Devotion (*eusebia*);
- f. care of those in need (*diakonia*);
- g. evangelization of those who do not know Christ (*apostolé*); and
- h. good order and tranquility of the Church in accordance with the pattern of governance universally known in Christendom (*episcopé*).

### **Article III, Section 2: A Church Body**

The Lutheran Church – International is a church body for ministers and communities of faith (as described in Article IV) who subscribe to the doctrines and confessions of the Lutheran Church – International as outlined in its supporting Constitution and By-Laws, who make proper application for membership and who are duly received as described in this Constitution.

It is my hope to be able, by God's grace and in collaboration with LC-I founding members, to provide an account of the history of the LC-I. But that is a project for the future.

As we enter this time of transition with my retirement, we can have great confidence and joy. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and His chosen leadership, we can rejoice in the good news of the Gospel that is bolstered by the hope in the recent news of renewal of yearning for the strength and comfort of the universal orthodox Christian faith among millennials and members of Generation Z. As evangelical Catholics in the Lutheran understanding, we can offer what so many are seeking. By God's grace,

we can do so if we will. But we must all work to make the LC-I's blessings of sound doctrine and transforming liturgics known to those who are thirsting for the truth.

I urge you to join me at our 2026 Synod Assembly at our headquarters in Lyons, New York. Let us plan and work together to make known the gifts that God have bestowed upon the Body of Christ that is represented in the LC-I, so that His will may be done through our ministries.

May God bless and keep you always in His care.

++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](mailto:dbldoc@sbcglobal.net).

### WE PRAY FOR...

Every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation especially Ukraine, Israel, Iran, the Middle East, Africa, Venezuela and even our own nation.

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.

All leaders of the world, especially our own president Donald, that you would strengthen their resolve and work for peace in their nations.

All bishops, pastors, deacons and church workers, that as they preach and teach the Word, all who hear may believe.

Those suffering through natural disasters in other parts of the world.

All who suffer persecution for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially those in the LC-I family in Asia.

Those suffering from illnesses in mind, body or spirit, especially those in the LC-I family.

Pastor Robert Rainis, as he continues his recovery from heart surgery.

The Very Rev. Father William Babbitt as he recovers from his recent surgery.

Those who mourn the deaths of loved ones from disease and

disaster, from violence and war.

Brenda and Shanon Brendlinger, as they mourn the loss of their husband, father.

Patrick Rooney, as he recovers from health issues.

Darlene Gies as she mourns the death of her husband, William, and her son.

Deacon Eric Frank and the members of Zion, W. Jefferson, Ohio.

Phyllis Bischoff, mother of Bishop Jeffrey, who is facing health issues, and for Michelle her daughter, who is caring for her.

Healing of Bobby and Charley, members of Deacon Eric's family.

The Society of the Holy Trinity as they discern their new Senior.

Firefighters and other first responders in lives of service that they be protected from all danger and harm.

The Deacons and Deaconesses of the Lutheran Diaconal Association.

Those planning the 2026 LC-I Synod Assembly.

### 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 Pastors Peter Jacobson and Isaiah Bai who will receive historic succession at our Synod Assembly in July 2026.

For all the saints in the Church Militant, and in thanksgiving for all the saints in the Church Triumphant.

For all members of the Lutheran World Parish.

For our Archbishop who so personally exemplifies the love of Christ in his pastoral and priestly ministry as he shepherds our flock.

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## 2026 ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations!

Name	Office	Years	Year
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Aubrey N. Bougher	Episcopal	20 Years	2006
The Rt. Rev. Richard W. Horn	Episcopal	10 Years	2016
The Very Rev. Dr. William F. Babbitt	Priestly	30 Years	1996
The Rev. Gene M. Fortune	Priestly	65 Years	1961
The Rev. Arthur F. Hebbeler III	Priestly	25 Years	2001
The Rev. Robert M. Rainis	Priestly	15 Years	2011
The Rev. William H. Wigmore III	Priestly	10 Years	2016
The Rev. Deacon Sevika Soopersaud	Deacon	35 Years	1991
Deaconess Christine Stephenson	Deaconess	10 Years	2016

*In gratitude, we recognize you for your years of faithful service in Word and Sacrament and as a humble witness to Christ.  
God's blessings on you as you celebrate your milestone anniversary!*

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

## **Apostolic Succession in the Lutheran Church - International**

By the Rt. Rev. Aubrey N. Bougher

In recent publications of the Lutheran Church-International (LC-I), explanations of historic apostolic succession have been offered by the archbishop and others. As one of the few who has lived through the history of LC-I's adoption and use of this historic gift, and writing essentially from memory, I felt it might be helpful to present that history to the wider membership and public. Therefore this brief historical sketch.

The Lutheran Church – International is a continuation of the International Lutheran Fellowship (ILF), founded by the Rev. Dr. E. Edward Tornow in 1967 as a small Lutheran denomination. The practice of apostolic succession was not a part of Dr. Tornow's vision, which continued the presbyteral ordination practices common in most American Lutheran church bodies. While the history of ILF prior to 1996 is murky, it remained as founded with respect to apostolic succession. During that period the group apparently had many members in both the U.S.A. and Canada, but as time went on it deteriorated in membership size until only Dr. Tornow remained.

The Rev. Dr. C. George Fry, an ordained minister of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), after 1988 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a church historian resident in Ohio, who had taught at Concordia Seminary (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS)) in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, took an interest in ILF and with Kenneth Johnson, later an ILF Deacon and Treasurer, visited Dr. Tornow in North Dakota. There he was named Vice President of ILF and offered the post of bishop in ILF. He insisted, however, that he would only accept being named a bishop if he could be a bishop in apostolic historic succession. Since Dr. Tornow did not have (or claim to have) such succession, he permitted Dr. Fry to request such ordination as a bishop in historic succession from a denomination which could transmit it, and which agreed to do it.

Dr. Fry, after negative responses, received an invitation to discuss his proposal from the Most Rev. Dr. Huron Clay Manning, Jr., presiding bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church (SEC), whose cathedral was All Saints Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee. This church possessed historic apostolic succession (lineage in listing following this article). Agreement was made as to responsibility of Dr. Fry to SEC while becoming a bishop in ILF, giving ILF historic succession, and such succession was given in 1996, at which time Dr. Fry accepted his vice presidency and bishopric in ILF.

In the next few years, the ILF grew chiefly by adding already-ordained pastors from ELCA and LC-MS, as well as those of other denominations who confessed allegiance to the Lutheran Confessions. In the meantime, the Rt. Rev. Richard M. Johnson, a bishop of SEC, was added to the rolls of ILF, as was the Rt. Rev. Robert W. Hotes, who was ordained by SEC in apostolic succession as a bishop in 2004 for work in Indiana and Illinois in the ILF, thus giving ILF the three bishops customary for ordination of new bishops.

Beginning at the Synod of 2003 and concluding in 2004, strategic amendments were made to the ILF Constitution, embodying a less corporate and more traditionally ecclesiastical structure which placed historic apostolic succession as a constitutive reality of ILF. At the 2004 Synod, held in conjunction with members of the Church of Christ Catholic International (CCCI) in Niagara Falls, Ontario, ILF Bishop Fry and CCCI Bishop Brown laid hands on all presbyterally-ordained pastors and deacons bringing them into historic succession in their particular ordinations. Since then, pastors and deacons presbyterally ordained have been received by affirmation of ordination, transmitting historic succession. (That order was based upon a rite used by a visiting bishop of the Church of Sweden for presbyterally ordained American Lutheran pastors.)

With the bishops in succession in place, several bishops have been consecrated/ordained by ILF bishops since 2004: the undersigned in 2006; Jeffrey D. Bischoff in 2010; Richard W. Horn in 2016; and Rodney L. Eberhardt in 2025. Bishop Juan O. Cepero, already ordained in apostolic succession, was received by affirmation of Episcopal ordination in 2012.

ILF became LC-I in 2010, a name which reflects the ecclesiastical reality of our church body but has operated as a church in historic apostolic succession since 2004.

I present my own lineage as an example of this succession:

## **Apostolic Lineage For The Right Reverend Aubrey Nelson Bougher**

**AUBREY NELSON BOUGHER**, Bishop of the Northeast Ministerium of the International Lutheran Fellowship. Consecrated June 3, 2006, in Christ Church, Rosedale (Queens, New York City), New York, by the Right Reverend Dr. **Robert W. Hotes**, Missionary Bishop for Indiana and Illinois in the International Lutheran Fellowship. Co-consecrator: The Right Reverend Dr. Richard M. Johnson, Missionary Bishop for the South in the International Lutheran Fellowship. Bishop Hotes substituted for Presiding Bishop C. George Fry, who was scheduled to be principal consecrator but was at the last moment unable to be present. He authorized, in conjunction with ancient canons re apostolic succession in accordance with the Council of Nicaea, the consecration to take place with only one co-consecrator, but with his full approval. Authenticity for the ordination with one co-consecrator was further ratified by telephone by the Most Reverend Huron Clay Manning, Jr., Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church, from whom Bishops Hotes and Johnson received their succession. Presiding Bishop Manning later documented the authenticity of this consecration in written form.

**ROBERT W. HOTES**, Missionary Bishop for the Southern Episcopal Church (later also: in August, 2004, Missionary Bishop for Indiana and Illinois in the International Lutheran Fellowship, and in July, 2006, Presiding Bishop of the International Lutheran Fellowship). Consecrated August 4, 2004, in All Saints' Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee, by the Most Reverend Dr. **Huron Clay Manning**, Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church. Co-consecrators: The Right Reverend Dr. Richard M. Johnson, Missionary Bishop, the Southern Episcopal Church; and the Right Reverend William David Dyer, Co-adjutor Bishop, Diocese of the South in the Southern Episcopal Church.

**HURON CLAY MANNING**, Missionary Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church (later: in July, 1987, Co-adjutor Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church, and in November, 1990, Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church). Consecrated August 10, 1983, by the Most Reverend **Burnice Hoyle Webster**, Presiding Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church. Co-consecrators: The Right Reverend William H. Green; and the Right Reverend Henry L. Atwell, episcopal sees not noted.

**BURNICE HOYLE WEBSTER**, Bishop of the Southern Episcopal Church (later Presiding Bishop). Consecrated in 1965 (date not given) by the Right Reverend **Julius Hinton Massey**, Bishop in the North American Old Roman Catholic Church (see not noted). Co-consecrator: the Right Reverend Orlando J. Woodward (only one co-consecrator listed).

**JULIUS HINTON MASSEY**, Bishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church. Consecrated *sub conditione* in 1963 (date not given) by the Most Reverend **Richard Arthur Marchenna**, Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church. Co-consecrators not listed. Originally consecrated in 1945 (date not given) by the Right Reverend Denver Scott Swain, see not given. Co-consecrators: Archbishop Marchenna (see above) and the Right Reverend Hubert Augustine Rogers, then Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church.

**RICHARD ARTHUR MARCHENNA**, Bishop for the Eastern Coastal States, later Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church (original call not listed) in April 16, 1941 by the Most Reverend **Carmel Henry Carfora**, Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church. Co-consecrators not given.

**CARMEL HENRY CARFORA**, later Archbishop of the North American Old Roman Catholic Church (original call not listed), in October 4, 1916 by the Right Reverend **Rudolph** Edward de Landas-Berghes et de Rache, see not given. Co-consecrators not given.

**RUDOLPH** Edward de Landas-Berghes et de Rache, call not listed, in June 19, 1913 (two other sources stated June 29, 1913), by the Most Reverends **Arnold Harris Matthew** and **Francis Herbert Bacon**, Old Catholic Archbishop of Great Britain. Co-consecrators not given. (*He refused to use the title Prince as it was for his older brother who died.*)

*Here the line of the Southern Episcopal Church and the Church of Christ Catholic International join into the same succession from the Old Roman Catholic Church (aka the Old Catholic Church).*

**ARNOLD HARRIS MATTHEW**, original see not noted; later (1911) Archbishop of the Old Catholic Church in Great Britain, on April 28, 1908, by The Most Reverend **Geradus (aka Gerard) Gul**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands) in the Old Catholic Church. Co-consecrators: the Right Reverend J. J. Van Tiel, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands); and N. B. Spit (aka Spruit), Bishop of Deventer (the Netherlands).

**GERARD (aka Geradus) GUL**, original see not noted; later Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands) in the Old Catholic Church, on May 11, 1892, in the Cathedral at Utrecht, by The Right Reverend **Casparus Johannes (aka Gaspard John) Rinkel**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**CASPARUS JOHANNES (aka Gaspard John) RINKEL**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands) in the Old Catholic Church, on August 11, 1873, in the Cathedral at Haarlem by The Right Reverend **Hermann Heijkamp** (aka Herman Heykamp), Bishop of Deventer (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**HERMANN HEIJKAMP** (aka Herman or Hermanus Heykamp), Bishop of Deventer (the Netherlands) in the Old Catholic Church, on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1854, in the Cathedral at Deventer by the Most Rev. **Johannes (John) Van Santen**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**JOHANNES (John) VAN SANTEN**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on November 13, 1825, in the cathedral at Utrecht by the Right Reverend **Johannes (John) Bon**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given. (He was elected to be archbishop on July 14, 1825.)

**JOHANNES (John) BON**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on April 22, 1819, in the cathedral at Haarlem, by the Most Rev. Willibrord **Van Os**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**WILLIBRORD VAN OS**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands) in the Old Catholic Church, on April 24, 1814, in the Cathedral at Utrecht, by the Right Reverend **Gilbert Cornelius de Jong**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**GILBERT CORNELIUS DE JONG**, Bishop of Deventer (the Netherlands), later Bishop of Haarlem, in the Old Catholic Church, on November 7, 1805, in the Cathedral at Deventer, by the Most Reverend **Johannes Jacobus (John James) Van Rhijn**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**JOHANNES JACOBUS (John James) VAN RHIJN**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on July 5, 1797, in the cathedral at Utrecht, by the Right Reverends **Adrian Brockman**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands) and **Nicolaas Van Nellesmans**, Bishop of Deventer (the Netherlands).

**ADRIAN JOHANNES BROEKMAN (aka Johannes Adrian Brockman)**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on June 21, 1778, in the cathedral at Haarlem, by the Most Reverend **Walter Michael (Gaultherus Michael) Van Nieuwenhuizen**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**WALTER MICHAEL (Gaultherus Michael) VAN NIEWENHUIZEN**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on February 7, 1768, in the cathedral at Utrecht, by the Right Reverend **Johannes (John) Van Stiphout**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands). Co-consecrators not given.

**JOHANNES (John) STIPHOUT**, Bishop of Haarlem (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on

July 11, 1745, in the cathedral at Haarlem, by the Most Reverend **Peter John (Petrus Johannes) Meindaarts (aka Meindearts)**, Archbishop of Utrecht. Co-consecrators not given.

**PETRUS JOHANNES (Peter John) MEINDAARTS (aka Meindearts)**, Archbishop of Utrecht (the Netherlands), in the Old Catholic Church, on October 18, 1739, by the Right Reverend **Dominique-Marie Varlet**, Roman Catholic Bishop of Ascalon *in partibus* (territories lost to infidels) (and Co-adjutor to the Bishop of Babylon, Persia). Co-consecrators not given.

*Archbishop Meindaarts' consecration was in response to the appeal of the Cathedral Chapter at Utrecht. He had been ordained as a priest with several others by the Right Reverend Luke Fagan, Bishop of Menth (Ireland; he was later Archbishop of Dublin), to sustain the Church of the Netherlands, then under an interdict of the pope. Through his consecration as a bishop by Bishop Varlet, the succession in Holland was perpetuated through the Old Catholic Church of that time. The remainder of succession is through the Roman Catholic Church.*

**DOMINIQUE-MARIE VARLET**, Bishop of Ascalon *in partibus* (later Bishop of Babylon, co-adjutor from November 20, 1727), on February 19, 1719, by the Right Reverend **James Coyon de Matignon**, Bishop of Condom (France), in a church in Paris, France, by order of Pope Clement XI. Bishop Matignon was assisted by Louis-François Duplessis de Mornay, coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Quebec, and the bishop of Clermont, and who were instrumental in the formation of the Old Catholic Church by the consecration of Cornelius Van Strenhoven as Archbishop of Utrecht on October 15, 1724.

*Note: Dominique Marie Varlet, consecrated in 1719 in Paris by Bishop de Matignon, assisted by the Bishop of Quebec and the Bishop of Clermont. Bishop Varlet was named Coadjutor to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Babylon who died on November 20, 1717 and Bishop Varlet succeeded to the title. After a period in Persia at Schamake (now in Azerbaijan), Bishop Varlet was suspended from office for alleged technical irregularities, including the confirmation of 604 candidates in Holland whom he had confirmed at the request of the Church in Amsterdam. The Dutch Church had been without a Bishop for 18 years as a punishment from Rome because the Dutch Church refused to cooperate in the persecution of the "Jansenists" in Holland. Following the election of Cornelius Van Steenhoven to serve as Archbishop of Utrecht, the Primatial See of Holland, Varlet agreed to perform the Consecration, which he did on October 15, 1724, thus making Van Steenhoven the seventh Archbishop of Utrecht and canonical successor to Saint Willibrord, the British missionary who had brought the faith to Holland. **In this consecration was born the Old Catholic Church.***

**JAMES GOYON (aka Goydon) DE MATIGNON**, Bishop of Condom, in October 24, 1693, in the church of Chartreuse, Paris, France, by **Jacques B. (James Bénigne) Bossuet** (known as the Eagle of Meaux), Bishop of Condom. Co-consecrators not given.

**JACQUES-BÉNIGNE BOSSUET** (aka James B. Bouseut, the Eagle of Meaux), Bishop of Condom, on September 21, 1670, by the Most Reverend **Charles Maurice Le Tellier**, Archbishop of Rheims, in the Church of the Cordeliers, Pontoise, France. Co-consecrators not given.

**CHARLES MAURICE LE TELLIER** (son of the Grand Chancellor of France), Archbishop of Nazianzus *in partibus*, later Archbishop of Rheims (France), on November 11, 1668, by the Most Reverend Eminence **Antonio Cardinal Barberini**, Archbishop of Rheims, in the Church of the Sorbonne, Paris, France. Co-consecrators not given.

**ANTONIO (later Cardinal) BARBERINI**, Bishop of Frascati (Italy) [from 1667 Archbishop of Rheims], a nephew of Pope Urban VIII, in 1655 (1657?) by **Giovanni Battista Scannaroli**, Bishop of Sidon, under authority of Pope Alexander VII. Co-consecrators the Right Reverend Excellency Marco Antonio Bottoni, Domestic Prelate to Alexander VII, and the Right Reverend Excellency Lorenzo Gavotti, Bishop of Ventimiglia.

**GIOVANNI BATTISTA SCANNAROLI's** consecration is under research but is believed by both the Roman and subsequent churches to be an authentic linkage in the apostolic succession in the area about Rome itself.



Mitzi Eberhardt, Editor  
 Assistant to the Archbishop for Communications  
 mve5022@gmail.com  
 The people, clergy, and bishops of the  
 LC-I contributing

### ANNUAL DUES

Please note that annual dues are **required** of ministerial members in the amount of \$75 and for communities of faith in the amount of \$150 each year in order to be in good standing.

They are due on January 1st of each year unless waived by your Bishop or Archbishop upon your request and approval by the Executive Board.

See form for submitting dues on **page 13** of this newsletter.

### SWEDISH COLONIAL SOCIETY

A member of the LC-I, The Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams, and his wife Ruth, have worked through 115 years of archives kept by the Swedish Colonial Society to create a gallery devoted to New Sweden history at the recently restored historic Lazaretto in Essington, PA. It is open and free to the public on the first Saturday of each month. Dr. Williams is also the historian of the Swedish Colonial Society and in this role made his PBS debut in July 2025 on NJ-PBS's "Drive By History," in an episode titled "New Sweden: The Untold Story."\*

\*Article from the Muhlenberg Magazine (Fall 2025). The excellent video referenced can be found on PBS (on their app, etc.):

<https://www.njpbs.org/programs/drive-by-history/new-sweden-the-untold-american-chapter-nsx1ne/>

A search in YouTube also shows three more lecture-style videos featuring Dr. Kim-Eric sharing his information about New Sweden, the Swedish colony in North America.

Swedes in America: Lutheran Tradition Kim Eric Williams  
<https://youtu.be/Y7-N30JuDTY?si=-SJ6S6auwbVoYn75>

How Sweden Built America | The Forgotten Colony with Dr. Kim-Eric Williams  
<https://youtu.be/W7wAIOzIE5M?si=OJkhiR4KeJmL7qRe>

Pennsylvania Before Penn Speaker: Rev. Dr Kim-Eric Williams  
[https://www.youtube.com/live/U0aOH-HrAIA?si=IQvhrE\\_nNOHIt5v](https://www.youtube.com/live/U0aOH-HrAIA?si=IQvhrE_nNOHIt5v)

(As an aside note, my ancestor, Maria Stalcop Smidt/Smith, 1697-1750), was instrumental in the building of the Old Swedes Church in Wilmington, Delaware. It is considered

one of the nation's oldest church buildings that is still in regular use as a house of worship. Originally, the church was established as a Swedish Lutheran Church to support the growing needs of the nearby New Sweden Colony.—*The Editor*)



*Lord, we confess that we often have refused the gift of your Spirit.*

*Content in our dimness we shrink from your Light.*

*Comfortable in our coolness we withdraw from your Fire.*

*We would be moved — but carefully.*

*We would feel — but mildly.*

*Forgive us for begrudging the coming of your Spirit, or for accepting your Fire, only to smother it selfishly.*

*Forgive us, and visit us again.*

*We pray now, in Jesus' name, not for warm thoughts, but for burning hearts.*

*For there is much that we must see, and much that we must do.*

*Amen.*

From: Banquet of Praise, Saturday of the Week of Pentecost XII, "For All the Saints," Vol. II



(Registration Form is found on page 11)

## UPCOMING 2026 SYNOD INFO

### Annual Synod XXVII

**JULY 13-15, 2026**

The Synod will start with the Bishops' Dinner and Meeting on Monday evening, July 13, and end after the Closing Pontifical Eucharist on Wednesday, July 15.

#### LOCATION:

First Lutheran Church

35 Broad Street,

Lyons, New York

*(In the heart of the Finger Lakes Region)*

**Hotel:** Microtel by Wyndham, 434 East Union Street, Newark, NY. We have secured a block of rooms at the room rate of \$109 per night. Complimentary breakfast is provided.

**Group Name:** Lutheran Church International

**Arrival Date:** Monday, 13 July 2026

**Departure Date:** Wednesday, 15 July 2026

**Cutoff Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026**

#### Booking Link:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/newark-new-york/microtel-inn-and-suites-newark-ny/rooms-rates?&checkInDate=07/13/2026&checkOutDate=07/15/2026&groupCode=071326LUT>

#### Group Code:

Visit : <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/newark-new-york/microtel-inn-and-suites-newark-ny/overview?CID=LC:5b3ss9kd80xe5ox:56061&iata=00093796>

Select Arrival & Departure Dates

Use Group Code: **071326LUT**

#### By Phone:

Call Reservations at 315-359-9181

Reference **Lutheran Church International** when making reservations.

Limited financial assistance may be available for attendance at the 2026 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.

## 2025-2026 LC-I OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

*(Terms end as indicated)*

#### Archbishop

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

#### Vice President (2026)

Mitzi Eberhardt  
mve5022@gmail.com

#### Secretary (2026)

The Right Reverend Jeffrey D. Bischoff  
Bishop, Mid-America Diocese  
Secretary@LutheranChurchInternational.org

#### Treasurer (2028)

The Reverend William H. Wigmore III  
Treasurer@LutheranChurchInternational.org

#### Delegate Representative (2028)

Alice Smith  
KenAliceSmith@gmail.com

#### Clergy Representative (2028)

The Reverend Deacon Eric Frank  
EFrank0318@gmail.com

#### Bishop, Northeastern Diocese

The Right Reverend Dr. Aubrey N. Bougher  
BpANB@ptd.net

#### Bishop, Caribbean Missionary Diocese

The Right Reverend Juan O. Cepero  
BpJuan@gmail.com

#### Bishop, Southern Diocese

The Right Reverend Rodney L. Eberhardt  
RevRodney14@gmail.com

#### Missionary Bishop

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

# REGISTRATION FORM

Annual Synod of the Lutheran Church-International

Monday, July 13 to Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Annual Synod Registration \$65.00/person

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Registration PAID by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

## Annual Synod XXVII of the Lutheran Church-International

July 13–15, 2026

*Hosted by Lutheran Church-International Northeastern Diocese*

### Location:

First Lutheran Church

35 Broad Street, Lyons, NY 14489

**Annual Synod Registration: \$65.00/person**

*(INCLUDES MEALS, BEVERAGES AND SNACKS AT SYNOD)*

*(BREAKFAST IS COMPLIMENTARY AT THE HOTEL)*

### Hotel Accommodations:

Microtel by Wyndham  
434 East Union Street  
Newark, NY 14513

Phone: 315-359-9181 *(for reservations)*

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

\$109.00/Night. Includes Complimentary Breakfast Buffet.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Annual Synod is Monday, July 13 to Wednesday, July 15, 2026. 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 by **JUNE 13, 2026** in order to receive the special daily room rate.

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Annual Synod Registration



First Lutheran Church, Lyons, New York

LC-I Headquarters Church and Archbishop’s Office

**Reminder—2026 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.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Unable to meet your responsibility for 2026 dues? Contact your bishop as soon as possible.**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH – INTERNATIONAL**

**2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_ 2026 Dues for Ministerial Members: \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ 2026 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)

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Synod Dues and Thank Offerings