The Lutheran Church of the Covenant "Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives"



Reformation Sunday Thanksgiving for Ministry October 30, 2022



Evangelical Lutheran Church in AmericaGod's work. Our hands.



We are thoroughly delighted to have you join us for this special day in the life of our Covenant family, as we give thanks to God for the blessing of being part of 75 years in ministry to each other, Maple Heights, and beyond. Here are a few notes about the worship as we ultimately gather together to praise this God of us all!

- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns, some of which will be printed in the bulletin, and others you will find in the red hymnal directly in front of you in the pews.
- Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do
- There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.
- We will celebrate holy Communion, and we believe this meal of God's neverending grace is for everyone to enjoy, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof. If you wish to participate, you will be invited up the center aisle by an usher to the pastor, who will give you a wafer (the body of Christ) to consume. If you need gluten-free wafers, please let the pastor know. Then, make your way to the Communion assistant to your respective side. There will be a tray of cups with wine (red) and grace juice (yellow). You are encouraged to take a cup yourself as the Communion assistant speaks, "The blood of Christ shed for you." You may then drop your cup off in the nearby basket. If you are unable to come forward, and wish to take Communion, please let an usher know and Communion will be brought to you.

Reformation Sunday

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church should always be reforming to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's never-ending grace: that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to be part of this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we hope that all children of God will unite more fully in mission for this world that God still adores!

Pre-Service Music Wolf Creek Brass

Rondeau (Mouret)
Three Spirituals (arr. Barnes)
Die Bangelsanderlieder (Anon.)
Rhosymedre (Williams/English)
Jubilation Deo (Aichinger)

Prelude Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (arr. McChesney) United Handbell Choir

Welcome & Announcements

The Rev. Bradley Ross

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Rev. Richard Israel

We praise God for the gift of baptism that forever unites us through God's love with one another, and sets us free to serve as disciples for the sake of the world.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in our communities we call home, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for all the gifts of water surrounding us. Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing any sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life.

- O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
- O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
- O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

Continue to shower us all with new life.

Fill us with your love.

Clothe us, and all your precious children, with your never-ending grace.

Embolden us to do justice.

Bless us to love mercy.

O God, guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen!

*Gathering Hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God (arr. Ferguson)

ELW #504

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you.**

*Canticle of Praise This is the Feast

ELW pg. 101

^{*}Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Our God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: amidst our own celebration this day, we lift up your entire church, the living body of Christ, called to bring your love and hope to the world. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Peggy Smith

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt —a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of new life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 46

To the tune of Fling Wide the Door (ELW #259): text by Isaac Watts, arranged by J.A. Freylinghausen.



Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

Vicar Marla Wood Kay

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of new life!

Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Processional I Know That My Redeemer Lives (arr. Lewis, Ode) ELW #619 Verses 1 & 2 *Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Rev. Abraham Allende

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

*Gospel Recessional I Know That My Redeemer Lives (arr. Lewis, Ode)

ELW #619 Verses 4 & 8

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *The Church's One Foundation* (arr. Hillert)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

ELW #654

*Apostles' Creed

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

Joseph Rinderknecht

Confident in the gracious and ever-widening mercy of God, let us pray for the world, the body of Christ, and all who yearn for wholeness of life.

A brief silence.

God of freedom, liberate us from any bondage in this life, that your church, including our Covenant family, would continually be reshaped and reformed by the fire of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Still-creating God, inspire us with the beauty of the earth, that we may bring new life to overused land and contaminated rivers. Reform and reorient our relationship with the environment, that we may faithfully care for all of your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, make wars to cease in all the world, that all strife, violence, and bloodshed give way to reconciliation, compassion, and new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of companionship, take us by our hand when we are paralyzed by our fears and unable to step out in boldness. Give us courage to walk confidently with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of calm, give your stillness to all who are facing illness, surgery, or any uncertainty of health. May they know that their times are in your ever-healing hands. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of us all, write your law of love on our hearts, that we, like our forebears in faith, would be unswerving in our witness to your grace that is ours through the gift of faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

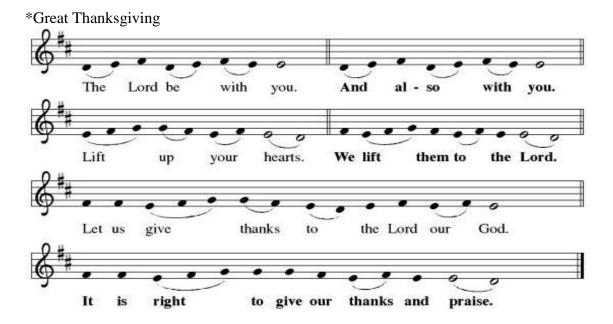
Listen to us when we call upon you, most merciful God, and grant us grace to entrust our lives and our world to your unfailing love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen!**

*Sharing of the Peace

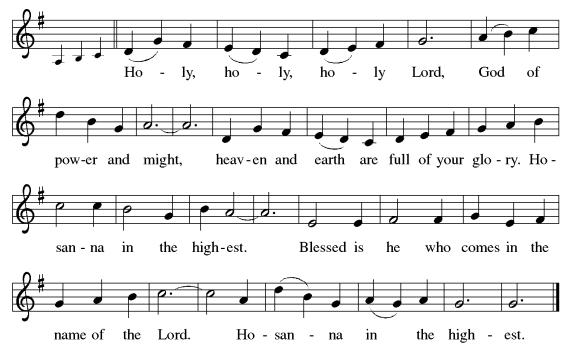
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always! And also with you.

Music Interlude *Lead Me*, *Guide Me* (arr. Akers)

Carla Cashman



It is indeed, right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, loving and gracious God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection set us free to everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth, for the universe beyond our knowing, for seas and forests and fields, for creatures seen and unseen, for animals both wild and tame, for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe, and for the places we call home, for cities and churches and schools, for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron, for Jeremiah and the psalmists, and for centuries of your faithful people:

for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Martin and Katie Luther, Bach and Bonhoeffer, for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free, who on the night before he died, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, we remember your Word: his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his presence in this meal around the world.

We pray, Holy Spirit, for your breath, your fire, your wisdom, your grace, your ultimate freedom.

Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire your people for service; continue the reformation of your churches; and renew the world with your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, with the joy of life in your household. We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield, today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen!

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Christ invites you to this table of grace. Taste and see that the Lord is good! **Thanks be to God!**

Communion

Music during Communion

Lamb of GodELW pg. 112The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (arr. McIntyre)ELW #531Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (arr. Hawkins)ELW #645

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen!**

*Blessing

God, who gives life to all and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, + one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen!**

^{*}Invitation to Communion

^{*}Prayer after Communion

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim 'til all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as Thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be; praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain*

*Dismissal Ted Lockmiller

Go in peace with Christ always beside you! Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Ode to Joy* (Beethoven/Holcomb)

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Sheena Cameron, Joan Clark, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Steve Senderak, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Maud Wright, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family, the victims of the shooting behind the Maple Heights Food Pantry.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers All People Worship Presiders The Rev. Richard Israel

The Rev. Abraham Allende

Assisting Minister The Rev. Bradley Ross
Joseph Rinderknecht

Crucifer Jody Bernardo
Book-Bearer Ted Lockmiller
Lectors Peggy Smith

Vicar Marla Wood Kay
Communion Assistant

Marie Zahn

Organist Robin Crawford
Brass Wolf Creek Brass
Handbells United Handbell Choir

Instrumentalists Ann Droste
Katie Garberich

Ushers Dick Ptak
Mike Garvin

Bert Zahn

Parish Administrator Jennifer Lasher-Dobush Custodian Vince Besednjak

> The Lutheran Church of the Covenant 19000 Libby Rd. Maple Heights, OH 44137 Phone: 216-662-0370

Email: covenantlc@sbcglobal.net Website: covenantmaplehts.org

Thank you to our Altar Guild for providing the flowers in honor of our celebration, as well as making a contribution in support of our wider ministry as the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

THANK



We would like to extend our deep appreciation to the members of the United Handbell Choir and the Wolf Creek Brass who have helped make this day all the more special in inspiring us to praise God with their gift of music!

United Handbell Choir:

Director Amy Cook

Jennifer Lewane, Joy Mudry, Ann Droste, Jody Bernardo, Beth Craig, Cheryl Burke, Marilynn Schroeter, Jen Lasher-Dobush, Sheila Domer, Chuck

Dickey, Steve Friske Wolf Creek Brass:

Rich Lindemeyer - trumpet Marcia Kline - trumpet Debbie Haviland - horn Donald Kaser - trombone James McIntyre –tuba

We welcome back with utter delight our previous leaders of

Covenant: The Rev. Richard Israel (1983-1993), Mr. Joseph Rinderknecht (1990-2008), and The Rev. Abraham Allende (2009-2014), Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern Ohio Synod (ELCA)! We also are glad to have our siblings in Christ of the Lutheran Church of the Master (Bedford), our wonderful partners in



ministry, join us, including Vicar Marla Wood Kay!

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

March 17, 1947: merger of St. Andrew, Miles Park Ave., and the mission congregation of Trinity Lutheran of Friend Ave., Map1e Heights (both Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

Present location at 19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, was dedicated in December, 1951. The Lutheran Church of the Covenant served the rapidly developing residential area of Maple Heights community of post-World War II families. Covenant departed from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) to join the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) in December, 1976. In 1988, Covenant became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with the merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the AELC.

Congregational Leadership

Vicars

Wilbur Sohns: 1957 – 1958

Lanny Zup: 1959

Dennis Schlecht: 1959 – 1960 Delvin Bertermann: 1960 – 1961

Noble Lach: 1961 – 1962 Kenneth Braun: 1962 – 1963 Richard Deffner: 1963 – 1964 Michael Anton: 1964 – 1965 Jerald Miner: 1965 – 1966 Timothy Brunn: 1966 – 1967

Richard Lischer: 1967 – 1968 Ronald Engel: 1968 – 1969 Paul Jaster: 1975 – 1976

James Flachsbart: 1976 – 1977

Deaconesses

Janice Young: 1966 – 1968 Deborah Nebel: 1971 – 1978

Pastors

The Rev. Walter Auping (St. Andrew): 2/1912 - 3/1941

The Rev. Richard Oehlschlaeger (Trinity): 5/1920 – 2/1949

The Rev. Philip Swigart (St. Andrew): 4/1941 [continued as pastor after the

merger of St. Andrew and Trinity]; 3/1947 – 6/1953

The Rev. Cvril Wismar: 10/1953 – 11/1969

The Rev. Wendell Peterson, Assistant Pastor: 11/1969 – 9/1974

The Rev. Omar Stuenkel: 4/1970 – 12/1980

The Rev. Larry Klinker, Assistant Pastor: 6/1977 – 10/1978

The Rev. Robert Carr, Assistant Pastor: 3/1979 – 12/1982

The Rev. Paul R. Heckmann: 4/1981 – 7/1990

The Rev. David Beese, Assistant Pastor: 1/1983 – 9/1983

The Rev. Richard Israel, Assistant Pastor: 9/1983 – 6/1993

The Rev. Joseph Rinderknecht: 8/1990 – 8/2008

The Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor: 8/2008 – 7/2009

The Rev. Abraham D. Allende: 9/2009 – 8/2014

The Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor: 9/2014 – 6/2015

The Rev. Paul Stork, Interim Pastor: 9/2015 – 9/2016

The Rev. George Hrbek, Interim Pastor: 10/2016 – 12/2016

The Rev. Bradley Ross: 2/2017 – present

Members of Congregation who entered Ministry

Janet Lautanen Dickey, Larry Klinker, Norman S. Lisy, Robert Schmalzle, Ronald Oravec, Cyril Mark Wismar, Jr., Bonnie Zimmerman Stephenson

What You May not Know about the Reformation

- 1 The word "Protestant" was first used formally around 1529. "Protestant" originates from the Latin word protestari, meaning "declare publicly, testify, protest."
- **2** The name "Lutheran" originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
- **3** While reformers rejected marriage as a sacrament of the church, they expanded the role of the church in marriage. Couples took an oath before God and the ceremony was moved from outside the church on the doorstep—a medieval practice—to inside the sanctuary in front of the altar.
- **4** The Reformation created a demand for all kinds of religious writings. Readership was so great that the number of books printed in Germany increased from about 150 in 1518 to nearly 1,000 six years later.
- **5** By the time Luther died, 30 editions of the Small Catechism had been published. By the end of the 16th century, there were an additional 125 editions in circulation and approximately 100,000 copies in print.
- **6** An estimated 6,001,500,000 Bibles have been printed since the first one came off the press in the Middle Ages. The first Bible published in North America was printed in 1663.
- 7 The Luther rose (or Luther seal) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer's faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther's. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.
- **8** With the invention of the printing press and the introduction of pamphlets and booklets to the public, women in the 16th century found increasing access to information they had been previously restricted from reading, studying, discussing or even listening to in public settings.

- **9** The Reformation paved the way for what we still refer to as a "Protestant work ethic." Luther's teachings about the "priesthood of all believers" helped dissolve the wall between "temporal" and "spiritual" realms. In doing so, everyday work and labor was affirmed and seen as pleasing to God; it was no longer considered an inferior life to that of a monastic life or the priesthood.
- **10** Education was set on a far-reaching course of reforming thanks in part to Luther's advocacy and ideas that a proper, well-organized and broad education for all children—not just those of the wealthy elite—would benefit the state as well as the church.
- 11 The legacy of Luther's ideas about education can be seen today in the Lutheran church's concern for Christian education, early childhood education and schools, colleges and universities, lay schools for ministry and seminaries.
- 12 An emphasis on the involvement of laypeople during worship revolutionized the way space inside the parish church was used during the Reformation. Many of the physical barriers between priest and congregation were removed. Consequently, the interiors of local churches took on the appearance that many still have today.
- 13 Whether or not to use pipe organs and other musical instruments during worship became a hotly debated issue for many churches involved in the Reformation movement. Some went as far as banning the use of organs and instruments.
- **14** Prior to the Reformation, congregational singing—and even talking—during church services wasn't standard practice in Germany.
- 15 Luther composed more than 40 hymns in his lifetime, and in 1529 wrote and composed the tune for what became known as "The Battle Hymn of the Reformation"—today called "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."
- **16** Luther desired hymns to be modest and text-driven—derived from Scripture, expressing Christian values, illuminating faith and the gospel message and lending themselves to congregational singing.
- Excerpt from "50 Things You May not Know about the Reformation" (June 30, 2017) on LivingLutheran.org, where you will find many resources for the journey of faith.
- Rod Boriack is a writer and editor living in Des Plaines, Ill.



THIS TESTIMONIAL OF GRATITUDE IS PRESENTED TO

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT MAPLE HEIGHTS, OHIO

IN RECOGNITION OF THE

75th

ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTRY AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Peace be within your walls, and security within your tower."

Psalm 122

Presented this fourteenth day of May in the year of our Lord 2022.

Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod















