

HEADLINES

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone has a blessed 2018.

Report to the Bishop 2018

Attention Rostered Ministers- It is time to complete the Report to the Bishop. Please go to [this link](#) to complete this report.



Adult Mission Trip 2018

Texas and Florida are on our minds and hearts following the devastation of hurricane Harvey and Irma. Lutheran Disaster response generally goes in a little later and stays for the duration of rebuilding therefore we will continue our path to Tennessee in 2018 and look to these other areas in the future. Nebraska Adult Mission Trip will be working on house repairs in the Gallatinburg, TN area due to tornado damage. We will stay at Foothills Camp and Retreat Center East Tennessee Church of the Nazarene (2926 Topside Road, Louisville, TN 37777), February 17-24, 2018.

For more information visit the [event page](#). To register visit the [registration page](#).

MINISTRY RESOURCES

Embracing Stewardship- for all seasons across all generations

Stewardship is something that is much bigger than we usually let it be. It's part of our identity as Children of God- no matter our age, experience, story, the day or month of the year, or even our location.

We'll unpack this and much more as part of "Embracing Stewardship- for all seasons across all generations," an upcoming stewardship event hosted by Nebraska Synod at Camp Carol Joy Holling on Friday May 18, 2018.

Keynote presenters will include Rev. Charles (Chick) Lane, author of Ask Thank Tell and co-author of Embracing Stewardship- How to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life, and Mrs. Grace Duddy Pomroy, author of "Stewards of God's Love," and co-author of Embracing Stewardship- How to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life. Deacon Timothy Siburg, Nebraska Synod Director for Stewardship, and Bishop Brian Maas, of the Nebraska Synod will also be present helping to facilitate the day and participating in panel discussions as well.

This event is open to all rostered ministers, parish ministry associates, and congregational stewardship leaders of the Nebraska Synod, and especially for those serving in their first calls in ministry. Capacity for the event is limited to 80 people, so please register early.

Lunch will be provided, and additional resources will be available for purchase at reduced rates. There will also be opportunity for on-going mentoring and conversation with stewardship leaders after the event to track progress on stewardship in your context.

For questions, please contact Deacon Timothy Siburg at the Nebraska Synod Office. Registration will open in January. Additionally, Camp Carol Joy Holling will be hosting a Portico Retirement Benefits Seminar for all interested rostered ministers on Thursday May 17, 2018. If you are interested in attending both events, there will be availability to stay overnight at camp. For more on this, please contact Camp Carol Joy Holling.



Retirement Question? Portico Can Help!

Retirement planning can seem daunting unless you have someone to walk you through it. Portico's day-long pre-retirement seminar for Portico plan members age 50+, will do just that.

Together with Ernst & Young, Portico covers all facets of retirement planning in understandable terms — from establishing a retirement budget to reviewing health care options. You'll breathe easier when you know the steps you need to take. Take advantage of this opportunity and join us on May 17th at Carol Joy Holling Camp. Just click [here](#) to register! The cost is \$35/person which includes lunch at the event.

Essential Boundaries for Wise Leaders

The Nebraska Synod Essential Boundaries for Wise Leaders training program for rostered leaders and Parish Ministry Associates is designed to enrich both our opportunity and responsibility as leaders for Christ's church. The cost is \$40. (Materials through the FaithTrust Institute and lunch are included.) Register online. Registration deadlines are 7 days prior to each event.

Training has been scheduled for the following date:

- Saturday, January 20, 2018

For more information visit the [Essential Boundaries](#) page.

Other Ministry Resources

- [Transformational Ministry](#) -trainings for congregations
- [Renewal Grants](#)
- [One Another Grant Proposals](#)
- [Buck the Trend: A Curriculum for responding to Hunger & Poverty](#)
- [Reformation 500th Anniversary resources](#) -events & materials
- [Faith, Savam, Justice resources](#) -brochures, forms, & other materials
- [Drinking from the Well](#) -spiritual direction information
- [ELCA Go & Do News](#) & [World Hunger Synod Cumulative Giving](#)
- [Mission Field Nebraska](#)
- [Center for Rural Affairs](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMMPARO/Guardian Angels Training

"You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice." Deuteronomy 24:17

Saturday, January 13, 2018
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 17007 Q St. Omaha, NE 68135
9:30 to 12:30pm Introduction to the ELCA's AMMPARO Strategy
12:30-1pm lunch (optional)
1-4pm Guardian Angels Training

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The Nebraska and Western Iowa Synods are partnering together to work for justice and love for our neighbors in engaging this strategy in some specific ways. One of those strategies includes being the church in the courtroom through being trained to be a Guardian Angel for migrant minors and their families. You can learn more [here](#). [Register Here](#).



Exploring the Holy Land, Meeting the People

Join members and friends of the Nebraska Synod in a remarkable journey to the Holy Land (Israel, Modern Palestine, Jordan). This learning opportunity is offered through the Nebraska Synod, the NSHLA group (Nebraska Synod Holy Land Accompaniment) and the Global Mission Team of the synod.

April 16 – 28, 2018

The Nebraska group will visit this school in 2018 and visit with students and staff, as well as other Lutheran and Christian schools and churches.

Pastor Morrow, an assistant to the bishop of the Nebraska Synod, will be leading the 2018 traveling group as it visits holy sites and gets acquainted with the people in the Lutheran churches and many others in Israel and Jordan who will share their stories. For more information [click here](#).

NEBRASKA SYNOD EVENTS

- **JANUARY SYSTEMS THINKING RETREAT** has been CANCELLED.
- Jan. 22-Feb. 6, 2018 - Tanzania Vision Trip
- SAVE THE DATE! April 16-28, 2018: Holy Land Accompaniment
- July 23-Aug. 7, 2018 - Tanzania Vision Trip

YOU ARE INVITED



- Jan. 15, 2018- Deadline to register ensemble to participate in [Omaha Ringel Handbell Festival](#)
- Jan. 15-17, 2018- Minister's Conference @ [Carol Joy Holling](#)
- Jan. 18, 2018- [Expand Your Horizons](#) @ Notre Dame Housing Senior Center the next speaker will be Amor Habbad, a Dreamer.
- Jan. 23, 2018 - [Who is Gen Z? live stream](#)
- Feb. 3 2018- [Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Your Congregation](#) – A Conference for Small Membership Congregations in Spencer, Wisconsin. On-line registration for this event, is open until January 15, 2018.
- Feb. 10, 2018- Omaha Rings! Handbell Festival & Worship @ St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Omaha (for registration info [click here](#))
- Feb. 17, 2018: Lutherans Restoring Creation Workshop/Retreat @Camp Tomah Shinga Junction City, KS 9am-5pm [Registration info here](#)
- May 18, 2018- "Embracing Stewardship- for all seasons across all generations" at Camp Carol Joy Holling
- May 27-June 1, 2018 - Spanish Language & Hispanic Ministry Intensive for more info [click here](#)
- June 10-15, 2018 - Building Congregational Capacity for Hispanic Ministry for more info [click here](#)
- SAVE THE DATE: June 27- July 1, 2018 - [ELCA Youth Gathering](#)

Click on the links provided for more information on the listed events.



GIVE NOW

Help financially support the mission and ministries of the Nebraska Synod.

Give to the Annual Fund!

Martin Luther once said, "I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

Are you willing to give what you can not keep; to gain what you can not lose?

This year's Annual Fund will support a balanced budget and allow us to meet immediate opportunities within the Synod Mission and Vision.

Click on the link below to give on-line.

www.nebraskasynod.org
Thank you!

QUICK LINKS



CELEBRATIONS & REMEMBRANCES

Prayers for:

- [Monthly Prayer List](#)

FOR LEADERS

- [Congregations and Rostered Leaders in Transition](#)
- [The Parish Paper](#)
- [2017 Transmittal Form](#)
- [Pulpit Supply](#)
- [2017 Bulletin of Reports](#)

CAREERS

- [For Careers visit the Nebraska Synod Website](#)

EXCHANGE

For more info on items being offered, visit [The Exchange](#) on the Nebraska Synod website.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Has God blessed you?

The abundance God gives me is not so I can live in luxury, it is so that I can help others live!

As you consider how you can "raise your standard of giving" and express your gratitude to God through your generosity, please give to the Nebraska Synod Endowment Fund. It will have a perpetual impact, and will never stop advancing the Gospel!

Please click on [this link](#) to give to the Endowment Fund.

Thank you for your gifts!