

HEADLINES

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](#).

First Lutheran Church in Lincoln becomes an AMMPARO Welcoming Church in Nebraska

There is always a human face of immigration. There is always a story that tells why a person or a family becomes a resident stranger in a foreign land, flees their homeland because of persecution or general violence, or seeks asylum. Human faces and emotional stories of immigration are as fresh as the new arrivals to Nebraska and as familiar as the biblical stories of Abraham, the Levitical laws, and Joseph, Mary, and Jesus becoming refugees because of Herod's angry genocide.

In 2014, at the height of the public awareness of the global human migration crisis, several ELCA synods decided to partner and declare a joint commitment to welcome and minister to migrant guests, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The commitment of those synods in collaboration with the national ELCA offices, created the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunity). The First Lutheran Church Council in Lincoln voted at their March meeting to join the network of Welcoming Congregations because their welcoming is grounded in scripture. The decision to join the Welcoming Congregations falls in line with the Welcome Statement they adopted in 2015, and their history of being a church home for refugees and immigrants. First Lutheran believes "joining the network is us being who we already are, just in a publicly recognized way".



Generation Together

"Generation: Together" is a tool to help start conversations between people with different perspectives. These four, short videos feature real people sharing their own understandings and experiences as people who follow Jesus. Our hope and not-so-subtle goal with these videos is not to enlighten viewers with dazzling content (though if you're bedazzled, we'll take it!); instead, we hope that the very process of listening to and discussing differences together will help to build bridges in your community.

The first video sets up the others, introduces the content and interviewees, and encourages viewers to "listen for understanding". Videos 2-4 show interviewees of different ages responding to questions about church, faith, community, and generational differences. Building bridges between generations happens one person at a time; we hope this tool is one you pick up and try!

This project was created by the Young Adult Working Group of the Nebraska Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with the generous grant support of the Immanuel Vision Foundation in May 2017.

To view the introduction video please click [this link](#). Visit the [Nebraska Synod YouTube channel](#) to view the other videos.

MINISTRY RESOURCES

TheoCon 2017 Survey
TheoCon 2017 wrapped up on Wednesday, November 1. The Nebraska Synod would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. In an effort to continue to offer the best TheoCon to all rostered ministers, we would like to get your feedback on this year's event. Please click on the link below to access the post TheoCon 2017 survey.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6HRR6D>



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 dates:

- Friday, November 10, 2017
- Saturday, January 20, 2018

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

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](#) for a copy of the Endowment Fund Pledge Form, fill it out and send it to the Nebraska Synod office.

Thank you for your gifts!

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, Sexism, Justice resources -brochures, forms, & other materials
- Drinking from the Well -spiritual direction information
- A Call to Prayer -ideas for encouraging potential leaders
- ELCA Go & Do News & World Hunger Synod Cumulative Giving
- Mission Field Nebraska

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date-Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering

This year's Middle School Gathering will be held January 13-14, 2018 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Omaha. The theme will be "GOF" and participants will focus on the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:16-20. Please invite youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders to this 28-hour ministry event where they will worship, eat, sing, play, serve, and have fun together.

Registration costs will be:
\$45 for early bird (by Nov. 16), \$55 for regular registration (Nov. 17-Dec. 14), \$65 for late registration (Dec. 14-28). Please go [this website](#) for registration starting Oct. 20th.

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 Synodal Team of the synods.

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

- Nov. 6-9, 2017- Donation Drop Offs for Lutheran World Relief
- 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

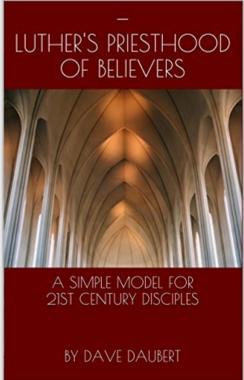
YOU ARE INVITED

Freed for Life 2017

Freed for Life Dinner Sunday, November 12, 2017 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sheridan Lutheran Church 70th and Old Cheney Rd. Lincoln, Nebraska

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Denise Davidson, Warden of the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York

For more info visit [freedforlife.org](#)



2017 Lay Leadership Academy

Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:00 am to Sunday, November 19, 2017 12:30 pm
Swanson Center, Carol Joy Holling Camp

The 2017 NE Synod Lay Leadership Academy will look at what practices are beneficial for forming a simple pattern of Christian Living in the 21st Century. Led by Dr. Dave Daubert of Christ S Strategies, we will look closely at the practices of proclamation, prayer, and sacrifice; and how these practices inform our daily walk as disciples. This academy is for all people of faith who seek to continue developing and forming their faith and leadership in God's Church. For more information [click here](#).

- Nov. 6-9, 2017- Nebraska Lutheran World Relief Ingathering drop off your donations between 9am & 1pm
- Nov. 10-11, 2017 - Healthy Congregations Series: Rev. Leigh Beasley Gills, Friday from 9am-4pm @ Church of the Cross, Omaha. Saturday from 9-11:30am @ Westminster, Omaha.
- Nov. 12, 2017- Freed for Life Benefit @ Sheridan Lutheran, Lincoln from 6-8pm
- Nov. 14, 2017- Wartburg Seminary Online Open House
- Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Nashville, TN- Stewardship & Generosity: Are We Doing All We Can?
- Jan. 23, 2018 - Who is Gen Z? live stream
- Feb. 10, 2018- Omaha Rings! Handbell Festival & Worship @ St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Omaha (for registration info [click here](#))
- 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.



Sinai Festival Sounds presents Lincoln Lutheran Choir Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.

Sinai Lutheran Church, 950 E. 8th St., Fremont, NE

Sinai Festival Sounds presents a concert by Lincoln Lutheran Choir, "500: Reformed" on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. This fall marks 500 years of the Protestant Reformation sparked by Martin Luther's 95 theses. To commemorate that historical event Lincoln Lutheran Choir will be presenting Reformation-focused music, the centerpiece of which is J.S. Bach's BWV 80, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A Mighty Fortress is Our God). The choir has invited soloists to join them to enhance their enthusiasm in sharing music for this milestone occasion. As always, the concert will include congregational singing to uplift combined hearts and voices.

Sinai Festival Sounds is the concert series of Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont, Nebraska, now in its 6th season of offering free concerts to the community. Other programs in the upcoming season include organist Ann Marie Rigler with violinist Eric Williams on February 18 and the Lincoln Early Music Consort later in the spring. Free will offerings and other donations support the series. The church is located at 950 East 8th Street in Fremont.

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

Click on GIVE NOW button below, or give on-line at 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

- Coordinator of Communications & Office Assistant, St. Paul's (Omaha/Millard)
- Music Associate, Bethany Lutheran Church
- Executive Director, Project Hope
- Our Saviour Lutheran Music Positions
- For more Careers visit the Nebraska Synod Website

EXCHANGE

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

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