



HEADLINES

AMMPARO/Guardian Angels Training

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](#).



November 19 as Pray for Healing and Reconciliation in Whiteclay Sunday at Salem

Frank LaMere, friend of Salem Lutheran and a Native American activist, reports that he and others completed two days of briefings and presentations on October 26 in Sioux Falls and Canton, SD, related to the September 29th Nebraska Supreme Court decision permanently closing Whiteclay beer stores. Matt Walz, an outspoken Whiteclay opponent and staff member at the Keystone Treatment Center in Canton, SD, hosted the event.

The participants talked about next steps, restoration, and mitigation at Whiteclay and Pine Ridge in three sessions before scores of individuals and a closed circuit audience that included South Dakota Republican legislators, a Minnehaha County Commissioner, local community members and professionals specializing in recovery at Keystone. According to LaMere, "South Dakota citizens and professionals are more keenly aware of the Whiteclay debacle and closure than we anticipated and we encountered little denial."

LaMere reports that the general response to the event bodes well as he and others start the long road to recovery with the Lakota people. LaMere believes that 113 years of devastation has taken a great toll on the Lakota. He explains, "Change will come slowly, but it will come if we remain deliberate and make ourselves uncomfortable in working for it in the face of the denial and avoidance that we are sure to encounter."

Salem's Global Mission Team joins with LaMere, the Lakota people, and all advocates for healing and restoration to acknowledge that change may come slowly, but change will come. To that end, Salem designates Sunday, November 19, as Pray for Healing and Reconciliation in Whiteclay Sunday.

For more information contact [Salem Lutheran Church](#).

MINISTRY RESOURCES

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.

The next training session has been scheduled for the following date:

- Saturday, January 20, 2018

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

Save the Date

The Bishop Candidates' Nomination Meetings for 2018 have been set. Saturday, February 10, 2018 is the date for the Nebraska Synod Clusters to gather for nominations for the 2018 Bishop's election. Saturday, February 24, 2018 has been designated as the alternative date due to weather interference.

Watch this space for updates.



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.

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 "GO!" 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 to [the website](#) for registration.



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

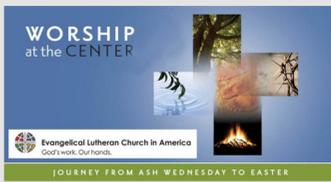
- Jan. 22-Feb. 6, 2018 - [Tanzania Vision Trip](#)
- SAVE THE DATE! April 16-28, 2018 - [Holy Land Accompaniment](#)
- July 23-Aug. 7, 2018 - [Tanzania Vision Trip](#)

YOU ARE INVITED



- Nov. 14, 2017 - Wartburg Seminary [Online Open House](#)
- Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Nashville, TN - [Stewardship & Generosity: Are We Doing All We Can?](#)
- Dec. 15, 2018 - [Registration Deadline for Understanding Your Congregation](#) (Pastoral Care & Mental Health) 5 Session Forum
- Jan. 15, 2018 - [Deadline to register ensemble to participate in Omaha Rings! Handbell Festival](#)
- 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](#))
- Feb. 17, 2018 - [Lutherans Restoring Creation Workshop/Retreat](#) @Camp Tomah Shinga Junction City, KS 8am-5pm [Registration info 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.



Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the worship resource of the ELCA, invites us to keep Ash Wednesday through Easter in a new-old way. During these events, we will worship using the services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter.

We will join in reflection, study and discussion of the cross and empty tomb, baptism and Bible — the meaning of this journey for ourselves and the world.

The events will be held in 2 locations:

- Jan. 18-20: St. John's Lutheran Church
Winter Park, Fla.
- Feb. 1-3: St. Martin's Lutheran Church
Austin, Texas

[Click here](#) to learn more about these events.

FORMS

- [2017 Mission Share Intent Form](#)
- [Forms A & C](#)
- [Congregational Leader Form](#)
- [Report to the Bishop](#)

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 GIVE NOW button below, or give on-line at www.nebraskasynod.org. Thank you!



QUICK LINKS



FOR LEADERS

- [Congregations and Rostered Leaders in Transition](#)
- [The Parish Paper](#)
- [Congregational Job Openings around the synod](#)
- [Drinking from the Well](#)
- [Prayer Supply List](#)
- [Go & Do News](#)
- [Synod Cumulative Giving](#)

We Listen

If you have any news, events, or stories to share with the Nebraska Synod E-news readers, please send them to [communications](#). Your news may be seen in the next edition of the e-news.

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!

