

Servanthood



A publication of the New Jersey Diakonia Steering Committee

*The 2016 Graduating Class
of the New Jersey Locations of Diakonia
requests the honor of your presence at the*

*Graduation Liturgy and
Celebration of Holy Communion*

*at
Santa Isabel Lutheran Church
908 East Jersey Street
Elizabeth, NJ 0720*

*Saturday, the Twenty-fifth of June
Two Thousand and sixteen
at two o'clock in the afternoon*

Reception will follow

Come and worship with our 2016 graduates:

From Aberdeen location: Barbara Hines

From Elizabeth location: Haydee Colon Priscilla Carrasquillo,
and Marisol Soto

From Teaneck location: Sigrid Erickson and Jennifer Murray

ALSO INSIDE THIS EDITION

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at Cross Roads
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sat. June 25, 2:00 PM, Diakonia
Graduation at Santa Isabel Lutheran Church,
Elizabeth, NJ
- Sat., July 9, 10:00 AM NJ Diakonia
Steering Committee Meeting at Good
Shepherd, Somerville, NJ
- Fri.-Sat., Oct. 21-22, NJ Diakonia Annual
Retreat at Cross Roads, Port Murray, NJ

CONTACT US

Email diakonia@comcast.net

Visit our website

www.njdiakonia.com

Please note new corrected URL

Mail: Diakonia c/o Marlene Tona
7 Round Valley Lane,
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Please advise us of your address changes.



WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Students, alumni and instructors are invited to submit a newsletter article.

Send us pictures of your graduation or of any Diakonia gathering, either by mail or electronically.

Vision: "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

Mission: Diakonia is an education program to provide spiritual formation to men and women desiring to deepen their understanding of the faith so they might become empowered servants of the Lord.



WHEN THOSE LIGHT BULBS GO OFF!

Do you remember as a child watching Saturday morning cartoons? My brother and I would get up early and sneak into the living room to turn on our favorite cartoons before Mom and Dad got up. One of the things that I always enjoyed was when a light bulb popped up over Wyle Coyote's head, I knew he had a "great" idea. (Wyle's ideas were rarely good and usually hurtful to himself.) Many years later when I began teaching, I began seeing those light bulbs go off over students' heads and I knew things were going well in class. Recently I sat in a room and saw light bulbs going off over the heads of more than 50 people, it was amazing.



On March 5th, over 50 Diakonia students, graduates and friends gathered at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beachwood to listen to the Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert discuss the *Reformation in History & Practice*. His presentation was broken up into two sub sessions entitled *Forget Hammer, Nails and an Angry Young Man: The Untold Story of the 95 Theses and Nailing Bad Preaching to the Wall: Luther's Point in the Reformation*.

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As a lifelong Lutheran and amateur historian, I have studied the reformation a great deal, but Dr. Wengert brought the issues confronting Luther and the Church to life. His presentations and the day in general left all of us who were in attendance enlightened and begging for more. Isn't that what your Diakonia classes did each week? I know mine did. My heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Wengert, Rev. Matt Cimerelli, Marlene Tona, Walter Meislohn, Joan Grace and everyone else for all of their hard work in putting the day together. (See photos on [page 4](#))

It is amazing how life changing on day can be. For those of you who were at the presentation, did you feel the same way I did? For those of you how could not join us, did you feel that way about your Diakonia classes? I pray you did. I hope you will want to share this life changing experience with those you know. Please let your friends and family know about Diakonia and encourage them to join us. Non-Lutherans are welcome to join as well as those lifelong Lutherans! If someone is interested in joining us, but does not know of a location near them, please have them email me at Ellen.Lindemann@raritanval.edu and I will help them find a site.

Our next program will be graduation on June 25th at St. Isabel in Elizabeth. Please see this newsletter for more information. Please help us fill the church with graduates and current students and welcome our new graduates!

Ellen Lindemann, Chair, NJ Diakonia Steering Committee

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 21 THRU SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 22

DIAKONIA ANNUAL RETREAT At Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center in Port Murray, NJ
The NJ Steering Committee is planning a special time away graduates and students while also honoring the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

A MESSAGE FROM REV. MATTHEW CIMORELLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NJ DIAKONIA STEERING COMMITTEE

At the heart of each week for the Christian is Sunday. It is the first day of the week, the beginning of all that is to follow. Some have also called this day the "8th day" as it is a day that is out of time, the day of resurrection, the day that cannot be and yet speaks to a reality far deeper than our daily reality. (For more on this, consider reading Gordon Lathrop's *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology*, Fortress Press, 1993, pg. 39-40.) Sunday is a day when we connect with a time as yet fulfilled, being encountered by the risen Christ in Word and Sacrament as a "foretaste of the feast to come" in our liturgical parlance (Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, ELW service music #181-184).

Lathrop write: "What the eight day meeting is to the seven days, the Easter festival is to the whole year" (*Holy Things*, pg. 68) So Easter is the heart of the year as Sunday is the heart of the week. Easter is not just a day. It is a 50-day feast. And to fully experience the wonder and power of this feast, one must be fully immersed in all that leads up to it.

This brings us to a consideration of what we did during the Three Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. On these three days, Christians gathered for an extended experience of worship. In this one service over three days, Christians move from confession and forgiveness, to the washing of feet, to the keeping of Eucharist and the remembering of our Lord's "Last Supper", to the stripping of the altar in remembrance of our Lord's being stripped in his passion, to the Good Friday reading

of the Passion according to John to praying the very old bidding prayers and processing with the cross, to the keeping of the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night with the lighting of a new fire and a new Paschal candle from that new fire, to the reading of key texts that were used to interpret the resurrection in the earliest days of the Christian church, to baptism or a remembrance and affirmation of baptism, to keeping of the first Eucharist of Easter on this night of nights! Having done all this as richly and as fully as possible, Christians entered into the joy and wonder of the 50-day feast of Easter beginning on Sunday morning, renewed and refreshed by the great good news of our Lord's saving work in the death and resurrection of Jesus!



My hope for all who receive this newsletter, is that you experienced the fullness of the Three Days, and that as leaders in your faith communities, you will encourage your fellow disciples to do so as well, for this feast is the center of all we do and it makes us who and what we are. More specifically, for those involved in Diakonia, remember: Diakonia is a call to service and leadership in the Christian community and the world in the name of Christ. Having full experienced Lent and the Three Days, may be you be renewed and strengthened for further service.

Grace and peace be with you all in the name of crucified and risen Christ, Pastor Matt



On My Shelf

Heidi Neumark is a Lutheran pastor serving in Manhattan.

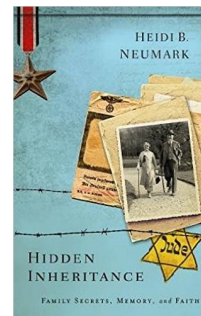
I have known her family for over 40 years as members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit. I remember her as a young woman in the congregation and then as an inspirational pastor serving in a poverty stricken neighborhood in the Bronx. But I was a friend of her mother. We served together in many different ways at St. John's and shared a passion for the church life that supported our faith. Who could have guessed that the Neumarks' family tree was rooted in Judaism.

Rev. Heidi Neumark's new book, "Hidden Inheritance

Family Secrets, Memory, and Faith"

takes you on a journey that reveals a closeted identity that none of us could have suspected – that her father, Hans, was born in a Jewish family in Germany. Her

story is part detective work to uncover the true family history, part memoir of reconciling her childhood experiences with the reality of history and part meditation on the intertwining of faith between Christians and Jews. Her personal reflections on complex questions of the role of the Lutheran church during the Nazi reign, her families' suffering and confrontation with the evil of Nazi Germany and her reconciliation to her Christian faith and upbringing are spellbinding.



Remembering Easter's promise of new life, open the cover of this book to follow the journey of a Lutheran pastor who had a new understanding of her family and her faith revealed through the ashes of the Holocaust.

Linda Walker, Associate in Ministry
Member of NJ Diakonia Steering Committee

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR A WEB MASTER

Are you a savvy computer user? Do you enjoy connecting with others on the computer? If this is your gift, please consider being a web master for the Diakonia site. You would be involved with improving and updating the current web site. Once that is completed, it would need attention quarterly.

If interested, please contact Ellen Lindemann at www.diaknoia.njdiakonia.com

CURRENT DIAKONIA SITES IN NEW JERSEY

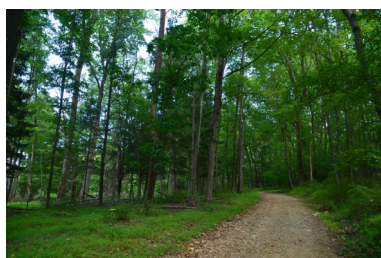
- Aberdeen Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
- Elizabeth Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Santa Isabel
- Jersey City St. John's Lutheran Church
- Somerville: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- Teaneck: St. Paul Lutheran Church

CROSS



ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray, NJ
Contact us at (908) 832-7264

<http://crossroadsretreat.com> ~
www.facebook.com/CrossRoadsRetreat

Located on 250 mountaintop acres in the beautiful highlands of northwestern NJ, the retreat center and camp provides comfortable facilities, picturesque grounds and transformational experiences for all ages.

A welcoming, ecumenical camp of the NJ Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

OPEN HOUSE June 4: Come and visit Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center. Learn all about our summer and year-round opportunities. Take a tour of camp, hear stories about summer camp, ask questions and finish with a delicious lunch in the Dining Hall. RSVP by the Monday before. Tour starts at 10:30 from the Lodge

WEDNESDAY AWAY: June 1, 9:00-3:00. \$50.00 incl. lunch. A time of rest & renewal. Resumes in October.

THE BISHOPS' CUP GOLF OUTING: Monday, June 20. Please participate in the 2016 Bishops' Cup. This annual golf outing is played at Copper Hill Country Club in Ringoes, NJ, and raises money to support camperships for youth and families who are unable to afford Cross Roads' fees. Go to Cross Roads Web Site for info and registration.

SUMMER 2016 CAMP: Opportunities for All Ages
High School Camps begin July 9
Youth Camps begin July 10.

Theme this summer: The Jesus Way.

For the latest news about summer camp go to:

<http://crossroadsretreat.com/> and click on "Summer Retreats"

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND: July 22-24

FAMILY CAMP WEEK: August 21-26 with special guest, Rachel Kurtz

GIANT CHURCH PICNIC: August 21

DIAKONIA ANNUAL RETREAT: October 21 and 22.

**A GATHERING
March 5, 2016**

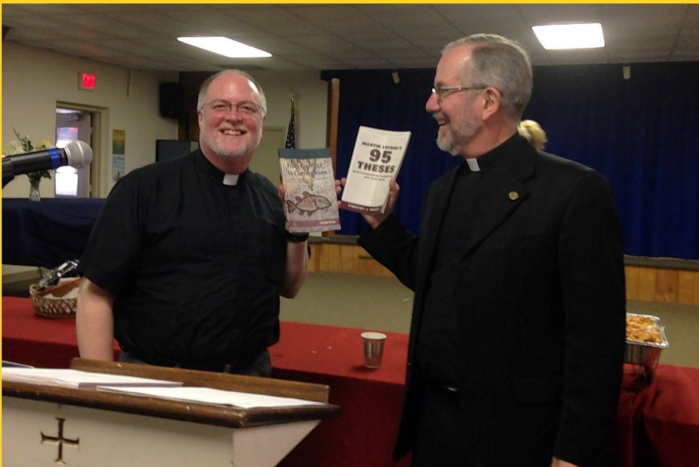
**NAILING THE 95 THESES
IN HISTORY AND PRACTICE**

**SPONSORED BY NJ DIAKONIA
AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BEACHWOOD, NJ**



With Tim Wengert

**Pastor, Author, and
Professor emeritus of
Reformation History
at the Lutheran Theological
Seminary at Philadelphia.**



A time for worship, learning, discovering, fellowship, and more.