



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**1002 Powell Ave.**

**Erie, PA 16505**

**814-833-4062**

**LIKE US on Facebook**

**[www.ilc-erie.org](http://www.ilc-erie.org)**

**Office: [immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)**

**Vicar Cowey: [victimmluth@gmail.com](mailto:victimmluth@gmail.com) - (717-650-0999)**

**MARCH NEWSLETTER**

## **FREED IN CHRIST - 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION**

**March**

**03/26/17 – 4:00 pm**

Lutherans & Social Ministry

Charlotte Haberaecker

Christ Lutheran Church

396 Buhl Blvd, Sharon, PA

Source: <http://www.nwpaelca.org/500-reformation.html>



### **On the Trail of Martin Luther**

July 12-22, 2017

Embark on an inspirational journey through Germany  
that follows the epic trail blazed by Martin Luther,  
marking the 500th Anniversary of the day of the Reformation.

[Click here](#) for brochure

[Click here for website](#)

[Click Here](#) for Reservation Form

Source: <http://www.nwpaelca.org/index.html>



*"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" Gen. 3:19*

Immanuel Lutheran Church

### **Ash Wednesday Services – beginning of Lent 2017**

March 01, 2017 - 12:10pm & 07:00 pm

Officiants: Pr. R. Washill, Pr. K. Lundwall and Vicar Cowey, LDA, B.C.C.



### **Midweek Lenten Worship – 07:00pm**

Holden Evening Prayer and Standing at the Crossroads - Lenten Sermons from Martin Luther

03/08/17 – 03/15/17 – 03/22/17 – 03/29/17 – 04/05/17

Bible-Study at Panera Bread, 12<sup>th</sup> Street – Yorktown Plaza – 11:00am

03/02/17 – 03/09/17 – 03/23/17 – 03/30/17

## *"Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday? ..."*

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:



Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).



Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.



Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium (see "What are columbaria and memorial gardens?"). "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).



Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. The liturgy for Ash Wednesday can be found in both the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 251) and Leaders Desk Edition (p. 615). In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence.

The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy. ..."

Source: [http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why\\_and\\_how\\_do\\_we\\_use\\_ashes\\_on\\_Ash\\_Wednesday.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why_and_how_do_we_use_ashes_on_Ash_Wednesday.pdf)

Lent usually includes a “Lenten-Discipline” – here is an interesting idea for the whole family from the ELCA-Benefits provider Portico. Please email me at [vic1immluth@gmail.com](mailto:vic1immluth@gmail.com), if you are joining me in this interesting activity! House-cleaning and taking the puppy for a walk counts as activity, as one square box... ;-) Vicar Cowey

#### “Here We Walk” Lenten Fitness Challenge Takes a Holistic Approach



Faith, fitness, and fun facts about Martin Luther: Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa, shares how it's practicing healthy habits and teaching about our church's heritage this Lent.

#### Becky Elsbernd

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Mason City, Iowa  
January 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church has a long history of encouraging a wellness component to the Lenten season. In the past, we have included team challenges (where groups track exercise and bible study minutes), counted steps to walk around the world as a congregation, and made a virtual trek across the Holy Land. The congregation likes the motivation to become more physically active and the idea that we are all working toward the same goal. It is especially nice when our wellness component matches the congregation's theme for Lent so we are focusing on the same thing with our body, mind, and spirit. In this way, Lent becomes a truly holistic experience.



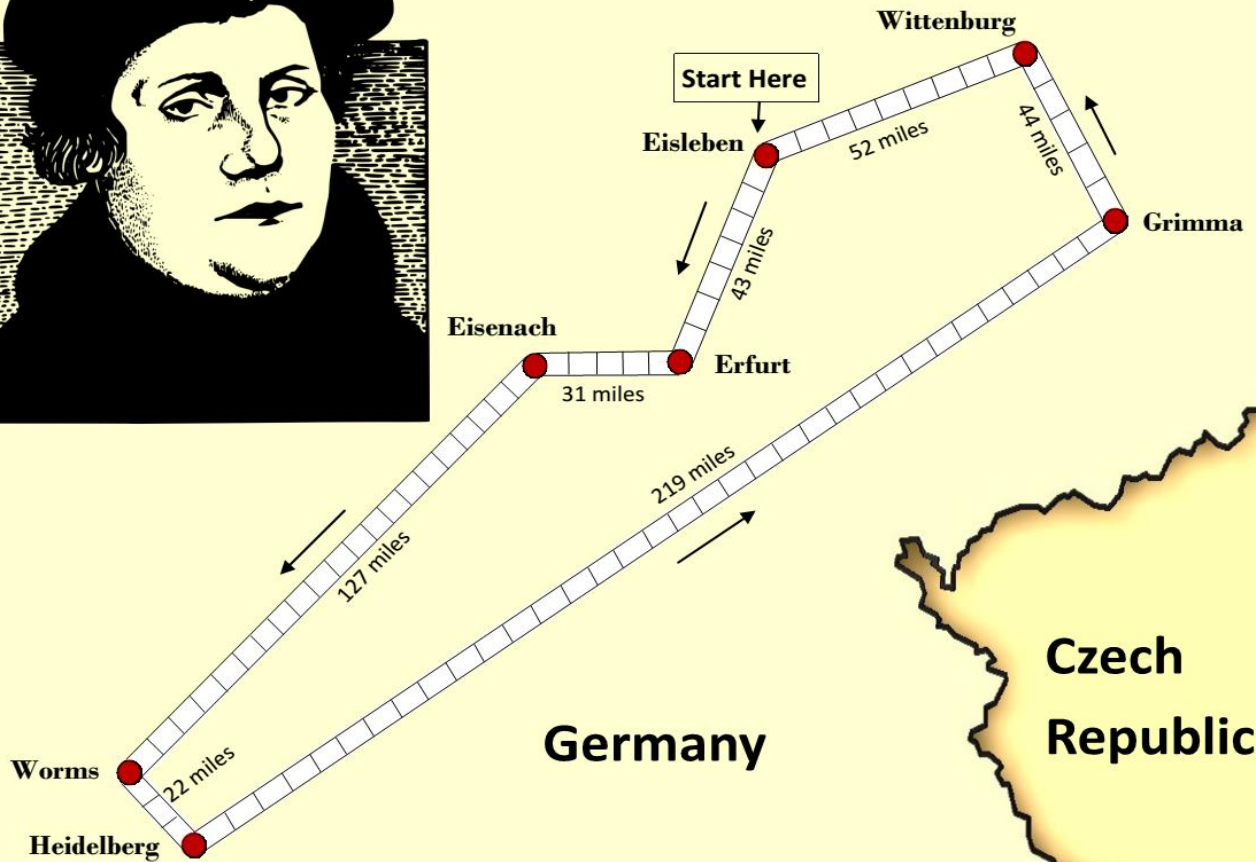
In 2017, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we decided to transport our virtual journey to Germany and learn about the significant places in the life of Martin Luther. This year Trinity will be following “Here We Walk” as our Lenten fitness challenge. As Trinity's Parish Nurse, I created a [“Here We Walk” handout](#) designed to be printed on one double-sided piece of paper. Each participant will record their physical fitness activities during Lent and, as they track their progress, discover interesting facts about Martin Luther's own life journey.

There are a variety of ways you could tailor the experience to your church. Here are just a few suggestions:

1. Make a bulletin board of “Here We Walk” with the map and pictures of the cities along the way to encourage participation during Lent. Update the board throughout the season to indicate where participants should be in order to finish the journey in six weeks.
2. Stay connected to participants by emailing “snapshots” or “postcards” from each of the cities along the way according to the 6-week/30 minutes a day timeline. You can [use these images from the Religious Travel Planning Guide](#) to create your email postcard.
3. Share the cumulative results of your walk after the adventure is over. In my church, we are taking a group picture between worship services on Sunday, April 23, and will have a drawing for Luther-themed prizes (like books about Martin Luther, root beer, honey, water bottles, gummy worms, etc).
4. Celebrate your congregation's journey (perhaps with a meal of all things German)!

*This submission describes a personal perspective and may or may not reflect the experience of others. Parish Nurse Becky Elsbernd encourages others to use or adapt her materials in their quest for faith and knowledge. For more information, contact her at [Becky.Elsbernd@trinity-mc.org](mailto:Becky.Elsbernd@trinity-mc.org).*

# Here We Walk: A Lenten Journey with Martin Luther



**Journey with Martin Luther and learn about the significant places in his life as we reflect on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.**

Starting Ash Wednesday, March 1st, fill in one square for every 15 minutes of physical activity. For example: walking, swimming, yoga, or aerobics. Anything that gets you actively moving **COUNTS!** If you exercise for 30 minutes every day, you will complete the journey in six weeks. If you complete the journey before six weeks, you may begin a new map if you wish. All maps need to be returned to the church office by Thursday, April 20th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Here We Walk: A Lenten Journey with Martin Luther

## Eisleben



Martin Luther was born in Eisleben in 1483. He also died there in 1546 at the age of 63.

## Erfurt



He attended the University of Erfurt 1501-1505 in preparation to study law. The plan changed when he was caught walking in a thunderstorm and bargained with God to become a monk if he lived through it. Luther lived at the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt from 1505 to 1511. He studied theology at the University of Erfurt in 1507, after being ordained as a priest.

## Eisenach



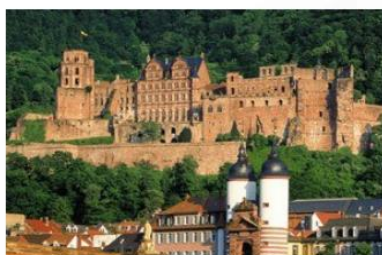
Luther's supporter Prince Frederick had him taken to Wartburg Castle in Eisenach in 1522 to hide from his opponents as "Knight George". It is here that Luther translated the New Testament.

## Worms



In 1521 Luther is excommunicated and summoned to appear before the Diet in Worms, where Emperor Charles V demanded that he recant his teachings. When Luther refused, Charles V issued an edict banning Luther and his teachings.

## Heidelberg



Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university town. Luther presented his beliefs to the Augustinian Order in 1518. He received mixed reviews with many older professors criticizing his ideas and many students embracing them and helping him spread these new beliefs in southern Germany.

## Grimma

In 1525 Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun who fled from a convent near Grimma, and had taken refuge in Wittenberg in 1525. Katharina and Luther had six children. Katharina ran the household; managing the finances, brewing the beer, and gardening.

## Wittenburg



After receiving his doctorate in Theology in 1512, Luther became a Theology Professor at Wittenberg University and priest at the City Church in Wittenberg. It was at this time while studying the Bible, he had a spiritual enlightenment and understood we are saved by grace and not by works. He was disturbed by his parishioners choice to buy indulgences (their salvation) instead of coming to confession. Luther preached against the indulgence trade and wrote a letter to his superiors with 95 theses to start a discussion. Tradition has it that he nailed his letter to the Castle Church doors on October 31, 1517.

### Need motivation?

In 1510, Luther represented the Augustinian Order at a meeting in Rome. To get there he walked around 1,000 miles through the Swiss Alps into Italy. He averaged 26 miles a day and spent his nights at monasteries along the way. It was the season of advent, so he endured snow and less meat.



213 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Mason City, IA 50401  
641-423-0536 [www.trinity-mc.org](http://www.trinity-mc.org)

Sources: [www.germany.travel](http://www.germany.travel); [www.luther.de](http://www.luther.de); [www.visit-luther.com](http://www.visit-luther.com)

41-1837 (1/2017)

Source: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/myportico/CallToLiveWell/FaithBasedWellBeing/WellnessVoices/HereWeWalk>

# The Easter Eve Cantata Returns!

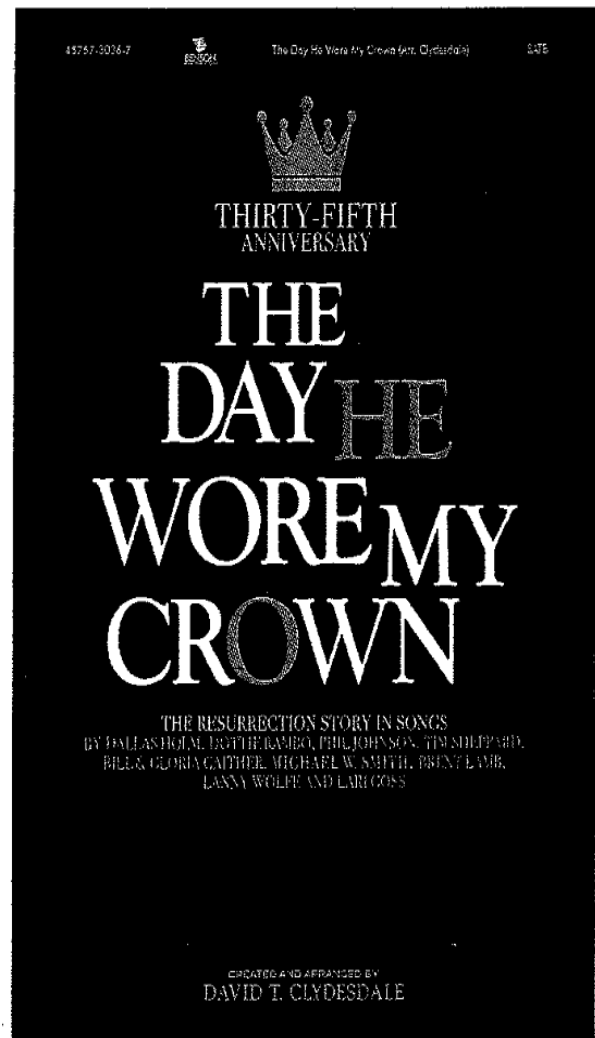
**When:** Holy Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM

**Where:** St Paul's Lutheran Church  
3108 Sterrettania Rd, Erie, PA 16506  
[www.stpaulserie.org](http://www.stpaulserie.org)

**Why:** To glorify and praise God for the incredible gift of Jesus – who lived, died and was resurrected from the dead for the world!

**Rehearsals:** We will rehearse the cantata on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm starting February 28th @ St Paul's. Holden Evening Prayer will be held prior to each rehearsal at 6:30pm starting March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Who:** ANYONE who enjoys praising Jesus through singing a major choral work with a big choir! In addition, interested instrumentalists may contact Andrew directly.



## Contact:

Andrew Rainbow  
Music Director

St Paul's Lutheran Church and Erie Playhouse  
917-645-6795 (Mobile)  
[musicdirector@stpaulserie.org](mailto:musicdirector@stpaulserie.org)

To hear a sample of the music:  
<http://www.jwpepper.com/The-Day-He-WoreMyCrown/10557572.item#.WJt6ekrLIW>



## 2017 World Day of Prayer Service <sup>(Please Post)</sup>

Sponsored by Erie's Church Women United

Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 1:00 PM

ST. JAMES AME CHURCH

236 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA

Plentiful parking. Accessible. All are invited!

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Adrienne Rush (814) 490-8092

For 2017, the women of the Philippines invite us to consider these words: "Am I being unfair to you?" The women of the Philippines share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance. We will learn of a cultural practice called dagyaw, which is a communal way of laboring on neighbors' farms and sharing the harvest among all. It is a way to build and sustain a community.

The theme for 2017 is taken from Matthew 20:1-16, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. While Jesus sees nothing wrong in giving generously, the workers react differently and feel entitled to receive more. As we listen to the women of the Philippines throughout the worship service, we are called to confess, to take responsibility, and to answer God's call for justice. WDP's motto, "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action," affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. Today, millions of God's people suffer from violence, exploitation, the effects of a global economic crisis, and the hardships of emigration.

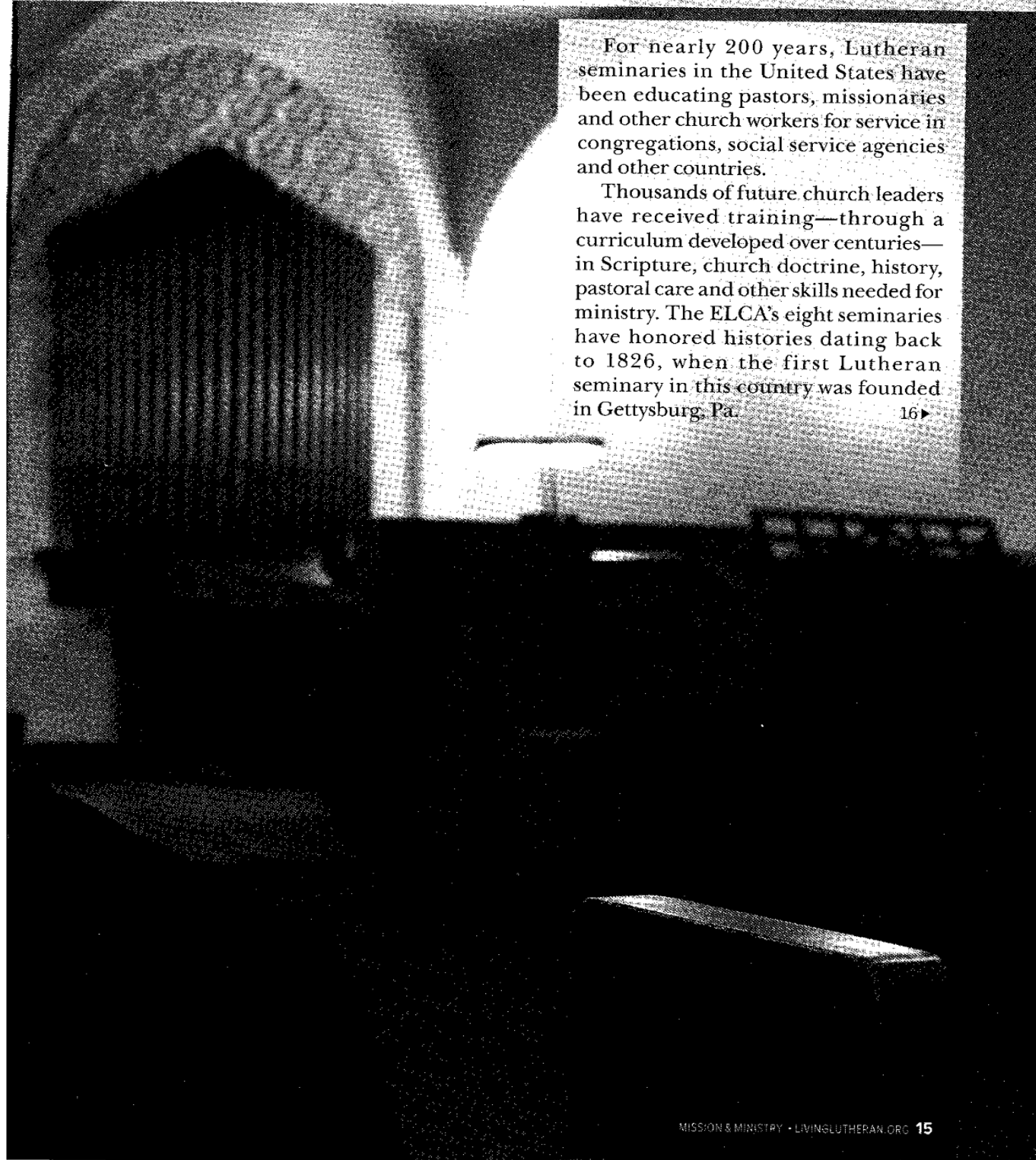
We encourage you to begin thinking about actions that you can take to further expand God's kingdom. The women of WDP Philippines invite us to accept Jesus' infinite blessing and exhort us to receive others into the kingdom of God. Let us walk in faith and prayerful action!

*Source: Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County, 250 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie PA, 16501 –  
Church Women united – A racially, culturally & theologically inclusive ecumenical women's movement –  
their newsletter is available on the bulletin board in front of the church office*



Since you have a Seminary/TEEM-student on staff, I would like to draw attention to this current article from the “Living Lutheran” Magazine, February 2017 edition, pages 15-19. Not everyone always gets a copy, so we provide this article for you. I’m looking forward to hearing your feedback about this article and the “Seminary Status Check.”

You find this article also online at <http://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/02/seminary-status-check/>.



For nearly 200 years, Lutheran seminaries in the United States have been educating pastors, missionaries and other church workers for service in congregations, social service agencies and other countries.

Thousands of future church leaders have received training—through a curriculum developed over centuries—in Scripture, church doctrine, history, pastoral care and other skills needed for ministry. The ELCA’s eight seminaries have honored histories dating back to 1826, when the first Lutheran seminary in this country was founded in Gettysburg, Pa. 16▶

Today those seminaries face problems—some might call the situation a crisis—due to high costs, declining enrollment and changes in the type of education needed for pastors in the 21st century.

In response, ELCA schools have begun a massive effort to reorient almost everything about themselves to fit seminary education to the needs of today's church. Two seminaries are merging. One is relocating, largely to save money. Others are uniting their work with ELCA colleges. Degree programs are being altered and curriculum revised. All are looking at ways to help the seminaries and students bear the high cost of graduate school education.

Michael Cooper-White, president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, said seminary education today takes "a new approach to formation and leadership development. [This] goes beyond checking off a list of courses. We are all looking for ways to better prepare people for the amazingly complex and challenging context of today's ministry," he said.

These efforts are occurring amid declining enrollment. Last year 1,627 students were involved in all seminary programs, said Jonathan Strandjord, ELCA program director for seminaries. That reduced number includes people not preparing for pastoral ministry or those already ordained studying for additional degrees.

In 2008, ELCA seminaries graduated 271 students with the Master of Divinity degree that usually leads to ordination. In 2016 there were 173 such graduates, down nearly 100 from eight years ago.

Those numbers parallel the decline in other seminaries affiliated with the Association of Theological Schools, where total seminary enrollment is down as much as 40 percent in other denominations.

### Merging and moving

Several ELCA schools are already making major changes. Gettysburg Seminary, the oldest of the ELCA theological schools, is merging with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia—a union contemplated as long as 50 years. This year the two schools will become United Lutheran Theological Seminary, with campuses in Philadelphia and Gettysburg.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, is merging with nearby Capital University, an ELCA school, in a union that will be completed this year.

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., merged with the ELCA's California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. The seminary will sell its aging and expensive-to-maintain campus and is moving downtown near Berkeley City College and the University of California.

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., is now affiliated with Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C.

School officials see these moves as not only cost-saving but also as ways to expand the seminary experience.

"For some time, many seminaries had become monastic in nature," said Wayne Powell, president

### The "traditional" path to ordination



Candidate earns a bachelor's degree and is certified by the candidacy committee of his or her synod.



Candidate attends seminary for two years.



Candidate spends one year on internship in a congregation.



Candidate attends another year of seminary.



Candidate graduates with a Master of Divinity degree.

of Lenoir-Rhyne. Today, he said, “seminaries are becoming more interactive with the real world, which, of course, provides the students with a more practical education.”

Cooper-White said the Gettysburg union with the Philadelphia school was not just a “merger, but a new approach to formation and leadership development.”

Seminaries will seek more “partners” in the education of church leaders, said Louise Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. The partners will include other schools, synods, congregations and other agencies, she said. For example, working through the campus ministry program at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Wartburg has five undergraduates taking seminary courses while still in college. The seminary is exploring similar partnerships in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota.

The Philadelphia seminary works with congregations in Rochester, N.Y., and Boston to develop local sites for theological education, said David Lose, president of the school.

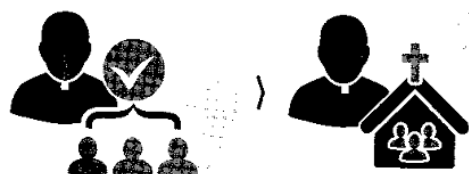
Curriculum and teaching style is also changing dramatically because the church doesn’t have “the same center of gravity or cultural prominence that it once did,” Lose said. “Congregations can no longer imagine that they are a spiritual destination that people informed by the culture will come to seeking inspiration.” Rather than a “concert hall attended by people who love music,” churches need to be more like a “community music school that equips people to better play music, to play the faith,” he added. 18►

## What’s TEAC?

The reorganization of ELCA seminary training is guided by the report of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC), a group appointed in 2013 to look at leadership development for the church.

The group recommended that the ELCA:

- Set a higher priority for theological education, involving synods and congregations, and develop a “common learning platform” of internet-based resources for theological education.
- Actively seek out new leaders for the church, expanding programs that introduce young people to church leadership and asking synods and seminaries to designate people to help congregations, colleges and groups such as campus ministry to encourage people to discern whether they’re being called to ordained ministry.
- Ask seminaries to develop more cooperative programs, do common research on future needs, and work toward balanced budgets and increased reserves and endowments.



Candidate is approved for ordination by candidacy committee of the synod.

The ordination takes place after the candidate receives a call to a congregation.

## Alternate path to ordination

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) is a way of ordaining people “who by reason of age and prior experience” seek an alternate program of preparation for ordination. It is for people who are identified for ministry in a specific context, taking into consideration “the leadership gifts, ministry skills, cultural learning styles/experiences and/or age” of a candidate. TEEM candidates will serve in “emerging ministries” or “ministry settings that are without ordained pastoral leadership.”



A pastor who leads a congregation will be "less of a performer and more of a coach," Lose said, adding that the challenge to seminary education is to develop a curriculum content and style of teaching "to train that kind of leader."

Congregations calling newly ordained pastors will have to prepare themselves for these kinds of leaders (see "A new kind of pastor," page 19).

### The value of seminary

Those studying for ordained ministry are also more diverse and varied in age than previous generations. The needs of these people, sometimes entering seminary after a career in another field, are different from those who have prepared for seminary in college and begin their theological education as soon as they receive their bachelor's degree.

To expand their service to students who might be interested in seminary but aren't seeking ordination as pastors, some schools are adding degrees. "We offer seven new degrees," said Rick Barger, president of Trinity, including a master's in leadership and two-year degrees in areas such as anti-racism, environmental justice and global ethics.

"The future of seminary education," Barger added, "goes beyond divinity degrees."

At Lutheran Southern Seminary, leaders are developing more programs of interest beyond Lutheranism to attract more students.

The high cost of postgraduate education is also a major concern for the seminaries and their students, and there are significant plans to make it possible for people to get through seminary without incurring tens of thousands of dollars of debt. The seminaries, too, often operate on a deficit budget, draining reserve funds or incurring the heavy costs of debt.

In an effort directed both at reducing student debt and developing a new form of seminary education, Trinity is changing its master of divinity program into a "2+2" package. A student spends two years in seminary and then two years on an internship during which time they also take online classes.

When he was a parish pastor, Barger said he had 15 interns and eight of those were in the congregation for two years. "The difference that

the two years made was astonishing; it was a much better formation of a new pastor," he said.

Distance learning technology makes that kind of education possible, said Johnson from Wartburg. Her school was working with students in North Dakota who would be serving in congregations while taking online courses. "Our distance learning programs use video so the faces of the online students are seen in the classroom by the other students," she said.

To help, synods and congregations are encouraged to support seminarians with grants for housing and living expenses, as well as tuition costs. The ELCA Fund for Leaders will provide full tuition scholarships for up to 60 students over the next three years ([elca.org/fundforleaders](http://elca.org/fundforleaders)), and seminaries are seeking to build endowment funds to help students pay tuition costs.

"We are re-prioritizing our budgets, and scholarships are at the top of the list," said Cooper-White, adding that the new United Lutheran Seminary hopes to make it possible for all students to have full scholarships.

The declining number of students in seminary remains a concern. A report from the Theological Education Advisory Committee (see "What's TEAC? on page 17) says it is the job of the whole church—congregations, synods, seminaries and churchwide agencies—to help people discern whether God is calling them to professional ministry in the church.

The ELCA also has fewer congregations than previously, and this changes the number of pastors needed to serve them. Seminary leaders, however, say the schools can also serve as educational resources for laypeople in congregations. Lose of Philadelphia says if seminaries are only seen as schools for training pastors, the ELCA may have too many such schools. But if seminaries are places for "lifelong learning, for laypeople learning more about their faith," then we have too few, he said.

The future of seminary education and the training of new pastors is the task of the whole church, Lose said, citing the report from the advisory council. "The question in front of our church is: do we value a network of Lutheran seminaries? We will succeed or fail to the point that congregations and synods and the whole church decide that we do," he said. **IL**



## A new kind of pastor



As seminaries rework the ways they train new pastors, congregations may have to alter their "image" of a pastor.

"We look at the world around us, and the church, as beautiful and wonderful as it has been, is not effective in reaching out to new people," said Louise Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. "We're not growing."

Congregations often believe it's the pastor's job to get new members and increase attendance at worship, but evangelism is actually the task of every member. Furthermore, "serving the world" is the goal of today's church, and that means more outreach in the community.

One participant involved in the listening portion of the Theological Education Advisory Committee study said, "The entire Christian church in North America (not just Lutherans) has focused much too heavily in the past 60 years on meeting the needs of its members."

"Our congregations have for too long been places where people had their needs met without being sent out to meet the needs of the world," said another person involved in the research. "We need to form and equip leaders who can both cast a vision and help people own and live it."

Pastors prepared for greater service in the world will be teaching members how the gospel enables everyone to reach out and engage in the needs of the world, not just

their own spiritual lives. This is a different image than the view that the pastor is primarily the spiritual leader of a congregation.

New pastors, trained for this kind of outreach, may meet resistance in congregations that see the leader's role as primarily providing care within the church walls. Those new pastors will need to have the leadership skills to handle opposition.

But it's vital to the spiritual health of congregations and the whole ELCA, said one participant, that churches focus on missions and ministries that extend beyond the walls of individual congregations.

Said another respondent: "I believe we are being called to create ways in which seekers/nones/the lapsed can gain an experience of the living God. I believe we are being called to find new ways to create genuine community."

### ELCA seminaries as of Dec. 31, 2016

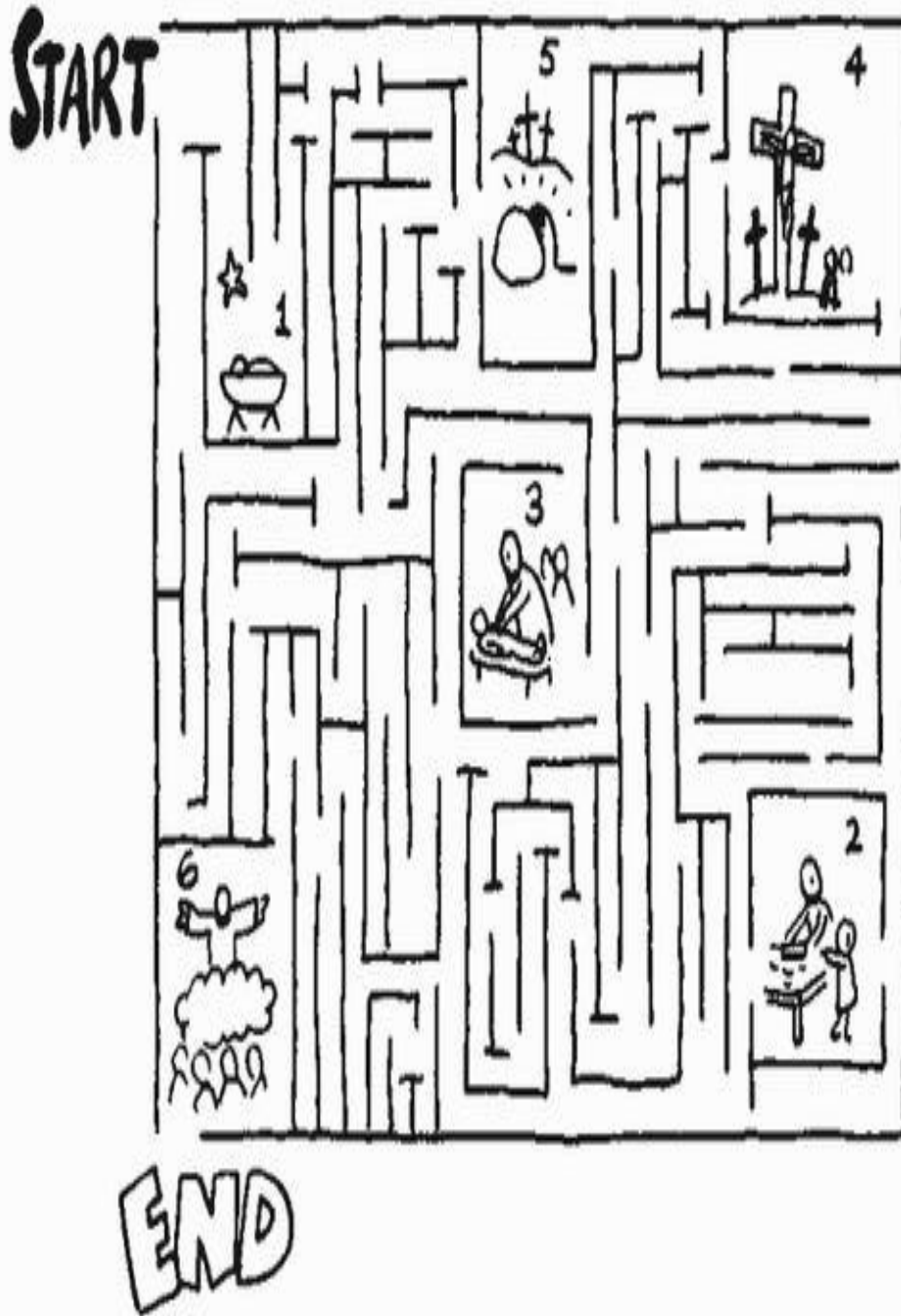
- Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
- Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.
- Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa.).
- Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C.
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.
- Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.
- Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Download a study guide by clicking on the "Spiritual practices & resources" tab at [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org).



**Charles Austin** is a retired ELCA pastor living in Teaneck, N.J. He has also been a reporter for *The New York Times* and other news organizations.

# CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY?



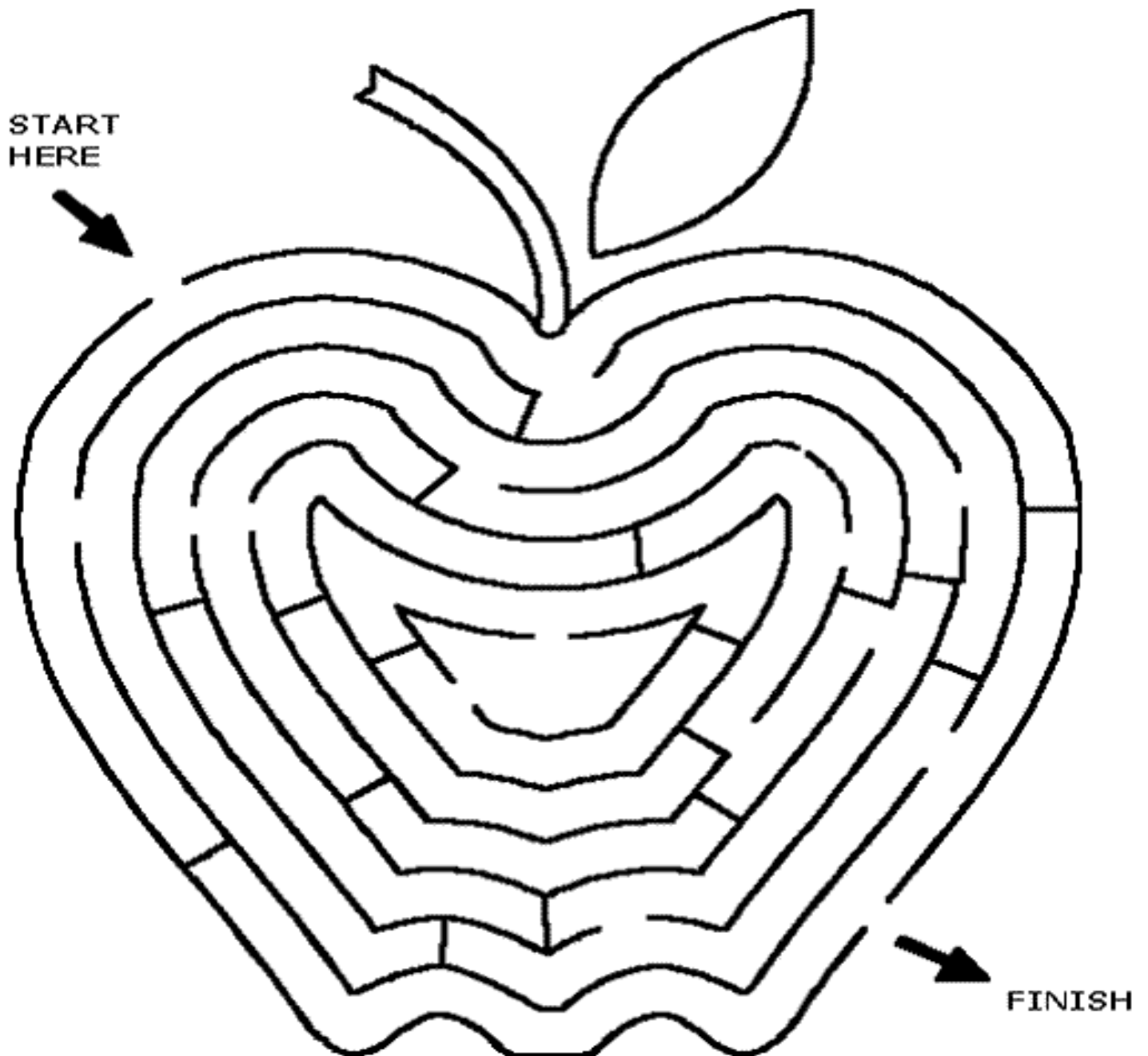
You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

1. Jesus is born at Bethlehem.
2. Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter.
3. Jesus heals a little girl.
4. Jesus is crucified.
5. Jesus is alive again.
6. Jesus ascends to heaven.

Source:

<http://www.nest-promise.net/bible-puzzles-to-print/maze-of-the-life-of-jesus-bible-class-pinterest-coloring-pages-3/>

THE TEMPTATION AND FALL OF MAN  
Genesis 3:1-7



"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.  
"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will  
be opened, and you will be like God,  
knowing good and evil."  
Genesis 3:4-5 (NVI)



**Please Note:** Please inform the Vicar when you are going into the hospital. If you want to be visited, please let us know. Thank you. Vicar's cell phone is: 717-650-0999

### Sunday School

Hi from the second floor office. On February 26<sup>th</sup> we buried our Alleluia banner until Easter. On February 28<sup>th</sup> at our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner we helped Vicar Cowey burn the palm branches from last year to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time to be aware of our sins and wrongdoings and to repent and try to change our ways. On the fourth Sunday (March 26<sup>th</sup>) we celebrate pretzel Sunday. Pretzels are handed out to remind our students to say their prayers and that prayers are said for them. May we all have a quiet, reflective time during Lent as we prepare for the wonderful blessings of Easter. Thanks for reading.

Carolyn Kuntz

\*\*\*\*\*

(Special Note: Also sharing this information with you provided by Janice Kreger. Adult Sunday School, led by Janice Kreger, is now meeting from 9-9:30 am in the lounge.)



# SOCK DRIVE



**The Social Ministry Committee is asking members of Immanuel to bring in warm socks to be given to the residents staying at the Overflow Shelters. Donations can be placed in box near the side entrance during February and March.**



**March 2017**  
**Worship Calendar for Immanuel Lutheran, Erie PA**

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lay Distributor	Lector
<b>3/1/17</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>			
Noon	P. Washill	Bob Dorler	n/a	Bob Dorler
7:00p.m.	P. Lundwall	Bob Dorler	n/a	Bob Dorler
<b>3/5/17</b>				
Early	V. Cowey	Debbie Redditt	Rick Kuntz	Bill Redditt
Late	V. Cowey	Bob Dorler	Debbie Redditt	Gretchen Andrews
<b>3/12/17</b>				
Early	V. Cowey	Ben Reitz	Debbie Redditt	Barb Coughlin
Late	V. Cowey	G. Andrews	Bob Roemer	Debbie Madurski
<b>3/19/17</b>				
Early	V. Cowey	Stan Holsopple	Rick Kuntz	Bob Dorler
Late	V. Cowey	Anita Byrne	Cindy Geddes	Gretchen Andrews
<b>3/26/17</b>				
Early	V. Cowey	Debbie Redditt	Hannah Mays	Bill Redditt
Late	V. Cowey	G. Andrews	Anita Byrne	Debbie Madurski

**Acolyte:** n/a

**Altar Guild:** P.Maloney/S.Pfeiffer

**Counters:** Stan Holsopple

**Ushers:** E: Rick Kuntz/Bill Redditt L: Mike & Kim Lee

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.

**Save the Date: Celebrations**

**March Birthdays**

March 4	Julie Sierota
7	Ronald Cooper/Joe Byrne
8	Stephanie Wood
11	Ava Fetcho
12	Carolyn Kuntz
15	Mae Rapp
25	Lori Nemenz, Isaiah Guthrie
27	Jeanette Swanson/Michael Moore
29	Remembering John (Jack) Ressler
31	Mary Hauser

**Everyone loves a birthday card! Please remember a member!!**

**March Anniversaries**

**Congratulations** to those celebrating their anniversary on:

4 Michael and Jodie Feiler

Did I forget you? Please e-mail me or call me with your birthdays, anniversaries or a special day you would like us to share.

[immluthch@verizon.net](mailto:immluthch@verizon.net)



**KEEP IN PRAYER:** Lucie Arndt, Denise Arnold, Esther Bax, the family of Craig Bartlett, Rose Brown, Betsy Case, Jeremy Cool, Pat Dehner, Cindy Geddes, David Guthrie, Jim Hornaman, Pastor Huhn, Lynn Jackson's Mother – Charlotte, Carolyn Kuntz, Jim Kuntz, Marie McKinney, Michael, Sharon Roemer, Crystal S., Pastor Schultz, Maria S., Debbie Sitter, Robin Steger, Pastor Weber, Kim Wingard, and all of our members who are grieving; who are in nursing homes, or ill at home. We pray for those in the military: Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew) & Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson).

*Please also remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card. The current Shut-In List is available in the office.*

### **Sanctuary Candle & Altar Flower Sponsorship Charts for 2017**

The 2017 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle Charts are posted in the narthex and we invite you to consider sponsoring as you are able. Please sign your name on the chart, along with your commemoration next to the date(s) you select or call the church office at 833-4062, email us, or stop by and I will take your request.

Either is a great way to honor/memorialize that special occasion.

The cost of Altar Flowers from the florist is \$30; the sanctuary candles are \$5/wk and rosebuds are \$10 – due on the date of sponsorship.

If you prefer to bring your own flowers or plants please contact the office to make arrangements.

### **2017 Envelopes and Tax Statements**

The 2017 offering envelopes and 2016 annual giving statements are available for pick up in the church office. If you need special arrangements, please contact the church office at 814-833-4062.

### **From The Immanuel Library Book Worm**

<b>Amy Carmichael: A Life Abandoned to God – BY SAM WELLMAN</b>	32W
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-----

If you decide to read this book, please don't give up as you read facts and figures of this young girl dedicated to doing God's work.

In a very round-about set of circumstances, she became a missionary in India around 1894. The story leads the reader through Amy's trials in getting a school started so she could take in the young girls who were forced into prostitution at dangerously young ages. Her determination saved many young lives. Her dedication to doing God's work never faltered due to her very strong faith!



*Reviewed by Jeanette Swanson*



**EASTER FLOWERS**, I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ flowers for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday at \$8.00 each.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate your preference below*

\_\_\_\_\_ please have circle member deliver to shut in

\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver to shut in

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to pick up after late service

\*\*\*\*\*

**Instead of flowers** I would like to give \_\_\_\_\_ for the Special Offering for Easter Sunday to go towards eliminating hunger locally and globally.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **is enclosed.**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE FORM & DONATION IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR SEND  
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY APRIL 3, 2017.**

## **Church Council Committees**

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!*

*Council usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month – 7PM*

### **Christian Education**

Council liaison: Ben Reitz

*March 26<sup>th</sup> – Pretzel Sunday*

### **Communications**

Council liaison: vacant    Committee Chair: vacant

Check out our website and “FRIEND” us on [Facebook](#)

Did you miss church? Like to refresh your day by reading the sermon? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the church calendar, newsletter or annual report?

Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

### **Fellowship, Outreach & Growth**

Council liaisons: David & Hannah Mays

*Members and guests are welcome to take the bookmarks and pocket calendars in the pews.*

### **Finance**

Council liaison: Gretchen Andrews

### **Property**

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt    Committee Chair: Stan Holsopple

*Property Committee usually meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of the month-7pm*

### **Stewardship**

Council liaison: John Seifert

**Please fill out your Time & Talent forms and consider a 2017 Pledge –pick up a form at church or ask for one in the office**

### **Social Ministry Committee**

Council liaison: Mary Hauser – Committee chair: vacant

*Sock Collection – see details on the bulletin board and in the newsletter*

### **Worship & Music**

Council liaison: Kim Lee    Committee Chair: vacant





### **Immanuel Hours**

Church Office – 833-4062

Hours - Mon-Thurs. 8:30am-12:30pm

### **Staff**

Vicar Heidi Cowey

Bell Choir Director Lorraine Hornaman

Church Caretaker Wally Coughlin

Organist/Music Director Bryan Timm

Administrative Secretary Lori Swanson Nemenz

### **Sunday school**

Superintendent Carolyn Kuntz

Assistant Janice Kreger

### **Elected Lay Leadership**

Treasurer John Siefert

Financial Secretary Cindy Geddes – 734-1286

### **Church Council Officers**

President David Mays – 838-3239

Vice President – Ben Reitz – 460-0575

Secretary Kim Lee -838-4022

### **Council Members**

Gretchen Andrews, Cindy Eckman, Mary Hauser, Kim Lee, David Mays, Hannah Mays, Debbie Redditt, Ben Reitz, John Siefert.