

Looking Back & Called Forward: A Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

A Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Oct. 31, 2017 Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.





"A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything: a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all."

Martin Luther, "Freedom of a Christian"





Welcome

October 31, 2017

Today we gather as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – here in this place, across this church, and with our Lutheran family around the globe – to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This centennial has provided a welcome occasion to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation, while strengthening our understanding and commitment to our ministries. It has given us an opportunity to look back on the history of our tradition and to discern how we are being called forward together in Christ.

As the first centennial of the Reformation to take place in the context of our church's deep ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, this anniversary is unfolding in a spirit of reconciliation. Together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, and other ecumenical companions, we have taken significant steps on the way to unity, justice and peace. With our inter-religious neighbors, we also have deepened mutual understanding across religious lines and collaborated for the common good. As a sign of our shared commitments to reconciliation, we are especially honored to have present with us today so many of our partners and friends.

Over the course of this year, in initiatives and events across this church and The Lutheran World Federation, we have been inspired by the ways in which Lutherans continue to share boldly the gifts of our tradition. One of these is Martin Luther's insistence that the unconditional promise of God's love in Jesus Christ frees us to love and serve our neighbors. This counter-cultural message is as fit for us today as it was for Christians 500 years ago.

On this day, and into God's future, we are called to be a public witness to how God is continually at work, in and through us, re-forming the body of Christ in a world broken by sin. Thanks be to God.

lyaluon la Eater

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



PROGRAM

- 9:45 a.m. Prelude
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and introduction by co-hosts

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton ELCA presiding bishop

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair, Conference of Bishops

William B. Horne II ELCA vice president

The Rev. Richard H. Graham bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod

10:15 a.m. Ministries of reconciliation: 500 years of division & 50+ years of dialogue

This portion of the program will explore the ELCA's ecumenical and inter-religious ministries of reconciliation and offer opportunities for dialogue and collaboration on important issues. Learn about the significance of the 500th anniversary as the first centennial to take place in the context of our church's deep ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships.

Emceed by **Bishop William O. Gafkjen** of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, and **Khadijah Islam**, member of Journey Lutheran Church in Onalaska, Wis., and Common Ground Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. – 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NRSV

Lutheran-Catholic relations

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and **Bishop Denis J. Madden**, auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and co-chair of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue

Lutheran-Jewish relations

Litany of Confession

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The Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock, professor emeritus, Gustavus Adolphus College, and chair of the ELCA Lutheran-Jewish Consultative Panel; and **The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson**, interim pastor at Lutheran Church of the Master in West Los Angeles, Calif., and member of the Consultative Panel

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, director of the Religion Action Center of Reform Judaism

Lutheran-Muslim relations

The Rev. Amanda France, former intern at Grace Lutheran Church in Dawson, Minn., and pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bird Island, Minn.; and **Dr. Ayaz Virji**, family doctor in Dawson, Minn., and lecturer on Islam

Racial justice and reconciliation

Bishop W. Darin Moore, presiding prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and incoming chair of the board, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; and **Bishop William J. Gohl Jr.** of the Delaware-Maryland Synod

Hymn: Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710

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PROGRAM

11:45 a.m. Luncheon

12:45 p.m. Future directions: Stories of the church

This portion of the program will feature stories from ELCA ministries on the themes of leadership and congregational vitality. Learn how these two important priorities are playing a significant role in shaping the future of this church.

Featured speakers and stories include:

Will Bevins

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia graduate and ELCA Fund for Leaders recipient, Air Force chaplain candidate (2nd Lt.)

St. Paul Thai Lutheran Church

Forest Park, III., Metropolitan Chicago Synod

The Rev. Cary Bass-Deschenes

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Berkeley, Calif., Sierra Pacific Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan

Lutheran Clinic and Center, Juba, South Sudan

Rebel Hurd Church on the Street, Sioux Falls, S.D., South Dakota Synod

CJ Clark and Sharon Mamuya

Bridge Builders, a program of Living Waters Ministries at Stony Lake, New Era, Mich.

The Rev. Tom Knoll and Amanda Wahlig First Trinity Lutheran Church, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod

New Life Lutheran Church Dripping Springs, Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

Servant's Table Tulsa, Okla., Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

Q&A

with **Rick Steves**, PBS host, filmmaker, travel writer and member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Wash., and **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Elizabeth A. Eaton**

- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Holy Communion
- 5:00 p.m. Reception at the Folger Shakespeare Library Located across the street, 201 E. Capitol St. SE

Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor. Otherwise they are not Christians. They live in Christ through faith, in their neighbor through love." – Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian"

Litany of Confession

Based on the 1994 "Declaration of ELCA to Jewish Community"

O Holy Blessed One, we acknowledge before you that the treatment accorded the Jewish people on the part of Christian believers has been a tragic development in the long history of Christianity. This includes the horrors of the Holocaust of the twentieth century in places where Lutheran churches were strongly represented. With deep and abiding sorrow, we confess before you and one another, and in the presence of our Jewish neighbors, that we have too often been silent before, or complicit in, the sad contagion of anti-Semitism which continues to this day.

O Maker and Keeper of us all, reform our faith and our living to reflect more boldly your endless mercy.

As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we remember the legacy of the reformer Martin Luther. Honoring his name in our own, we recall his bold stand for truth, his earthy and sublime words of wisdom, and above all his witness to your saving Word. In his proclamation of the Gospel, Luther bid us to trust a grace sufficient to reach our deepest shames and most tragic truths. Renew in us the spirit of this truth-telling, that we who bear his name reaffirm and make public our repudiation of Luther's anti-Judaic diatribes and of the violent recommendations in his later writings against the Jews.

O Maker and Keeper of us all, reform our faith and our living to reflect more boldly your endless truth.

In concert with The Lutheran World Federation, we particularly deplore the appropriation of Luther's words by modern anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred toward Judaism or the Jewish people in any time or place. Help us to recognize in anti-Semitism a contradiction and an affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling. Empower us to be active witnesses to your far-reaching, unending love for all people and all creation.



O Maker and Keeper of us all, reform our faith and our living to reflect more boldly your endless love.

Grieving the complicity of our own tradition within this history of hatred, today, on this 500th anniversary, we whose lives are held captive by your Word ask your blessing upon our urgent desire to live out our faith in Jesus Christ with love and respect for our Jewish neighbors. Empower us to stand in solidarity with each other to oppose the deadly working of every kind of bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us.

O Maker and Keeper of us all, reform our faith and our living to reflect more boldly your endless peace.

Finally, we pray for your continued blessing and wisdom, empowerment and joy, O Holy One, upon the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community, in every expression of our life together here, and all around the world.

O Maker and Keeper of us all, reform our faith and our living to reflect more boldly your endless grace.



Let Streams of Living Justice



Co-Hosts



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

was elected as the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly after serving as bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod since 2006. As the ELCA's chief ecumenical and inter-religious officer, Bishop Eaton represents the ELCA in a wide range of settings, including on the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Her four emphases as presiding bishop are: We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; We are church for the sake of the world. In May 2017, she was elected vice-president of The Lutheran World Federation for the North America Region.



The Rev. William O. Gafkjen

is serving a second six-year term as bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, initially elected in 2010. He served as an assistant to the bishop of the synod from 2002 to 2010. Bishop Gafkjen is a member of the St. Olaf College Board of Regents. Since 2015, he has served as chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.



The Rev. Richard H. Graham

is serving a second six-year term as bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, initially elected in 2007. Bishop Graham is a board member of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. In October 2014, he received the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Award for his contributions toward understanding and solidarity between Holy Land Christians and Christians elsewhere.



William "Bill" Horne II

was elected to serve a six-year term as ELCA vice president at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. He grew up as a member of the National Baptist religious tradition and became a Lutheran while serving in the Air Force in 1982. He served as a member of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council and later as synod vice president.

Presenters



The Rev. Cary Bass-Deschenes

has served for two years as the pastor for Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley, Calif., which is their first call. After careers in banking, design and copy writing, and the internet non-profit sector, interspersed with a period of exploration, they entered Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University at the age of 43 and graduated in 2014 with a Master of Divinity. They live in Richmond, Calif., with their husband, Michael, volunteers weekly in ministry at San Quentin prison, and reaches out to the homeless community in Berkeley both with their congregation and on periodic night ministry walks.



Will Bevins

is a 2017 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and a chaplain candidate (2nd Lt.) in the Air Force. Undergoing the ordination process as a third career, after 14 years as an educator and five as an editor, he is following a life-long dream of serving in the military, as did his grandfather and other family members. He enjoys traveling with his wife, Wendi, as well as reading, writing and hiking.



CJ Clark

serves as executive director of Living Water Ministries in New Era, Mich., an ELCA and Episcopal organization that provides youth ministry and summer camp experiences primarily in Michigan for all of God's children with a focus on faith formation, service, leadership and community. He is a graduate of Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., where he received a bachelor's degree in art with a minor in physics and enjoys both the creative and analytical. He is husband to Amanda and father to Logan and lives on the camp property in New Era.



The Rev. Amanda France

served as the intern pastor at Grace Lutheran in Dawson, Minn. In 2017, she graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and has been ordained and installed as pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bird Island, Minn. She studied comparative religion in seminary and speaks regularly on Islam and Christianity.





The Rev. William J. Gohl Jr.

was elected in June 2016 to a six-year term as bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod. He served as evangelism coordinator for the synod from 2004 to 2010. He attended Gettysburg College as well as the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and is a student in the doctor of ministry program at United Lutheran Seminary.



Rebel Hurd

served previously as a social worker, and is now a synodically authorized minister for the South Dakota Synod and leads the Church on the Street in Sioux Falls. Additionally, she is a member of the Homeless and Justice Network of the ELCA and serves on the Leadership Team. Since serving Church on the Street and feeling called and encouraged by people who know her love for Christ and desire to share the gospel, she is now a seminarian, working on her Master of Divinity through Luther House of Study and the Sioux Falls Seminary.



Khadijah Islam

is a member of Journey Lutheran Church in Onalaska, Wis., and the Common Ground Campus Ministry. She is a junior at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse and is majoring in psychology. In October 2016, she participated in Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's webcast "Ecumenical Witness and the Reformation Anniversary."



The Rev. Dr. Darrell Jadock

is the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., an ELCA pastor, and chair of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations. He also serves on the ELCA Inter-Religious Task Force that is developing a policy statement on inter-religious relations.



The Rev. Tom Knoll

is the senior pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. He also is a member of the Downtown Cluster of Churches and has served on the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness. He is a graduate of Concordia College in Milwaukee and Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Ind., receiving a Bachelor of Arts in psychology/sociology and theology in 1977. In 1981, he received a Master of Divinity from Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, with a special emphasis on urban ministry. In 1982 he received a master's in social work with a special emphasis on community development from St. Louis University.



Presenters Continued



Bishop Denis James Madden

was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2005. He oversees approximately 97 parishes and 49 schools in Baltimore, Baltimore County and Hartford County. He served as co-chair of the Declaration on the Way Task Force and is the co-chair for the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the United States. He was one of the co-founders of the Accord Foundation, a humanitarian organization that has worked since 1988 in the West Bank and Gaza.



Sharon Mamuya

is a junior at Ankeny High School in Ankeny, Iowa, and a first-generation American, her parents having immigrated from Tanzania. As a Living Waters Ministries' Bridge Builders attendee, she developed a deeper understanding about herself as a young person of color, learned the power and strength of prayer and unity and was motivated to be an active participant in her community.



Bishop W. Darin Moore

is the presiding prelate for the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and incoming chair of the board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. He is a member of the World Methodist Council, board of trustees for Hood Theological Seminary, and is the treasurer of the board of trustees for Livingstone College.



Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner

has been the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism since 2015. He also has served as senior vice president of the Union for Reform Judaism since 2011. Named one of the most influential rabbis in the United States by *Newsweek* magazine, he is an inspirational leader, creative entrepreneur and tireless advocate for social justice.



The Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson

serves as interim pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Master in West Los Angeles, Calif., in the Southwest California Synod, where she also co-chairs the Green Faith Team. She is a long-time member of the Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations of the ELCA and was the primary drafter of the Litany of Confession featured in today's program. She is a certified spiritual director and convocator at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks.



Rick Steves

is a guidebook author and travel TV host, and is America's most respected authority on European travel. Rick Steves' Europe, a multi-media productions company, creates more than 50 European travel guidebooks, a popular public television travel series, and a weekly hour-long national public radio show. He produced a public television special, "Luther and the Reformation," to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and has hosted national video productions for the ELCA. He lives and works in his hometown of Edmonds, Wash., and attends Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. Learn more at ricksteves.com.



Dr. Ayaz Virji

is a family physician in Dawson, Minn. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School and completed his specialty training at Duke Medical Center. His story was featured on the front page of *The Washington Post* and many other national media outlets. He speaks routinely on the topics of diversity, inclusion, love and understanding Islam.



Amanda Wahlig

is an attorney for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and is a member of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. She has long been active in church leadership, serving on a congregation council as a teenager and was a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly at age 16. Outside of her congregation, she volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and Cancer to 5K.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere thanks to:

Our ecumenical and inter-religious guests for their presence with us today and their ongoing partnership with us in ministries of reconciliation.

Eftakhar Alam

strategic relationship specialist, Islamic Relief USA

Azhar Azeez president, Islamic Society of North America

The Rev. Alfred Baca

executive director, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Rev. David Beckmann president, Bread for the World

Dr. Anthony Cirelli

associate director, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Colin Christopher

director, Islamic Society of North America, Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances

Lee DeYoung

vice president of General Synod 2017, Reformed Church in America

The Rev. Dr. G. Wilson Gunn Jr.

general presbyter, Presbyterian Church USA, National Capital Presbytery

Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton

president, Churches Uniting in Christ and presiding prelate, Fifth Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Susan Johnson

national bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Most Rev. Denis J. Madden auxiliary bishop emeritus of Baltimore, Archdiocese of Baltimore

The Rev. Dr. Peter E. Makari

executive, Middle East and Europe Global Ministries, United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Rev. Carlos Malavé executive director, Christian Churches Together in the USA

Bishop Marcus Matthews executive secretary, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church

The Rev. John McCullough president and CEO, Church World Service

Julia McStravog

program and research specialist, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller

president, Moravian Church Northern Province

Bishop W. Darin Moore

presiding prelate, Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Dr. Catherine Orsborn director,

Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner

director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Rev. Tammie Rinker

senior pastor, Trinity Moravian Church, Moravian Church Northern Province

The Rev. Dr. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP

associate director, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Rev. Canon Charles C. Robertson, PhD

canon to the presiding bishop, The Episcopal Church

Nancy Robinson

assistant to the executive director, Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Rev. Margaret Rose

deputy for ecumenical and interfaith collaboration, The Episcopal Church

Rabbi Dr. David Fox Sandmel

director of interreligious engagement, Anti-Defamation League

Rabbi David Saperstein

director emeritus and senior adviser for policy and strategy, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Monica Schaap Pierce

ecumenical associate, Reformed Church in America



The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully

director of faith, worship and ministry, The Anglican Church of Canada

Dr. Sayyid Syeed

senior adviser, Islamic Society of North America

The Rev. Dr. Kyle R. Tau ecumenical staff officer, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations, United Church of Christ

Dr. Ayaz Virji

family doctor, Dawson Clinic, Dawson, Minn., and lecturer on Islam

The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

senior associate for pan African and Orthodox Church engagement, Bread for the World

James Winkler

general secretary/president, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

The Lutheran Church of the Reformation, including The Rev. Michael Wilker, Jane Rutherford and many volunteers for their partnership and hospitality

The Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod of the ELCA, including Bishop Richard Graham, Katharyn Wheeler, Karen Krueger and the synod staff

The co-hosts and presenters whose preparation and participation today enhanced our church's public witness on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

Stephen Padre, for providing musical accompaniment

Members of the ELCA planning team, including Kathryn Lohre, chair; Rob Campbell, Brooke De Jong, Heather Dean, Jocelyn Fuller, Eileen Heffner, Kathryn Johnson, Michala Mahoney, Dan Michel, Mary Beth Nowak, Rosa Perez, Amy Reumann, Gail Schroeder, Kevin Strickland

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial ministry of the ELCA, for providing the commemorative lunch bags. Learn more at mif.elca.org.

New Course Catering, a non-profit organization and ministry partner of First Trinity Lutheran Church, committed to preparing homeless men and women for careers in the food service industry, for preparing our meal

Spark Street Digital, for providing the livestream and technical infrastructure for today's event

Thrivent Financial, a financial planning provider, for the generous grant in support of the ELCA's ministries and mission related to our observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Learn more at Thrivent.com.

The Folger Shakespeare Library, which houses the largest collection of Reformation-era documents in the U.S., for hosting the reception

Videos and resources

Find the presiding bishop's 2017 synod assembly video and other videos shared throughout the program at YouTube.com/ELCA.

Visit ELCA500.org for stories, news, resources, videos and more to help you and your congregation continue to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Watch The Lutheran World Federation broadcast of worship services from the LWF's seven regions on Reformation Day by visiting ELCA500.org.

Caring for creation is a way we say, "Thanks be to God!"

The Lutheran Church of the Reformation generates all of its electricity from wind and solar power. The congregation has one of the largest privately owned roof-top solar arrays in the District of Columbia. This program is printed on recycled paper and is sourced responsibly. We recycle all paper, cardboard, cans, bottles and many other items. Please deposit your used materials in the proper receptacles.



Notes





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

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ELCA500.org

