



## 'Feed my lambs'

By Bishop Wayne N. Miller

*Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15).*

A couple of weeks ago, early in the evening, I knocked off work at my desk and said matter-of-factly to my wife, Pam, "I'm starving. Let's grab something to eat."

There is nothing very noteworthy about this exclamation. I get hungry pretty frequently, actually. In fact, when I was a teenager, my family used to joke that I must have been born with a "hollow leg" because that was their only explanation for the amount of food I could take in, in those fondly remembered days, without putting on a pound!

But on this occasion, the well-worn complaint lodged in my consciousness because I suddenly realized that it wasn't true. I wasn't starving at all. In fact I wasn't even hungry. In our culture of abundance, to say I am hungry mostly means that I am temporarily running low on calories. For much of the world, being hungry means "running on empty" with little prospect of ever having enough to feel full.

People don't live by bread alone, of course. And all around us we see many examples of people who live with a lack of material abundance but exhibit a fullness of wisdom and a joyful spirit that puts the rest of us to shame.

Still, having enough to eat is not irrelevant. It may be true that we cannot live by bread alone. But without bread we cannot live at all.

Perhaps that is why, in the post-resurrection exchange between Jesus and Peter, the disciple is charged with more than just one feeding. More than one feeding is needed. And the first feeding is still, purely and simply, enough to eat.

In the fall of 2017 we are going to be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation—an event that, among other things,



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remembers a sharp turn of direction in Western Christianity back to Jesus Christ and Christ alone as the source and the goal of all we are and all we do.

As we think of what the Reformation means here and now, it seems fitting that a good place to start is by remembering that to love Jesus means to feed his lambs. In our case this means celebrating the mission of ELCA World Hunger, which the people of this synod already support at a level of half a million dollars a year.

And then, having rejoiced in all that we are already doing, it's time to challenge ourselves to express our love for Jesus even more by stretching to raise **\$1 million** for ELCA World Hunger between now and Oct. 31, 2017. It's a challenge to feed World Hunger's faithful work—not only the work of feeding those who are running on empty now, but also the work of creating self-sustaining communities all over the world with the capacity to feed Christ's lambs a third time, and a tenth and a 15th time, far into the future.

It will be a challenge for us, particularly in a time in our society when we seem to be thinking and talking all the time about our scarcity. But I know we can do this. And I know that rising to this challenge to feed his lambs will fill us also with an abundance of grace beyond imagination. ✞

## Landahl receives LSTC Confessor of Christ Award

The Rev. Paul Landahl, bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod from 2001 to 2007, received the Confessor of Christ Award from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) on May 15, during commencement. The award is given, by vote of the faculty, to a Christian individual whose commitment to Christ Jesus and the gospel manifests itself through extraordinary personal sacrifice for the sake of Jesus Christ and the gospel or an exemplary witness to Christ Jesus and the gospel by selfless service to others.



The Rev. Paul Landahl

The faculty bestowed the award in recognition of Landahl's "tireless advocacy for the rights of diverse individuals and groups, including the poor, people of color, and those in the LGBTQ community," throughout his more than 50 years of ordained ministry.

In his role as LSTC director of candidacy, he has been clear about the need to know students as individuals. He provides wise guidance and care to students throughout the candidacy process, and serves as their advocate as they seek their first call. He is also coordinator of The Tithing and Stewardship Foundation at LSTC.

"It is especially heartening when the exemplary witness whom the faculty identifies for this award is in fact one of our very own," said James Nieman, LSTC president. "I am deeply thankful that Paul's generous spirit, strong faith and gentle good humor are regularly in our midst."

In 1965, Landahl served as a mission developer of Hope Lutheran Church in Warren, Mich. In 1972 he took a call to Ascension Lutheran Church in Riverside, Ill., where he served for 23 years. In 1995 he became an associate to the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and was elected its bishop six years later. ㄥ

## Lutherdale dedicates new sign

Lutherdale celebrated its 71 years of ministry by dedicating a new sign at its highway entrance. A gift from a donor, it displays the new Lutherdale logo and is more visible to passers-by.

The sign is also a "sign" of changing times for Lutherdale. In addition to its summer camps for kids and retreat programs, Lutherdale is expanding its adult ministry. Last year 7,100 adults participated in Lutherdale programs, well above the 4,600 youth participants.

One of the fastest growing programs for adults is Lutherdale's travel ministry. A variety of excursions are offered throughout the year, including day trips, three- to five-day trips, and seven- to nine-day trips. The ministry seeks to build community on the coach with worship, daily devotions and singing. On a recent trip evaluation a guest wrote: "Every time I travel with you I feel like I am

traveling with family."

To further enlarge and develop programs that meet the needs of adults, Lutherdale is embarking on a capital campaign called "SHARE *the* ADVENTURE" to raise funds for a high comfort lodge located near the dining hall. Nearly \$1.2 million has already been raised and pledged toward the \$2.5 million project.



For more information on all programs at Lutherdale, visit [lutherdale.org](http://lutherdale.org). ㄥ

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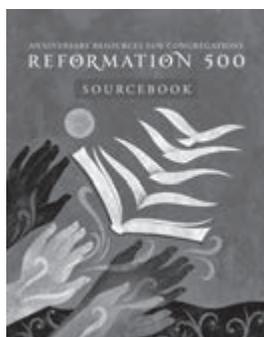
# Reformation anniversary resources

By Eric Vollen

You or your congregation may already be asking, “How do we observe the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation?” Through several avenues, the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress will be highlighting a wide range of ideas and possibilities for observing this milestone. Several of these resources are currently in development and will soon be available.

## ‘Reformation 500 Sourcebook’

As congregations plan the ways they will mark the Reformation’s anniversary, the *Reformation 500 Sourcebook* will be an essential guide. The content is gathered into three main sections that focus on the areas of worship, education and service. Gathered will be a variety of ideas for planning worship services, education events, music festivals, service projects and connections with other Christians. A CD-ROM of reproducible, customizable content is also included.



## Adult education resource

The adult education resource, currently in development and yet to be titled, will serve as a rich resource book for getting to know who Lutherans are, what they teach, where they come from, and where they are today. The resource, edited by Kit Kleinhans, a professor of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, includes sections on Lutheran basics, Lutheran history and practice, and a wide range of stories from the global Lutheran family. More than 30 contributors—teachers, pastors, bishops, activists and global Lutherans—are writing for this resource.

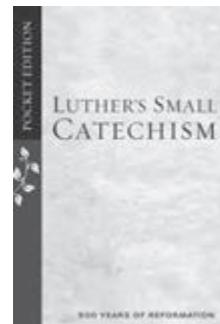
## Children’s graphic novel

*Papa Luther* is a 96-page, full-color graphic novel—or comic book—that’s being developed for children ages 8 to 12. It’s also suitable for older youth—and more than a few adults too. *Papa Luther* tells the

story of Martin Luther and the Reformation as seen through the eyes of his children.

## Luther’s Small Catechism

At the Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering in August, the ELCA will launch an initiative inviting ELCA members and congregations to engage Martin Luther’s catechisms in renewed study and conversation during the 14 months leading up to Oct. 31, 2017.



In support of the anniversary and this churchwide initiative, Augsburg Fortress is developing new print, eBook and mobile app editions of Luther’s Small Catechism. For handheld mobile devices, the *Anniversary Study Edition* will also be available as an eBook, and two digital mobile apps are also in development. The English Small Catechism and Spanish *El Catecismo Menor de Lutero* are both included in the free, basic mobile app version. Content from the study edition will be available as an in-app purchase.

To pre-order the *Reformation 500 Sourcebook*, download a free sampler and receive announcements about the forthcoming anniversary resources, visit [reformation500.instapage.com](http://reformation500.instapage.com).

## Ongoing Reformation

How will Lutherans observe this anniversary in ways that are forward-looking, outward-directed and focused on the amazing mercy of God in Jesus Christ? Blessings to you and your congregation as you seek to answer that question in the places where you live and serve. [L](#)

**Vollen** is marketing manager for Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.

## A welcoming approach to mental health treatment

Individuals experiencing a mental health crisis often turn to hospital emergency rooms for care. While they may find stabilizing treatment for a non-critical crisis, their long-term needs can be difficult to address.

“It’s easy for these individuals to get lost outside of the emergency room,” said Manoj Patel, director of Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team), a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI).

To further address the mental health needs of the community, LSSI’s Welcoming Center opened in 2015 on Chicago’s North Side. The center is a safe alternative to emergency room care for nonemergency mental health care, acting as a bridge to longer term treatment. Staff help individuals living with anxiety, depression, alcohol/drug problems, homelessness, post-traumatic stress, domestic violence and other emotional stressors.

Decorated with soothing colors and comfortable couches, the Welcoming Center provides a relaxed environment. It serves walk-in clients from the community and returning clients. Individuals are referred from Swedish Covenant Hospital’s Emergency Department and physician offices. It

also serves patients discharged from the inpatient unit at Swedish Covenant and other community hospitals who need immediate linkage to behavioral health care.

A nurse gives all clients at the Welcoming Center a wellness check. Clients meet with a counselor, peer specialist and case manager.



Photo: Allen Bourgeois

Nurse Mira Michalczyk gives all clients a wellness check at Lutheran Social Service of Illinois’ Welcoming Center.

Counselors ask about symptoms or problems, helping explore new ways to manage the issues clients are experiencing. A case manager can connect individuals to needed resources, such as medical care, food, housing and other services. A peer specialist can relate to clients in a relevant manner—they, too, have experienced mental health or substance use treatment—to help them make important decisions about their care and create a plan for the future.

Staff help de-escalate a client’s crisis, provide therapeutic support and link them to long-term behavioral health providers. Advanced nurse practitioners can prescribe needed medication.

“Clients can experience long waiting lists in the community for long-term providers. The Welcoming Center can help engage clients in treatment for up to 90 days, which helps prevent them from cycling in and out of the emergency room as they wait to engage in longer-term services,” Patel said. “We give our patients hope and support.”

The Welcoming Center, 5215 N. California Ave., is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 773-561-5809. **L**



Photo: Allen Bourgeois

A peer counselor (left) meets with a client in one of the private rooms at LSSI’s Welcoming Center, which is a safe alternative to emergency room care for nonemergency mental health care.