

Metropolitan Chicago Synod

January 2018



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

*MetroWord*

## Official Notice

The Thirtieth-first Assembly of the  
**METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD**  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA**

will be held on  
**Friday, June 8, and Saturday, June 9, 2018,**  
at the **Tinley Park Convention Center**  
**18451 Convention Center Dr., Tinley Park, IL 60477**

**Erin Clausen - Synod Secretary**

## Synod Meets and Exceeds Million Dollar ELCA Hunger Challenge



Official gifts to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Million Dollar ELCA Hunger Challenge from June 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017, were approximately **\$1,060,000**. This means that resolution 03-16 *To Support ELCA*

*World Hunger* that passed at our 2016 synod assembly where voting members voted unanimously “that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod accept the challenge to raise one million dollars for ELCA World Hunger between June 1, 2016, and October 31, 2017” has been achieved. Here are some details from the campaign:

## Congregation Statement of Intent for 2018 Available Online



Please complete your congregation's Mission Support Statement of Intent for 2018 online at [www.mcselca.org/what/stewardship](http://www.mcselca.org/what/stewardship) (link at top of page), by Friday, **March 2, 2018**.

If you have any questions about the form, please contact Jeff Drake at the synod office at [jdrake@mcselca.org](mailto:jdrake@mcselca.org) or 773-248-0021.

- 124 congregations participated
- Comparing challenge giving to 2015 giving, 20 additional congregations participated, and 25 congregations participated at a level at least 100% greater than in 2015
- 1,124 individuals participated, including churchwide staff and payroll deductions
- 35 Monthly Partners participated.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod's ELCA World Hunger Ambassador Training will be held on Saturday, **April 21, 2018**. Details will be shared as they become available. Thank you to everyone who participated in the challenge.

## TURNAROUND SYNOD INITIATIVE

Helping congregations grow and thrive

### Consider a TSI Grant



The Metropolitan Chicago Synod works to energize and renew congregations, supporting their efforts to “turnaround” and begin to grow and thrive. Our Turnaround Synod Initiative (TSI) is a program that invites congregations to be inspired, challenged, and empowered to increase participation in their congregation and community and become more engaged.

TSI Grants are partnership grants for congregations who have identified and are seeking to achieve specific renewal goals or outcomes such as leadership training, strategic mission planning, or evangelism education and implementation. For more information about TSI Grants, please e-mail the Rev. Sarah Stumme at [ssumme@mcselca.org](mailto:ssumme@mcselca.org). If you do not have access to the internet, phone 773-248-0021, ext. 13, to leave a message.

### Save the Date for Next Year’s Professional Leaders Conference



The next Professional Leaders Conference for rostered leaders in the synod will be on Wednesday, **April 18, 2018**, at the Lutheran Center, Augsburg Room, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631. Watch for more information in upcoming synod publications.

### Annual Report to Bishop Forms Available Online



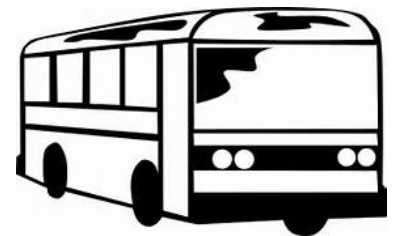
The 2018 Annual report to the bishop forms for rostered leaders have been posted on the website. The link to the forms is

<http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Rostered-Ministers>.

You will need to save the form on your computer before filling it out and sending it to the synod office. Send completed forms to Mary Richardson at [mrichardson@mcselca.org](mailto:mrichardson@mcselca.org). Thank you.

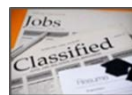
### Learn about Bus Transportation to ELCA Youth Gathering

The synod’s youth ministry network is in the process of organizing bus transportation for groups attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in



Houston this coming June. The cost will be dependent on the number of seats filled on each bus, and would depart the Chicago area on June 26, and leave Houston on July 1. If you are interested in learning more about traveling with other groups via bus, please contact Lauren Busey at [elcachicagoymnet@gmail.com](mailto:elcachicagoymnet@gmail.com).

### Employment Listings



Employment listings are available online at [www.mcselca.org/congregation/admin/employment](http://www.mcselca.org/congregation/admin/employment).

To post an employment opportunity, e-mail Jeff Drake in the synod office at [jdrake@mcselca.org](mailto:jdrake@mcselca.org).

## IRS Announces 2018 Standard Mileage Rates



The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2018 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical, or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017

The complete press release is available online at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/standard-mileage-rates-for-2018-up-from-rates-for-2017>.

## Consider Spiritual Care Visitor Training in 2018



Bishop Anderson House will again be offering two Spiritual Care Visitor Training sessions in early 2018. Choose between meeting at St. James Commons (65 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611) or St. Simon’s Episcopal Church (717 W. Kirchhoff Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005).

The St. James course will meet from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Kyle’s place, on the main level of the Commons. The ten-week course runs on Saturdays, from February 18 through May 5.

If nearer the northwest suburbs, join the class at St. Simon’s. It will be held Saturday afternoons, 1:30 to 4 p.m., also February 18 to May 5.

Spiritual Care Visitor Training is open to all who wish to add more tools to their pastoral care skills toolbox. You will be exposed to the Active Listening technique that will change how you

communicate with others. Learn how to better understand the cognitively impaired and elderly, and get important skills in assisting with those who are facing death and those who will grieve their loss.

After ten weeks of course work and weekly two-hour volunteer work at a field site, you will be well prepared to serve in your congregation and community. You will develop a comfort level and ability to be a ministry of presence and peace whether you visit people in a medical facility or in their homes.

Tuition is \$325, plus an additional non-refundable \$50 for the Diocese of Chicago credit check. Clergy or professional chaplains must sign the application and supervise each student during the course. Students select their own field site for volunteer work during the training. More information is available at <https://www.bishopandersonhouse.org/spiritual-care-visitor-training-brochure>.

## Find Us on Facebook and Sign up for *Metro e-Word*



Visit the synod’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mcseica> to read current and past issues of *Metro e-Word* as well as to receive information about the synod and other Lutheran news.

Sign up for *Metro e-Word* to get reminders about events, notification about when the monthly newsletter and supplement to *Living Lutheran* are available online, and more synod news. Sign up at <http://www.mcseica.org/news> (lower right-hand side of the page).

## Pre-Retirement Seminar Offered by Portico Benefit Services



If you are over age 50 and within 15 years of retirement, our pre-retirement seminars and webinars are a great way to get planning off to a strong start or keep the momentum going. The seminar answers the important questions you may have about retirement, including:

- How much money will I need when I retire?
- What health care options will I have in retirement?
- As I approach retirement, how can I manage my investment risks?
- How can money be distributed from my ELCA retirement account to create a steady stream of income in retirement?

Date: Monday, **May 7, 2018**

Location: ELCA Lutheran Center, 8765 W. Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

Time: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Cost: \$35/person or \$70/couple. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/2Cj8fid>.

## Artificial Christmas Trees to Be Given Away



Christ Lutheran Church, 3253 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago IL 60625. Has two twelve-foot artificial Christmas trees in good condition to give away (one or both) to any congregation or group that might be interested. For more information,

contact Pr. Tom Terrell at **773-478-7941** or [tomterrell99@gmail.com](mailto:tomterrell99@gmail.com).

## IGNITE Your Mission and Career at ALDE IGNITE: Minneapolis 2018



ALDE invites everyone to learn how to take your mission to the next level at IGNITE: Minneapolis 2018, Wednesday to Saturday, **February 28-March 3, 2018**. This conference will include keynote speakers as well as curriculum sessions and network-building opportunities for those with congregational leadership, fundraising, communications, or marketing roles. ALDE, formerly known as “The Association of Lutheran Development Executives,” now serves a broader audience as an international community of fundraising and communication professionals that is rooted in the Lutheran tradition of the Christian faith and dedicated to serving God’s people in the church and the world.) Find out more at [ignitespark.org](http://ignitespark.org).

Register now at [alde.org/register](http://alde.org/register), **early rates expire January 10**. Please note that it is less expensive to become an ALDE member, and then register as a member, than it is to attend as a nonmember.

Attend just one day for a very reduced price. March 1 offers several curriculum sessions designed with **pastors and congregational leaders** in mind. Topics include: Igniting Donor ATM (Abilities, Time, and Money); Kindling the Spiritual Meaning of Philanthropy; and IGNITING Planned Giving for Churches and Schools. Other days highlight additional focus points.

### Win a \$6,000 Consulting Grant

There’s even more you can gain from attending IGNITE. We are offering the chance to win a **Pro Bono Consultation from Gronlund Sayther Brunkow** to someone who is new to ALDE, or has been a member for less than five years. This could be you, but you must attend IGNITE! Learn about the opportunity and sign up now to win at [bit.ly/aldegrant](http://bit.ly/aldegrant) (case-sensitive).

### Metropolitan Chicago Synod Directory Changes

Name	Change	Effective
Klein, Nathaniel P.	Ordained, Pastor, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Midlothian	12/9/2017
Clark, Peter J.	Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aurora	11/15/2017
McKenzie, Timothy	Interim Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Evanston	11/19/2017
Clark, Peter J.	Transferred from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin	11/15/2017
Schroeder, Lynnette C. J.	Transferred from Southern Ohio Synod	11/8/2017
Davick, Bradley W.	Transferred to Indiana-Kentucky Synod	12/1/2017
VanDeBerg, Paul	Transferred to South-Central Synod of Wisconsin	10/6/2017
VanDeBerg, Sara	Transferred to South-Central Synod of Wisconsin	10/6/2017
Weidler, Scott C.	Resigned	9/22/2017

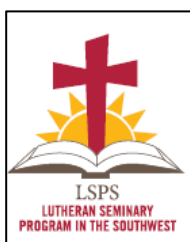
#### Welcome to Rostered Leaders New to Our Synod

Welcome to the Rev. Peter J. Clark, who has been called to serve as Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aurora, Illinois. Pastor Clark transferred from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, where he served at Christ Lutheran Church, Deforest, Wisconsin. He earned his BA from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his M.Div. at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastor Clark is married to Katherine, and they have one son, Sam, age 7. They are making their home in Aurora.

Welcome to the Rev. Nathaniel P. Klein, who has been called to serve as Pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Midlothian, Illinois. Pastor Klein earned his BA in Physics from Truman State University, Kirksville, Maryland, and his MDiv at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is married to Kaylee Klein, and they currently make their home in the South Loop area of Chicago.

Welcome to the Rev. Lynnette C. J. Schroeder, who has transferred from the Southern Ohio Synod. Prior to moving to the synod, she most recently served as NCIU and Bereavement Chaplain at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She earned her BA from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and her M.Div. at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastor Schroeder is married to the Rev. Dana C. J. Schroeder, who is serving as CPE Supervisor and Chaplain at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. They have two adult children, and are residing in Lombard.

### LSPS announces 2018 Spanish Language and Hispanic Ministry Intensives



The Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest (LSPS) 2018 Summer Intensives for congregational leaders who recognize the need to increase Spanish language and Hispanic cultural competency will be offered May 27-June 1 and June 10-15 in

Austin, Texas. Details and registration information are at <http://www.lsp.edu/programs/intensives>.

### 2018 Synod Assembly Will Take Place June 8 and 9



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The 2018 synod assembly will take place on **June 8 and 9, 2018**, at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr., Tinley Park, IL 60477. Registration will be available in February. Watch synod publications for more information and visit [www.mtselca.org/assembly](http://www.mtselca.org/assembly).



## Metropolitan Chicago Synod Calendar

(For the most up-to-date calendar information, visit [www.mtselca.org](http://www.mtselca.org))

### January

- 1** Synod Office Closed in Observance of the New Year
- 15** Synod Office Closed in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Synod Newsletter Articles Due
- 25** Interim Pastors’ Meeting—Synod Office, 10AM
- 26** Deadline for April Supplement to *Living Lutheran*
- 26-27** Synod Council Retreat, Eaglewood Resort, 1401 Nordic Road, Itasca, IL 60143

### Rostered Leader Vacancies Congregations Actively Engaged in the Call Process

KEY: (A) Self-study (B) Candidate search or interviewing  
(C) Call Extended (D) Call Accepted (PT) Part-time (\*) Associate Position

<b>Central</b>	St. Paul, Evanston – A	St. James, Chicago – on hold
Mission of Christ, Chicago – on hold	<b>Northwest</b>	St. Stephen’s, Chicago – on hold
Norwegian Lutheran Memorial, Chicago – on hold	Grace, Mount Prospect – A	Windsor Park, Chicago – on hold
St. James, Chicago – on hold	Lutheran Church of the Cross, Arlington Heights – A	<b>Southwest</b>
St. Timothy (Kildare), Chicago – on hold	Martha and Mary, Mount Prospect – on hold	First, Blue Island – B
<b>Near West</b>	Trinity, Des Plaines – A	First, Harvey – on hold
Christ, Clarendon Hills – A	Trinity, Rolling Meadows – A	Redeemer, Oak Forest – on hold
St. Michael’s La Grange Park – A	<b>South</b>	Redeemer, South Holland – A
<b>North</b>	Ashburn, Chicago – on hold	St. Philip, Blue Island – B
Christ, Vernon Hills – A	Bethany, Chicago – on hold	St. Stephen, Midlothian – D
St. Paul, Waukegan – A	Bethel-Imani, Chicago – on hold	<b>West</b>
<b>Northeast</b>	Calvary (Kenneth), Chicago – on hold	Faith, Glen Ellyn – A
Holy Family, Chicago – on hold	Christ the Mediator, Chicago – A	Lutheran Church of the Master, Carol Stream – A
St. John, Wilmette – A	Lebanon – D	St. Mark’s, Aurora – D*



## Metropolitan Chicago Synod

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America publishes *MetroWord* monthly. The deadline for submitting information is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month for the next month’s issue. Articles will be edited for space and clarity.

Contact the synod office at:  
1420 W. Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-3004  
Ph: 773-248-0021 - Fax: 773-248-8455

Webpage: [www.mtselca.org](http://www.mtselca.org) - MetroWord E-mail: [jdrake@mtselca.org](mailto:jdrake@mtselca.org).  
*MetroWord* is available online as a PDF at [www.mtselca.org/news/metro\\_word](http://www.mtselca.org/news/metro_word).

# Building an Inclusive Church TRAINING

Hosted by:

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
1609 Pfingsten Road  
Glenview, IL 60025

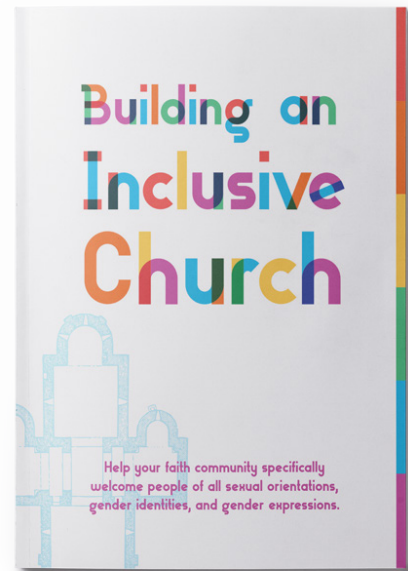
Register: [RWKS.org/BIC](http://RWKS.org/BIC)

“What if extending a specific welcome to LGBTQIA+ people sparked a renewal of your community’s faith life?”

A Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout your faith community rather than sparking debate and division.

The registration fee of \$100 includes training, materials, refreshments, and lunch. Registration, cancellation, and refund deadline is two weeks before the training. Reduced income registrations are available.

REVISED TOOLKIT



Friday April 6  
5:30 p.m. Registration  
6:00 – 9 p.m. Training

Saturday April 7  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Training

Training by:

**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



**CIRCUIT COURT  
OF COOK COUNTY  
ELDER JUSTICE CENTER**

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**FREE SENIOR ENRICHMENT SEMINAR SERIES:**

**Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives:  
When, What and Why?**

**Topics to Include:**

- Power of Attorney for Healthcare
- Power of Attorney for Property
- Illinois Living Will Declaration
- Do Not Resuscitate Order/POLST
- Healthcare Surrogate Act

**SPEAKERS:**        **Claire McFarland, Esq.**  
Executive Director  
Elder Law & Wellness Initiative, NFP

**Stacy J. Berk, Esq.**  
Supervising Attorney – Adult Guardianship Division  
Office of the Cook County Public Guardian

**Thursday, January 11, 2018**

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

**Richard J. Daley Center**  
50 West Washington Street  
Courtroom 2005  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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**TO REGISTER CONTACT:**

The Circuit Court of Cook County Elder Justice Center  
(312) 603-9233

Hon. Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County