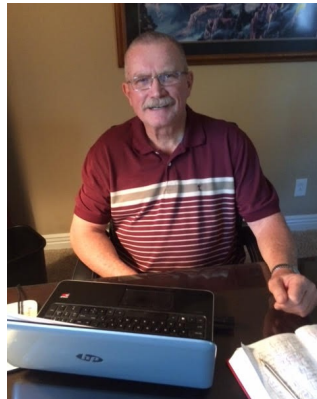




Lutheran CORE Receives Response (Sort Of) from ELCA Presiding Bishop

by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson, CORE Director and President

Towards the end of July Lutheran CORE sent a letter to ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, expressing our great dismay over some of the keynote speakers who had been chosen for the recent youth gathering. A copy of our letter can be found here.



When ELCA pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber (NBW) called upon an arena full of thirty thousand young people to renounce the so-called lie that "queerness is anything other than beauty," she violated the commitment that was made at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CWA) to respect the bound conscience of those who hold to a traditional view of human sexuality. When the planners of the gathering lined up as keynote speakers a transgender activist and her pre-adolescent transgender child, as well as two people who are signers of the "We Are Naked and Unashamed" movement — Pastors Nadia Bolz-Weber and Tuhina Verma Rasche — these planners were acting outside of anything that has been approved by the ELCA. The "We Are Naked and Unashamed" movement believes that it is oppressive and culturally irrelevant for the ELCA to require that pastors and

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Encuentro 2018: "Fight the Good Fight of Faith" / Pelea La Buena Batalla De La Fe:

by Pr. Keith Forni, Lutheran CORE Board Member and Encuentro 2018 Convener

Lutheran CORE, in partnership with its Chicagoland affiliates, will again host an Inter-Lutheran Hispanic Latino Ministry Encuentro [Encounter] this fall. Set for Friday, October 12th, 2018 and hosted by St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 2101 N. Kildare Avenue (at Dickens Ave.) in Chicago's Hermosa neighborhood, the day-long conference provides an ideal learning environment for those considering or entering bilingual (Spanish & English) language ministry settings. Those who have had long term experience in such contexts will find a place of fellowship / convivencia and mutual encouragement in the Lord's work.

Ideal for those considering or entering bilingual ministry settings.

This year's theme is from St. Paul's exhortation to young Timothy: "Fight the good fight of the faith. (Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.)" I Timothy 6:12*

This counsel from the apostle finds expression and application in various aspects of Christian life. Like Timothy, every believer must navigate challenging terrain as the journey of faith unfolds. The devil "prowls about like a roaring lion," the pathway can become daunting, diversions from the faith "once for all delivered to the saints" will arise. Pilgrim people press on, equipped with "the whole armor of God" and His eternal promises. (I Peter 5:8, Jude 3, Ephesians 6:10ff)

Congregations gathering in declining numbers, in the challenging contexts of growing secularism or amidst profound demographic shifts, can grow weary and uncertain.

"Fighting the good fight" for them can mean persist-

Pilgrim people, equipped with the whole armor of God, press on.

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seminarians be married in order to be sexually active.

We have heard from many who had written to Bishop Eaton that all they received in response from her was a brief, generic, non-specific form letter that could have been sent to anyone regarding anything. We were wondering if we would receive anything different, anything more, and anything better from her.

Bp. Eaton ignores the point we made about boundaries set by 2009 CWA.

Bishop Eaton's Response

A copy of Bishop Eaton's response, which we received about a month later, can be found [here](#). The first thing that should be noticed is that Bishop Eaton does not engage in any way with the major point that we were making — that the content of some of the keynote presentations was in violation of the commitments that were made and the boundaries that were set by the 2009 CWA. These commitments include recognizing a place within the ELCA for the traditional view of human sexuality, and these boundaries include providing a place for publicly accountable, lifelong, and monogamous same sex relationships (PALMS) but do not include recognizing or approving transgenderism or any of the other agenda priorities of the [LGBTQIA+](#) community.

The keynote presentations violated the boundaries set by the 2009 CWA.

Beyond that, here is my evaluation of her response, focusing on ways in which her response is positive, ways in which it is less than it should have been, and what we need to do next.

Ways in Which Her Response Is Positive

- We did receive a response.
- Her response is cordial and seems to give a valid place for Lutheran CORE.
- It is more than just the generic, one paragraph form response that many have received.
- She plans to speak to the youth gathering leadership team.
- She does not want to give credence to the “We Are Naked and Unashamed” movement, and she

recognizes that it is “outside this church’s social teaching.”

Ways in Which Her Response Is Less Than It Should Have Been

- As we have already stated, she has not engaged in any way with the major point that we were making. Instead, she places the greatest emphasis upon thanking us for such things as our “generous prayers of support,” our “resolve to make certain that the information (we) have is accurate,” and our “mutual respect and attentiveness to this church’s ministry and witness.” All this feels very dismissive.
- She does not say what she will say to the youth gathering leadership team.
- She minimizes the offensiveness and inappropriateness of some of the presentations as she only states that some people “were challenged by the content.” *We who hold to the traditional view were not “challenged” by Nadia Bolz-Weber. We were rebuked by her.* Our beliefs were renounced by her and condemned as demonic. I am deeply offended by the word “challenged.” That word implies that there is something wrong and insufficient with those who are challenged. It suggests that if we stodgy conservatives were more with it, up to date, and up to snuff, we would not be challenged.
- While Bishop Eaton does not want to give more attention and credence to a movement that is outside the ELCA’s social teaching, such as the “We Are Naked and Unashamed” movement, she does not display any concern over the fact that many of the signers are ELCA pastors and seminarians, and two of the youth gathering keynote speakers are signers. She does not demonstrate any alarm over the fact that this movement has been allowed to sink its roots deeply into the culture of an ELCA seminary, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She shows no concern over the fact that this movement has been allowed to dwell there and has been cultivated there.
- In our letter to her, we had called upon her to clearly reject the “We Are Naked and Unashamed” movement and to publicly disassociate

CWA 2009 approved PALMS —not transgenderism or any other LGBTQIA+ priorities.

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Encuentro 2018: Fight the Good Fight of Faith ...

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ing in redundant invitational evangelism, learning to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love in a new language, a different tempo. Doors traditionally closed during the week can be swung open, offering new avenues of engagement with a changed neighborhood—and sharing Christ. They may just behold unexpected transformation as those who seemed to be “guests” become the bearers of unimagined gifts, diverse cultural expressions bearing the very “Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:16.

Offering new avenues of engagement with a changed neighborhood.

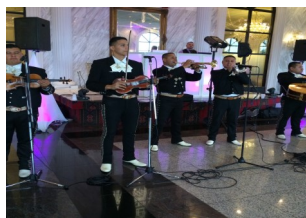
Fragmented Church Bodies

Twenty-first century denominational life for Christians in the USA has fragmented many of the mainline church bodies. Progressives and traditionalists aren't readily found together under the supposed “big tents” of the dramatically altered churchly judicatories. Promises to honor the “bound conscience” of those holding to traditional teachings on Holy Marriage and the naming of God the Father ring hollow. “Fighting the good fight” can mean staying in place, bearing witness in ecclesiastical structures that now seem alien.

Inter-Lutheran Opportunity

Encuentro provides a distinctive opportunity for inter-Lutheran consideration of our Lord's Great Commission as it applies to the increasingly multicultural context for mission in the United States. Participants and presenters will include members from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ as well as ecumenical guests.

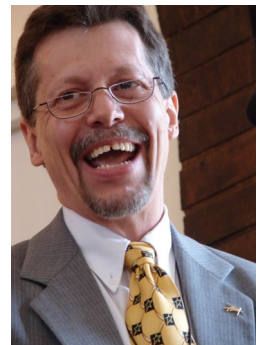
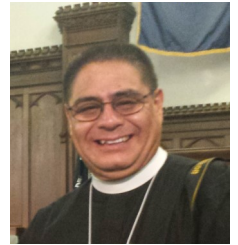
Worship and presentations at the *Encuentro* will embrace a Day of Pentecost pattern, as two of earth's many languages will be utilized. Musicians of *Mariachi Juvenil Tamasula* will lead the *Misa Panamericana* before the conference dinner. Parish and community mission matters will be addressed by long-time, bilingual ministry practitioners and theologians, laity and clergy. Lively dialogue and fellowship will be shared. An array of resources will be on



display from Lutheran and ecumenical publishers and from the collection of the Bilingual Ministry Resource Center, based in Joliet IL.

Featured speakers include:

- The Rev. Samuel Nieva, Sr. Pastor, *Iglesia Luterana Pueblo de Dios*, Compton CA, presenting: **Word of God and the Witness of His People in Word and Deed / *Reflecciones Sobre Misión Integral***
- Attorney Mary Campbell, Program Director Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: **Accompanying Our Immigrant Neighbors**
- Professor Marco Kempff, *Centro de Estudios Hispanos*, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO: **Lessons During Our Road to and from Emmaus**
- The Rev. Keith Forni, Pastor, STS, First & Santa Cruz, The Joliet City Center Lutheran Parish, Joliet IL: **Las Posadas: Hospedaje y Bienvenido / Las Posadas as Template for Neighborhood Ministry**
- The Rev. Dennis Nelson, President of the Board & Director, Lutheran CORE, Scottsdale AZ: **Update of the Work of Lutheran CORE: A Voice and Network for Confessing Lutherans**
- The Rev. Myrta Robles, a retired ELCA pastor active with St. Timothy's ministry, will lead Prayer at the Close of the Day – Compline / **Oración Al Fin del Día – Completas** with an outdoor Vigil for Peace on Chicago's streets, together with residents of the surrounding Hermosa neighborhood.



At Vigil's end, all will enjoy evening desserts.

Please register for the *Encuentro* by October 1st, via phone 815.722.4800 (First – Santa Cruz parish office) or email: KeithLForni@gmail.com.

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Conversation with Unbelievers: Leading with the Love of Jesus

by [Pr. Cathy Ammlung](#), Lutheran CORE Secretary

In my previous column, I enumerated several observations about sharing your faith with unbelievers. It's increasingly likely that they might be hostile, scornful, and misinformed about Christianity, and that can be disconcerting. We may become stressed, defensive, argumentative, or so focused on making *a* point that we lose track of *the* point: remembering *that it's all about a Person, not a point at all!*

It's all about a Person and persons.

Christ Yearns to Forgive

Recall one of my observations: "The most important thing about encountering skeptics – even belligerent, insulting ones - is to remember that *they, too, are persons for whom our Lord Jesus suffered, died, and rose.* Christ yearns to forgive, heal, and enlighten them, bestow faith through the Holy Spirit, and receive them into his Father's Kingdom in an eternal relationship of love, life, and joy. It's important to have this at the center of every encounter we have."



I forget that sometimes (okay, a lot) - and not just when some aggressive atheist punches my faith in the nose.

Our First Love

So every day, and especially when somebody pushes my buttons, I need to remember it. And then I need to repent, confess my waywardness, and beseech the Holy Spirit to rekindle the love of Jesus in my heart. I daresay I'm not alone. We all need to be reminded, again and again, of our first love: the love God the Father has for us in Christ Jesus, and our Spirit-led love for him.

The more that takes hold of our lives, the more it will radiate, through us, to others. Think of St. Paul's reflection on love in 1 Corinthians 13.

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not

arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (ESV)

More Harm Than Good

Paul is not saying that a solid grasp of orthodox faith in God (and being willing and able to share it) is unimportant, but rather that if it isn't centered in and enlivened by God's love for us (and our neighbors) and our love for God (and neighbors), it may do more harm than good.

Go back to 1 Corinthians 13, and wherever the word "I" appears, replace it with "Jesus." Now reread it, slowly. Ponder it. You know what jumped out at me? *Even Jesus's death on the cross, had it not been endured for love of his Father and for us, would have availed us nothing!* Are you a bit shocked? I was!

Substitute for Love

After you've chewed on that for a while, reread this *again*, from the verse starting, "Love is patient and kind." But this time, substitute first Jesus's name, then your own, for the word "love." Where does that especially "rub you the wrong way?" Where has this been a struggle for you, even within your family, your circle of friends, or your church? Be honest, and bring it to God in prayerful repentance.

Be honest, and bring it to God in prayerful repentance

The Hope within Us

I'm not telling you that you need to shut up and get your life perfectly in order before you ever have conversations about God and faith! Nor am I telling you to just "take" whatever wrongheaded and hard-hearted flak is launched at you by an atheist with a bone to pick. Far from it. As St. Peter said, we must always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within us. But he goes on to echo Paul's words: *"but do so with gentleness and reverence."*

Re-center Yourself in Jesus

If you're confronted by a hostile person, give yourself a moment to re-center yourself in Jesus and his love. If you simply can't answer the person calmly, say something like, "If you honestly seek understanding, not just an opportunity to dump, give me a chance to gather my own thoughts. If you like, we can talk about it later. Otherwise, let's move on to something less contentious."

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LC Receives Response

(continued from [page 2](#))

the ELCA from it. Instead she only says that it is “outside this church’s social teaching.” Her concern is not that it is contrary to Biblical teaching. Typical of the ELCA, she places a higher value upon “this church’s teaching” than upon Biblical teaching.

- Her response raises the question, how can the ELCA have the moral authority to exercise discipline in any area if its approach to the “We Are Naked and Unashamed” movement is just to look the other way?
- In her final paragraph where she quotes the 2009 “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” social statement, she does not do what we had asked her to do and publicly affirm that positions 1 and 2 as described on page 20 of that document, which represent the more traditional view of human sexuality, are still seen as acceptable positions within the ELCA. Bishop Eaton refuses to see the egregious harm that has been done to people who hold traditional views. She has shown that not even the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA is truly committed to the integrity of the structures of the ELCA. Just from an institutional perspective, if not also from a faith perspective, Nadia’s comments require a remediating response. The refusal of the leader of the ELCA to give it shows (a) the presence of fear, and (b) the resulting absence of love and respect for the people who made the decisions in 2009 as well as for the decisions that were made.
- Bishop Eaton’s response places the highest value upon “peace and unity in his Church,” rather than upon being a Church that believes, proclaims, and lives according to God’s Word.

Our beliefs were re-nounced and condemned as demonic.

What We Need to do Next

According to the ELCA website, the next meeting of the Conference of Bishops will begin on September 27, 2018. The next meeting of the ELCA Church Council will begin on November 8, 2018. So time is of the essence.

We need as many people as possible to write to Bishop Eaton as well as to their synodical bishop. Tell them how upset you are over the choice of some of the keynote speakers for the youth gathering and how offended you are by some of the things that were

said. Sample letters can be found [here](#) and [here](#). We need the presiding bishop as well as all the synodical bishops to realize that this is an issue that they must take seriously. They cannot just dismiss it, minimize it, and sweep it under the rug, hoping that we will all just calm down and/or go away.

A list of all of the synodical bishops and their mailing addresses can be found [here](#). Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s mailing address is:

**8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101**

Conversation with Unbelievers

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Pray

If you do continue the conversation, keep a “prayer line” open continuously. In the back of your head, before you say anything to the other person, silently pray, “Lord, what is the one thing this person needs to hear about you right now?” “Help me to speak your truth in love.” “Lord, help!” Actually, this is a good habit to practice in any difficult, awkward, or tense conversation - even with your dearest, most faith-filled friend!

Soften a Hardened Heart

Remember that love covers a multitude of sins, including less-than-perfect arguments. The more your demeanor, deeds, and words are centered in and driven by Jesus’s love, the more likely they will make a deep impression on another person. You may not always convince someone, but your love may challenge their preconceived notions about your faith and your God. It may begin to soften a hardened heart. Who knows how and when the Holy Spirit will use that as a patch of good soil in which the Word might be sown, even if it apparently lies dormant for years?

Lord, what is the one thing this person needs to hear about you right now?

Be Led by the Love of Jesus

So I hope your most important takeaway is this: always, always be led by the love of Jesus, and always lead with the love of Jesus. Because the Spirit can use that to begin to lead another person to the Father’s heart.

Still, it helps to be knowledgeable and skillful in your defense of the faith. I’ll share some thoughts about that next time!

NALC Convocation Was Uplifting, Inspiring, and Encouraging

by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson, CORE Director and President

From the moment I arrived at the location of the annual NALC convocation in Denver I was approached by people who came up to me or who stopped by the Lutheran CORE display table and said that they read our material, how much they appreciate what we are doing, and how grateful they are for and how supportive they are of the work of Lutheran CORE. It was truly a blessing.



Those who have left the ELCA for the NALC care about, are very concerned for, and are praying for their fellow confessional and orthodox Lutherans who are still within the ELCA.

It was also a joy to hear inspiring speakers and to attend business sessions where the focus was not upon a leftist political agenda, but instead upon fulfilling the Great Commission, reaching people for Jesus Christ, and helping people grow in their Christian faith and life. Two of the presentations particularly stood out for me.



Footprints of the Holy Spirit

At the close of the Missions Festival Gemechis Buba spoke on the Footprints of the Holy Spirit, as found in the account of the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Among the points he made were the following:

- The Holy Spirit filled the community before filling individuals. The sound like the rush of the violent wind filled the entire house where they were sitting before divided tongues as of fire rested on each one of them. Pentecost was first a community experience. The church cannot be taken down because it is not a merely human organization.
- The real miracle was not that the people heard the disciples speak in different languages. Rather the real miracle was the message that they heard. We are the custodians and communicators of that miracle message.



- Peter, who had previously been afraid, stood up with the eleven and began to speak boldly. Without the Holy Spirit we will be afraid – afraid of opposition and afraid of criticism. With the Holy Spirit we will have courage.
- Peter was very clear in what he said to the crowd. “This Jesus whom you crucified.” We also need to be very bold and very clear in what we say.
- After hearing Peter’s message, the people asked, “What shall we do?” Peter said, “Repent.” We need to pray that the ELCA – beginning with its leaders – will hear the message of how far they have strayed away from Biblical truth and that they will repent.

This Jesus Whom You Crucified.

Gemechis Buba closed by reminding us that we are not alone. God has promised never to leave us as we do His work.

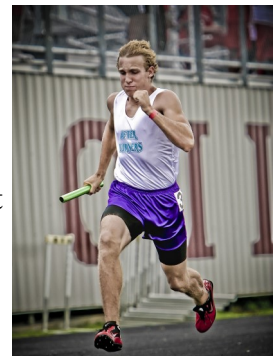
Passing the Baton

Another very inspiring message was given by Bishop John Bradosky towards the close of the convocation. He told of a time when the runners in a relay race were disqualified because it took them too long to pass on the baton. I am reminded of the words of Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2: 2 – “What you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.”

Retirement Approaches

As we consider how many pastors serving congregations in all Lutheran church bodies are approaching retirement, we wonder whether there will be enough orthodox pastors in the future. This is especially critical in the ELCA. Every orthodox ELCA congregation will be highly vulnerable at the time of their next change in pastors. Even if they do survive their next change in pastors, will they survive the next?

Bishop Bradosky reminded us, we cannot take too long to pass on the baton. We are very grateful for everyone who is working to raise up the next generation of Biblically faithful, confessionally orthodox, and outreach oriented Lutheran pastors. We are very grateful for everyone who has been and who will be a part of Lutheran CORE’s [pastoral formation project](#).



Outcome-Based Youth Ministry

Introduction *by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson:*

Article by *Gary and Laurie Pecuch*

Gary Pecuch was one of the presenters at the [second phase](#) of our pastoral formation summit, which was held last April and was a gathering of people who are doing unique and effective work in raising up leaders within their ministry settings.

Gary and his wife Laurie have been in youth ministry since the early 1980's. After graduating from different colleges, they both went through a youth ministry training program and began working in churches in Grove City and Fremont, Ohio, respectively. Married in 1986, the couple has based their ministry out of St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio. Together they provide youth ministry coaching to over six hundred congregations.

In this article Gary tells about his outcome-based approach to youth ministry. In the November issue of CORE Voice he will tell about his concept of faith webbing, in which youth develop a whole network of healthy, supportive, and nurturing relationships within the congregation.

We have been in congregational youth ministry at the same church since the early 1980's (St. John's, Grove City, Ohio). During that time we have experimented with several models of ministry. Several of them became viable options. However, regardless of which model we choose to utilize, we have concluded that it is important for a congregation to develop a long-term sustainable ministry to young people. Our model is based on relationships, meaningful service to others and engaging young people in church and faith through giving them responsibilities. We have developed an eighteen-year training ministry to children and youth that they may jump into at any age.

We call it Outcome-Based Youth Ministry. The intention is to determine what outcomes we want to build into young people while they are in our charge. For us, it is a list of 30+ Faith Skills that can provide young people with a lifetime of faith development. The list contains assets



30+ Faith Skills provide young people with a lifetime of faith development.

we intentionally build into young people throughout their grade school years.

The concept necessitates having an end goal in mind and prayerfully developing and creating a road map to meet that desired result. The intention is to partner with parents and together encourage and equip young people to develop a plan for personal growth. This personal growth plan is a tool to define the necessary assets needed to better love God, gain self-awareness, serve others, and glorify Him.

Outcome-Based Youth Ministry fulfills the biblical mandate of church leaders found in Ephesians 4:12-13.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (NLT)

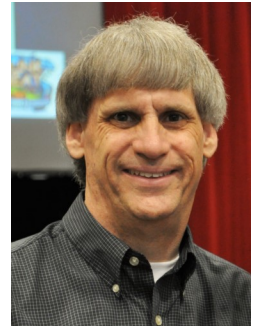
The Goal

The goal then is to help youth prepare for ministry by doing what Old Testament David did. That is, to help them "pick up" stones to place in their bags so that when ministry moments arise, they are prepared to meet the ministry need. In David's case, he became proficient at the sling and the stone. Like David, we want youth to be able to confidently reach into their bags and pull out a needed Faith Stone. This preparation can be anything from stepping forward to say a table grace at mealtime to making good decisions based on their personal written standards to stepping up to facilitate

We want youth to be able to confidently reach into their bags and pull out a needed Faith Stone.

Faith Foundation

As we travel around to congregations, we are often asked, "How do we keep kids coming to church?" While that is a worthwhile question, our most important goal is to provide a faith foundation that will equip our children and youth for life. That is why we encourage the development of a long-term, results-oriented strategy for young people. We need a vision that equips our youth with a faith and the necessary skills that prepare them as the good Lord places and



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Outcome-Based Youth Ministry

(continued from [page 7](#))

positions them throughout life.

The sooner we implement faith skills, the better. We can start with high school youth, but our experience has shown us that developing faith skills in elementary and middle school youth is a better place to start. We then visit and revisit the concepts throughout a youth's middle school and high school years.

Healthy Intergenerational Relationships

We find that once youth have developed scores of healthy intergenerational relationships within the church, are involved in meaningful service to others and are trained to take on important responsibilities, they flourish in the life and mission of the church.

Give God the glory and prepare to take on giants.

Like King David, we want our high school graduates to be fully confident and prepared with a bag full of Faith Stones so they can give God the glory as they take on giants in life.

Contact Us

Feel free to contact us if you'd like to talk more about how Outcome-based Ministry can have a positive impact on your entire congregation (www.faithwebbing.com).

May God place and position you to be in the right place at the right time to be a blessing to others.

We Are Very Grateful

by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson, CORE Director and President

We are very grateful for all the people who are sharing our letters and newsletters with others. On a recent Sunday 180 people clicked on and opened the August letter from the director. We know that our forms of communication are receiving that level of response only because people are telling other people about our work.

We urge you to write to your bishop right away

We are also very thankful for all those who have spoken to their pastor and/or written to their bishop about their concerns over the recent ELCA youth gathering.

Violation of Trust

The ELCA Conference of Bishops will be meeting soon – beginning September 27. If you have not yet written to your bishop, we urge you to do so right away. *The bishops need to hear from many people that the violation of trust and the breaking of commitments that were made at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is a serious matter.* They cannot just dismiss it, minimize it, and sweep it under the rug, hoping that we will all just calm down and/or go away. A list of all the synodical bishops and their mailing addresses can be found [here](#)

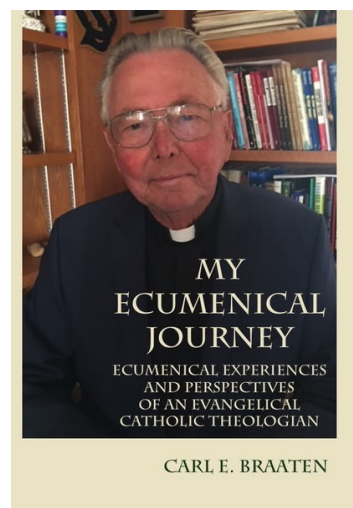


My Ecumenical Journey

Dr. Carl E. Baaten has had another book published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau (ALPB) — this one about his 50 year [ecumenical](#) journey. Robert Benne writes, “Less you think he is naively optimistic about the current ecumenical situation in which churches are splitting right and left, his first chapter coolly depicts the stark reality we face.”

Rev. Ronald F. Marshall writes, “Throughout Braaten is writing to renew a church taken over by ‘success, not faithfulness, self-esteem, not discipleship, technique, not truth.’” To quote Robert Benne once more, “God grant that we might have yet another ‘last book’ by this revered evangelical catholic theologian.”

Order from American Lutheran Publicity Bureau at 607.746.7511.



Meet Lutherans for Life (LFL) in St. Louis at the 2018 LFL National Conference!

by *Lowell Highby*, *Lutherans for Life*

From Age to Age the Same

Lutherans For Life will be commemorating 40 years of being Gospel-motivated voices For Life at their 2018 national [conference](#), October 12-13, in St. Louis under the theme, “From Age to Age the Same” (based on Isaiah 46:3b-4). Workshops and activities will be available for ages three to adult.

Highlights

2018 LFL National Conference Highlights Include:

- Tours of Concordia Publishing House & LCMS International Center
- Worship & Banquet – Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Samuel Nafzger
- Plenary Speakers – Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb & Rev. Edward Fehskens III
- Mobile Semisaurus Creation Museum
- All Day Children’s Workshop (Ages 3 to 12)

Workshop Topics

Workshop topics this year include: Life ministry in rural/small churches, hospice care, abortion pill reversal, sexuality & gender identity, dealing with grief & loss, suicide awareness & prevention, and much more. For those who arrive on Thursday, Dr. Mark Laverty will present a special classic piano concert for LFL featuring the works of J.S. Bach.

For more information on registration, speakers, and hotel go to www.lutheransforlife.org/conference.

Mark your calendars ...

2018 LFL National Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
October 12-13

From Age to Age
the Same



Meet Life-Minded People

Virginia Flo, LFL National Conference Director, says an LFL conference is “a wonderful place to meet new friends and build relationships! You will find many FOR LIFE-minded folks from around the United States and Canada — it’s almost like a family reunion at times. One of things I like best is that our

conference is spiritually uplifting and encouraging as the speakers and worship service focus directly on God’s Word and how it applies to the life issues. What I am especially happy about this year is that children can experience a children’s workshop that will help educate and instill in your children a passion For Life. Another great bonus is wonderful exhibitors—sharing resources, products, ministries, and more. We hope many will come to this extra special event this year. I would encourage anyone and everyone to come and learn about life in ways you may have never thought of before! As life issues continue to expand, it is essential that we focus on the Gospel message and celebrate God’s continued guidance in the 40 years of being voices For Life.”

The speakers and worship service focus directly on God’s Word and its application to life issues.

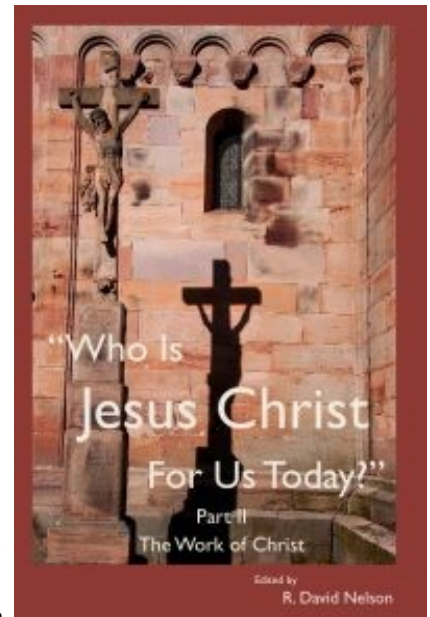
The Work of Christ

Love theology? The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) sponsored a theological conference in 2017 and this book contains the resulting eighth annual Braaten-Benne lectures. Both the 2016 and 2017 lectures wrestle with Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s question, “Who is Jesus Christ for us today?”

ALPB is publishing the proceedings of the Braaten-Benne

Lectures so that these books will serve the catechetical needs of both churches and individual readers, instructing, enlightening, and empowering believers who live as an emerging Christian minority in North America.

Order at 607.746.7511 or [here](#).



Sponsoring an Event?

We Would Love to Help You Get the Word Out

If you are planning an event that you believe Lutheran CORE members would want to know about and that is consistent with the [Common Confession](#), please let us know. Brief articles and pictures are always welcome. We also can share them on our website and our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Contact CORE's editor, Kim Smith at kss01ohio@gmail.com.

Coming Events

LCMC Annual Gathering	Des Moines, Iowa	October 7-10, 2018	"Growing Up"	Click here.
Encuentro (Encounter)	Chicago, IL	October 12, 2018	"Fight the Good Fight of the Faith" Hispanic-Latino / bilingual ministries	Click here.
Lutherans for Life (LFL) National Conference	Olivette, MO	October 12-13, 2018	"From Age to Age the Same"	Click here.
SPLS / Georgia Fellowship: Theological Conference and Retreat	Jekyll Island, GA	January 21-22, 2019	"By My Own Understanding or Effort"	Click here.

Encuentro 2018: Fight ...

continued from [page 3](#)

It's Free

All expenses for the day-long event, including a light breakfast, lunch and Fiesta dinner, are covered by the sponsors / hosts. Free, off street parking is available. Lodging recommendations can be provided upon request.

*"Pelea la buena batalla de la fe, echa mano de la vida eterna, a la cual asimismo fuiste llamado, habiendo hecho la buena profesión delante de muchos testigos." 1 Tim. 6:12



Please register for Encuentro by October 1st.



Regular Website Postings

- * Check out our Worship page to see what Pastor Cathy Ammlung has posted for [Prayers of the Church](#) and [Hymn Suggestions and Scriptures](#).
- * Pastor Dennis Nelson, president of the board and director of Lutheran CORE, posts a [weekly devotional](#) based upon one of the following Sunday's readings every Tuesday.
- * Pastor Steven Gjerde, vice-president of the board, writes a [weekly devotional](#) based upon one of the previous Sunday's readings in the Missouri Synod lectionary series, which is posted every Wednesday.

Thank you for your prayers for and financial support of Lutheran CORE!

Donations can be sent to our Wausau office
PO Box 1741 Wausau, WI 54402-1741
or online at www.lutherancore.org.

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Please consider setting up an ongoing regular donation via our website.

CORE Voice

Lutheran CORE's Newsletter

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[Kim Smith](#), Editor

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