



IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of LERNing focuses on the upcoming National Workshop on Christian Unity, April 14 through 18, 2008, in Chicago.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING is the theme for this year's National Workshop on Christian Unity in Chicago, beginning Monday, April 14th. Note, while the Workshop itself ends on Thursday, this year's Lutheran attendees will have an additional day of activities that will take place at the Lutheran Center on Friday, April 17th.

2008 NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – REGISTER NOW!

You can register by mail or on-line (*see link below*). The early registration rate is \$125 (until February 28th). Thereafter the rate is \$150. The student registration for the entire workshop is \$50 and scholarships are available. For those only able to attend part of the workshop, the one-day registration rate is \$50.

On-line registration at:

www.nwcu.org/2008Conference/2008RegistrationStart.htm

National Workshop Brochure On-Line. The brochure for the 2008 National Workshop on Christian Unity in Chicago is now available on-line at:

www.nwcu.org/events/documents/NWCU2008WebBrochure.pdf. The brochure provides information on all of the Workshop seminars, denominational meetings and plenary sessions, worship services, and the Wednesday Evening Cultural Event.

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Millennium Park, Chicago

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You must book your accommodation for the Hotel separately from the Workshop registration. Be sure to mention that you are attending the National Workshop for Christian Unity (NWCU) to get the Workshop discount rate of \$125/night for a single or double room.

Note for Lutheran attendees! Lutherans should plan to stay over for additional events at the Lutheran Center on Friday, April 18th.

Chicago Marriott O'Hare
8535 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
Reservations: 1-866-614-8407
Information: 1-773-693-4444
Free Airport Shuttle

Hotel Highlights. 681 guest rooms and 22 suites – nonsmoking. Pillowtop mattresses with down pillows and comforters, high-speed Internet access, premium cable TV, coffeemaker, ironing board and iron, indoor/outdoor pool, hot tub and fitness center. Harvest Grill Restaurant serves American cuisine in a contemporary atmosphere.

KEY MEETINGS AND SESSIONS FOR LUTHERANS. Taking advantage of the National Workshop's 2008 venue being adjacent to the *Lutheran Center* in Chicago, there will be opportunities to tour the *Lutheran Center* and meet with key ELCA staff throughout the week. The LERN plenary sessions provide opportunities to learn about the current ecumenical work of the ELCA and to strategize on tasks and actions at the synod and local levels to carry out the work of church unity. Here is the schedule of key meetings and events of particular interest for Lutherans.

Monday, 14 April
1:00 to 2:00 p.m. – Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network (LERN) Board Meeting
2:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Lutheran Newcomer's Orientation
3:00 to 5:30 p.m. – LERN Plenary Session I

Tuesday, 15 April
1:00 to 2:30 p.m. – LERN Plenary Session II
2:30 to 3:30 p.m. – Tour of the Lutheran Center
4:00 to 5:00 p.m. – LERN Regional* Caucuses (meetings of the ELCA Representatives for each of the 9 ELCA Regions)
6:30 p.m. – Episcopal-Lutheran-Methodist Eucharist (at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge)

Wednesday, 16 April
2:15 to 4:45 p.m. – LERN Plenary Session III

Thursday, 17 April
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. – LERN Executive Board Meeting
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. – Lutheran Eucharist
6:30 p.m. – LERN-EDIEO Executive Board Dinner

Friday, 18 April
Morning – special meetings with ELCA program staff at the Lutheran Center

For more information on LERN-related events at the National Workshop, contact the ELCA's Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations:

8765 West Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631-4101
773-380-2616
Zoraida.Rivera-Picazo@elca.org

HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR *LERNing*? If you would like to submit an article for a future issue of *LERNing*, please contact one of the editorial team members.

SOME OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WORKSHOP IN 2008 . . .

Opening Prayer Service (Monday evening, April 14th). Preacher: *Sister Lorelei F. Fuchs, Ph.D., Society of the Atonement*. Sister Lorelei is currently theological consultant at *The Interchurch Center*, New York. Prior to joining the Center's administrative staff, she was an associate director of the *Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute*, New York. Sister participates in various local bilateral dialogues in New York and serves on the *National Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission*. She is a member of the *Methodist-Roman Catholic Joint Commission* and a member of the *Plenary Commission of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission*.



Mary, Seat of Wisdom Roman Catholic Church in Park Ridge, Illinois is the site for the Opening Prayer Service for the 2008 National Workshop on Christian Unity. The parish was established in October 1955.

Workshop Keynote (Tuesday morning, April 15th). Speaker: *The Reverend. Doctor Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA*. Michael Kinnamon is a leading voice in the ecumenical movement and in his denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Before assuming leadership of the NCCCUSA, he was the *Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of Mission and Peace* at *Eden Theological Seminary* where he taught courses in the global and local mission of the church, the history and theology of the ecumenical movement, peace and justice, interfaith dialogue, modern theology and literature from around the world. He has served as the *Executive Secretary of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission* and *General Secretary of the Consultation on Church Union (now Churches Uniting in Christ)*.

Bible Study Leader - Doctor James W. Fleming, Director of the Explorations in Antiquity Center in LaGrange, Georgia. James W. Fleming is an internationally renowned archaeologist and educator of the biblical world. Doctor Fleming is the director and founder of the *Explorations in Antiquity Center*, an archaeological museum and teaching center with full-scale replicas of important archaeological sites in the Middle East that have been created to help students better understand the Hebrew and Greek scriptures. He also founded the *Archaeological Museum and Pilgrim Center* at Ein Karem, Jerusalem. He is on the Advisory Board of *Biblical Archaeology Review* and has taught archaeology and biblical geography at the *Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies*, a Vatican-owned ecumenical institution between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Dr. Fleming's lively and unique teaching style weaves together four perspectives for understanding the biblical context: theology, archaeology, history, and geography. He uses an ecumenical approach to bring together various traditions and recent discoveries that help illuminate the biblical texts in a way that promotes Christian unity and interreligious understanding.



Explorations in Antiquity Center, LaGrange, Georgia

Closing Panel and Discussion (Thursday, April 17th). Topic: *The Local Churches and the Global Church*. An ecclesiology of communion provides a lens through which the panel and participants may want to take up the common and divergent understandings of the nature of the church, local and global. "This shared vision of the church as a partnership of divine love also calls us to learn from one another, identify issues in need of attention in our own traditions, and seek to identify movement forward toward greater agreement as a result of our dialogue."

Moderator: *Doctor John P. Blessington, Executive Producer of Cultural and Religious Broadcasts, CBS Television*

Panelists

Doctor Margaret O'Gara, Professor of Theology at the University of Saint Michael's College, Toronto, Ontario.

The Very Reverend Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, Orthodox Church in America.

Doctor Joseph D. Small, Director, Theology, Worship and Education, Presbyterian Church USA.

THE METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD.

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod has 217 congregations in four counties in Illinois - Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake. The baptized membership of congregations in the synod in 2004 was 116,003. The mission statement of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod is: "*In Jesus' Name • Proclaim the Gospel • Make Disciples • Do Justice.*"

The [Reverend. Wayne N. Miller](#) is the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Bishop Miller was installed in 2007. He attended Augustana College and received his Master of Divinity from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He previously served parishes in Chicago, Naperville, and Aurora, Illinois.

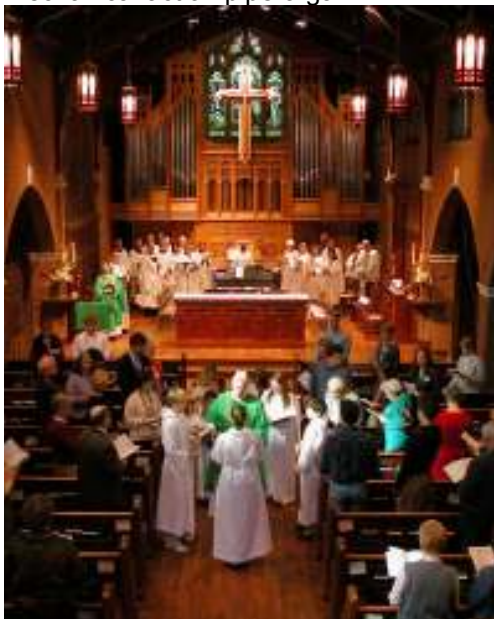
JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM! *LERNing* is currently looking for someone to fill a slot on the editorial team. If interested, please contact Rocky Piro or Russell Meyer. (Contact information on front page of the newsletter.)

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. The location of for the 2008 *Episcopal-Lutheran-Methodist Eucharist* is Saint Mary's Church, within three blocks of the Park Ridge town center. It is a beautiful brick building representing the richness of the Anglican tradition. The stained-glass window over the altar depicts the annunciation and was made in London. The sanctuary has seating for 275.



St. Mary's, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge

St. Mary's story begins in 1890 when six families met to organize an Episcopal Mission and began services in Park Ridge. The present church was erected in 1913. In 1965, a large addition was built containing church offices, library lounge, classrooms, and the Annunciation Chapel. There is both an indoor and outdoor columbarium. In 2000, the sanctuary was renovated to accommodate a Jaeckel mechanical action pipe organ.



Interior, St. Mary's Church

GETTING AROUND CHICAGO. Traveling in Chicago without a car is easy due to its extensive train and bus system, including the famous Chicago "L" or elevated train. The primary transportation provider is the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). You can pick up a system map at most train stations or visitor centers. **Buses** run every 5 to 15 minutes during rush hours and every 8 to 20 minutes at most other times. **Rapid transit trains** run every 5 to 15 minutes during the day and every 15 to 60 minutes all night. Lines are color-coded and denoted by route rather than destination. The O'Hare-Congress-Douglas line, which provides service in the vicinity of the Workshop hotel, is the **Blue Line**. **Cumberland Station** is the nearest to the Marriott O'Hare. (For more information, visit www.yourcta.com or call 1-888-YOUR-CTA.)



Other transportation providers in the Greater Chicago area include **Metra** and **PACE**. **Metra** stands for the *Metropolitan Railroad* and operates 12 surface train lines serving the six-county area which hub into downtown Chicago from the outlying Chicago suburbs. Visit www.metrarail.com or call Metra Passenger Services at 312-322-6777. **PACE buses** support the Chicago suburbs in the same fashion as the CTA buses support the city. Visit PACE at www.pacebus.com.

FUTURE WORKSHOP LOCATION
2009: Phoenix, Arizona

LOOK THROUGH A UNIQUE CHICAGO WINDOW

2008 National Workshop Cultural Event
The Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies /
Museum and Library Tour, Dinner
Wednesday Evening, April 16th

Important Note! The event is limited to the first 90 NWCU attendees who register to attend this event.

The Spertus Institute is a Chicago facility that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to explore the multifaceted Jewish experience. Through its innovative public programming, exhibitions, collections, research facilities and degree programs, the Institute inspires learning and fosters understanding for Jews and people of all faiths.

The participants in this year's National Workshop on Christian Unity will have an opportunity to see the exhibits in the Spertus Museum and learn of the resources in Asher Library with expert guides. The dinner in the newly constructed kosher café managed by Wolfgang Puck dining area will also provide a venue to meet some of the Jewish community leaders with whom the Chicago area ecumenical/ interreligious network has worked. More information on the Institute is available on-line at www.spertus.edu/.

Schedule (subject to adjustment) is to have buses, from the Marriott O'Hare Hotel and/or from the CUIC worship service, arrive at the Spertus Institute at 7:00 p.m. The evening program includes tours and then an unrushed dinner and conversation with members of the Chicago Jewish community. Return to the hotel at 9:30 p.m.

The cost of the evening (including bus, tour and meal) is \$50. Participation is limited by space to the first 90 signing up, so please check the box for the Cultural Event on the registration form. You can also register for the event on-line using *PayPal*.



Spertus Institute, 610 South Michigan Avenue

In Other News . . . CHURCH LEADERS TALK

Submitted by Diane Lowe, Sierra Pacific Synod

Greater Sacramento church judicatory leaders shared information on ecumenical formation and reception as they engaged in stimulating table conversation at their annual Judicatory Leaders Luncheon sponsored by the North State Ecumenical Conference. The intimate luncheon included Catholic, Lutheran, and Episcopal bishops, Nazarene superintendent, Presbyterian leader, and President of the Northern California Chapter of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Lutheran Bishop Mullen noted the current emphasis on the Word in the ELCA, Episcopal and Catholic churches. Catholic Bishop Weigand remarked on the growth among Catholic laity in Bible study and that their knowledge of the Scriptures would rival that of many Protestants.

CHICAGO – A CITY RENOWN FOR ARCHITECTURE. Chicago “may be the only city in the world where architecture ranks as a sport,” according to Anne Chalfant, a writer with the *Contra Costa Times*. To get a appreciate for the skyline of this city that touts skyscrapers consider taking a tour offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. A variety of tours are offered, including walking tours for both modern and historical structures, as well as bus tours, including one featuring buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright. Contact the foundation at www.architecture.org or phone 312.922.3432



CHICAGO ATTRACTIONS

[The Field Museum](#) is home to Sue, the world’s largest, most complete, and most famous T-rex plus more than 35 other world-renowned exhibitions.

[The Art Institute of Chicago](#) One of the great art museums of the world, the Institute presents a collection spanning 5,000 years of artistic expression.

[The Notebaert Nature Museum](#). Grab your field journal and your sense of adventure on a journey to the secrets of our natural world.

[Chicago Children’s Museum](#). Three floors of hands-on exhibits, daily programs, and multicultural performances and workshops offer unlimited learning adventures to kids through age 10 and their families.

[Museum of Contemporary Art](#). Exhibitions of the most thought-provoking art created since 1945.

[Museum of Science and Industry](#). Many wonders and fun science, including a real German WWII submarine, secrets of DNA, and an authentic mineshaft.

[Swedish American Museum](#). In the heart of Andersonville-- Chicago 's historically Swedish neighborhood--this museum celebrates Swedish culture, art, and traditions through year-round exhibits, events, and programs.

[Adler Planetarium](#). Two full-size planetarium theaters.

[Shedd Aquarium](#). The world's largest indoor aquarium with more than 20,000 animals representing 1,500 species.

[John Hancock Observatory](#). Experience spectacular views spanning up to 80 miles and four states from 1,000 feet over Chicago 's Magnificent Mile!

[Frederick C. Robie House](#). Designated by the American Institute of Architects among the Top Ten Buildings of the Century, the Robie House remains a cornerstone of modern functional form.

[Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Tour](#). The surrounding area contains the world’s largest concentration of Wright-designed structures, with 25 of his buildings in the village.

[Sears Tower Sky Deck](#). At 1,353 feet (412 meters), the Skydeck is the highest observatory in Chicago.

[Navy Pier](#). 50 acres of parks, restaurants, shops, and attractions.



For more information, contact the *Chicago and Illinois Tourism Office* at: www.gochicago.com