

MISSION MATTERS

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

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CONVOY OF HOPE HELD IN EAST ST. LOUIS, JULY 22, 2017



Lutheran volunteers assist with sorting donated items

Despite a heat index of 111, more than 5,000 guests and volunteers took part in the 2017 Convoy of Hope, which was held at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center, East St. Louis, July 22nd. More than 100 local congregations from 25 different communities worked together to provide food and services to those in need in the metro east area, including members of Faith, O'Fallon and St. Mark, Belleville. The statistics are staggering: more than 35,000 pounds of food was distributed; 8,500 water bottles and 6,000 lunches were given away; more than 1,000 backpacks were distributed; 11 barbers and hairstylists provided free haircuts; local doctors,

medical professionals and dentists provided free physicals and dental checks; 27 community agencies served more than 700 individuals; 7 local agencies provided job and career services for more than 200 individuals; 8 local photographers provided free family portraits to 250 families; 7 agencies provided veteran services to 41 military veterans; 1,720 pairs of shoes were distributed; and there were more than 28,200 hits on social media sites.

In addition, nearly 2,800 persons received prayer support from members of local prayer ministry teams. There was a Kids Zone that included free carnival games, concessions and inflatable houses and live music and entertainment was also provided.

The Convoy of Hope came to O'Fallon, IL in 2015 and plans are already in the works for the 2019 Convoy, which will be held somewhere in the metro east area. The Leadership Team has 32 members and coordinating the arrangements for more than 5,000 guests and volunteers takes time. For more information about Convoy of Hope visit www.ConvoyofHope.org.

In their own words...



Recently, I was asked to share my story and heard a story about someone who was surprised by an “out of the blue” call to become a pastor. Her gifts and creative spirit were a natural fit for her places of ministry.

For me, the call to ministry was like a continual, gentle push. It began in junior high and continued through college, at which point I decided to go to seminary.

As chair of the synodical Candidacy Committee, I hear a number of call stories. To hear stories is enlightening and goose-bump producing. Do you know your pastor's call story? Most pastors love to share their story, so ask. Do you think that you might be called to ministry? Tell your story and discover how God might be calling you.

Pastor Elise Rothfusz serves as the assistant pastor at Salem Lutheran Church, Peoria, IL. She also serves as the chair of the synodical Candidacy Committee.

TOGETHER IN MISSION



FIRST, BEARDSTOWN HOSTS MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS CAMP

In an effort to help cultivate an interest in and passion for Lutheran worship, First Lutheran Church, Beardstown, IL hosted a three-day Music & Worship Arts Camp for children entering 1st through 6th grade. According to the camp director, Mallorie Egbers, the camp goal was "Music and Worship Arts Camp fosters faith formation and develops worship leadership skills in young people." The overall goal for the camp was to have campers develop and lead a worship service. Preparatory activities included: learning music, writing prayers, and preparing a dramatic presentation of the gospel lesson. In addition to classroom time, every camper had the opportunity to play the organ and piano and duets were incorporated into worship on the final day of camp. A total of 33 elementary age children participated in this year's camp.

500 REFORMATION CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, October 28

St. Martin of Tours Lutheran Church, 1190 N. 6th St., Mascoutah, IL, will host a Renaissance Faire, followed by a Polka Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 29

A 500th Reformation Service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 520 E. Highway 50, O'Fallon, IL, beginning at 4 p.m. Belleville, IL

An Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO, beginning at 7 p.m.

Monday, October 30

A panel discussion with Bishop Denis Madden, Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD and ELCA representative, the Rev. Dr. Donald McCoid, will be held at the Aquinas Institute of Theology, 23 S. Spring Ave., St. Louis, MO, beginning at 9:30 a.m. RSVP to (314) 792-7177 or jamescomninelliss@archstl.org.



2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Opens September 15, 2017

Youth Gathering June 27-July 1, 2018 / Houston, Texas

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event June 24-27, 2018

The tAble (youth with disabilities event) June 24-27, 2018

Gathering website: www.gathering@elca.org

Contact: Jill Goldhammer at jgoldhammer@salemofpeoria.com

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Central/Southern Illinois Synod

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Mission Matters...is a synodical newsletter.

Synod congregations, agencies and institutions

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Please send comments, ideas, and/or suggestions to: Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org

