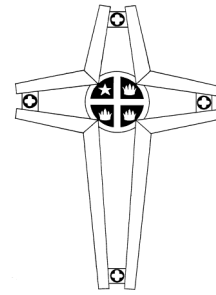


The Star

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany
An ELCA Congregation



Volume MMXXIV
Number 4
April 2024

God calls us to: "**G**row our relationship with God,
connect with each other, and **s**erve the world."

Thank you for all your help at our church clean-up day!



For Peace

You calm and quiet us, eternal God, as a mother holds her children close; all people have refuge in the shadow of your wings. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Hold before us the wisdom of your cross, where we are drawn to you not by might or power, but by your boundless love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(a prayer from *All Creation Sings*,
www.sundaysandseasons.com)



**Help provide lunch or dinner for our
Lutheroad counselors!**

We are getting closer to time for Lutheroad Day Camp! We can't wait to host our college-age counselors who will be traveling all the way from Arden, NC to lead our children for the week of June 10-14. We need volunteers to provide lunch or dinner (store bought or homemade) for each day during that week. Sign ups will be in the church lobby after Easter. Please email Lauren Saldaña (lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) if you have any questions.



Greetings from Church Council,

Please feel free to ask any Council member any questions you may have about what's happening. We are kept informed about Pastor's activities from his monthly report and about the financial status of both ELCE and EECC from the monthly Treasurer's report. You can always ask Pastor Russell or Chris Schultz directly on topics of concern, but keep in mind that we're available as well! We communicate as liaisons between various committees and Council, so we can also get information from them if you need it! We are here for you!

The other role of Council is to oversee and vote on key policies and decisions directing the progress of our congregation. For example, we will be involved with the decisions implementing the capital funds in the upcoming Renew and Rejoice campaign.

In Lent, Pastor has been appreciative of the Encounter:Faith guest speakers that have offered insights into their calls to Christian discipleship. We are all called to be disciples! He also reported that LSM students at WFU led by Liz Dinkins have been invited to join a weekly worship service on campus with the Episcopal students group led by Father James Franklin. Pastor also is expecting to soon begin interfacing with a new seminary vicar. We're excited to resume that mutually beneficial ministry again this upcoming school year.

In February the Treasurer reported that offering income fell a bit behind expenses, but based on the general trends and fluctuations compared to the last 3 years we have no immediate concerns!

The Finance and Outreach Committees are working on a policy needed to properly manage expenditures from the incoming Joyce Kohfeldt funds.

Please keep the EECC staff in your prayers for hiring qualified and effective teachers.

As we move from Lent into Easter you'll soon be invited to special gathering events of the Renew and Rejoice capital campaign.

Easter Greetings!



The EECC has sent home another great member of our staff.

Shirley Sue Howell Mathis, 82, passed away Tuesday morning, February 27, 2024, at Walnut Cove Health and Rehab.

Shirley was born on May 9, 1941, in Forsyth County to the late William Howard and Doris Gallagher Howell. Ms. Sue was retired from Epiphany Early Childhood Center where she served faithfully for 25 years. She was a three-year-old teacher and most recently as a Food Service /Staff Support person in the EECC. Ms. Sue was a good friend and loved all the children. She was also a published poet, played golf, and enjoyed travel with her family and friends. She was an adventurous soul, and believed in hard work. We will be forever grateful for her time spent at EECC and she will be greatly missed.



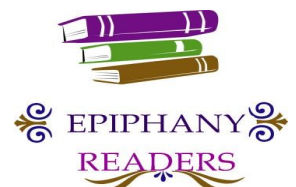
May 9, 1941 -
February 27, 2024

A special thank you to the church for hosting her memorial service, the hospitality committee for arranging the food, and Pastor Russell for officiating the service. In in His service
Lisa Nichols, Director



**Next meeting: April 17, 2024
1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall**

The next Epiphany Readers meeting *will be at Judy Mountjoy's house* at 7pm on Thursday, April 25. The book that will be discussed in April is *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



To Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://bit.ly/EpiphanyReaders>



Outreach Updates

March Stats:

- Backpacks Delivered to Ibrahim: 450 bags
- Backpacks Delivered to Smith Farm: 96 Bags
- Christ Beloved Community (CBC):
 - Food distribution: 280-300 families served
 - 162,000 pounds of food picked up from Second Harvest, unloaded, and shelved
 - Three U-Haul trucks rented and driven by three Epiphany drivers

Lutheran Services Carolinas:

Assembled 32 Welcome Kits for New Refugee Families

We will deliver 40 kits to Salisbury in April
Epiphany Builders installed a handrail in the choir loft and will be going to Agape Lutheran Camp in May to make repairs on buildings on the property.

Our first Packing Party was held on March 22nd to assemble Welcome Kits and bag backpack food bags to prepare them for delivery to the school. These Packing Parties will replace Sunday morning Backpack preparation.

Mark your Calendar for Saturday April 20th for our next Outreach Packing Party. Folks of all ages are welcome to participate! We will be packing backpack food bags and assembling a new Outreach project!

The Outreach Team is actively planning for the upcoming months. We will be distributing the "2023 annual budget overage" to several charities (update in next month's STAR), developing a policy for the use of the Joyce Kohfeldt Endowment Funds, and planning for future outreach projects That will need "Epiphany people power" to complete. Outreach will keep its focus on Outreach to our local community, to our regional community, and to the global community.

If you have a passion project for the Outreach Team to explore or have questions about any of our current projects, please feel free to talk to Jim Pierson or Pastor Peek or Patti Deal (Council Rep to Outreach Team).



The people of Epiphany are very generous. Thank you to everyone who participated in the food drive for Crisis Control ministry. It kicked off on Bold Women's Sunday and ended on Palm Sunday. A large thank you also to the women who helped out during Bold Women's Sunday, and those who supplied food for the Lenten supper sponsored by WELCA.

On April 20th Shiloh Lutheran Church in Lewisville will be hosting the Central/Salem Conference's Spring Gathering. It will start with registration at 8:30 and end around noon. I hope that a number of Epiphany's women will be able to attend. Epiphany will be hosting the Gathering next fall.

Dates:

April 9-- Mary Martha Circle- Fellowship Hall- 10am

April 9--Dorothy Circle- church- 7pm

April 11-- Nora Deal Circle- Fellowship Hall-



Make A Note

Shepherd's Center Used Book Sale - May 2 - May 4, 2024

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold its **36th Annual Used Book Sale** on **Thursday, May 2** and **Friday, May 3** from **9 am to 9 pm**, and on **Saturday, May 4** from **8 am to 2 pm (1/2 Price on all items)**. **Parking and Admission are FREE!** All proceeds of the sale benefit the agency's programs and services for older adults in our community.

The event will be held in the **Education Building** at the **Winston-Salem Fairgrounds**. Entrance for parking is through **Gate 5 from Deacon Blvd**. There is no admission or parking fee. There will be tens of thousands of used books and other items on hand at exceptional prices.



Sign Up for All Events + Join Our Weekly Email

by Emailing Liz

ldinkins@epiphanyws.org

or visiting

epiphanyws.org/youth

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

High Schoolers

Still Interested in the Youth Gathering?

July 16-20 in New Orleans

Epiphany is partnering with Christ Beloved Community and we have SEVEN STUDENTS signed up!

Sign Up By APRIL 10

Contact Liz to join us!

Does your Middle or High Schooler have a sports game/meet, practice, concert, or other showing of their passions, talents and skills they want to show off?

I'd love to support your students where they are - let me know if there's an activity I can come to and support our students!

**YOUTH
ENCOUNTER
FAITH**

9am in Youth Room

April 21

May 5 + 19



We're post-Spring Break and have about a month left!

We had a great Holy Week - we celebrated Palm Sunday with ESF with an on campus Lutheran Service, Enjoyed Dinner + an Easter Egg Hunt with our friends at UKirk (PCUSA) during our Tuesday Night Meeting and offered Hand Washing (in the tradition of Foot Washing) and Anointing in the quad on Maundy Thursday.

We're prepping for an overnight retreat in April - worshipping with Episcopal Student Fellowship on Sunday Afternoons and appreciating great food provided by Epiphany Families!

If you're interested in providing care + prayer for a student during exams in the first couple weeks of may let me know.

Stay in the loop by joining our weekly email or following us on Facebook or Instagram!



Email Sign Up
epiphanyws.org/wfu-campus-ministry



@wfu_lsm



Lutheran Student Movement
- Wake Forest

get your gear

Wake Forest University - Lutheran Student Movement



Order March 15 - April 10

Order at:

epiphanyws.org/wfu-campus-ministry
or contact Liz : ldinkins@epiphanyws.org



There will be **no** 9:00 Encounter: Faith on Sunday, April 7th for Spring Break. We will return to our regular schedule at 9:00 on 4/14.



Game Afternoon Sunday, April 28th 2:00-4:00PM

Got games? On Sunday 4/28 2:00-4:00, bring your favorite board or card game to the fellowship hall and we'll try to play them all. There will be snacks and refreshments. If you're not sure of a game to bring, we'll have some to choose from here at the church. This is a drop off event, but parents are welcome to stay and play games too!



Photos from our Escape Room!

Lutheroad is June 10-14 at Epiphany!
 We are once again partnering with Augsburg Lutheran Church to bring Lutheroad Day Camp to Winston-Salem! Lutheroad will be **held at Epiphany** the week of June 10-14, Mon-Thurs 9-4 and Friday 9-12. Day Camp is open to children who will be completing Kindergarten through fifth grade. As always, Lutheroad is staffed with college-age counselors from Lutheridge, trained in youth ministry who will act as program leaders for the campers. Snacks will be provided each day, but campers must bring their own lunch and water bottles. Throughout the week campers will have Bible studies, games, small groups, worship, craft time, and a service project. On Thursday evening, we will host a special program for friends and family where campers will showcase all that they have learned during the week! Registration is only \$50 per camper for the whole week and is due to the Epiphany office upon registration. Checks can be made out to the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany. If you are writing a check, please write Lutheroad and your camper's name(s) in the memo section. Scholarships are available. Space is limited, so check out the flyer and scan the QR code or go to the registration website <https://forms.gle/9HLY5D4PybNizxyt6> for more information and to sign up today!

The Lutheran Church of the Epiphany and Augsburg Lutheran Church present

Lutheroad Day Camp

June 10-14, 2024
 M-Th 9:00-4:00, Fri 9:00-12:00

\$50 per camper for the whole week!

Held at Epiphany this year!

More info and registration at: <https://forms.gle/NNcZXBQ1216dA3Gy7> or scan QR code

If you have milestones to celebrate, please contact Mickey Miller.



**Our
Epiphany
Family**

Help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know if there are those who need to be included.



You're invited to the [Piedmont Earth Day Fair](#) on April 20th from 10 AM - 4 PM at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds.

Enjoy great food and music, activities for adults and kids, and wonderful earth-friendly exhibitors...all while learning about how you can support a greener city.

Thanks to the support of sponsors and community partners, the Piedmont Earth Day Fair is a FREE event, including free parking.
Rain or shine.

Ministers, All the People of Epiphany

Pastor, Pastor Russell Peek

Email: pastorrussell@epiphanyws.org

Pastor of Visitation, Pastor Joanna Stallings

Email: jstallings@epiphanyws.org

Director of Music, Patryck Nuss

E-mail: music@epiphanyws.org

Director of Youth & Campus Ministry, Liz Dinkins

E-mail: ldinkins@epiphanyws.org

Director of Children's Ministries, Lauren Saldaña

E-mail: lsaldana@epiphanyws.org

Early Childhood Center Director, Lisa Nichols

E-mail: lisnichols@epiphanyws.org, 336-768-2140

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Epiphany E-mail: epiphanystaff@epiphanyws.org

Web Site: www.epiphanyws.org

Fellowship – W-S Dash Baseball Game and Fireworks

Please join us on Friday, May 24, at 7:00 pm for a Dash verses Bowling Green

Hot Rods baseball game in the Truist Stadium located at 951 Ballpark Way, Winston-Salem, NC. We are getting a group discount for having 20 people attend so a ticket will be \$17.00 which will include a hot dog, chips and drink. [Click here to purchase our special \\$17.00 tickets and hot dog for the game.](#)

Please contact Jeanie Saphar at 336-414-2956 if you have questions. I hope to see you at the game!

GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR APRIL

CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY - Instant oatmeal, saltine crackers

SAMARITAN MINISTRIES - Ground coffee (regular), sugar, dish towels, foot powder, socks, ground beef (50 lbs.)

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE - Paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags; individual snacks & drinks; <https://rmhcpt.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/>

TRINITY GLEN - Soap

TRINITY ELMS - Fronts of greeting cards, body lotion, body wash, bath items, deodorant, snacks, note cards

CBC FOOD PANTRY - Volunteers to take food donations from church to CBC and to work stocking shelves/distributing food twice a month

THE DWELLING - New T-shirts, new underwear, new socks, mouth care products, shower supplies

EECC - Cheerios, raisins, applesauce (individual, plain)

IBRAHAM FOOD PANTRY - Diapers/pullups sizes 2-6

2024 Congregation Council

Officers:

Dan Meckley, Pres.

Matt Imboden, VP

Chris Schultz, Treas.

Mark Tellefsen, Sec.

Non-Council Officers:

Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.

Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll

Terry Wiley, Asst. Treasurer

Members:

Betty Benardo

Patti Deal

Kathy Knecht

Penny Mothershed

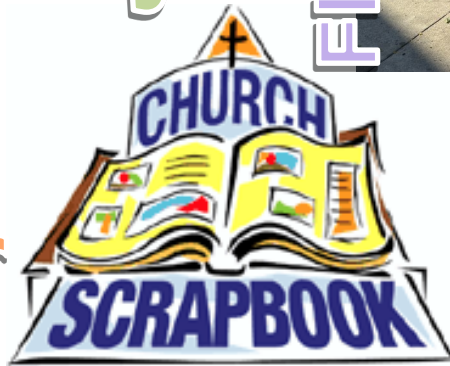
Debbie Spurlock

Pastor Russell Peek



Palm Sunday

Flowering the Cross



Kids Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Breakfast



"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
John 14:14, NRSV

LET US PRAY FOR...

Leaders of church & state, especially

<i>Our Congregation Council</i>	<i>Pastor Russell Peek</i>
<i>Christ's Beloved Community</i>	<i>President Joe Biden</i>
<i>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</i>	<i>Governor Roy Cooper</i>
<i>Bishop Timothy Smith</i>	<i>Mayor Allen Joines</i>

All victims of war and any form of violence

Our sister congregations and our missionary in Mexico

Pastor Emily Norris, Deacon Brooke De Jong, and the people of the Dwelling
Fr. Javier Arias and the people of Christ's Beloved Community
Pr. David Brondos and the Theological Community of Mexico
The people of Mupini Parish, Namibia

Active duty military personnel, especially

Travis Gerdes
Randal Middleton
Connor Oldland
David Schultz

Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially

<i>Judy Allison</i>	<i>Linda Grale</i>	<i>Wyatt Axel Petersen</i>
<i>Ashley Blackburn</i>	<i>Pam Holcomb</i>	<i>Steve Reno</i>
<i>Hannah Kestner Bockover</i>	<i>Robin Hoots</i>	<i>Melissa Rhyne</i>
<i>Thomas & Mary Cannon</i>	<i>David Howard</i>	<i>Nora Schweitzer</i>
<i>Clark Family</i>	<i>Jean Jarvis</i>	<i>Sue Slezak</i>
<i>William Collette</i>	<i>Tonya Lawson</i>	<i>Michele Stanfield</i>
<i>Judy Crouch</i>	<i>Chad Marion</i>	<i>Laura Turlington</i>
<i>Rose Debruhl</i>	<i>Susan Martz</i>	<i>Alan Vestal</i>
<i>Paul DeJute</i>	<i>Sue Mathis</i>	<i>Emma Wester</i>
<i>Howard Flichman</i>	<i>Linda McKenna</i>	<i>Renee Whisenant</i>
<i>Pat & Joanne Gill</i>	<i>Allison Morris</i>	<i>Lynn Wiemann</i>
<i>Ellen Golden</i>	<i>Kirsten Nuss</i>	<i>Nicole Williams</i>
<i>Jonathan Gomez</i>	<i>Robert & Mary Peak</i>	<i>Leigh Yarner</i>

Members in need, especially

<i>The Rev. Stephen Ball</i>	<i>Ann Cannon</i>	<i>Jane Lyerly</i>
<i>The Rev. John Beeg</i>	<i>Chad Kraft</i>	<i>Jean Mock</i>
<i>Sharen Bond</i>	<i>Jim Lippard</i>	<i>Wanda Rabb</i>



Elizabeth Horton, Homestead Hills
Bert Joines, Homestead Hills
Sue Muhler, Brookdale Senior Living
Carl Schlager, The Stratford, High Point



Bonnie Bryant
Cole Lippard
Polly Rector
Robert Walker

April Birthdays

Lewis Hardy	4/2
Caroline Peek	4/2
Dana Walters	4/2
Martha Oldland	4/5
Henry Harris	4/6
Susan Tellefsen	4/6
Diana Nicholson	4/8
Lil Flichman	4/10
Bob Walker	4/11
Bill Flichman	4/12
Leann Pace	4/13
Deborah Walker	4/13
Connor Oldland	4/14
Maxwell Saldaña	4/14
Bev Minick	4/15
Charlie Wiley	4/16
Brad Hively	4/18
Wayne Sloop	4/18
Ryan Davis	4/19
Laura Spain	4/19
Solomon Pace	4/20
Haley Oldland	4/22
Jessi James	4/24
Jennie Hinshaw	4/29
Steve Reich	4/29
Janet Wallace	4/30
Billie Holbrook	4/30
David Matthews	4/30
Tyler Toborg	4/30

April Baptisms

Beth Craft	4/1
Anne Forrest	4/1
Kathy Knecht	4/1
Kelly Lichtenhan	4/1
Jonathan Sloop	4/1
Deni Thrasher	4/1
Sophie Spanos	4/2
Calvin Sherman	4/3
Jeremy Sloop	4/4
Larry Grush	4/5
Casey Davis	4/6
Liam Nye	4/8
Zach Baker	4/10
Jackie Pierson	4/10
Sawyer Walters	4/10
Sloan Walters	4/10
Chad Kraft	4/11
Kay Conrad	4/12
Elinore Imboden	4/12
Tan Bunjang	4/15
Nicole Kaluzne	4/15
Lauren Walsh	4/15
Connie Siris	4/17
Chelsea Walker	4/18
Sue Muhler	4/18
Rodger Eckard	4/27
Jonathan Lichtenhan	4/28



<i>Bruce & Margaret Lanier</i>	<i>4/16</i>
<i>Mark & Susan Tellefsen</i>	<i>4/19</i>
<i>Paul & Mitzi Silverstein</i>	<i>4/27</i>

We wish you many more years of happiness!



We received thanks from:
 Lutheran Disaster Response



I'm a processor. Perhaps to a fault. While I can and do make some decisions that call for quick decisions, I much prefer to ponder, pray, simmer all possible perspectives in the pot—especially those not my own, getting in touch with feelings, and praying that God would help me and guide me to see and respond to the situation in the most Christlike way possible. I'm also an overachiever, which can default me to works righteousness even while knowing its futility. The dilemma is the clash between the simultaneous need to process yet pressing ahead to achieve. Which brings me to the why of sabbatical, for me.

You've lived and are living—with me—many of the challenges of it the past few years, what with pandemic, economic woes, racial and gender and orientation and reproductive rights oppression, deep political division, wars, refugees and migrants, and climate change, not to mention church culture decline and unsettledness. In my role as bishop, I'm reminded of what Agent K tells Agent J in the original *Men in Black* movie about not discharging his weapon in public. K says sharply, "The only reason these people go along with their happy little lives is because they Do. Not. Know. about it." Some of what I know and have seen within the church has been not only concerning but sometimes heartbreaking. Especially when someone like me presses on to the next crisis without processing.

I know our congregations and clergy have struggled in ways we hadn't seen even five years ago. The relativization of truth, and poor behavior by and toward clergy precipitated by anxiety. How can we be motivated and lead by Gospel love rather than fear? How can there even BE a *we* (or a synod), when the order of the day is *my* opinion, *my* perspective, *my* affiliation based on what *I* want to hear, which might be formed at its core by political parties and platforms and personal advantage with a Gospel veneer rather than a Gospel foundation with a zeal for justice that flows from it for ALL people?

I am immensely grateful to our synod staff and synod council who, at last fall's council meeting, urged me to take the sabbatical that I missed entirely in 2015 because I was elected bishop and then missed again in 2020 because of the pandemic. I'm even more of an advocate for a sabbatical for clergy in particular because of how clarifying and renewing the gift of these past three months has been for me. I hope your congregation will consider it for your clergy, and our office may be able to help if you'd like to talk about the possibility—even of a mini-sabbatical of six weeks. Let me share a bit of what mine was like:

- 1. Rested and visited with family, including grandbabies, but also some cousins I rarely see. (75%)*
- 2. Processed/pondered back-burner grief with a counselor/therapist. Several sessions. So glad I could and did. It was a blessing to take time to process with someone from outside the system.*
- 3. Represented ELCA Region 9 in the Border Immersion with bishops from the other regions. (5 days) We spent the time with Border Servant Corps in Texas and New Mexico. We met with a wide array of folks about the immigration and border challenges, and obviously there are no easy answers. One thing the wide variety of perspectives agreed on was getting work permits for those who cross the border legally seeking asylum. It can take years before their asylum cases are heard in immigration court, and it benefits everyone if they can legally go to work sooner than the average time of 11 months it's been taking to get such permits. Not only does it provide those families with sustenance and income, but it also provides much-needed labor for which there frankly are not enough citizens currently to fulfill, particularly in agriculture.*
- 4. Started midway through sabbatical on a 9-week, 5-hour/week course toward an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising. I hope to help the synod and agencies/institutions with this both in my remaining time as bishop and perhaps in my retirement in some way.*
- 5. Went with Wendy to Berlin, Myrtle Beach, and Charleston for relaxing and fun.*

I returned to work when I flew to ELCA Conference of Bishops on February 27 and, with Monday, March 4, as my day off (which I'm going to do a better job of honoring moving forward), my first day back in the office will be March 5, the day you receive this e-news. Again, I am grateful for the time away. I can personally attest that it can mean the difference between either limping along/bad attitude/quitting and returning energized, renewed, and committed! For now, I'm grateful to be your bishop and ready to hit the ground running. I've got lots of catching up to do, so I beg your patience if I don't get back to you right away this month.

Walking with you,

NC Synod Bishop



Most beloved NC Synod Siblings,

The deep and abiding grace of God in Christ be with you all! By now many of you are aware of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS) of Lenoir-Rhyne University's announcement that it is planning to move from Columbia, South Carolina, to the main campus of Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) in Hickory, North Carolina in January of 2025. The final approval of the move is expected from the university's trustees later this month.

This is hard news for some of us, perhaps especially those who were formed on the campus in Columbia and have precious memories of those spaces and places. My grandfather walked from Concord, NC to Columbia, SC to begin his seminary studies there 100 years ago, and our son graduated from LTSS after his theological studies in some of those same hallowed halls. While we can and will provide you with facts, figures, rationales, and perhaps even justifications, you know how grief works. Even when we can name something new as the right or necessary thing, woe to the one who does not name and attend to grief. My recent sabbatical underscored that truth, as I realized I was grieving many things, some large, and some small, which I had not taken time to process. So yes, grief, on many levels, even as I affirm to you that, as a longtime member of both the LTSS Advisory Council and the LRU Board of Trustees, I fully support this move.

The seminary has a long history of pilgrimage, and the move will give the seminary the chance to have a sustained new life in Hickory. Why is this happening? The reasons for the move are compelling, and all six Region 9 bishops, while sad, fully support it. By moving the seminary to the Hickory campus, Lenoir-Rhyne will save about \$2.1 million per year in operating costs and eliminate millions in deferred maintenance costs on the Columbia

campus. That campus is far larger than the seminary's current program requires, especially since, like other mainline seminaries, LTSS now enrolls many hybrid and commuter students. In fact, as a point of reference, currently, LTSS has only six total residential students.

Lenoir-Rhyne University leaders are assuring us that this is not downsizing or a change in the seminary's curriculum or strategic plan. In fact, by saving in operating costs, the seminary hopes to be able to expand its program in the years to come. I am also glad to report that all current full-time teaching and library faculty as well as full-time LTSS staff will be offered employment at the seminary in Hickory and will receive some assistance with relocation.

The library's collection will move to Hickory along with the seminary, and the seminary's Advisory Council and Alumni Board will help create thoughtful ways to integrate artifacts from the Columbia campus, including the library and chapel, in Hickory. Lenoir-Rhyne is prepared to invest in dedicated space for the seminary in Hickory and wants to develop those plans in conversation with faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

I believe that LTSS in Hickory will offer important resources to the ELCA and to our synod. Embedding the seminary on a lively college campus will help it realize its goal of being a living laboratory for public ministry. In Hickory, seminary students will be able to build their capacity for ministry with classes in Spanish language and culture; business; counseling; environmental and health sciences; and other disciplines that provide context and grounding that our pastors urgently need. I look forward to visiting LTSS on a vibrant campus where leaders from our synod and beyond can participate in creative and robust lifelong learning opportunities. Were I looking for a seminary today, it would be important for me on a practical level to know that I could sing in a choir, play intramural sports, and eat in the dining hall, among other things that are no longer practically possible on a regular basis on the Columbia campus.

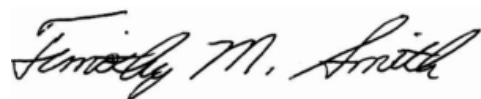
The Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer became LTSS's dean and rector last spring. Discussions about how to assure the seminary's sustainability were already underway when he arrived, and I have full confidence that he will lead the seminary well through this transition. [In a letter to LTSS alumni on March 1](#), Dr. Rimmer framed the issue well, and I want to close by sharing some of his words with you:

Along the way, I will encourage you to keep your eyes on 2030. This year will be the 200th anniversary of the seminary's founding in Pomaria, South Carolina. 2030 will also be the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. Making this move will ensure that we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the seminary in a way that looks to the next 200 years. And we will be embodying the genius of the Lutheran tradition that emerged from the nexus between the church, the academy, and the public space. Semper reformanda. This move can position LTSS to be a flagship of the next stage in this faithful tradition.

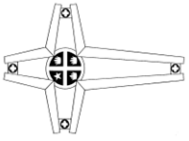
As LTSS's move to Hickory unfolds, I hope you will join me in praying for the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are most deeply affected by the changes now underway. At the same time, I invite you to share in the celebration that we can now look forward to 2030 and beyond knowing that the seminary we love so well will be around to form pastors and leaders for our congregations far into the future. More communications, including [FAQs](#) and documents about the move, can be found [on the LRU website](#).

Thank you for your faithful leadership. Know that even as the church changes, God's love for us endures forever.

Walking with you in grief and hope,



Bishop Timothy M. Smith



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9 am Adult Encoun- ter:Faith 9 am Encounter:Faith 10am Worship	1 Easter Monday Office & EECC Closed	2 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	3 10 am EECC Ch. 3 pm Staff	4	5	6
7 No Encounter:Faith	8 9 am Youth @ GSO Science Center 5:30 pm CC Response Team Meeting 7 pm Executive Comm.	9 10 am Mary-Martha Cir. (FH) 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Dorothy Cir. (FH)	10 10 am EECC Ch. 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	11 11:30 am Nora Deal Circle (FH)	12	13
14 After Worship CC Event	15 6 pm EECC Comm. 7 pm Congregation Council	16 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	17 10 am EECC Ch. 1:30 pm Widows Might (FH) 3 pm Staff 6 pm Choir	18 6 pm Finance	19	20 9 am-Noon Outreach Packing Party (FH) 10 am Epiphany Quilters
21 9 am Youth E:F 4:00 pm CC Leadership Event @Trinity Elms	22 7 pm Lead Gift Team Meeting	23 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells	24 10 am EECC Ch. 6 pm Choir	25 7 pm Epiphany Readers	26	27 LSM Retreat
28 Lead Gift Event LSM Retreat	29 Lead Gift Event	30 11 am Bible Study 6 pm LSM 6 pm Handbells				