



## Louisiana Interchurch Conference

**E-Newsletter** July 27, 2017

*“To live the faith we hold in common”*

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### [Going to the Mountain](#)

Article from our Director

*Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.*

Recently, a story was told on National Public Radio about a “new” way to reduce stress while coping with the fast paced life we live in today. This is an experience of become immersed in nature which could take place in a forest or maybe in a park and is called *forest bathing*. Of course, this not a literal bathing with a swimsuit but rather a person allowing scents, sounds and sights to bathe our senses. Researchers learned that people who would take time to walk through a forest or park, sit for a time in the woods, had their blood pressures lowered, felt more at peace and suggested improving the immune system. As one who sometimes feels myself to be simply an extension of a cell phone or laptop computer or television, the suggestion of a forest bath was a wake-up call. How do we keep a healthy sense of self, maintain a relationship with God and with other people? How do we maintain wisdom and calm? Could it be that there are clues to what we should be doing and recommending to seekers after God and those who are followers of Jesus as we strive to maintain the mission and purpose of God’s Church today?

There are stories of how Jesus, when he was overcome with tiredness, would take

time away for prayer and reflection. He would retire to a quiet place apart from the crowds who seemed to gather around him day after day. Then, after a space of time Jesus would return to do the work he felt called to do in proclaiming the Good News, healing the sick and teach the people about the Kingdom of God. A quiet place is part of the atmosphere that allows us to be open to God's Spirit and to the voice of God. It is in the quiet and the silence that insights come to us and clarity of purpose. Something of the quiet and refreshment in the pattern of Jesus' life sounds very similar to the experience of the forest bath.

Another very important experience Jesus had was in going up a mountain to pray. This time he had with him three of his companions. The Transfiguration, as we have come to know this experience, is an occasion when Jesus' garments dazzled and his face also changed. We are told that the great figures from the past, Moses and Elijah, were present talking to Jesus. In this moment, we learn that Jesus has a renewed sense of his Call with increased resolve as he went back down the mountain to face everyday life. Whether it's a mountain top experience, a forest bath, or a quiet moment anywhere-- God's presence changes us. May we each find our lives enriched for love and service as we are bathed and immersed in the very presence of God.

Rev. Dan Krutz

### *In Sympathy*

We offer prayers after the recent passing of the father of our Board Member, Bishop Michael Rinehart of the Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA. Born in 1933, **Rev. Warren Rinehart** of Leander, Texas died peacefully on July 8, 2017, at St. David's Hospital in Georgetown, Texas, surrounded by family. He loved ministry, family, gardening, cooking, music, football, and cars. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia Rinehart, his children Michael and wife Susan, Paul and wife Karen, and Katie, and his seven grandchildren John, Nicolas, Gregory, Abbey, Sarah, Heidi, and Yuliana. The memorial service was held on July 27th in Austin, TX. For more info., see Bishop Rinehart's blog at: <https://bishopmike.com/>

### *Restore Louisiana – program kicks off for 2016 flood victims*

**Flood-Impacted Homeowners**  
**<http://restore.la.gov/>**

**The Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program is now available to provide recovery assistance to homeowners affected by the 2016 flooding. This program applies to those in all levels of recovery, even those who have finished their repairs.**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated funding to assist in Louisiana's long term recovery from the severe flooding that occurred throughout much of the state in **March and August of 2016**. The funding for The Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program is allocated out of HUD's

## Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

The program consists of two steps: a survey and an application. The survey may be completed online via the link above or by calling (866) 735-2001, and should take about 15 minutes from start to finish. After completing the survey, homeowners will be invited to complete an application based on their answers to the survey and the phase for which they may qualify. Supporting documentation will be required during the application step to verify eligibility for financial assistance. Assistance will be distributed over several [phases](#); as the state continues to seek more funding from Congress, the program may expand to include additional phases.

**All flood-impacted homeowners** are strongly encouraged to complete the survey. Even if homeowners do not qualify for one of the initial six phases of assistance, they could qualify as more funding becomes available.

Find out more about possible [Reimbursement Estimates and Repair Estimates](#) at:

<http://restore.la.gov/homeowner-assistance-program/>

[Sign up](#) to receive email updates from the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program.

## [Tax returns lost in the flood?](#)

Reminder, if you lost your tax returns in the flood, you can get transcripts of your information from the IRS by filling out and submitting a Form 4506T. You can get up to five years of transcripts for free from the IRS.

**IRS Tax Returns:**

**Phone:** 800-829-1040

**Website:** <https://www.irs.gov/uac/About-Form-4506T>

For Louisiana Dept. of Revenue tax forms, go to: <http://www.revenue.louisiana.gov/>  
Then go to the FORMS tab. For Individual tax return copies scroll down to form R-7004. There is normally a fee of \$15.00 from the State, however, they may waive it for flooded individuals.

R-7004

[Form R-7004](#)

Tax Information Disclosure Authorization [Form R-7004i Instructions](#)

## [High School Essay Contest about Addictions](#)

# *The O'Brien House Essay Contest*

The O'Brien House Essay Contest is a contest for high school students

enrolled in 2017/2018 (grades 9-12) in the state of Louisiana. It is an opportunity for students who have been touched by addiction to share their stories through writing. The winners will be recognized at the prestigious O'Brien House Annual Breakfast and awarded prizes ranging between \$200-\$1000.

Rules for the contest and guidelines for submission can be found at [www.obrienhouseessays.com](http://www.obrienhouseessays.com).

*Save the date – Fall Board Meeting Sept 25-26 in Alexandria*



All business sessions and the evening worship service to be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Guests are welcome at all speaker sessions and the Monday evening worship service



Denis R. Janz, Ph.D.  
Provost Distinguished Professor of the History of Christianity

The Board of Directors of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will gather for their fall meeting on **September 25-26, 2017**, at **St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**, 3900 St. Charles Ave., in **Alexandria**. [Click here](#) for the overall tentative schedule.

The meeting theme is:

***“The Church, the Reformation and the Quest for Unity”***

**Our Keynote Speaker** will be **Dr. Denis R. Janz**. Dr. Janz has written & edited numerous books/publications, & is currently in the process of writing another book about Luther. Some of his books include: Luther and Late Medieval Thomism, Luther on Thomas Aquinas, and World Christianity and Marxism.

His research and lecturing have taken him to Germany, Austria, France, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania, the former U.S.S.R., China, and so forth. He was appointed scholar-in-residence by the Tantur Institute for Ecumenical Studies in Jerusalem, Israel and traveled to the institute in the summer of 2011 to study the religious roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies at Loyola University, Dr. Janz received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1979. Since coming to Loyola in 1979, he has served terms as Department Chair and Director of Graduate Studies. Recently retired from his teaching duties, he still maintains an office at Loyola.



Rev. Irma Bañales

### Evening Worship:

On Monday Evening, September 25th, an ecumenical evening worship service will be held at the historic St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The Cathedral opened in 1899 and is located at 626 4th Street, Alexandria, LA. Hosting pastor is Fr. James Ferguson, JCL, with homily to be given by the Rev. Irma Bañales, Director of Evangelical Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Please join us!

As always, the public is invited to all speaker sessions & the Monday evening worship service. **Hope to see you there!**

### 500th Anniversary of Reformation – Ecumenical Services

The year of 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 theses of 1517, which would lead to widespread reformation in the church and culture. Traditionally, October 31, 1517, is widely held to be the day German monk, Martin Luther, nailed his [Ninety-five Theses](#) on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. In celebration, various ecumenical services are being held around the country and world, this year. Please advise of any Louisiana and surrounding area events that you know of that are coming up. Two events that we know of are:



An 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ecumenical worship service is to be held in conjunction with the LIC Fall Board Meeting. To be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 626 4th Street, Alexandria, LA, beginning at 7:30pm on Monday evening, **September 25, 2017.**

500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Service at St. Louis Cathedral, 615 Pere Antoine Alley, New Orleans, LA, beginning at 7:00 pm on Monday evening, **October 23, 2017.**

*Again, please advise of any other upcoming events that you are aware of in celebration of this important anniversary of the church.*

### Red Cross looking for more possible storm shelters



**American Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

The American Red Cross is asking for information on any churches or organizational facilities (which are not already on their list) that would have facilities that can be used as shelter in times of disaster/storms.

Minimum requirements to be considered for a shelter:

Showers

Kitchen

Able to fit 100 cots

Working A/C & Heat

	Red Cross volunteers will come out to staff the shelter
<p>For the capital area (Felicianas, Livingston, East &amp; West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, and Ascension), please contact: Melanie Fuentes, Disaster Recovery Specialist, American Red Cross, at <a href="mailto:melanie.fuentes2@redcross.org">melanie.fuentes2@redcross.org</a>.</p> <p>For other areas, please call your local chapter or Ms. Fuentes can direct you to a local contact.</p>	

*Offering thanks to our recent contributors*

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

*Contributions received from June 30, 2017 through July 26, 2017:*

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Rev. Marie Williams; Dr. Marian Schwab; Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church; and Mrs. Ann Ball.

Sabbatical/Cont. Education Fund Contributors: Mr. Robert Edens and family, in memory of Mrs. Debbie Edens

**Thank you all!**

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at <http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>.

*Dates to calendar*

*Upcoming Board Meeting Dates*

**Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge
2019		March 11-12, Lafayette

**Fall Board meeting dates:**

2017		Sept. 25-26, Alexandria
2018		Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles

***“To live the faith we hold in common”***

*Louisiana Interchurch Conference  
527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225) 344-0134 [www.lainterchurch.org](http://www.lainterchurch.org)*

*President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;  
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*