



Louisiana Interchurch Conference

L-I-Newsletter

November 19, 2018

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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Director's Corner

Article from our
Executive Director,
Rev. Dan Krutz



A World Without Worry

Jesus said, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Matthew 6:25-26

Some years ago the singer Bobby McFerrin made popular a song with the catchy title, *Don't Worry, Be Happy!* In several critical life situations—eviction from an apartment, no companion, no money—the singer responds with "don't worry, be happy." Jesus teaches that God will provide for us and that we are of value, precious to God. Thanksgiving is an attitude and act. Some people simply live their lives as thankful people, and they are an inspiration to all of us. For many of the rest of us we need a reminder like Thanksgiving Day to recall the blessings we have received from God and from people who incarnate God's love and gifts to us. Often, we receive an abundance of blessings that overflow into our lives like the bounty of a table set for Thanksgiving.

The song haunts me though when thinking of being happy in spite of having only a few possessions and impoverished by a lack of relationships. Having a family can be the most important gift God gives us. An experience of one of my sons comes to mind again. One summer he went with a church youth group on a mission trip across the border into Northern Mexico. The faith-based group Casas de Cristo sponsored projects to build very simple homes

for families in that region. Our teenage son came back from the trip with a changed attitude and demeanor. As he joined in with the families who helped to build their own house, our son was struck by the happiness and joy of these people who had practically nothing in comparison to his home and possessions displayed throughout his room. As in so many instances in life, we go on a mission to help others and discover our own need and how God working through others brings gifts of insight and gratitude.

In the midst of this approaching season of Thanksgiving there are challenges to the health and well-being of peoples that beg our attention and response. We are the ones who are called to incarnate and make present the grace of God so that happiness and peace might be a possibility for all. One need only think of migrants and immigrants seeking a better life including a life without the daily threat of violence if not death. Some would say we or those of our ascendants who came before us, make us all migrants and immigrants. The doors were open to the pilgrims and those who followed. For the kingdom truly to come, the stain of prejudice and racism among other sins must be removed from our identity as a nation. There is so much for which to give thanks and yet much work still to do. May God Bless efforts to move forward to the day when there might be a world without worry.

In Sympathy

Our prayers are with the family of **Mary Jane Jones**, who passed away on October 27th after a battle with cancer. Mary Jane served on the LIC Board of Directors as a Board Member at Large from March of 2011 to March of 2016. She resigned after her husband, Lawrence, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Before that, he had attended some of the LIC Board meetings with her and he was just as helpful and friendly as she was. They had been married almost 56 years when he passed in June of 2016. Mary Jane was a woman of many accomplishments. [Find out more and/or sign her guest book here.](#)

A Mural for Healing after swastika defacement

The **Northshore Jewish Congregation**, also known as "NJC," is located in Mandeville, and is the only synagogue between Baton Rouge and Biloxi, Mississippi. On September 5th, members were shocked and concerned after arriving to find symbols of hate spray painted on the side of the building. Surrounding community stepped up with support for the beleaguered congregation. A volunteer from Slidell arrived quickly after hearing of the incident on the news and pressure washed the graffiti off of the bricks. NJC held a service of thanks to all supporters on 9/16/18.



LIC Executive Director, Fr. Dan Krutz, and Executive Committee Member, Fr. Buddy Noel, were among those who attended a September 16th interfaith service of support for and appreciation from the NJC. Many local dignitaries attended as well, such as the Chief of Police, the District Attorney, the Mayors of Mandeville and Covington, and the President of St. Tammany Parish.

Rabbi Alexis Pinsky led the service.

However, a mural artist in Metairie still wanted to do something more. She contacted the NJC, offered her talents, and together with the kids from NJC created a mural on that same wall:



The Religious School students, along with Rabbi Pinsky, and Mural Artist, Laurie Alan Browne, named and dedicated the mural: **Ha'Chayim Ha'Tovim (Together We Heal)**. Rebecca Slifkin, the NJC Administrative Assistant, told the LIC: “What was a horrible shock is now a beautiful, hopeful space.”

Racism and its associated hatreds and fear are perpetuated only by those who choose to keep ‘stirring it up.’ It is encouraging to see community banding together with love instead.

November is National Adoption Month

Celebrated across North America each November, this special month of awareness building helps to increase the number of families considering adoption and celebrates the joys of creating families through foster care adoption. The LIC’s Bread or Stones program seeks to improve the lives of all of our children. There are many children longing for a ‘forever’ family and kids aging out of the foster care system with no family.

Here is an excerpt from the 2018 Presidential Proclamation:

“During National Adoption Month, we recognize the immeasurable love and support that adoptive parents and families provide to hundreds of thousands of children each year. We celebrate the life-changing act of adoption, bring attention to the millions of Americans who are eager to adopt, and express our gratitude to the families who have welcomed children into their lives and homes. My Administration also acknowledges the courage of those mothers and fathers who place their child for adoption. Our Nation grows stronger because of the love and sacrifice of parents, both birth and adoptive.” [Read more here...](#)

Friends Mail-out and Giving Tuesday

Twice per year, we mail out a 'Friends of the L.I.C.' support request. For *all of those on our postal mailing list, you should be receiving a letter this week. (**Requests are not sent out to those who recently gave. Thank you!*) This year *Giving Tuesday* falls on November 28th, and we hope that will be a reminder as well.

Please respond as generously as you are able to, as your support is very important in helping with our on-going **operational expenses**. We have a goal of \$5,000 for this year. To date, we have received \$2,420. So we're almost halfway there! Every gift counts and your help in meeting our goal before the end of this budget year would certainly be appreciated!

We'll send a couple of 2019 wallet calendar cards as a small thank you to each person who contributes, along with an IRS acceptable receipt.

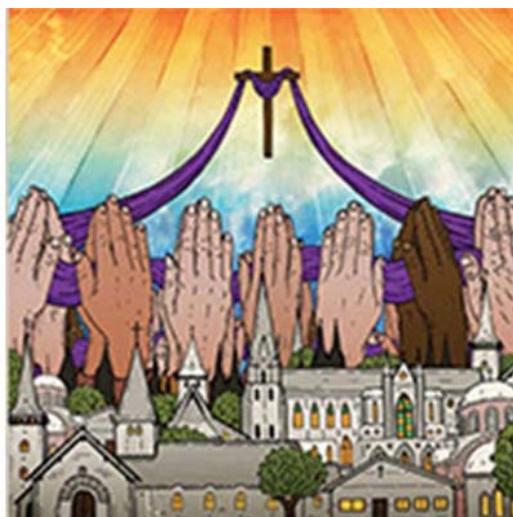
Week of Prayer – please send us your scheduled events!!!

If you haven't scheduled one yet, please start the process!

2019 theme:

*"Justice,
Only Justice,
You Shall
Pursue."*

*From
Deuteronomy 16:20*



We ask that all member LIC churches take the lead in planning for 2019 Week of Prayer services in their communities. *Please let us know as soon as you know of events occurring in your area, so that we may post them in the LIC newsletters and/or on the LIC website.*

Plant a tree for Thanksgiving

You can give back to nature by planting a tree during the Thanksgiving Holidays, and to say thank you for everything that you have in your life. The air you breathe, the food you eat and the products you use all come from the same source. By giving back to nature you will also be helping other people that don't have as much as you. A healthier planet will be able to look after more people.

Can't plant a tree? Plant a bush. Fall is the best time to plant trees and most bushes. There's less chance of drought or sun scorch harming fragile, newly-planted trees; plus, the cooler temperatures help encourage new root growth (as trees generally focus on growing new roots in fall). Planting new trees now helps them develop more and stronger roots.

Placing shade trees in strategic positions is a further natural solution for living better at lower costs as well as promoting a healthier environment. In Louisiana, hurricane hearty trees are a plus. Sand live oaks are the most resistant to wind damage. Other good choices include the Southern magnolia, live oak, crape myrtle, bald cypress, and sabal palm. These trees are less likely to lose limbs or blow over during hurricanes.

Make it a Thanksgiving tradition!

Prayer of the Woods (an old Portuguese prayer)

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty. 'Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.

*Offering thanks to our recent contributors –
we couldn't make it without you all!*

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon.

We do not have any additional contributions from other ministry partners to list for the time period of October 16, 2018 through November 16, 2018. However, we've just sent out a Friends mailing, so we are looking forward to partners responding.

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 and LIC Holiday Schedule

November 22, 2018 – Thanksgiving (The LIC office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22nd & Nov. 23rd.)

LIC Executive Committee winter meeting – (Monday) **December 3, 2018** in Lafayette

Christmas – December 25, 2018 (The LIC office will be closed Friday, Dec. 21st, and Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 24th & 25th.)

New Year's Eve/Day (The LIC office will be closed Monday, Dec. 31st, and Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2019.)

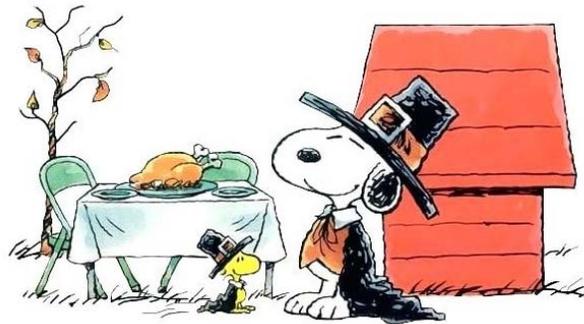
LIC Commission on Criminal Justice meeting – (Thursday) January 10, 2019 in Baton Rouge

Annual Assembly meeting dates:

2019		March 11-12, Lafayette
2020		March 2-3, Baton Rouge – 50th Annual Assembly – don't miss it!!

Fall Board meeting dates:

2019		Sept. 23-24, Monroe
2020		Sept. 21-22, Shreveport



Happy Thanksgiving!

"To live the faith we hold in common"

*President: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Jones;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*