



<p>Louisiana Interchurch Conference</p> <p><i>L-N</i> Newsletter</p>	<p>December</p> <p>2018</p> 
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Director's Corner

*Article from our
Executive Director,
Rev. Dan Krutz*



I Love You to Heaven and Back!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Facebook, in spite of all its potential failings, can be a helpful way for families to connect with one another. Like many of you, our family members live in other parts of the country or, perhaps, are for various reasons living in another country. In such situations social media can help us keep those connections. It's a way we can keep up with a nephew whose video is posted by his mother showing his solo in a musical production. There is the 91-year-old mother whose medallion you can see on a post for having just completed a 10K walkathon! You get the picture.

One of my favorite moments on Facebook happened some time ago. That moment was seeing an exchange between my sister and one of her daughters, my niece. Because of the distance we don't often see one another, but I feel very up to date seeing these family posts. Anyway, my sister and her daughter were exchanging sentimental feelings. My niece said to her mother, "I love you!" My sister replied, "I love you more!" to which my niece replied, "I love you to the moon and back!"

Until quite recently I didn't realize there is a children's book with that same title. The urban dictionary defines "I Love you to the Moon and Back" in these words: "A person is telling another person they are loved more than they can imagine." That's a powerful love, and it takes such imagination sometimes to describe that very special love we may have for others. At any rate I was certainly touched by this unabashed loving exchange between two people I also love very much.

Many of us will recognize the quote: **That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.** These were the words spoken by Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969, on having taken the first step by a human being on the surface of the moon! This was a giant reach toward the heavens. In reflecting on the meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the Word made Flesh, the childlike expressions of love between my family members came to mind, but with an edit. God's act in becoming a human being is like God saying to each of us and to all who inhabit the earth: "I love you to heaven and back!"

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room*

*And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing*

In Sympathy

We offer deep sympathy to our LIC farmer's advocate, Mrs. Betty Puckett and her husband Roy ("Pete"), after the passing on November 19th of their son, Matt W. Puckett at 59 years of age. The Puckett's eldest daughter, Donna, died in May of this same year. The Obituary & condolences link for Matt can be found at: <https://www.kramerfunerals.com/obituaries/Matt-Puckett/>. Matt is survived by three other siblings; his wife; two daughters and two grandchildren; and of course, his parents. Please join us to keep this entire family in prayer. Please also continue to remember Betty's health: she is still dealing with the effects of Chronic CML Leukemia and the treatments for it.

In Memory of Bishop Dominic Carmon

Bishop Dominic Carmon of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans, died on November 11th at the age of 87. He previously served as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese (preceding Bishop Shelton Fabre) and in that capacity he had been quite supportive of the LIC. (Bishop Fabre now serves the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux and has been and still is very supportive of the LIC). Bishop Carmon was known for his capacity to be a ‘servant leader’ with a missionary’s heart. Bishop Carmon preached at the LIC worship service during a Fall Board Meeting in Kenner, LA, a number of years ago and is fondly remembered.

We join in Thanksgiving to God for this special Bishop and Pastor.

Help Us Reach Farmers

Through the generosity of **Farm Aid, Inc.**, the LIC has periodically received grants to continue our farm advocacy program. This program includes offering limited individual emergency grant funds to qualifying farmers in distress (perhaps caused by medical bills/health issues, crop loss, livestock loss, financial setbacks due to low milk prices or sold/spoiled produce, damage to fishing boats or farm equipment, etc.). Yes, fishermen by profession, are included in the categories we help. These grants range up to \$500 per farm family and are meant to help with their household/discretionary needs. We currently DO have funds available and **we could use your help in spreading the word to farmers in your area**, about this program. The LIC also continues to operate a crisis hotline with the aid of our farmer’s advocate, Mrs. Betty Puckett, which provides callers with individual counseling and support to address financial, legal, emotional and other issues that farmers experience in running their farm businesses. The grant application for individual farmers can be found at: http://www.lainterchurch.org/resources/index.htm#Farm_Aid.

Closing out the Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley

As reported previously, the LIC Board of Directors passed a resolution at the 2017 Fall Board Meeting, **designating 2018 as a Year of Prayer for Cancer Alley in Louisiana**. Cancer Alley is a well-known area along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which contains numerous industrial plants. In this River Parishes area, higher than normal cancer rates of lung and kidney cancers are found, as well as an abnormally high rate of some rare cancers. As we wind this year down, please remember to keep the people of this area in prayer.

Source: Wikipedia:

In 1987, when residents of one street in St. Gabriel, Louisiana, noticed the abundance of cancer cases within their community, “Cancer Alley” became the new name for Jacobs Drive. As similar incidences became more and more prevalent in surrounding areas, the “alley” grew to encompass an eighty-five mile stretch along the

Mississippi River. Prior to media coverage of the issue, the area between Baton Rouge and New Orleans was simply known as the “petrochemical corridor”.

In 2002, Louisiana had the second-highest death rate from cancer in the United States. While the national average is 206 deaths per 100,000, Louisiana's rate was 237.3 deaths per 100,000. At the same time, the death rate from cancer in the area dubbed Cancer Alley was higher than the rest of Louisiana, as well as the national average.

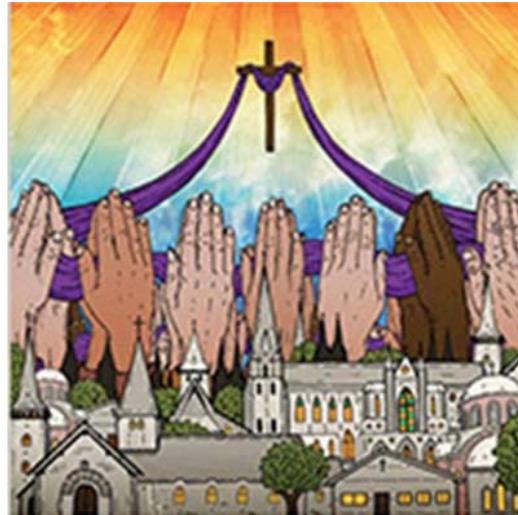
Week of Prayer – are you scheduled to attend/host an event?

If not yet, then please don't miss the opportunity!

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. Reach out to area churches/pastors. This is a great opportunity to be able to cross denominational lines and deepen fellowship with more of your Christian community. A simple prayer service followed by refreshments or a shared community activity can open doors to new friendships. Finding a common goal or working together to meet a local need can help spur interest. *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.*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held annually on January 18th – 25th.

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.

Contributions received from November 19, 2018 through December 18, 2018:

Continuing Education/Sabbatical Fund for Executive Director: Penrose & Madeline St. Amant.

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Jackie McHardy; Rev. Susan Lassalle; Rev. Jeff Day; Rev. Susan Gaumer; Rev. Jan Curwick; Mrs. Ann Romero; Madre Annie Etheredge; Mr. Roy M. Lilly; and Mr. & Mrs. Hugh & Mary Ann Straub.

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

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

New Year's (The LIC office will be closed Friday, Dec. 28th, Mon., Dec. 31st, & Tues., Jan. 1, 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

"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