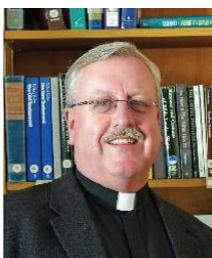


Youth and young adult ministry



Bishop John Macholz

For our current Bishop's Appeal, I chose to focus on youth and young adult ministry to find ways to help support, encourage and strengthen what presently exists, as well as to dream about new ways that our synod might assist in this most important ministry.

The proceeds from the recent golf tournament, approximately \$7,500, will begin to help financially support this work. I'm hopeful that we can make headway in this arena and build and grow these opportunities.

So, in the best Lutheran sense of the process, the question arises: "What does this mean?" What it means is that we will be working both within the synod and beyond to have conversations, ask questions and move forward. I have begun and will continue to have conversations with youth leaders

across the synod this year. At press time, church-wide staff members Rachel Alley, program director for youth ministry, and Savanna Sullivan, program director for young adult ministry, were to be part of this conversation during the Bishop's Convocation March 16 at Atonement Lutheran Church in Syracuse. I also will be reaching out to others beyond the church to discover and learn from their experiences and journeys.

It's my hope that as we move forward we will grow in our understanding and ministry with youth and young adults, being open to learning from them and, more importantly, listening to them to see how together we might be responsive and drive these ministries forward. I invite you to the journey and, if you are so inclined, I invite you to consider a contribution to the appeal and become part of this process. We are the church together.

Bishop John S. Macholz

2019 synod assembly project:

Aluminum can tab collection



For the past several years, the aluminum can tab collection project has proved to be a successful endeavor that all of our synod congregations can participate in. The Synod Assembly Planning

Team has again decided to conduct this project for the 2019 Upstate New York Synod Assembly.

The collection point at the assembly will be in the area of the registration table. No decision has

been made as to where the proceeds will be sent. The planning team will announce that decision at a future time.

I would ask that when placing can tabs in containers for your collections, please avoid using plastic bottles. The tabs go in easy enough, but it is a real chore to empty the bottles when it comes time for sorting. Using Ziploc-type bags is the best and easiest, or use a box or paper bag to collect the can tabs. ♣



Submitted by Gary Roller



GROUNDING IN CHRIST JESUS
GROWING IN OUR WITNESS
GIVING OF OUR BOUNTY
GRACED FOR THE WORLD

Bequest makes major difference at Lake Chautauqua

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of the late Richard Garman, Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (LCLC) has been able to make some much-needed improvements to its facilities in the Bemus Point area. These improvements would not have been possible without his faithful gift.

First, the usually muddy, dusty, icy, bumpy road to the retreat center has been paved, including the circular parking area. The road from the bottom of the hill to St. John's Hall has also been paved. These improvements will provide a much more hospitable and safe arrival and departure for our guests throughout the year.

Next, cabin 5/6 will be remodeled to include a toilet, sink and shower facilities for our summer campers. While "roughing it" does have a role to play in the camp experience, toilets and shower facilities in cabins can make the transition for new campers much easier. This project will be completed by the start of camp this summer.

Looking to the end of summer, one of the camp's oldest buildings will receive some critical foundation work. The boathouse alongside the waterfront dates back to the 1930s. Over the years, its block foundation walls have been pushed in due to the freeze-and-thaw cycle. The repairs will include jacking up the building and re-forming the

north and south basement walls. With this fix, the boathouse will continue to be an asset for many more decades.

While not quite dating back to the 1930s, the 1970s farm tractor, which has temperamentally served LCLC well for many years, is finally being retired. Replacing it is a new 4WD Case International tractor that will be suitable for snow removal, grass mowing and loader work.

Finally, a 34-foot adventure tower will be installed this spring. It will include rock climbing, a cargo net to climb, ropes for rappelling and a 300-foot zip line. A stairway will allow use of the zip line for those who are unable to climb to the top of the tower. In addition to being heavily used during the summer camping season, it will also be offered to retreat groups throughout the fall and spring.

To see all these wonderful improvements, join the center on May 18 for the summer camp open house. This event will also be a fun way to introduce new campers to LCLC as they decide which program to attend.

LCLC's summer camping season begins June 30 and runs through Aug. 9. For more information on summer camp or year-round retreats, call 716-386-4125 or visit lclcenter.org. ☒



Clowning around 1



Clowning worship 1



Treehouse 1

H. A. N. D. S.

H – Hunger

A – Advocacy

N – Networking

D – Disaster Response

S – Sustainable Development

2019 synodwide hunger mission

Open Wide Your Hands

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing (Psalm 145:15-16).

You and your congregation are invited to open wide your hands to the world as Christ has opened wide his hands to you. Your Synod Hunger Team is challenging each congregation to donate \$400 or more to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response to bring life and hope to millions of people in the U.S. and around the world experiencing hunger and poverty.

Approximately 1 in 10 people worldwide are living on less than \$1.90 per day. We are called to respond. Working through Lutheran connections in the U.S. and around the world, ELCA World Hunger (elca.org/hunger) and Lutheran Disaster Response (elca.org/disaster) listen to our neighbors' needs and ideas and partners with them to

make their dreams a reality. By addressing hunger and poverty through advocacy, networking, disaster response, sustainable development and more, your donations address root causes and build a just world in which all are fed.

To participate in this year's synodwide mission, collect donations from members of your congregation and bring one check to the hunger table at the Upstate New York Synod Assembly May 30-June 1 in Rochester. Make your check payable to "Upstate NY Synod."

A total synodwide goal of \$40,000 has been set for this year's mission. Thank you for all that you do to respond to poverty and hunger in the world. ✚



An amazing place

This place is amazing! I had no idea Vanderkamp was here all this time and I've lived in (Syracuse, Oneida ...) for (10, 20 ...) years! I didn't know people could just come out to (hike, ski, fish, boat ...) or stay over in the lodges with our (family, church group ...).

People are fascinated, as are we, with the juxtaposition of Vanderkamp's rich and unique history. Today, Vanderkamp operates in Cleveland as an outdoor ministry, "summer kamp," park, campground and micro-farm/petting zoo available and welcoming to all—as instructed by our Lord and Savior. That is people's first reaction.

One question used to be: "Why don't they take care of it?" Not surprisingly, buildings over 100 years old require a great deal of upkeep and maintenance. Some repairs had been deferred to the point where things looked a bit unkempt and dingy. The camp had lost some of its allure and luster. While that continues to remain true, by and large in 2018 people noticed the many facility projects and improvements taking place throughout Vanderkamp.

Vanderkamp exists in the same plane of reality as you, synod congregations and its ownership. While we have managed to reduce some operating costs, this has done little to stem the tide of overall rising expenses. People are largely unaware of the difficult decisions and sacrifices necessary to operate Vanderkamp in a fiscally responsible manner given its limited resources.

The reality is that things fall through the cracks—mostly small things, but sometimes large things and important things. Rather than growing this amazing ministry to its full potential, we struggle

day to day just to keep all the balls in the air and the doors open.

Vanderkamp requires additional year-round staff. That is unequivocally our greatest need. This would go a long way toward enabling us to perform the functions for which we were hired, professionally trained and educated. In 2018 we focused increased time and resources to making improvements in our summer staff training and programming. Again, prices have not substantially changed. Vanderkamp struggles with funding deficits and underutilization.

Beginning with 2019 we are asking each of our owner churches (for the ELCA this most aptly pertains to those congregations of the Central Crossroads Conference) to prayerfully consider supporting or increasing support of outdoor ministry at Vanderkamp. We appreciate that, for most of us, disposable income from which to make donations has not increased while at the same time we are all faced with so many more worthwhile charitable causes that would benefit from our financial support. Vanderkamp relies heavily on our ownership, member churches and individuals, whose lives or those of a loved one have been touched by this ministry. 4

*Submitted by Penny and Bill James,
executive directors.*