

A Great Moment from a Sunday Morning

During the offering, I share the peace up and down the aisles at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Waverly. When I got to the back pew for our 8:30 service, the plate had just been passed. It was then that I saw a little boy burst into tears.

You see, he wanted to put something into the offering plate and he was heartbroken that he wasn't able to participate. His mother gave him a dollar bill and brought him over. He carefully placed the dollar bill in

the plate as he wiped away his tears.

May we all experience that child's drive to enter into our faith and spirituality with such energy and vitality. What a witness!



— Pastor Arthur Bergren
St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Waverly

Get ready for the Youth Gathering through Bible Study

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, is only a few months away, so hundreds of youth across this synod should be meeting with adults and already be deeply engaged in the "Getting Ready" Bible Study.

"Perhaps the best outcome of the Youth Gathering is the hours our youth will spend in Bible study before the Gathering," says Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop.

The theme for the 2018 Gathering is "This Changes Everything," based on Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:8. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."



"This Gathering's Bible study really reaches back to what is at the core of being Lutheran," Anderson says. "It's all about salvation, grace, and faith, but this study is so good why let the youth be the only ones to learn from it?"

The Getting Ready Bible study is free and available to download at www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Youth-Gathering#GettingReady. The study is flexible and designed to be used in different formats. It would be ideal for church council devotions, WELCA, or a Sunday morning forum.

When the Gathering is taking place in Houston, you can watch the worship and hear the sermons live on your computer. The combination of the Getting Ready Bible study and the Gathering Worship would be an uplifting experience for a Christian of any age.

Day of Renewal

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018
Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rostered ministers are invited to attend the "Day of Renewal" Thursday, Feb. 22, at Nazareth, Cedar Falls. The Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann will present about the reformer Philip Melancthon and his influence on education in the church.



The Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann

Dr. Lohrmann received his doctor of philosophy degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and his master of divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary. He joined the WTS faculty in 2014 and currently serves as assistant professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage.

The event will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge to attend. Lunch will be provided. To register by the Feb. 14 deadline, send an email to hamiltonl@neiasynod.org or call the synod office at 319-352-1414.