



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Report of the Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee (CLC) of the Northern Illinois Synod was created to support and equip congregations to carry out their ministries at the local level. There are four subcommittees which fall under this committee: Safe Church, Stewardship, Worship, and Youth. One of the main events that the CLC puts on every year is the Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE). This year, CRE was held on Saturday, March 16.

CRE was held at Sauk Valley Community College outside of Dixon for a second year. We welcomed Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta as our keynote speaker. He spoke on the importance of evangelism in the church today. He emphasized that our job is not to convert others, but rather to plant the seed - the Spirit will take care of the rest.

The theme of the event encompassed the synod's annual theme, "Opening God's Story." There were 23 workshops around four sub-themes: Worship, Education, Leadership, and Outreach. There were 278 registrations with 240 people attending that day. 16 organizations had display tables in the main entryway on the first floor.

One change to CRE that was made this year was the addition of online workshops at a later date, called CRE+. These workshops cover topics that have normally been covered at CRE, such as constitutions, neighborhood demographics, parliamentarian help, a treasurer's workshop, and Portico benefits. These workshops will be held on Zoom and will be recorded so that the information will be available for people who are interested in the topic in the future. They will take place throughout the next year.

The Congregational Life Committee awarded two grants. One was awarded to New Life, Bolingbrook, to support congregational luncheons that will be hosted by their RIC task force. The other was awarded to Zion, Rockford, which will provide scholarships for teenagers to attend the Civil Rights Trip in mid-June.

This committee is made up of a wonderful team of rostered ministers and lay leaders: Mr. Gregory Bruner (Light of Christ, Algonquin), Mr. Paul Dallgas-Frey (Immanuel, Dixon), Ms. Meghan Doyle (St. John, Joliet), Ms. Carol Johnson (Prince of Peace, Freeport), Mr. Kent Kindelsperger (Swedona, Lynn Center), Rev. Ryan Mackey (Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley), Rev. Julie Monnard (synod staff liaison), Rev. Tom Redig (St. John's, Peru), Ms. Melissa Rojas (Trinity, Mt. Morris), Rev. Christine Salser (Christ, Stockton), Rev. Scott Stolberg (Our Savior's, Rockford), and Ms. Kelly Van Fleet (Peace, Morris).

In Christ,
Deacon Laura Gorton (Christ, Belvidere)
Chairperson