

Busy for God

Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11 NASB)

There are few who are untouched by the busyness of the Christmas season. There always seems to be one too many gatherings to attend, one too many church functions to be at, a few too many gifts and cards to tend to. And, perhaps, one too many newsletters to write. Yet we are often reminded – by our Christian brothers and sisters, our Christian leaders, and scripture itself – to slow down and focus on what Christmas is all about: God becoming incarnate as man, among man.

As encouraging as such a reminder can be, the call to slow down during the season can feel like the burden of the Law. And as we know all too well, there is no end to the Law's demands. We can never slow down enough; can never meditate enough on the wonder that is the birth of our Lord. In the verse above, we are reminded that all we do is done as an empowered child and ambassador of God. So that, although the busyness of the season is not likely to go away, we can go on our ways, busily speaking, serving, and doing all things under the banner of the God of our salvation, bringing glory to His name through Jesus Christ while we do so.

LEAD Retreat 2020



This year's LEAD Retreat is slated for February 28-March 1, 2020 at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center. LEAD, which stands for, "Love, Engage, Aspire, Develop," is our region's annual leadership conference focusing on developing leadership skills in pastors and laypersons alike. Our speaker will be the new North American Mission director, Rev. Nick Mundis, and he will be presenting sessions on Loving God as a Disciple-Maker. Visit leadretreat.org for more information, or contact Mark Goodman

at thegoodmans@comcast.net. A 25% discount applies to "first-timers" so this is the perfect opportunity for you to come and see what the LEAD Retreat has to offer.

J-Term 2020

Our Lutheran Brethren Seminary's J-Term gathering will be happening on January 20th through the 22nd. This year's theme is "Engaging the People of Your World: Bringing the Gospel to Your Neighbor." Many encouraging presentations are planned, including topics such as the biblical practice of evangelistic engagement in the church and various ways our CLB congregations can build a culture of evangelism and engage their communities with the Gospel. The keynote presentation will be held on the 21st with youth and culture expert Dr. Walt Mueller speaking on the topic of "Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture." An additional event is also taking place at 7:00 PM, January 20th, at Bethel Lutheran Church, where Dr. Walt Mueller will be sharing a presentation on raising today's youth called "No Parent Left Behind." You may attend J-Term onsite or online by registering at www.lbs.edu/j-term. Contact Kathy Doering for more details at kdoering@lbs.edu or by phone at (218) 739-3375.



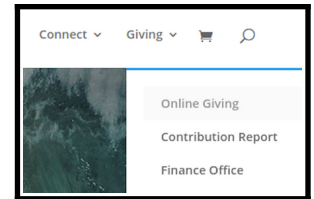
Identity Magazine



The communications department of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren is producing a quarterly magazine geared toward the youth and young adults in our churches. “Identity Magazine” presents this age group with thoughtful, timely, and informative articles in an approachable format. The magazine is not shy about tackling such difficult topics as sexuality, abortion, and depression, but meets each issue head-on while maintaining the lordship of Christ and a biblical worldview. The publication is free to all who are interested, and can be requested by contacting identity@clba.org. Current and past issues, as well as the *Identity Blog* can be accessed at clba.org/identity-magazine.

Online Giving

The Church of the Lutheran Brethren is supported by parishioners like you! Not that we’re trying to sound like your local NPR station, but your generous gifts are what support the preaching, teaching, and mission activities of your synod. All that’s required to give are a generous heart, the freedom of the Christian, and an internet connection. Both the Synod at large and your Pacific Region have online giving portals where you can make your contributions. For the Synod, visit clba.org and click “Online Giving” under the “Giving” menu at the top of the page. For the region, head to lbpacific.org and click “Give” in the left-hand menu.



Convention



The 2020 CLB Biennial Convention is set to be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, on June 13-16. This is the time to do synod business such as approving the synodical budget, receiving updates on our various missions, and making plans for the future. In addition, there are offered many different opportunities for enrichment through various classes and events. Each church is encouraged to send delegates to vote at the business meetings, and non-delegates may also attend the business meetings, classes, and events that will be happening over those four days. We hope some of you can make it to “BC20” to see old friends and meet new.