

## Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden Planned



Are you suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder?" \* We have the cure---- an outing to the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe for a big dose of natural beauty. We will be joined by some folks from Immanuel. We hope you can come too!

When? Tuesday, July 18, 2017

We will carpool there, leaving Ebenezer at 10:00 a.m. returning mid-afternoon. We will have lunch there—bring your own lunch or purchase it at their café.

Cost will depend on how many attend but should not exceed \$5 plus lunch. Please let us know if you can make it so we are sure to have enough cars and drivers.

Contact parish nurse and nature enthusiast, Marcia Smith at 773-561-8496, ext 103 or at [Marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com](mailto:Marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com).

In case of inclement weather the rain date is Tuesday, July 25.

*\*A term coined by journalist Richard Louv to describe problems caused by lack of exposure to nature and its healing effects.*

## Edgewater Congregations Together Youth Mission/ Service/ Learning Trip



This August, the Edgewater Congregations Together youth group will be going on its third mission/service/learning trip to Dubuque, IA with a few other Chicago youth groups. Cost: \$75 per person (scholarships are available)

Contact Pastor Emily Heitzman for further information or to sign up at [pastoremilyh@gmail.com](mailto:pastoremilyh@gmail.com). **We are still in need of chaperones and drivers. Please contact Pastor Emily if you can help!**

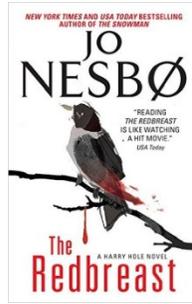
## Ebenezer Welcomes International Guests July 2

Diakonia World Federation assembles at Loyola University from June 28 - July 5, exploring the theme, "Be The Whole Body of Christ". Over 64 diaconal organizations from around the world will be meeting as they do every four years. They meet to provide a forum for discussion of issues, social justice, and reconciliation as well as participating in worship and prayer.

On Sunday, July 2, we at Ebenezer are fortunate to host eight individuals from this assembly. They will worship with us and share in fellowship after church. Thanks to the Ebenezer folks who are providing transportation and organizing their time with us.



## Gather for Women's Book Group



The women's book group meets at Ebenezer on the following dates for conversation, starting at 7:15 p.m.. Join in!

July 17 — *The Redbreast* by Joe Nesbø  
 August 21 — *The Last Chinese Chef* by Nicole Mones  
 September 18 — *Woman of God* by James Patterson



## July 16: Special Summer Community Hour

Did you know that July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month? If not, you're not alone. In 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives designated July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in honor of the leading African American novelist and journalist, who also was a voice for individuals and families affected by mental illness. Campbell was a champion for mental health education and support among individuals of diverse communities. She co-founded NAMI Urban Los Angeles (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and received NAMI's 2003 Outstanding Media Award for Literature. Bebe Moore Campbell passed away Nov. 2006.

In recognition of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month designated as a time for public education about serious mental illness in diverse communities, the mental health sub-committee will host a book discussion on "*72 Hour Hold*" by Bebe Moore Campbell during **Community Hour 11:30-12:30 on July 16**.

"*72 Hour Hold*" is based on a true story. The book is a masterfully written rollercoaster ride through the effects of mental illness on individuals, families, and communities. The characters are real; a family member, neighbor, co-worker or person who lives a couple blocks over. There's Keri Whitmore who owns a successful upscale Los Angeles resale clothing shop. She's a single mom who has a beautiful, brilliant daughter who's been offered a college scholarship. Sounds wonderful? But wait. This beautiful daughter begins to show outward signs of some sort of illness and is diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Keri is thrust into seemingly endless hurdles in balancing the needs of the business with the growing medical needs of her daughter. The reader is then sent on the rocky highway of the mental health and medical insurance systems, along with the stigmas attached to a family when someone is diagnosed with mental illness. There's the ex-husband who refuses to acknowledge his daughter has a mental illness and a boyfriend who's confronting the fact his son is gay.

"*72 Hour Hold*" deals with Keri's desperate attempts to find help for her daughter, and her vain hope that somehow things will get back to the way they were. This book is a must read for anyone who has ever dealt with a mental illness or has family or friends who live with mental illness.



## The Green Season

Pastor Michael Fick

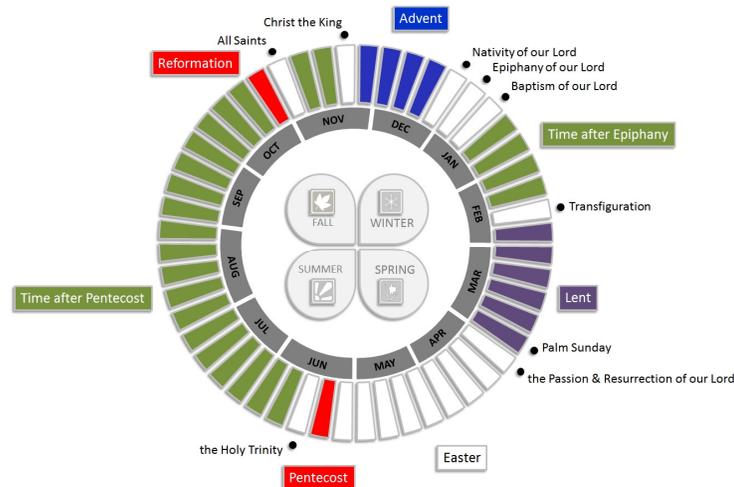
I'm a person who tends to observe, anticipate, and savor patterns and cycles. I find they bring richness and meaning to my life - remembering and re-remembering how life has changed; how growth is marked in time. Perhaps that is why I savor the liturgy and the changing symbols and colors of the church year so much: They remind me where and who I have been, ask me to reflect on the now, and to dream on the future.

This is one way to render time in this "green" season. Call it time that is counted, it lasts all summer and fall, gently carrying us through this season without many big and fancy festivals. But like the earth itself needs its long periods of growth, so we need this time. To dig deeply into the teachings of Jesus the word, to share the sacraments, and yes, for a bit of Sabbath, which I will be intentionally engaging for a few weeks in a late summer sabbatical. My gratitude for that time is more than I can describe.

It's also a green and growing season for Ebenezer. Thank to the legacy of Yvonne Johnson and YOUR legacy of caring through our capital campaign, new windows await you in the Education Center, and restored windows are coming to the sanctuary. Vacation Bible School was a rousing and well-attended event thanks to Pastor Emily and her many volunteers. Little ones will be baptized in July, new members received... and through it all, we, the branches of Christ, the tree, are growing and green. A living thing at the corner of Paulina and Foster for 125 years, and still bearing fruit in a hurting but healing world.

Take the time this Summer to be fed and watered in the Spirit. Worship as often as you can, savor sabbath when it comes, and breathe deeply: There is life here. The very life of Christ. Green and vibrant and ... alive.

Peace,  
*Michael Fick*  
Pastor Michael Fick



Contact Us:  
**Ebenezer Lutheran Church** 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago IL 60640  
Phone (773) 561-8496 [office@ebenezerchurch.org](mailto:office@ebenezerchurch.org)

**Communication Deadlines:** Wednesday at noon for bulletin and e-news; 15th of each month for the next month's *Messenger*.  
*NOTE: July and August are a combined issue. The deadline for the September issue is August 15th.*

**Pastor Michael D. Fick** [pastormichael@ebenezerchurch.org](mailto:pastormichael@ebenezerchurch.org)  
**Dr. John Elmquist, Director of Music** [johnelmquist@yahoo.com](mailto:johnelmquist@yahoo.com)  
**Marcia Smith BSN, FCN, Parish Nurse** [marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com](mailto:marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com)  
**Norm Crary, Building Coordinator** [ebenezerbuilding@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerbuilding@gmail.com)  
**Nathan Tolzmann, Bookkeeper** [ebenezerbookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerbookkeeper@gmail.com)  
**Pastor Emily Heitzman, Edgewater Congregations Together**  
**Youth and Household Minister** [pastoremilys@gmail.com](mailto:pastoremilys@gmail.com)  
**Jesse Lopez, Sexton** [ebenezersexton@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezersexton@gmail.com)  
**Diego Avila and Gerardo Guerrero, Attendants**  
**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Closed Fridays.**

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## Report on the Thirtieth Annual Assembly

Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA

by Jeffrey L. Drake

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod met in assembly June 9 to 10, 2017, at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois. This year's theme was Yesterday, Today, and Forever from Hebrews 13:8.

After devotions and the Order for the Opening of an Assembly, the parliamentarian was appointed, the agenda approved, and committees appointed. There were no resolutions at this year's assembly.

The assembly then heard the keynote address by the Rev. Kathryn Mary Lohre, Assistant to the ELCA Presiding Bishop and executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations who spoke about the connections the ELCA has with Roman Catholics, Muslims, and Historically Black Churches. After her report, the assembly welcomed the Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima, Archdiocesan Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago, who brought greetings from Blase Cardinal Cupich, and spoke about the synod and archdiocese renewal of the covenant made between the two in 1989, and the service on Reformation Day that will be held at Holy Name Cathedral. Find out more at <http://www.renewingcovenant.com>.

After conducting conference meetings held over lunch, the assembly heard from partner ministries including Portico Benefit Services, ELCA Foundation, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the ELCA Credit Union, and synod treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite gave her report.

The assembly then attended two sessions of workshops and hearings before reconvening in the plenary session where the budget was adopted as presented, and en bloc motions relating to updating the constitution were adopted as presented.

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist to which all were invited concluded the day's events. The offering will be given to ELCA World Hunger.

Throughout the plenary sessions, participants heard eight mission moments, coordinated by the synod's Mission Interpreter Network, telling the story of congregations and partner ministries making a difference in their local communities, nationally, and around the world.

After devotions on Saturday morning, and an update on the synod's Million Dollar ELCA World Hunger Challenge, Bishop Miller gave his report, and participants also heard the churchwide office report which updated the larger work of the church.

Mr. Terry Henderson I was elected as synod vice president, and the Rev. Erin Clausen was elected as synod secretary. Vice president Nanette Dahlke chose not to stand for re-election after serving for 16 years, and secretary Rev. Steve Srock chose not to stand for re-election after serving for eight years. Both officers gave their final reports to the assembly and their service was thanked with acclamation.

After introducing rostered leaders new to the synod, and acknowledging rostered leader and congregation anniversaries, the day ended with a closing prayer and the Order for the Closing of an Assembly.