

September 2017

Dear Rostered Colleagues in the Northeastern Ohio Synod,

You are invited to the 2018 Professional Leaders Retreat, January 16-18, 2018, at The Lodge at Sawmill Creek Resort (same great site as last year). Join us for a couple of days of rest, relaxation and refreshment with rostered friends across not only our synod, but for the third year in a row, with Northwestern Ohio and Southern Ohio as well!



The theme is "Prayer." Keynote presenter, the Rev. Brent Dahlseng, authored "Grounded in Prayer: A Small Group Training Guide in Congregational Prayer," and serves as senior pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Loves Park, Illinois. The Bible study presenter is Rachel Wrenn. An Old Testament Ph.D. candidate at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, Wrenn is a contributing scholar/exegete for "Working Preacher," has published Bible studies in the Augsburg Fortress "People of Faith" series, and was published in the Fall 2016 *Word and World*.

Registration takes place from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16 followed by the Gathering Eucharist, Bishop's time, and social time. Wednesday features lunch on your own with free time and a Healing Service in the evening. Thursday concludes with a Sending Eucharist. Please see the attached/enclosed schedule for specific times.

We will follow the process from former years that worked so well: **payment must accompany all registrations** and the **deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup> for the reduced price** will be strictly maintained. Refunds will be considered on a case by case basis. More information, printable registration form and online registration with online payment options is available at [www.neos-elca.org](http://www.neos-elca.org) by clicking on "2018 Professional Leaders Retreat." **People who come only for the day must register as well. No exceptions.** Children may stay in the lodge for free and if they are under 5 their meals are free as well; children ages 6-11 yrs. are \$100.00. Child care will be available if registered by November 15<sup>th</sup>. As always, spouses are especially encouraged to come. For registration questions, please contact Deacon Patti Jabre, 330-425-7377, or [pjabre@ctktwinsburg.com](mailto:pjabre@ctktwinsburg.com)

Please remember that the intent of this gathering is "to retreat" and do what is life-giving for you. Therefore, please pick and choose what works for you on the schedule! If you are an "outdoors person," bring boots or cross-country skis and a warm coat to take a walk in the snow. Sawmill Creek Resort is beautiful in the winter! Check it out: [www.sawmillcreekresort.com/](http://www.sawmillcreekresort.com/).

Looking Forward to Seeing You!

*Karl K. Biermann*

Rev. Karl K. Biermann, assistant to the bishop  
On behalf of the PLR Planning Committee