

## Project Isaiah 43

Half of our synod congregations do not have a called pastor.

Clergy retirements will continue to exceed seminary graduations.

A massive paradigm shift is taking place in the Christian church.

***“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you see it?”***

God spoke these words to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon, but there is no reason to believe God isn't saying the same thing to the church today!

**Do you wonder what the Lutheran Church of the 21st century will look like?  
Are you concerned about the future of your congregation?**

Bishop Barbins and the Northeastern Ohio Synod Staff is inviting every congregation to send four people to a Project Isaiah 43 event in your conference! Each Project Isaiah 43 event will include a brief presentation time, but will be heavily focused on conversations as we think together about the future of Lutheran Christianity.

- Your synod staff acknowledges that we do not yet see clearly the new thing God is doing in our midst. We are convinced, however, that greater clarity will only come through continuing conversations within the body of Christ - for it is in these conversations that the Holy Spirit will be working.
- The most important voices at these events will be congregation members! Please plan to attend even if your congregation does not have a pastor. Please include no more than one staff member in your group of four.
- We will utilize a model of conversation called *The World Café* - a model that values the contribution of every participant; seeks emerging patterns and deeper meaning; and gathers a harvest from the conversations that is shared with all participants.
- Information harvested from the Project Isaiah 43 conference events will be shared with the whole Northeastern Ohio Synod prior to our Synod Assembly - where the next round of *World Café* conversations will take place!
- Each event will be approximately two hours. Refreshments will be provided.
- Downloadable flyers, bulletin inserts, images, and more information can be found on the Project Isaiah 43 web page: [neos-elca.org/project-isaiah-43](https://neos-elca.org/project-isaiah-43)

We would appreciate an RSVP to help ensure we have adequate supplies and refreshments for each event. To access the RSVP Form, use the QR code below or this link: [tinyurl.com/yten3adt](https://tinyurl.com/yten3adt)

**Come join us for some café conversation as we seek to discern what God is doing!**



Northeastern Ohio Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America