

January 2019  
ELCA Wittenberg Center  
The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Moore (Director)  
and Kathy Moore, ELCA Missionaries



*Offices for the Wittenberg Centers of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation are nearing completion.*

***We wish you God's blessings in the Year 2019  
Viele Grüße aus Wittenberg und Leipzig!***

Our newsletter is directed to the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other friends whose support of the Church's work enables Kathy and me to serve in the "Cradle of the Reformation" under the auspices of ELCA Global Mission. We are specifically grateful to our sponsoring congregations and individuals:

First Lutheran Church of Colorado Springs, CO

Bern Lutheran Church of Leesport, PA

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church of Omaha, NE

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lehighton, PA

Zion's Stone Church of West Penn Township, PA

Robert and Anne Stone of Houston, TX

Len and Susan Teich of Houston, TX

Tom and Shelia Moore of Dallas, TX

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

**Our Work in Leipzig and Wittenberg (November - December)**



*At the back of the new offices Kathy stands with our LWF colleagues Inken Woehlbrand (director) and Joachim Zirkler (director of studies)*

## **Construction of New Offices (December)**

As the new building nears completion we are at that stage of making decisions about lighting and bathroom fixtures, kitchen cabinets and appliances, furniture, office equipment and signage. Dozens of decisions need now to be made. Thanks to Kathy and to our colleague Inken Woehlbrand, this is not so difficult for us. It will be good when this work is behind us.

## **Funding needed**

We are grateful for gifts made thus far to help with the expense of new offices. We hope to wrap up funding soon for this phase of our work.

## **A New chapter unfolding for Robert and Kathy**

Our original project with the ELCA and the City of Leipzig ELCA Global Mission is beginning to draw to a conclusion. It is difficult to believe that we have been in Wittenberg and Leipzig for two years and seven months! Before we could ask ourselves what's next, Global Mission asked if would be willing to remain for another term of four years. Without any hesitation we answered, "Yes!" We are confident that this is a calling in which we can serve the Gospel in an ecumenical context. We will continue to live at St. Thomas Church Leipzig where Robert is privileged to serve as Guest Pastor, preaching and presiding in the liturgies as well as speaking to various groups within the congregation and in the City of Leipzig.



*St. Thomas Church Leipzig*

## **What is the work of the ELCA Wittenberg Center?**

The Center is being revitalized after a long period of diminished activity following the economic crises of 2008 and 2009. The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation brought renewed focus on Wittenberg as a geographic symbol of the long tradition of Lutheranism. The ELCA had already begun to revitalize the work of the Center through a series of conferences for women in church leadership which brought together participants from South America, North America, Africa and Asia. This work will continue, as plans are underway to hold a women's conference on the roll of women leaders in the "Peaceful Revolution" when the Berlin Wall came down.

Other tasks include

- assist and greet groups from the ELCA and ELCA partners who are planning to visit Wittenberg, Leipzig and other Reformation sites in the region
- to provide hospitality to visiting groups and individuals.
- represent the ELCA on various occasions, for example, organizational, educational, commemorative and worship events.
- to assist local leaders to make contacts within the ELCA for shared work in the global context
- to preach, teach and share information to congregations in the accompanying Churches in the region

## Synodical Meetings

In November Robert was invited to attend the general assembly meetings of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany and the Protestant Church of Germany. The meetings took place in Würzburg in Northern Bavaria in the wine country of Franconia.



The German Protestant Churches have an elaborate organization that sometimes can be confusing to even the experts. Suffice it to say that I met with the organization of nearly all Lutheran Churches of Germany and the larger organization of all Protestant Churches in Germany. Both organizations are impressive for their organizational structures and for the work that they carry out in the context of German national life, ecumenical life within and beyond Germany.

The meetings give ample opportunity to learn what is most important for the work of the Churches of Germany, to worship together and to get to know one another.



*Professor Wilfried Hartmann, president of the General Assembly of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD).*



*Church Executive Frank Kopania who leads the office for ministry in German-language congregations abroad for the German Protestant Church (EKD).*

## New Bishops visit Wittenberg

Each year the Lutheran World Federation invites newly elected bishops to visit Geneva and Wittenberg. I was delighted to meet with Bishop Katherine Finegan of Northern Great Lakes Synod and Bishop Pedro Suárez of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Bishop Suárez was in the Gulf Coast Synod many years where he trained for hurricanes. He just went through a dilly in Florida!



You can find us on Facebook as Robert George Moore and Kathy Moore.  
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Of course, the VERY BEST WAY to support us is to give to ELCA Global Mission!  
WE couldn't do what we do without your help!

To give to ELCA Global Mission online in our name, go to:  
<https://community.elca.org/germany> and be sure to choose "Robert & Kathryn  
Moore" in the drop-down box.

Thank you for your support! We wish you a blessed and grace-filled year in 2019!

Grace to you,

Robert and Kathy