

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD

January 8, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My family and I are fully moved to Ohio, and I am excited to have begun serving as assistant to Bishop Abraham Allende. My wife, Lana, and I enjoyed the four years that we spent in Ohio while I attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus (2000-2004), so we are quite pleased to return to the land of weather seasons and Buckeyes with our ten-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son!

I grew up in the Texas Hill Country, north of San Antonio and west of Austin. German immigrants—my ancestors included—settled this part of Texas in the 1840s. One is still more likely at times in the Hill Country to hear faint German accents than the stereotypical Texas drawl. I believe that is why, apart from the occasional “y’all,” and “all y’all,” people tell me that I don’t seem to have an accent.

To be from the Hill Country once made it highly likely that one was German and Lutheran. As the make-up and lifestyles of our nation changes everywhere, my generation is the first with which that assumption can no longer be made. Today, people of all cultural, language, and faith backgrounds call the Hill Country home, and I am sure that is the case in Ohio, too.

Whether we are from Texas or Ohio, it appears that we no longer can assume to know everything about people—except that we are called to reach out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ. I look forward to working with Bishop Allende, our Northeastern Ohio Synod staff, and you, the people of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, as we reach out to all people with Jesus’ love—assuming only that the opportunity to do so is a great gift.

As part of this mission to reach out, Bishop Allende has set the goal that he and the synod staff are to visit synod congregations three Sundays out of the month on a rotating basis. Please feel free to contact the synod office and schedule us to visit. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, as together, we reach out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ—once again assuming only that the opportunity to do so is a great gift for us all.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Isaiah 52:7

Peace!

Pastor Karl Biermann
Assistant to the Bishop
Northeastern Ohio Synod



Staff congregation visits for the next weeks include:

Bishop Allende will be:

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| January 18 | Shanesville, Sugarcreek Good Shepherd, Cleveland, Martin Luther King Jr. Service |
| February 1 | St Paul, Minerva |
| February 8 | Good Shepherd, Conneaut |
| February 22 | Israel's, Paris Spring Bishop's Gathering, Location TBA |
| March 1 | Trinity, Vermilion |
| March 15 | Salem, Wooster |

Karl Biermann will be:

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| January 18 | Good Shepherd, Cleveland, Martin Luther King Jr. Service |
| January 25 | New Life, Youngstown, Install Chelsea Spencer |
| February 22 | Spring Bishop's Gathering, Location TBA |

Terrance Jacob will be:

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| January 18 | Good Shepherd, Cleveland, Martin Luther King Jr. Service |
| February 22 | Spring Bishop's Gathering, Location TBA |