

APRIL CHURCHLETTER



BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HOPE BY REACHING OUT AND GROWING DEEPER:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Soon, we will be entering the season of Easter on the church calendar. How good to remember in the midst of Lent, we have Sundays of 'little Easters.' Even when our hearts are heavy, yet God continues to work to ready us for the way of revealing love. Just like the earth soon raises up green grass so God invites us to pay attention to abundant life springing up around us.

Your prayers are nurturing new growth in your hearts and those near and far. More are transformed into Jesus followers. I am still praying that every day you grow more in faith as you welcome the opportunities to love God and neighbor. Your embrace of opportunities to minister to one another and the wider community are spreading the love of God and neighbor that God asks of all disciples.

Thanks again for prayer partners in our midst who are volunteering to pray for our revitalized church and committing to pray with another person weekly. As a reminder for everyone, please pray with this as just a guide covering the Body of Christ with prayer:

- For a joyful unified recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord
- For a hungering and thirsting after the Word of God and the Spirit of God in our local churches
- For pastors and leaders struggling to give leadership through this pandemic
- For a deepened appetite for prayer to arise and be mobilized in our churches
- For our churches to become agencies of all manner of healing in our communities
- For discipleship to take root and bring deep wholeness to people
- For the raising up of spiritually gifted apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers within our churches (Eph. 4:11)
- That churches would be awakened to their mission to make disciples who reach the lost

new• farewell to Pastor Lora and a warm welcome to the new pastor leading the churches forward!

Amid so much change, the constant remains that God created us to grow in love with God and love one

another. How is God inviting you to pray for one another, the world and all who live in it?

If you sense God's nudging you to be a prayer partner with a particular person, please pursue this. It is to be renewing and life-giving to your spirit. Your prayers together make an impact beyond our human understanding. Your efforts are making disciples (the reason God placed us here) and leading our churches to accomplish the mission God appointed us to.

Remember, when you **call 333-0110** (a local Faribault Number) you can listen to the Sunday service. I've upped the volume to the highest level, thanks to your feedback.

This is another way, besides mailing copies of the bulletins and sermons to those who have requested it (please let Lynn or me know, if you're interested) for the people without the necessary technology to watch the service other than via in person worship. YouTube links are emailed as available, and Facebook live the morning of worship continues as possible. Thanks for your prayerful support and financial assistance to continue offering options for more participation.

There is also an online way of giving from each church's website: <https://nerstrandumc.org/>
<https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

It is quite easy and very convenient. The company name is VANCO. #1-Select your fund, click the donate button, choose the amount and frequency, then proceed to payment.

#2-Enter your credit card, debit card or checking account information, (if you sign up for a free account, you can save your payment information for future donations)

#3 Review and submit your gift by clicking submit. From your Vanco Online account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations, or update payment information. Thanks again for your generous giving out of your gratitude for God's transforming love.

Be aware many dates and activities can be changed in a short time. Please watch for updates. Keep on praying.

Remember newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

New Perspective

Joan Schwake

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Faribault Senior Living

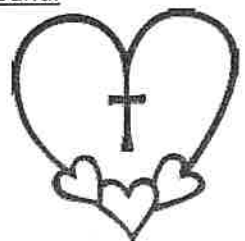
Mildred Tatge

The Homestead of Rochester

Lorry Wille

Ivy Hill

Ken Shaske



Mill City

Richard Hanson

At Home

Jean Pederson

Donovan Mueller

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike

Joys and Concerns

Many of you may already be aware of our support for a living kidney donor for a friend and neighbor of our churches, Anne Haynes (Donkers). To begin the kidney donation process, please go to [Fairview Transplant \(umnhealthlivingdonor.org\)](http://FairviewTransplant(umnhealthlivingdonor.org)) or call 800.328.5465. If you or someone you know is willing to offer life, please share this and keep praying.

Our Christian Sympathy to Pastor Lora & Rick on the death of their grandson, Henry, on March 7th.

Thank you again for your many kindnesses. In the space of a few months, I have bid adieu to so many people and circumstances. Your prayers, thoughts, cards, donations, and acts of caring have been a means of grace for my family and me to prepare for a future of hope. It is comforting to know we serve a God who accompanies us on journeys of all kinds. Thanks so much for your prayers and help in building the kingdom of God here on earth. Pastor Lora

Our Christian Sympathy to Darin Grant on the death of his father, Granville Grant, Jr. Grandville, age 74, passed away Feb. 9th in Sarasota FL., following a brief illness. A service was held in Florida on Feb. 15th, with a service & burial to be held at a later date in Minnesota.

A message from the NUMC SPRC:

A belated "Thank You" for the surveys that were returned regarding future plans for our church(es). These comments will factor into further conversations. We continue to meet with St. Johns UCC SPRC in determining both of our future needs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the following:

SPRC:

Mark Pearson.

Lloyd Kispert

Kevin Wille

NUMC board chairman

Duane Bailey

Notice: Clean-up day at the Nerstrand UMC

Evangelical Cemetery will be on Saturday, April 24th at 1:00 pm.

Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC

We will be keeping our hours as is for now.

We are still amazed! We have been open 7 yrs. And still have new people coming. Last week a lady, who had recently moved to Northfield, brought us some very nice donations. She was so impressed; said she would be back with some of her friends.

A special thank you to Rolf Enger for his help this past month and to Lois for bringing us treats for our coffee break.

Hours:

Wednesday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00AM to Noon

Come see us and bring along a friend!

Vacation Bible School:

At this point in time, a VBS will probably be the same as last year-a home study packet.

P-P-P Remember 2-2-2, 2nd 2sday of the month 2pm April 13 is the date, **2 pm** is the time and I ask you to set aside time to pray. **This time** there is a zoom link



<https://urncom.zoom.us/j/97902113709> and any

interested meet in person by the Nerstrand City Park. Please keep setting aside time for pausing and praying for our communities and praising God for all that God gives us. If you know of a prayer concern or joy, please let me know and I will add it to my prayer journal. Let me know if you'd like others to be aware of your prayer concern.

Remember, your presence in prayer matters. That is what changes lives. Plan for at least a half hour, no longer than an hour. It makes a difference in the world and in your own life.

Native American Ministries Sunday April 18 (third Sunday of Easter) nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. In 2020, you gave \$273,741 to the Native American Ministries Sunday offering. This offering helps to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. This fund is distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries and The General Board of Global Ministries. You may also give ONLINE.

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). This federally funded program helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. Please contact your local EAP provider to apply. For help finding your local EAP provider, call us at 888-931-3411. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2021 to be processed for benefits for 2020-2021 program year. You

can find more information on-line at the Minnesota Department of Commerce website at <https://mn.gov/commerce/>

St. John's UCC Sunday School

St. John's Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at 9:30, via Zoom. Children ages 4 years through 8th grade are welcome to join us. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions.



St John's UCC Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

The March meeting for St Johns UCC was called to order by moderator Gayle Bauer.

Opening devotions offered by Pastor Lora

Deepest sympathy expressed to Pastor Lora in the loss of her Grandson Henry.

Reports

SPRC: Met Feb 22. Contact was made with Grace Lutheran but no further information at this time. At this time will proceed with current yoking agreement with Nerstrand United Methodist.

Discussed pulpit supply with a seminary student starting in May and then will have UCC interim starting in July. Sherise Williams-Rice is the UCC conference contact assisting with these placements.

Secretary's report read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

Trustee's report: Light pole has been put back in place. Light to be installed and will be completed soon. Chad Walker submitted bid for lawn mowing. Slight increase in cost but motion was made and passed to accept bid for lawn mowing. Small leak noted in furnace room, which has been repaired. Roof project is basically completed. Spring clean-up scheduled for April 10. Alternate date April 17.

Covid committee: Sunday school will finish this year's Sunday school via Zoom.

Old business:

Cleaning schedule. Need for monthly church cleaning discussed and felt every other month is appropriate at this time. Trustees will set up cleaning schedule.

Spiritual committee to meet before next council meeting to review membership list.

The Lord's Supper Drama is being recorded and will be available online.

New business:

The computer in the church is not working. Discussion held and will obtain bids for new computer.

Midweek summer service discussed. Will contact the Eagle Center to see if program is available this year and will schedule if being offered. Council felt this would be appropriate if held outside. Will wait to schedule other mid-week summer services at this time.

Pastor's retirement planning. Discussion held on acknowledging last day/retirement. Discussion to continue. Will need to take picture for wall in Anniversary room.

Discussed future meeting locations. Will meet via zoom for the April 13 meeting and then transition to in person in May if appropriate.

Granted Pastor Lora bereavement Sunday on March 14th due to grandson's funeral.

Motion made and passed to adjourn meeting.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting Tuesday April 13th at 6:30 via Zoom

Gayle Bauer, Moderator

Elders: Gayle Bauer, Gloria Karl, Todd Lien

Deacons-Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Becher, Brian Homeier

Trustees-Jay Kindseth, Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer

Cemetery Board-Keith Keller, Brian Bauer, Al Meyer

A congratulation was sent from the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ for being a 5 for 5 congregation in 2020.

St. John's UCC Cleaning

Committee The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of March is: TBA



Second Saturday Quilters

SSQ is open to people of all churches & their friends.

Contact Deb Wille 507-323-4813

or 83159deb@gmail.com



Special notices, Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:

Apr 1 Maundy/Holy Thursday 7pm-SJ

Apr 2 Ecumenical (virtual) noon, Good Friday 7pm-N

Apr 10 Clean-up day-SJ

Apr 11 Confirmation class 11:30am (zoom only)

Apr 13 PPP 2pm zoom & in person Nerstrand City Park

Apr 17 Clean-up day-SJ

Apr 20 newsletter deadline

Apr 24 Clean-up Day-1pm Evangelical Cemetery

Jun 7-12 MN UCC Conference Annual Meeting

Jun 22-24 MAC UMC 167th Annual Conference

Jul 21, 7pm Eagle Center program-SJ

Aug 31-Sep 10 UMC General Conference-Mpls

Nov 10-12 North Central UMC Jurisdiction Conference: Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Election and assignment of bishops occurs.

Both/And with Jason Moore: Pre-recorded, available until April 14. How do we worship both in-person and online without leaving anyone out? Here are three strategies. [Recording](#) / [Handbook](#)

MAC UMC Annual Conference 2021: June 22-24. The theme of our 167th Annual Conference is "Jesus. Waymaker." Registration will open May 1. June 22 and 24 will be entirely virtual and June 23 will be in small (50) in-person groups at various sites across the state. It will

include a virtual presentation from Rev. Rachel Billups—an author who serves as pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Ohio—followed by a live virtual Q&A. There will be group conversations at the sites and ZOOM breakout rooms will be available for those not comfortable meeting in-person. This will allow some face-to-face conversation and provide an opportunity to be in community. The business session, where we discuss legislation, will be Thursday, June 24 and conducted through a ZOOM webinar.



Minnesota UCC Conference Annual Meeting 2021: June 7-12 The theme is "Courageous Church" The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group, in

collaboration with Conference staff, is working hard to create an experience that will be educational, supportive, collaborative, and enjoyable — balanced by our sincere desire to keep everyone safe and healthy. To that end, the decision was made that the entire Annual Meeting will be virtual this year. Like the rest of the world, our team simply does not know when it will be safe to gather in-person, or even how that might look in June. That said, we have a lot of exciting plans to share with you!

The activities and learning sessions for the Annual Meeting will be spread out throughout the week of June 7, with the bulk of the work conducted on Friday and Saturday. Monday through Thursday we will have two workshop sessions each day, one mid-morning and the other mid-afternoon. We are accepting workshop proposals now! All workshops will be open to all delegates and visitors and will be recorded for later viewing by those registered for the Annual Meeting.

The business meeting, when we will vote on various business of the Conference (budget, compensation guidelines, etc.), will take place Friday afternoon and will be open to delegates only (to ease difficulties with online voting) but will be recorded and available later for public viewing.

On Friday evening, June 11, we will formally kick-off the Annual Meeting with a worship service, Rev. Shari Prestemon's State of the Conference, and some fun surprises. Saturday will begin mid-morning with a keynote address from author Susan Beaumont, author of *How to Lead When You Don't Know What You Are Doing*. Virtual "tabletop conversations" will follow her keynote address. The afternoon of Saturday, June 12, we will reconvene for a virtual panel of congregational leaders across the state who have engaged in the vital task of racial justice work. Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, will moderate the panel, which will be followed by small conversation circles. Saturday will conclude with a virtual concert and social "chat" to visit with friend across the Conference.

On Sunday June 13, we will worship together across the state and hear a message from Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. That virtual worship service will be live-

streamed and we are working hard to make it as accessible as possible for every congregation in Minnesota to worship as one.

One important thing to note: there will be no resolutions this year. While resolutions are very important to the work of the Conference, the Board of Directors concluded that it added a level of complexity to a virtual meeting that will already be highly complex.

Finally, our registration costs. We will ask delegates to pay \$50 to attend the Annual Meeting, with delegates able to participate in all sessions. All visitors (non-voting delegates) will be asked to pay \$25 for all sessions except for those on Friday (open to voting delegates only). The Annual Meeting Planning Work Group is eager to engage with you and make this Annual Meeting the best experience possible. Questions? Contact: Rev. Danielle K Bartz Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group 507-269-5424

Danielle.bartz@gmail.com

Food assistance for Faribault is at both: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Divine Mercy Chapter, located at 617 3rd Avenue NW in Faribault. If you are willing to volunteer call Kevin at SVdP at 334-2100.

Or: The Northfield Community Action Center, see [Faribault Food Access Initiative | Community Action Center of Northfield \(CAC\)](#) offers food availability and other assistance through the **Faribault Food Access Initiative**. To donate via mail, please send checks to: Community Action Center, Faribault Food Access Initiative, 1400 Cannon Circle Suite #8, Faribault, MN 55021 To ensure your donation supports Faribault's food shelf, please note 'Food Access' in the memo line. The teams/times with the most need are packing on Tuesday evenings or Saturday mornings, and assisting on Thursday and Fridays on distribution weeks. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45aaa629a1fec43-faribault>

Food Shelf Items always welcome. March is FoodShare Month Each church has a location where you may bring items. Your help by delivering those items to our local food shelves is greatly appreciated. Your gifts witness to our mission focus for anyone coming to our churches! Thanks for your ministry. The food shelves in Faribault and Kenyon can use your financial donations to purchase food at best prices. Each has various options to donate directly, check with them.

Donations may be dropped off at Ruth's House in Faribault on Tuesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturday Noon - 2:00 pm. If you would like to offer other items please contact Ruth's House Donations Coordinator, Sandy, at 507-581-1374 or psvarley@gmail.com, before dropping off. Please contact Suzzanne for volunteer opportunities! suzzannef.ruthshouse@gmail.com

Habitat for Humanity Rice County is excited to be building six homes with people this summer. We are building a Quad with our Faith Build. We will probably have volunteers on site starting in July. We are asking congregations to join in this effort by becoming a Faith

Builder Congregation. To join, a congregation needs to do three things:

1. Identify three people in your congregation as Faith Builders - we will push information out to them that they can share with the congregation.
2. Give a financial contribution of any amount at some point in the year.
3. Volunteer in some way with Habitat during the year. Bring a group to the build site, bring a meal, have someone join one of our committees, etc.

You can read more about being a Faith Builder [HERE](#).

Here's what we're building in 2021:



We're also hoping congregations will support our 365 Days of Prayer program. We ask people to sign up for a



day to pray. You can help us spread the word through your bulletins and newsletters or your website. You can read more information [HERE](#).

Feel free to reach out to me, Dayna Norvold, if you have questions or want to become more engaged with the ministry

and mission of Habitat! My number is 507-323-5167 or e-mail habitatricecounty@gmail.com www.habitatricecounty.org, 204 7th St. W, PMB 128, Northfield, MN 55057

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota serve children ages 5-14 in Dodge, Rice, Steele and Waseca Counties. Our mission: Contact info: 545 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna 607-451-5922, 322 Central Ave., Faribault, 507-334-0258 202 W Main Str., Kasson, 507-634-4595, Waseca 507-451-5922 www.bbbsouthernmn.org megan@bbbsouthernmn.org

Remember that our **NAMI Family Support group** meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00-8:30pm in Room 220 at the Northfield Community Resource Center (1651 Jefferson Parkway). (NAMI is National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)

Faribault Area Hospice Foundation is committed to supporting Faribault Area patients receiving Hospice Care. For more information or to apply for assistance, please contact: www.faribaultareahospicefoundation.org or info@faribaultareahospicefoundation.org or call 1-866-506-7049 Or write Faribault Area Hospice Foundation 200 State Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021

Jesusfood is a mission project in the Faribault mall. They have time available to pack meals for children around the world on the 1st Sat of every month starting at 10AM, done before noon. Cost averages about \$60 per person, if you can afford it. But there is not a minimum, so as people can afford, it's what we'll pack. Call for info: 507-469-4357, or email: info@JesusFood.org

Volunteer Opportunities at Allina District One Hospital Contact information for Sharon Jacobson: 507-497-3527 Sharon.jacobson@allina.com Mail Route 77000, 200 State Avenue, Faribault, Minnesota 55021

Honoring Choices There is no cost for this service. To request our involvement: Email: honoringchoices@allina.com Phone: 507-977-2330 - To obtain an Honoring Choices Health Care Directive: <https://www.honoringchoices.org/health-care-directives/english-directives/22-hcd-long-form-fillable/file> Contact our office if you would like a health care directive mailed to you. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for program outreach. Pat Heydon Follow us on Facebook: @honoringchoicesFaribaultOwatonna

Upcoming scriptures, read and reflect to prepare for worship: Apr 1, Maundy/Holy Thursday Year B Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 **COLORS** Red Purple Apr 2 Good Friday Year B Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42 **COLORS** (none) Apr 4 Easter Sunday Year B Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18 Mark 16:1-8 **COLORS** Gold White Apr 11 Second Sunday of Easter Yr B Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31 **COLORS** Gold White Apr 18 Third Sunday of Easter Yr B Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48 **COLORS** Gold White Apr 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr B Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18 **COLORS** Gold White

Service Schedule for 2021: Sundays
(Communion on first Sundays of month)
9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: stjohnsuccnumc@live.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone: 507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: stjohnsuccnumc@live.com Phone: 5077895766

Website: <https://stjohnsunitiedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 507.330.0025



All the People, Ministers

Lora Sturm, Pastor

Phone: 507.330.0025 office/ 507.525.4483 cell/ 507.452.1448 home

E-mail: pastorlora@live.com

Sabbath on Friday

Home Address: 24082 Homer Valley Rd, Winona, MN 55987

Paradigms for Mission Renewal

What if the biggest challenges we face in the work of mission renewal are adaptive ones, not technical ones? What if we don't need to figure out a better way to do what we've always done, we need to figure out a new way to be who and what God is calling us to be? As congregations move forward, it is helpful to consider a series of paradigm shifts. Here is a concrete way of imagining the breadth and depth of renewal.

Old Paradigm

Church is a place assumed to be an important part of people's lives and the world. Therefore, we expect people to want to be part of a congregation.

The **congregation** is an organization focused on serving its members. Membership is how one belongs to the congregation and how it belongs to you.

Ministry is done through programs. Programs address perceived problems (e.g., "We don't have youth; we need youth ministry.") and are directed by Staff.

Outreach is about doing nice things for others. **Evangelism** is about getting new members, because more members means more money, and more money means we can keep doing what we've always done.

Worship is about expressing praise to God in a comfortable setting; it's also about fulfilling a religious obligation.

Christian Education is about learning the Bible and passing on denominational traditions. But it's optional.

Congregational Life/Fellowship really means "social committee." It's about coffee hour and potluck dinners.

Stewardship/Finance are essentially the same thing; it's about how we're going to keep the lights on.

Lay Leaders serve out of duty; it's about whose turn it is to serve on council. **Pastors** work hard, trying to give people what they want. They are busy meeting needs, solving problems, and answering questions.

Decisions are made by the leaders. Council delegates day to day tasks and programs to staff. The congregation votes on major things once or twice per year.

New Paradigm

Church is a community gathered by the Spirit and blessed to be a blessing. Church is less a noun, more a verb; less a place, more a way of life and an instrument of God's mission in the world.

The **congregation** is a mission outpost and is therefore focused on serving its mission field (i.e., the neighborhood, city, and world).

Ministry is about vocation. Vocation is living out the spiritual gifts given to us in baptism. Vocation happens in relationships. We are a priesthood of all believers.

Outreach is a combination of service, advocacy, and relationship building. **Evangelism** is about sharing our faith stories in spiritual friendships.

Worship imagines a world. Worship shapes us into the kind of people God is calling us to become. Liturgy is the "work of the people" and so it is diverse and contextual.

Christian Education is about making disciples of Jesus. It is centered on faith practices in the home, workplace, and together at church.

Congregational Life is about creating a culture of hospitality, service, discipleship, and prayer within the congregation. It's our collective spirituality.

Stewardship is about how we are using all the resources God has given us. **Finance** is about aligning our money with our mission priorities.

Congregational Leadership is a dynamic partnership between clergy and lay leaders that cultivates a new environment that fosters missional creativity. Leaders work together to ask the right questions, invite others to serve, and love people into a new way of being church.

Decisions are made through spiritual discernment. The more participants in a decision-making process, the wiser it will be. Council and staff are lead-learners.

This resource was developed for congregational use. Please use freely! The compilers also welcomes questions, further conversation, and feedback: **Tim Snyder**, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary. He previously served congregations in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Austin, Texas. Contact: tsnyder@wesleyseminary.edu | **Rev. Paul Erickson**, D.Min., Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He previously served as Director for Evangelical Mission in the Saint Paul Area Synod. Contact: paul.erickson@gmselca.org.

churchleadership.com

Religious
Workforce
Project



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership