



## LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL OF AMERICA SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION RETREAT

This is a half day retreat that usually is held on a Saturday morning or Sunday evening but can be scheduled anytime that 3 ½ to 4 hours are available. It has been held as a church council retreat, a men's retreat and an event open to the entire congregation. We recommend that, if open to the entire congregation, churches also view this retreat as a community outreach event and publicize it in the community. There are two sessions with a break in between.

### **First Session: Seven Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life**

Lay people expect the ordained clergy to live spiritual lives but do they realize the importance of a deep spirituality in their own lives? Our retreat leader shares lots of stories about his own spiritual journey, focusing on seven of the most important lessons he has learned about living a spiritual life. He also shares many crucial lessons learned from the Holy Scriptures and the writings of people such as St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas a Kempis, St. Teresa of Avila, John Stott and Mother Teresa.

### **Second Session: 10 Stops on the Road to Spiritual Transformation**

This session is based on research and a book by George Barna, who is the foremost Christian researcher in America today. The session focuses on identifiable steps toward living a transformed life, as well as the ultimate goals: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* And: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

The value of this retreat is in opening lay people's hearts and minds to spiritual transformation in their own lives, identifying what may be hindering spiritual growth and transformation, and helping them understand that this transformation should be the goal of every Christian's life. The retreat will present lots of challenging material and there will be plenty of time for discussion. There is a PowerPoint presentation that accompanies the retreat.

**Cost:** Lutheran Lay Renewal currently does not charge a fee for this retreat but if a church would like to make a contribution to LLRA it certainly would be welcome.

For more information or to schedule a retreat contact:

**Lutheran Lay Renewal of America, Butler, PA**

**724-287-5151, LLRAJ316@gmail.com**

*"Last month (February, 2015) it was our congregation's joy and blessing to have (LLR) lead three presentations, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. The presentations were very well researched, prepared, and presented. The "Seven Lessons of Living the Spiritual Life" was inspiring. "Ten Steps of Spiritual Transformation" was both challenging and comforting. Bill's sharing of his life experiences as it related to the topics made this retreat real and approachable. All of our fifty members who participated sang praises about the topics as they related to their faith and discipleship. Well done!" - Pastor Randy Ouimette, Saint John's Lutheran Church, Arroyo Grande, California*

*“The team that led the spiritual transformation workshops at Holy Cross was first-class. They knew their material well, demonstrating not only an academic knowledge of the subject, but an experiential acquaintance with the spiritual life in the deep Christian tradition to buttress it. Their passion for Christ, Lutheran grounding in the dynamics of Law and Gospel, and familiarity with the tradition catholic gave their presentations (particularly the question and answer sessions) a profundity often lacking in the slickly produced offerings of ministries promoted by major publishing houses. I would highly recommend them as an integrated part of your congregation's catechetical and Christian formation ministries.” - Rev. Brett Jenkins, STS, Pastor, Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nazareth, PA*

*“Want to generate some faith conversation among your congregation? Want your congregation to hear a real story from someone who was an atheist and came to know Jesus as the Savior of the world? Then invite Bill Oehlschlager to share his journey and spiritual insights through a day's retreat on **Spiritual Transformation**. You will be inspired and encouraged to live for Christ.” - Pastor Carl Nielsen, Bethel Lutheran Church, Santa Maria, California*

*“I was impressed by the Spiritual Transformation Retreat held for my congregation put on by Lutheran Lay Renewal. It was well organized, informal and actually a lot of fun. At the end of the retreat, everyone who participated was energized and eager to do it again. I was particularly interested in the focus upon the spiritual life of the laity. The first session, 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life, was upbeat and easy to apply to the normal everyday Christian's spiritual life. Acknowledging our weakness, being aware of the power of humility, the richness of faith through trust and obedience were just a few of the topics that the Christian in the pew needs to hear as an important part of their faith experience which can bring them more intimacy with God. The whole of time spent was deeply appreciated by all who attended. I highly recommend this half day retreat for any congregation that is hungry to walk closer to the most exciting person ever to exist, our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.” - Pastor John Kulczycki, Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD*

*“Bill Oehlschlager came to Immanuel Lutheran Church on February 11 and 12, 2017. I was blessed to have attended both events where Bill spoke. He ... presented a very powerful message of the gospel. His personal testimony and relationship with Jesus Christ empower him to relate well his message of sharing the gospel. There were people in attendance during the two days that ranged in age from early teens to near 80 years old, and the entire spectrum in between. By observing the body language during and comments overheard after his talks his message spoke to all of us. Bill's ministry is awesome...” - A parishioner at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA*

*“Bill Oehlschlager's presentations on spiritual renewal and sharing the faith was a highlight of my time in congregational ministry. Our congregation has been focusing on intergenerational ministry (we had junior high to 80-somethings present) and there was something in Bill's presentations for everyone in attendance. The generations present were brought together in a powerful way that can only be identified as the work of the Holy Spirit. Bill brings much insight and wisdom to his presentations both from his own life story as well as pulling in thoughts and insights of voices of the church across the ages like Augustine, Kempis, Luther, and Mother Theresa. I'm grateful for the work and ministry of Lutheran Lay Renewal and encourage congregations to make good use of this wonderful ministry.” - Pastor Kristopher Madsen, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA*