



About the Reading Week

Before you find your frazzled self staring at the moon some Saturday night—sermon unwritten, out of time, and wondering, “What am I going to say tomorrow?” - why not do what wise farmers do, and lay aside some seed corn?

The Reading Week for Lectionary Preachers is time set aside to sow seeds of excellence in next years’ preaching ministry.

The Reading Week is an investment in ministry which every effective preacher owes his or her congregation; it is the “seed corn” for time-starved pastors. Before your parishioners’ needs have taken all your ministry time, lay this week aside to listen attentively to scripture and the Holy Spirit, to roll up your sleeves, and plant the seeds for next years’ preaching ministry.



~ *Schedule & Location* ~

The Reading Week begins Tuesday with check-in from 10^{am} to Noon, commencing with Lunch, then right to work. Work continues through Friday morning, concluding with worship at 11:45^{am}. Please plan on being present for the Full Reading Week.

Aldersgate Retreat Center
925 Haverford Avenue
Pacific Palisades, CA

LIFT Ministries

562.789.0880

e-mail: LiftOffice@Verizon.net

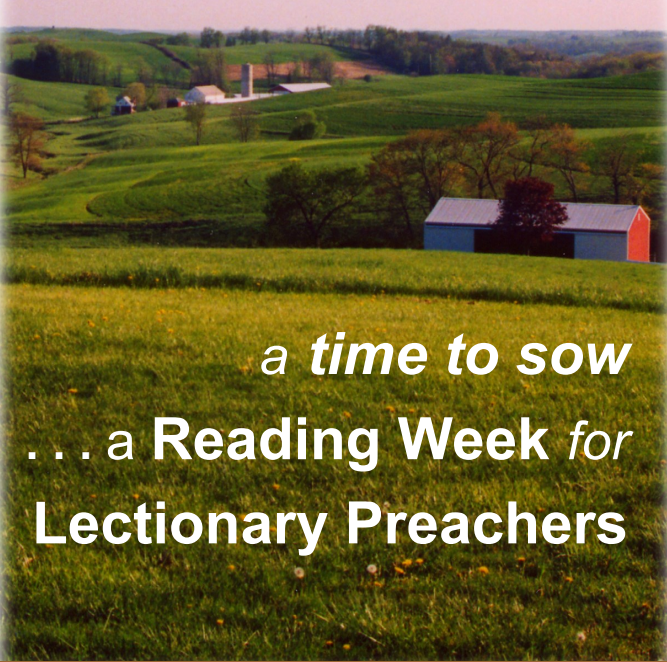
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LIFT  Ministries

Cultivating Pathways for Discipleship to Jesus Christ

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a time to sow
... a Reading Week for
Lectionary Preachers

September 30 -
October 3, 2014
(Tuesday through Friday)

Aldersgate Retreat Center,
Pacific Palisades, CA

Facilitated and designed by
Rev. William Johnson

Co-sponsored by
LIFT Ministries &
Cal-Pac Camps

About the Facilitator



Rev. Bill Johnson is a passionate preacher of the Gospel whose gifts for ministry include leadership, teaching, and prophetic insight. He served 4 local congregations in California, including 2 start-up churches, until God called him to ministry as a full-time evangelist.

Through **LIFT Renewal Ministries**, a non-profit ministry established for the purpose of helping pastors and congregations by cultivating pathways to discipleship to Jesus Christ, he has served local churches as an evangelist, advocate, and spiritual friend.

In August of 2014, Rev. Johnson along with a team from LIFT will again travel to Ghana to teach leadership development and follow up with the newly-formed *African expression* of LIFT Ministries, to strengthen them in disciple-making.

2014 will be a year of transition for LIFT and Rev.

Johnson, as Bill takes an appointment at First UMC of Orange, California. He looks forward to being back in the pulpit each Sunday, serving a local congregation. He will remain connected to LIFT as its Founding Director, while Dr. Robert Denham assumes leadership as Executive Director. The Lectionary Reading Week is especially valuable now as Bill returns to weekly preaching.

LIFT will continue to conduct this retreat in the coming years.

What Will You Do During the Lectionary Reading Week?

- Hear the Gospel lessons for the entire lectionary year read aloud as you take notes and jot down your ideas
- Spend valuable quiet time developing themes, objectives, and images for each individual Sunday.
- Identify potential preaching series, topical sequences, and an underlying “theme” for the entire lectionary year
- Engage in interactive discussion, season-by-season, of themes, observations, and insights for the coming lectionary year
- Create strategies for “passenger Sundays”, where external themes are imposed upon your worship and preaching (Scout Sunday, Music Appreciation Sunday, community or world crises, secular holidays, etc.)
- Coordinate your preaching schedule with family vacation plans and other personal calendar issues
- Participate in interactive dialogue with colleagues as we exegete our culture and our congregations
- Share with colleagues about blind spots, hurdles, and impediments to weekly sermon preparation

What Will You Take Home?

- Confidence in knowing that God is shaping your heart for preaching in *the coming year* Individual note sheets for every Sunday in the coming Lectionary year
- Coordinated preaching calendar with themes and texts that can be given to worship leaders and staff
- Reading and resource lists compiled by retreat participants
- A model for Worship Design that can be easily implemented in the local church
- 21 Contact Hours

REGISTRATION FORM - Lectionary Reading Week September 30-October 3, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Local Church: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

~ INFORMATION ~

Registration for the Lectionary Reading Week is **\$435** per person and covers the cost of all program materials, lodging for 3 nights, and all meals.

The Reading Week is considered a “work week”, rather than retreat or “time off”, therefore you are encouraged to use your

Continuing Education budget or seek financial support from your church in order to attend.

See back panel for Reading Week schedule.

**Registration & Full Payment is Due
by Monday, September 22**

Please make checks payable to
“LIFT Ministries” & Mail to:

**LIFT Ministries
P.O. Box 4671
Whittier, CA 90607**