

Southwest & Central Conference 2012 Winter Retreat Schedule
2365 St. Johns Rd., Maria Stein, OH 45860 - Phone 419.925.7625
www.spiritualcenter.net

Greetings!

Here is all the info you should need (we think!) for the upcoming retreat for which you are registered.

Arrival – 1:00 pm (lunch on your own) – attire is informal; jeans are fine.

Cost – If you have not yet sent your money, please do so at your earliest convenience. Cost is \$65.50/each.

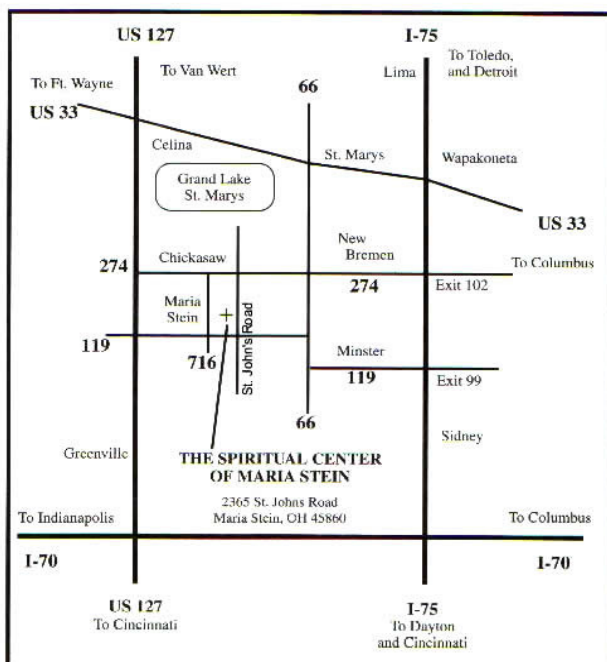
Make checks payable to: *Southwestern Conference, NWOS, ELCA*

Send to: Tom Cover, 1160 Brice Avenue, Lima, Ohio 45805

Meal times – Supper Thursday-5:30; Breakfast Friday-8:30; Lunch Friday-12 noon. If you have special dietary needs, let us know ASAP. Thursday after worship will be fellowship time. Bring a snack (chips, etc.) and a beverage (pop, wine, etc.) to share.

Facility info – The building is non-smoking. Quiet times are from 11:00 pm – 7:00 am.

Directions to
The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein



The Spiritual Center, sometimes referred to as the Retreat House, is located near Maria Stein in rural Mercer County, Ohio about 8 miles south of Grand Lake St. Marys.

Retreat Theme: Life, Death, & Resurrection

THURSDAY, Feb 16

1:00 p.m.	Arrival
1:30 p.m.	Opening Devotions - (Chapel)
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Sharing/Conversation I – <i>Life</i>
5:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Sharing/Conversation II – <i>Death</i>
8:00 p.m.	Eucharist service – (Chapel)
9:00 p.m.	Fellowship - Snacks/Drinks

FRIDAY, Feb 17

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 a.m.	Devotions – (Chapel)
10:00 a.m.	Sharing/Conversation III – <i>Resurrection</i>
12:00 a.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Departure

A helpful way into our discussions might be Walter Brueggemann's reimagining of our theme as *Orientation, Disorientation & Reorientation*. Brueggemann offered this idea as a way of understanding the Psalms:

[Orientation] Human life consists in satisfied seasons of well-being that invoke gratitude for the consistency of blessing... [Disorientation] Human life consists in anguished seasons of hurt, alienation, suffering and death... [New Orientation] Human life consists in turns of surprise when we are overwhelmed with the new gifts of God, when Joy breaks through the despair

The Message of the Psalms, p.19

Consider how this plays out in the life of Christ in the classic Christian hymn of Philippians 2:5-11 –

Orientation: "Though he was in the form of God..."

Disorientation: "[He] emptied himself."

New Orientation: "Therefore God has highly exalted him..."

We hope to use this as a way to address our spiritual journeys as we move through life, from one place to another; from settlement, to trials/difficulties, to a new 'season' - from life, to death, to resurrection.

Each participant is asked to consider their *favorite or most meaningful spiritual reading*, and, based on the theme above, **bring to the retreat a few sentences (perhaps a paragraph) that might illustrate each of the themes of life (orientation), death (disorientation) and resurrection (reorientation)**. The book does not necessarily have to be religious or theological, but it should speak to you in some way about the stated themes. Please bring the actual book (or books, if there is more than one) to the retreat, so others can take a look for themselves!

If you have questions, please contact one of us and let us know. We are looking forward to meeting with all of you on Feb 16th and 17th!

Blessings,

Ralph Mineo, *Central Conf Dean* & Rita Bair, *SW Conf Dean*