

# 2009 Religion Editor's Calendar

Prepared by the editors of



The only secular news and photo service devoted to unbiased coverage of religion and ethics—exclusively.

*Note: Holidays that begin at sundown continue through sundown the next day, unless otherwise noted.*

# JANUARY

## January 5-14

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Conference of Bishops, Jerusalem. Contact: John Brooks at 773-380-2958; e-mail: jbrooks@elca.org; Web site: www.elca.org/news

## January 6

Feast of the Epiphany (Christian celebration of the arrival of the Magi to visit the infant Jesus. Eastern Orthodox churches call it Theophany to mark the baptism of Jesus and his first miracle at the wedding at Cana.)

Christmas  
(Armenian Orthodox Christian)

## January 7

Nativity of Christ  
(Orthodox Christian)

Ashura  
(Optional fast day for Muslims, marking the creation of the world, Noah's departure from the ark, and Moses' flight from Egypt. Shi'a Muslims mark this as a day of mourning for the martyrdom of the prophet Muhammad's grandson. Start date may vary depending on sighting of the moon.)

## January 13-16

Christian Churches Together in the USA: annual meeting, Baltimore. Contact: Rev. Richard Hamm at 317-490-1968; e-mail: dhamm@ddi.org; Web site: www.christianchurchestogether.org/events/2009/

## January 13-17

Church of the Brethren with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Quaker) and Mennonite Church USA: Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace, Philadelphia. Contact: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford at 800-323-8039, ext. 260; e-mail: cobnews@brethren.org

## January 16

Religious Freedom Day

## January 17

Stellar Gospel Music Awards: annual show, Nashville, Tenn. Contact: Jalila Larsuel at 626-398-5028; e-mail: JLMediapr@aol.com; Web site: www.thestellarawards.com

## January 18-25

World Council of Churches and the Vatican: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, worldwide. Contact: Juan Michel at 011-41-79-507-6363; e-mail: media@wcc-coe.org; Web site: www.oikoumene.org/?id=3193

## January 21-23

Trinity Institute: "Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability," interfaith conference, New York. Contact: Veronica Ortega at 212-602-0721; e-mail: vortega@trinitywallstreet.org; Web site: www.trinitychurchwallstreet.org/institute

## January 22

March for Life: annual anti-abortion rally, Washington. Contact: Nellie Gray at 202-543-3377; Web site: www.marchforlife.org

Archdiocese of Washington: Youth Rally and Mass for Life, Washington. Contact: Susan Gibbs at 301-853-4516; e-mail: sgibbs@adw.org; Web site: www.adw.org

## January 27

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, designated by the United Nations

## January 27-29

Russian Orthodox Church: Leaders meet in Moscow to choose a new patriarch, two months after the death of Patriarch Alexy II. Contact: The Rev. Joseph Krykov at 212-996-6638; e-mail: fr.joseph.krykov@gmail.com; Web site: www.mospat.ru

## January 29-31

Episcopal Church: Executive Council, Stockton, Calif. Contact: Neva Rae Fox at 212-716-6080; e-mail: nrfox@episcopalchurch.org

St. Vladimir's Seminary: International Symposium on "The Past and Future of Liturgical Theology, Yonkers, N.Y. Contact: The Rev. Andrew Jarmus at 914-961-8313; e-mail: ajarmus@oca.org; Web site: www.svots.edu

## January 31-February 2

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities: annual meeting, Washington. Contact: Tiffany Showman at 202-457-0650, ext. 223; e-mail: tshowman@accunet.org

# FEBRUARY

## February 1

New Russian Orthodox patriarch enthroned, Moscow. Contact: The Rev. Joseph Krykov at 212-996-6638; e-mail: fr.joseph.krykov@gmail.com; Web site: www.mospat.ru

## February 1-5

Anglican Communion: primates' meeting, Alexandria, Egypt. Contact: Anglican Communion Office at 011-44-20-7313-3900; e-mail: aco@anglicancommunion.org

## February 2

Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: "Different by Design 2009: A Crucial Call to Faithfulness on Gender Issues" conference, Minneapolis. Contact: Brent Nelson at 888-560-8210; e-mail: conferences@cbmw.org; Web site: www.cbmw.org

## February 5

National Prayer Breakfast, Washington. Contact: Joe Mitchell at 808-250-1405.

## February 7-10

National Religious Broadcasters: annual convention, Nashville, Tenn. Contact: Craig L. Parshall at 703-330-7000; e-mail: cparshall@nrb.org; Web site: www.nrb.org

## February 8

Tu B'Shvat (Jewish celebration of the environment; begins at sundown)

## February 11

Movieguide: Faith and Values Awards and Report to the Entertainment Industry, Beverly Hills, Calif. Contact: Kendra Matthews at 805-383-2000; e-mail: Kendra@movieguide.org; Web site: www.movieguideawards.com

## February 12

Darwin Day  
(marks 200th anniversary of birth of evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin)

## February 22-25

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Washington. Contact: Don Clemmer at 202-541-3200.

## February 23

Maha Sivaratri (Hindu holiday marking worship of Lord Siva. Actual start date may vary depending on moment of sunrise.)

## February 24-March 1

Central Conference of American Rabbis: convention of Reform Jews, Jerusalem. Contact: Steven A. Fox at 212-972-3636; e-mail: info@ccarnet.org; Web site: www.ccarnet.org

## February 25

Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent (Christian; 40 days)

## February 26-27

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross: Conference on Faith and Reason, Rome. Contact: Daniel Arasa at 011-39-0668-1641; e-mail: convegnofr09@pusc.it; Web site: www.pusc.it/teo/conv/conv09

## February 27-March 1

Nation of Islam: Annual Savior's Day Conference, Chicago. Contact: 773-602-1230; Web site: www.noi.org

# MARCH

## March 2

Bahá'í Fast begins (19-day fast from sunrise to sundown)

Clean Monday

(Orthodox Christian start of Lent)

## March 2-4

Baptist World Alliance: Executive Committee annual meeting, Falls Church, Va. Contact: Eron Henry at 703-790-8980; e-mail: ehenny@bwanet.org; www.bwanet.org

## March 9

Mawlid an-Nabi

(Muslim commemoration of the birthday of the prophet Muhammad in approximately A.D. 570. Actual start date may vary depending on sighting of the moon.)

Purim

(Jewish celebration of the story of Esther; begins at sundown)

## March 11

Holi

(Two-day Hindu festival of spring begins. Actual start date may vary depending on moment of sunrise.)

## March 13-16

Ecumenical Advocacy Days: social justice gathering, Alexandria, Va. Contact: Molly Keane at 202-386-6397.

## March 13-18

Episcopal Church: House of Bishops meeting, Hendersonville, N.C. Contact: Neva Rae Fox at 212-716-6080; e-mail: nrfox@episcopalchurch.org

## March 14-17

Church of the Brethren: Mission and Ministry Board meeting, New Windsor, Md. Contact: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford at 800-323-8039, ext. 260; e-mail: cobnews@brethren.org

## March 18

Templeton Prize: News conference announcing the winner of the 2009 Templeton Prize, New York. Contact: Donald Lehr at 212-967-8200; e-mail: dlehr@templetonprize.org; Web site: www.templetonprize.org

## March 18-23

World Union for Progressive Judaism: convention, Jerusalem. Contact: Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie at 212-650-4000; e-mail: PresURJ@urj.org; Web site: www.urj.org

## March 19-22

Christian Book Expo, Dallas. Contact: Pamela McClure at 615-595-8321; e-mail: Pamela@mmpublicrelations.com; Web site: www.christianbookexpo.com

## March 20

Naw-Ruz

(Bahá'í New Year's Day; begins at sundown; Zoroastrian New Year.)

## March 24-27

Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops: annual congress, Cleveland. Contact: Minister Sheila Webb at 216-721-9083; e-mail: swebb1010@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.collegeofbishops.org

## March 26-28

Religion Communicators Council: annual convention, Boston. Contact: Marty Mann at 781-997-0814; e-mail: MMann@lssne.org; Web site: www.religioncommunicators.org

## March 27

Ugadi

(for some Hindus, Hindu New Year)

## March 28

National Black Justice Coalition: Black Church Summit, sponsored by African-American gay organization, San Francisco. Contact: Sylvia Rhue at 202-319-1552, ext. 23; e-mail: srhue@nbjc.org; Web site: www.nbjc.org

# APRIL

## April 3

Ram Navami

(Hindu holiday honoring Lord Rama. Actual start date may vary depending on the moment of sunrise.)

## April 4-5

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: annual general conference, Salt Lake City. Contact: Kim Farah at 801-240-1977; e-mail: farahke@ldschurch.org; Web site: www.lds.org

## April 5

Palm Sunday (Christian)

## April 8

Birkat Hachama (Jewish blessing of the sun, celebrated every 28 years)

Passover (Jewish celebration of the exodus from slavery in Egypt; eight-day holiday; begins at sundown)

## April 9-12

American Atheists: national convention, Atlanta. Contact: David P. Silverman at 732-648-9333; e-mail: dsilverman@atheists.org; Web site: www.atheists.org

## April 10

Good Friday (Christian)

## April 12

Easter (Christian)

Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christian)

## April 14

Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year)

## April 14-16

National Catholic Educational Association: annual convention, Anaheim, Calif. Contact: Daniel Baczkowski at dbaczkowski@ncea.org; Web site: www.ncea.org

## April 17

Holy Friday (Orthodox Christian)

## April 17-19

Alliance of Baptists: annual convocation, Charlotte, N.C. Contact: Christopher Copeland at 202-745-7609; e-mail: convocation@allianceofbaptists.org; Web site: www.allianceofbaptists.org/connect/events/convocation

**April 18-22**

Gospel Music Association: GMA Music Week, annual convention, Nashville, Tenn. GMA Dove Awards on April 23. Contact: Tricia Whitehead at 615-599-7746; e-mail: Tricia@thespinhouse.com; Web site: www.gospelmusic.org

**April 19**

Easter (Orthodox Christian)

**April 20**

Yom Hashoah (Jewish remembrance of the Holocaust; begins at sundown)

**April 20-22**

Episcopal Church: Executive Council, Portland, Maine. Contact: Neva Rae Fox at 212-716-6080; e-mail: nrfox@episcopalchurch.org

**April 20-25**

United Methodist Church: "A River Deep and Wide: Christian Spiritual Practice for the 21st Century" conference, Nashville, Tenn. Contact: Edna Vaughan at 615-340-7113; e-mail: evaughan@upperroom.org; Web site: www.upperroom.org/river/

**April 20-May 2**

Ridvan (Bahá'í commemoration of the public proclamation of the mission of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh; begins at sundown.)

**April 23-26**

Bahá'í Faith: national convention, Wilmette, Ill. Contact Ellen Price at 847-733-3559; e-mail: eprice@bahai.us; Web site: www.bahai.us

Church of the Brethren: Cross Cultural Consultation and Celebration, Miami. Contact: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford at 800-323-8039, ext. 260; e-mail: cobnews@brethren.org

**April 24-25**

Wake Forest University School of Divinity: New Baptist Covenant, Southeast regional gathering, Winston-Salem, N.C. Contact: Audrey Fannin at 336-758-5237; e-mail: fannin@wfu.edu; Web site: www.divinity.wfu.edu

**April 25-30**

Church of the Brethren: Christian Citizenship Seminar, New York and Washington. Contact: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford at 800-323-8039, ext. 260; e-mail cobnews@brethren.org

**April 26-29**

Sojourners: Mobilization to End Poverty, Washington. Contact: Jason Gedeik at 800-714-7474; e-mail: jgedeik@sojo.net; Web site: www.sojo.net/mobilization

**MAY**

**May 1-12**

Anglican Consultative Council meeting, Kingston, Jamaica. Contact: Anglican Communion Office at 011-44-20-7313-3900; e-mail: aco@anglicancommunion.org

**May 6-8**

Associated Church Press, Indianapolis. Contact: Joe Thoma at 407-341-6615; e-mail: contactacp@aol.com; Web site: www.theacp.org

Evangelical Press Association: Indianapolis. Contact: Doug Trouten at 763-535-4793; e-mail: director@epassoc.org; Web site: www.epassoc.org

**May 7**

National Day of Prayer

National Day of Reason, observance designed as an alternative to the National Day of Prayer, co-sponsored by the American Humanist Association. Contact: Roy Speckhardt at 202-238-9088; Web site: www.nationaldayofreason.org

**May 11**

Lag B'Omer (Jewish day of celebration, marking the cessation of a second-century plague that killed 20,000 disciples of Talmud scholar Rabbi Akiva; begins at sundown. Day also marks the death of Jewish mystic Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai.)

**May 17**

Orthodox Union: annual dinner of Orthodox Jews, New York. Contact: Stephen Steiner at 212-613-8318; e-mail: steiners@ou.org

**May 17-19**

National Council of Churches: Executive Committee and Governing Board meetings, Elgin, Ill. Contact: Philip E. Jenks at 212-870-2228; e-mail: pjenks@nccusa.org

**May 21**

Ascension of Christ (Christian)

Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA): meeting, St. Augustine, Fla. Contact: The Rev. Mark Arey at 212-570-3593; e-mail: frarey@scoba.us; Web site: www.scoba.us

**May 22**

Declaration of the Bab (Bahá'í commemoration of announcement by co-founder of the faith that he was the herald of a new messenger of God; begins at sundown)

**May 26-30**

Venice Summer School on Science and Religion: "Evolution and Human Uniqueness," Venice, Italy. Contact: Jill Jones at 208-467-8016; e-mail: jdjones@nnu.edu; Web site: www.vssr.info

**May 27-30**

National Association for Lay Ministry (Catholic): annual conference, St. Paul, Minn. Contact: Christopher Anderson at 202-291-4100.

**May 28**

Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í commemoration of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith; begins at sundown)

Ascension of Christ (Orthodox Christian)

Shavuot (Jewish celebration of the giving of the Torah to Moses at Mount Sinai; begins at sundown)

**May 31**

Pentecost (Christian)

Global Day of Prayer, observed worldwide. Contact: Dave Butts at 812-238-5504; e-mail: info@gdopusa.com; Web site: www.gdopusa.com

**JUNE**

**June 4-7**

Catholic Theological Society of America: annual convention, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Contact: Terrence W. Tilley at 718-817-3240; e-mail: ttilley@fordham.edu; Web site: www.ctsa-online.org

**June 4-9**

Reformed Church in America: general synod, Holland, Mich. Contact: Paul Boice at 616-698-7071, ext. 255; e-mail: pboice@rca.org; Web site: www.rca.org

**June 6**

*Tricycle* magazine: Change Your Mind Day, observed by Buddhists worldwide. Contact: Philip Ryan at 212-645-1143; e-mail: cym@tricycle.com; Web site: www.tricycle.com

**June 7**

Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)

**June 7-9**

Catholic Health Association: annual convention, New Orleans. Contact: Fred Caesar at 202-721-6321; e-mail: fcaesar@chausa.org

**June 11-13**

Presbyterian Church (USA): first meeting of all 10 church agencies, Atlanta. Contact: Susan Lindsey at 502-569-5060.

**June 14**

All Saints' Day (Orthodox Christian)

**June 14-16**

Bread for the World: biennial gathering, Washington. Contact: Shawnda Hines at 301-960-4913; e-mail: shines@bread.org; Web site: www.bread.org

**June 16-19**

Presbyterian Church in America: General Assembly, Orlando, Fla. Contact: Sherry Eschenberg at 678-825-1000; e-mail: events@pcanet.org; Web site: www.pcanet.org

**June 17-19**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: Spring Assembly, San Antonio. Contact: Sister Mary Ann Walsh at 202-541-3200.

Esperanza: National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast and Conference, Washington. Contact: Jose Lastra at 215-324-0746, ext. 254; e-mail: press@esperanza.us; Web site: www.esperanza.us

**June 21-26**

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities: Rome seminar, Rome. Contact: Michael Galligan-Stierle at 202-457-0650, ext. 222; e-mail: mgs@accunet.org

**June 23-24**

Southern Baptist Convention: annual meeting, Louisville, Ky. Contact: Roger Oldham at 615-782-8610; e-mail: soldham@sbc.net; Web site: www.sbc.net

**June 24-July 3**

Church of the Nazarene: General Assembly and conventions, Orlando, Fla. Contact: Diane Miller at 913-577-0613; e-mail: dmiller@nazarene.org; Web site: www.nazarene.org

**June 25-28**

North American Interfaith Network: "Experiencing the Spirit in Education: The Challenge of Religious Pluralism" conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Peter Laurence at PeterLL@concentric.net; Web site: www.nain.org

**June 26-30**

Church of the Brethren: annual conference, San Diego, Calif. Contact: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford at 800-323-8039, ext. 260; e-mail: cobnews@brethren.org

**June 29-30**

African Methodist Episcopal Church: General Board and Council of Bishops meetings, New Orleans. Contact: Rev. Clement Fugh at 615-254-0911; e-mail: cio@ame-church.com; Web site: www.ame-church.com

# JULY

**July 2-3**

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: General Assembly, Houston. Contact: Lance Wallace at 770-220-1641; lwallace@thefellowship.info; Web site: www.thefellowship.info/assembly

**July 3-6**

Islamic Society of North America: annual convention, Washington. Contact: Basharat Saleem at 317-839-8157; e-mail: bsaleem@isna.net; Web site: www.isna.net

**July 8**

Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the martyrdom of the forerunner of the founder Bahá'u'lláh; begins at sundown)

**July 8-17**

Episcopal Church: General Convention, Anaheim, Calif. Contact: Neva Rae Fox at 212-716-6080; e-mail: nrfox@episcopalchurch.org

**July 12-15**

International Christian Retail Show, Denver. Contact: 800-252-1950; Web site: www.cbaonline.org

**July 19**

Lailat al Miraj (Muslim holiday commemorating prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension into heaven; begins at sundown. Actual start date may vary depending on sighting of the moon.)

**July 19-26**

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America: annual convention, Palm Desert, Calif. Contact: The Rev. George Kevorkian at 201-871-1355; e-mail: editor@antiochian.org; Web site: www.archdioceseconvention2009.org

**July 20-22**

Christians United for Israel: Washington/Israel Summit, Washington. Contact: Ari Morgenstern at 404-898-1278; e-mail: ari@30point.com; Web site: www.cufi.org

**July 20-24**

Children's Defense Fund: Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, Clinton, Tenn. Contact: Matt Rosen at 202-662-3555; e-mail: mrosen@childrensdefense.org; Web site: www.childrensdefense.org/proctor

**July 21-24**

Pentecostal Churches of Christ: Holy Convocation, Cleveland. Contact: Bishop Benjamin Douglass at 216-721-5554.

**July 24-26**

Christians for Biblical Equality: annual conference, St. Louis. Contact: Rachel Finsaas at 612-872-6898; e-mail: rfinsaas@cbeinternational.org; Web site: www.cbeinternational.org

**July 27-August 1**

Baptist World Alliance: annual gathering, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement, Ede, Netherlands. Contact: Eron Henry at 703-790-8980; e-mail: ehenny@bwanet.org; Web site: www.bwanet.org

**July 29**

Tisha B'Av (Jewish commemoration of the destruction of the two Jerusalem Temples; begins at sundown)

## AUGUST

**August 4-7**

Assemblies of God: General Council, Orlando, Fla. Contact: Julieen Turnage at 417-862-2781; Web site: [http://ag.org/top/Events/General\\_Council\\_2009/index.cfm](http://ag.org/top/Events/General_Council_2009/index.cfm)

**August 5**

Raksha Bandan  
(Hindu holiday in which brothers and sisters pledge prayers for and protection of each other. Actual start date many vary depending on the moment of sunrise.)

**August 6-7**

Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research: annual conference of organization that answers criticisms of Mormon doctrine, Sandy, Utah. Contact: Scott Gordon at 530-356-2070; e-mail: [president@fairlds.org](mailto:president@fairlds.org); Web site: [www.fairlds.org](http://www.fairlds.org)

**August 11-14**

Annual Assembly of Leadership Council of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, New Orleans. Contact: Sister Annmarie Sanders at 301-588-4955; e-mail: [asanders@lcwr.org](mailto:asanders@lcwr.org); Web site: [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org)

**August 14**

Krishna Janmashtami  
(Hindu holiday marking birth of Lord Krishna. Actual start date may vary depending on moment of sunrise.)

**August 16-17**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Conference of Bishops, Chicago. Contact: John Brooks at 773-380-2958; e-mail: [jbrooks@elca.org](mailto:jbrooks@elca.org); Web site: [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news)

**August 17-23**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Churchwide Assembly, Minneapolis. Contact: John Brooks at 773-380-2958; e-mail: [jbrooks@elca.org](mailto:jbrooks@elca.org); Web site: [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news)

**August 21**

Ramadan begins  
(Muslim month of fasting from sunrise to sundown. Actual start date may vary depending on sighting of the moon.)

**August 23**

Ganesha Chaturthi  
(Hindu holiday marking the birth of Ganesha)

## SEPTEMBER

**September 7-11**

National Baptist Convention, USA: annual session. Contact: Lavonia Washington at 215-474-1738; e-mail: [president@nationalbaptist.com](mailto:president@nationalbaptist.com); Web site: [www.nationalbaptist.com](http://www.nationalbaptist.com)

**September 10-13**

Religion Newswriters Association: annual conference, Minneapolis. Contact: Tiffany McCallen at 614-891-9001; e-mail: [mccallen@rna.org](mailto:mccallen@rna.org); Web site: [www.rna.org](http://www.rna.org)

**September 16**

Lailat al Qadr  
(Anniversary of the night Muslims believe the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad. Actual start date may vary depending on the sighting of the moon.)

**September 18**

Rosh Hashana  
(Jewish New Year; two days; begins at sundown)

**September 18-20**

Family Research Council: Values Voter Summit, Washington. Contact: J.P. Duffy at 202-637-4679; e-mail: [jpd@frc.org](mailto:jpd@frc.org); Web site: [www.valuesvotersummit.org](http://www.valuesvotersummit.org)

**September 20**

Eid al-Fitr begins  
(Muslim five-day feast that commemorates the end of Ramadan. Actual date may vary depending on sighting of the moon.)

**September 20-22**

National Council of Churches: Executive Committee and Governing Board meetings, New York. Contact: Philip E. Jenks at 212-870-2228; e-mail: [pjenks@nccusa.org](mailto:pjenks@nccusa.org)

**September 23**

See You at the Pole, worldwide annual event of student prayer around school flagpoles coordinated by the National Network of Youth Ministries. Contact: Doug Clark at 858-451-1111; e-mail: [dclark@nny.org](mailto:dclark@nny.org); Web site: [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)

**September 27**

Yom Kippur  
(Jewish Day of Atonement, holiest day of the year marked by fasting; begins at sundown)

**September 28**

Dussehra  
(Hindu festival symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the day when Lord Ram defeated an evil king. Actual start date may vary depending on the moment of sunrise.)

## OCTOBER

**October 1-6**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Conference of Bishops, Chicago. Contact: John Brooks at 773-380-2958; e-mail: [jbrooks@elca.org](mailto:jbrooks@elca.org); Web site: [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news)

**October 2**

Sukkot  
(Seven-day Jewish feast of the tabernacles; begins at sundown)

**October 3-4**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: semiannual general conference, Salt Lake City. Contact: Kim Farah at 801-240-1977; e-mail: [farahke@ldschurch.org](mailto:farahke@ldschurch.org); Web site: [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)

**October 5-8**

Episcopal Church: Executive Council, Memphis, Tenn. Contact: Neva Rae Fox at 212-716-6080; e-mail: [nrfox@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:nrfox@episcopalchurch.org)

**October 8-10**

Fund for Theological Education: "Calling Congregations," future church leadership conference, Atlanta. Contact: Kerry Traubert at 404-727-1170; e-mail: [ktraubert@thefund.org](mailto:ktraubert@thefund.org); Web site: [www.thefund.org](http://www.thefund.org)

**October 10**

Simchat Torah  
(Jewish celebration marking the end of one Torah reading cycle and the beginning of a new one; begins at sundown.)

**October 13-15**

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Ockenga Institute: "Renewing the Evangelical Mission," international symposium on the role of the evangelical theological voice in the public square today, South Hamilton, Mass. Contact: Sarah Baek at 978-646-4145; e-mail: sarahbaek@gcts.edu; Web site: www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/

**October 16-18**

Children's Defense Fund: National Observance of Children's Sabbaths. Contact: Matt Rosen at 202-662-3555; e-mail: mrosen@childrensdefense.org; Web site: www.childrensdefense.org/childrens\_sabbaths

**October 17**

Diwali  
(Hindu celebration of light and, for some Hindus, the Hindu New Year. Actual start date may vary depending on moment of sunrise.)

**October 19**

Birth of the Bab  
(Bahá'í celebration of the birth of the co-founder of the faith; begins at sundown)

**October 25**

Reformation Day (Protestant)

# NOVEMBER

**November 1**

All Saints' Day (Christian)

**November 2**

All Souls' Day (Christian)

Birth of Siri Guru Nanak Sahib  
(Sikh celebration of founder of the faith)

**November 2-9**

Church of God in Christ: Holy Convocation, Memphis, Tenn. Contact: Latrivia Nelson at 901-278-0881; e-mail: dmalone@cmgpr.org; Web site: www.cogic.com

**November 6-8**

Call to Action: annual conference of Catholic justice movement, Milwaukee, Wis. Contact: Nicole Sotelo at 773-404-0004, ext. 285; e-mail: nicole@cta-usa.org; Web site: www.cta-usa.org

Freedom from Religion Foundation: annual conference, Seattle. Contact: Annie Laurie Gaylor at 608-256-8900; e-mail: info@ffrf.org; Web site: www.ffrf.org

**November 7-10**

American Academy of Religion: annual meeting, Montreal. Contact: Susan Snider at 404-727-4725; e-mail: ssnider@aarweb.org; Web site: www.aarweb.org

**November 8**

Open Doors, USA: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Contact: Jerry Dykstra at 616-915-4117; e-mail: jerry@odusa.org; Web site: www.OpenDoorsUSA.org

**November 9-10**

National Council of Churches: Executive Committee and General Board meetings, Minneapolis. Contact: Philip E. Jenks at 212-870-2228; e-mail: pjenks@nccusa.org

**November 10-12**

National Council of Churches: General Assembly, Minneapolis. Contact: Philip E. Jenks at 212-870-2228; e-mail: pjenks@nccusa.org

**November 11**

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh  
(Bahá'í celebration of the birth of the founder of the faith; begins at sundown)

**November 13-17**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in American: Church Council, Chicago. Contact: John Brooks at 773-380-2958; e-mail: jbrooks@elca.org; Web site: www.elca.org/news

**November 16-19**

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: Fall Assembly, Baltimore. Contact: Sister Mary Ann Walsh at 202-541-3200.

**November 18-20**

Evangelical Theological Society, New Orleans. Contact: James Borland at 434-237-5309; e-mail: jaborland@aol.com; Web site: www.etsjets.org

**November 20-24**

Society of Biblical Literature: annual meeting for scholars in biblical, religious and related studies, New Orleans. Contact: Matthew S. Collins at 404-727-3095; e-mail: matthew.collins@sbl-site.org; Web site: www.sbl-site.org

**November 23**

Bread for the World: Release of annual report on hunger, Washington. Contact: Shawnda Hines at 301-960-4913; e-mail: shines@bread.org; Web site: www.bread.org

**November 27**

Eid al-Adha  
(Muslim holiday celebrating the culmination of the hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca. Actual start date may vary depending on the sighting of the moon.)

**November 29**

First Sunday of Advent (Christian; four consecutive Sundays)

# DECEMBER

**December 3-9**

Parliament of the World's Religions, Melbourne, Australia. Contact: Dena Fokas at 312-629-2990, ext. 230; e-mail: dena@parliamentofreligions.org; Web site: www.parliamentofreligions.org

**December 6-10**

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism: biennial convention, Cherry Hill, N.J. Contact: Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein at 212-533-7800; e-mail: info@uscj.org; Web site: www.uscj.org

**December 8**

Bodhi Day  
(Buddhist celebration of the Buddha's attainment of enlightenment)

**December 11**

Hanukkah  
(eight-day Jewish festival of lights; begins at sundown and ends at nightfall on December 18)

**December 18**

Al-Hijra  
(Muslim New Year, celebrated on the first day of the Islamic month of Muharram. Actual start date may vary depending on the sighting of the moon.)

**December 24-27**

Muslim American Society: regional convention, Chicago. Contact: Imam Mahdi Bray at 800-233-1234; e-mail: info@maschicago.org; Web site: www.maschicago.org

**December 25**

Christmas (Christian)

For more information, contact:



1930 18th Street, NW  
Suite B2  
Washington, DC 20009  
202.463.8777  
Fax: 202.463.0033  
[www.religionnews.com](http://www.religionnews.com)  
[www.advance.net](http://www.advance.net)

email: [info@religionnews.com](mailto:info@religionnews.com)

© 2009 Religion News Service, An Advance Publications Company