

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

August 2009—Number 207



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Lutheran Planned Giving

From the Bishop

I have just returned from the *Jesus, Justice, Jazz* in New Orleans where 37,000 ELCA youth brought their faith and life and energy to the city devastated by Katrina four years ago. With Philippians 2:1-8 the biblical centerpiece, the gathering focused upon Jesus as the Servant Leader and each day 12,000 youth ventured into various parts of the city to do acts of service.

People come away from these gatherings with many different experiences and impressions, and whenever 37,000 people gather, there will be those things that go as planned, as well as delightful surprises and a few glitches along the way. My impression from what I personally experienced and from what I heard and saw in the lives of the 700 plus youth from this synod was that this gathering was a huge success. As one young man from one of our churches said, "This was far more than I expected!"

The City of New Orleans was grateful and impressed and moved by the commitment of the Lutherans. The *Times-Picayune* editorialized about the "Gathering with a Purpose,"

Countless volunteers have helped rebuild metro New Orleans -- and for that we will be forever grateful. But few of us have witnessed a community service effort like the one included in the Evangelical Lutheran Church's 2009 Youth Gathering....

In newspaper articles and live television coverage, the pictures and stories of youth working and serving in the New Orleans community brought joy and gladness to a city that has known suffering and heartache these past four years. This was a witness to the faith showing itself in servant deeds.

The other impression I received is the personal faith transformation that occurs in the lives of young people. A youth counselor from this synod said several of his youth had thought more deeply about their faith and were genuinely moved by the witness of others in song and speech and action. They were reading the Scriptures and hearing with fresh ears the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Following the evening gathering in the Superdome and an all day servant event, the counselor said, "Our youth were in conversation late into the night, and some of them were thinking again about their priorities in life." Thanks be to God for all these adult sponsors who serve our youth and make their own sacrifices to be part of this ministry!

Two and a half years of planning go into one of these events. Over 2,000 volunteers are needed for the coordination and administration and support. Is it worth all the effort? Ask the youth I was around, as well as their adult counselors, and ask the City of New Orleans, and you will get a resounding YES.

And in this endeavor the ELCA and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are working together. The LC-MS Youth Gathering will be in New Orleans in 2010 and also focused on Servant Events.

And a final highlight. On Thursday evening we held a reception for the synod youth and several hundred were in attendance. One of the things we needed to do was elect a female youth to serve on the Synod Council. In times past we have



Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt

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had enormous difficulty finding youth to serve. But the Spirit was moving—in the Gathering and in Cari Nelson, the retiring youth Council member. We were astounded when 15 young ladies were nominated and agreed to serve if elected. Now we must elect one, knowing that everyone one of them would bring great gifts to the Synod Council. But the evening demonstrated to me the abundance of gifts God has given this synod.

Raising up leaders of all ages for the Church is one of our missional directions. The New Orleans Youth Gathering showed me God has provided an abundance of gifts if we will but open our eyes and hearts to the gifts around us and the Spirit at work. ✕

We Remember in Prayer

Pr. Aaron Albrecht (ghostly32002@yahoo.com) and his family during this time of transition from Japan to the United States, that they may find connections and community;

Pr. Russ Saltzman (Ruskin Heights, Kansas City, russell.e.saltzman@gmail.com) and his family, particularly daughter Elizabeth Coke, at the early birth of his grandson in Hawaii, entering the world at 2lbs, 2oz;

Pr. Melba Smith (Prairie Valley Parish, central KS, mesmith@bluevalley.net) who broke her leg;

Pr. Norma Vander Meer (Christ the King, St. Peters MO - njvdmeer@yahoo.com), also recuperating from a broken leg;

PMA and TEEM candidate Dinah Dutta (dinahdutta@gmail.com) and her husband Apurba (currently visiting in India) at the diagnosis for Dinah of very early stage breast cancer;

Jayme Rothweiler, spouse of Pr. Don Rothweiler (Our Savior, Camdenton MO -- donrothweiler@yahoo.com) as she continues the process of knee replacement surgery and is now recovering from infection;

Rev. Verner Strand (Retired, Prairie Village KS) as he undergoes tests at Shawnee Mission Medical Center;

Pr. Natacha Kemp (Good Shepherd, Wichita KS nkemp001@luthersem.edu) at the death of her grandmother in Alabama. Natacha is also recuperating from surgery on her foot due to a severe infection;

Anita Mansholt (acmansholt@kc.rr.com) at the death of her aunt, Donna Meyerhoff, in Palmer KS on July 8;

Lord, in your mercy ...

Pr. Jody Rice (jjrice2002@yahoo.com) and the people of St. Paul's in Cole Camp MO following her installation on July 5;

We celebrate with Mindy Tillberg, AIM (Immanuel, Salina -- mindy@immanuel.salina.org) at the birth of Tyler Nels Tillberg (10lbs 10oz) who was born July 20. Mindy, Alan, Jake and Tyler Tillberg are all doing well. We also keep Mindy and family in prayer following the death of her grandmother, July 13;

Pr. Katharine Redpath (kathy.redpath@gmail.com), ordained July 12 in Texas. Pr. Redpath will be serving Evangelical Lutheran, Mankato KS;

Pr. Jennifer Renema (jrenema@lstc.edu), who was installed at Trinity, Lawrence KS on July 19;

For God's good and amazing grace, we lift our prayers of thanksgiving ...

To receive prayers throughout the month by email and/or be added to the prayer list, please email Janice Kibler at jkibler@css-elca.org.

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Making Christ Known

A publication of the Central States Synod

Published monthly by the Central States Synod, ELCA. Deadline for submission of materials is the 15th of the month for the subsequent issue. News may be directed to Dan Glamann, Central States Synod, 21 N. 12th St., Ste. 210, Kansas City, KS 66102.

Email: dglamann@css-elca.org.

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BY MS AUBREY STREIT, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Total giving to Bethany tops \$3 million for second year

Thanks to the support of alumni and friends, Bethany College raised over \$3 million in total gifts for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

This is the second consecutive year the college has met the \$3 million mark. The past two years are the highest gift totals on record for the college in non-campaign years, and represent the second and third largest giving years in Bethany's history. This is also the first time in the college's history that Bethany has raised over \$6 million over two years.

"Despite the current economic downturn, Bethany's resources and community continue to grow. We are grateful for the faith our alumni and friends have in Bethany, for their gifts and support, and for their partnership in moving Bethany a step closer to attaining our vision of soaring bigger, better, and stronger," said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III. "Many colleges are struggling to secure gifts to make dreams a reality. This year clearly demonstrates that our alumni and friends believe in what we are doing and are investing in Bethany's renaissance."

The \$3,206,405 in total gift income for 2008-2009 is up from last year's total gift income of \$3,058,667. This year's total gift income includes \$961,989 to the Bethany annual fund (a modest 1.8% increase over last year's annual fund gifts); \$276,917 to Bethany's endowment; \$1,541,199 restricted to projects; and \$255,431 in undesignated estates.

Monies in the unrestricted annual fund are used for general budget expenses, including faculty and staff salaries,

Church Resource Center news!

BY REV. CYNTHIA SCHNAATH

Book of Faith materials

We have copies of much of the Book of Faith curriculum from Augsburg Fortress, and we also have materials from SELECT:

- *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible* – by Mark Allan Powell
- *Introduction to the Old Testament* – by Ralph Klein and Katheryn Schifferdecker
- *Introduction to the New Testament* – by Rich Carlson, Sarah Henrich and Ray Pickett

FED and FORGIVEN

This a new resource from Augsburg Fortress for First Communion, but it covers more, in that it has resources for Pre-school to Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, and Adults. It is a flexible approach to acknowledge full participation in Holy Communion. A set is in the resource center for you to preview.

CHURCH RESOURCE CENTER

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Kansas City, MO 64109
Phone: 816-923-5486

Web: www.churchresourcecenter.org
Email: resource@heartlandpby.org

physical-plant operation, and learning resources such as computers and classroom teaching tools. Endowment gifts help provide permanent support of overall operational expenses as well as specific departments and programs.

Restricted annual fund gifts are earmarked and set aside for specific projects or needs. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, restricted annual fund gifts included \$586,734 to the Bethany Athletic Association and new artificial turf Lindstrom Field and \$407,770 to the planned Pearson Chapel & Welcome Center. So far, Bethany has raised \$691,440 in gifts and pledges to meet the \$1 million challenge grant for the project, given by the late Gerald "Bud" Pearson.

Bethany launches redesigned Web site

Bethany College is proud to announce the launch of its redesigned Web site, www.bethanylb.edu.

Integrated Media Group (IMG), Wichita, Kan., designed and built the site. The site features an updated look, consistent with the rest of the college's brand imagery, and new content to showcase Bethany's unique ability to help students find their sense of direction and create a path to success.

IMG is owned by Jason Opat, a 1993 Bethany graduate. Opat donated his design team's work to the college.

"In addition to the new design and content, the site's streamlined navigation will make it easier for prospective students to learn about Bethany, understand our mission and values, and complete the admissions process," said Tricia Hawk, dean of recruitment and marketing. "Current students, staff, and faculty have responded positively, and we believe the redesign will also make Bethany's Web site more hospitable to parents, alumni, friends, and visitors."

Come and Celebrate 50 Years of Seminary Education and Leadership for the Church

Saint Paul School of Theology will celebrate 50 years of seminary education at its Kansas City location on September 28 and 29, 2009.

The 50th Anniversary will be a time to commemorate the seminary's tradition and history, reunite with graduates and friends, look to the future, and share the story of Saint Paul with the larger Kansas City Community.

Will we see *you* there? Join in the celebration! Register on-line at www.spst.edu or call Leigh Precise at 816-245-4819.



Excerpts from ...

KEEPING IN TOUCH...a newsletter for Lutheran Leaders

World population is aging at unprecedented rates. The number of people worldwide aged 65 and older was estimated at 506 million as of midyear 2008. By 2040, that number will hit 1.3 billion, according to a new report from the U.S. Census Bureau. In just over 30 years, the proportion of older people will double from 7 percent to 14 percent of the total world population. *An Aging World: 2008* examines the demographic and socioeconomic trends accompanying this phenomenon.

ALOA and Call, Inc. have partnered to launch "Live BOLDLY!" —workshops for seniors in transition. Pilot workshops are scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at Christ LC in Georgetown, TX, and Nov. 6-7 in Richmond, VA, hosted by the Virginia Synod, ELCA. Facilitators for the pilot programs—and designers of the workshop and related materials—are Rev. Wendy Berthelsen and Steve Harr, who with their spouses are also the principals of Call, Inc. Watch for more information on this project designed to help older adults discern God's will for them in the next phase of their lives.

National Family Caregivers Month will be observed in November. Sponsored by the National Family Caregivers Association, the celebration is designed to thank, support, educate, and empower family caregivers. The 2009 theme is "Speak Up"—to encourage family caregivers to speak up for their rights in multiple ways. NCOA offers resources to enhance organizational observances (<http://waystohelp.ncoa.org>.)

For more information visit: ALOA.serves.org

SAVE THE DATE

Bishop's Convocation
*Shaping the Church for
God's Mission*

November 3-5, 2009
Osage Beach, Mo.

Presenters: ELCA Presiding
Bishop, Mark Hanson;
Rev. Dr. David Lose

Bethany Home Highlighted

BY PATRICIA RORABACK, BETHANY HOME

Bethany Home Association in Lindsborg was highlighted for their safe footwear program in a promotional flyer from Shoes for Crews, a slip-resistant work shoe company located in West Palm Beach, Fla. Lorraine Lawson, Safety Compliance Officer at Bethany, was quoted in the flyer and reported they have not experienced a lost time slip/fall since implementing their safe footwear program in 2000.

Remember This Date

Bethany Home's 21st Annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday evening, August 9 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. It is free to the public. This is Bethany Home's gift to families and friends, as well as to the community of Lindsborg, for all the support she receives from them.

Medicare Skilled Services at Bethany Home

Bethany Home has entered into a contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to begin providing medicare-covered Part A and Part B services.

Bethany Home residents or other community members who have a qualifying hospital stay may be eligible to receive Medicare coverage for skilled nursing care, including wound care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, as well as other services. Bethany Home has provided many of these types of services for several years, but is now providing Medicare-eligible services and extending the services to the community members in the Smoky Valley.

Mark your calendars for:

Shattering the Holy Hush

The Church's Response to Domestic Abuse

October 1, 2009 — 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Trinity Presbyterian, Columbia, Mo.

There is no place like home; when abuse strikes, there is no home. Religious congregations, their leaders and members can help women address the spiritual questions that surface when abuse impacts their relationships at home. The language of the spirit speaks of healing and of connecting with God and with sisters and brothers in God's family. When the resources of the community are brought together with resources of the spiritual world, believers who have suffered abuse are given strength and support to combat even the greatest of fears. Christian women need to hear that abuse is always wrong, never part of God's design for healthy family living.

Registration materials will be out soon. Questions? Contact Krystal Jacobs at krystalmsr@earthlink.net.

2009 Mid-Central Region APCE Event

A CONFERENCE FOR ALL PERSONS SERVING IN EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

OASIS

October 18-20, 2009
The Elms Resort and Spa
and
Barbee Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Event registration fees: \$159 early bird registration before August 18, 2009.

For more information contact: Malinda Spencer, Church Resource Center, email education@heartlandpby.org or call 816-923-5486. For an informational brochure visit www.css-elca.org/workshops.html.

Multiple Staff Workshop

September 14-16, 2009 — Adrian, Michigan

Team ministry in the church is here to stay! More than 35% of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are served by more than one pastor and this figure doesn't include the many more congregations which have an Associate in Ministry, a Diaconal Minister or a Deaconess on the staff of the congregation. This means that between one third and one half of the membership of the ELCA belongs to a congregation where there is a multiple staff serving together in ministry.

There is no "one way" to do team ministry. The best way is what works for you and the staff of the workshop will help you identify and implement it. It is important for those who are participants in the workshop that all the significant members of the team are present and that they participate in all the modules.

This workshop is sponsored by the Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. For additional information and registration form please visit: www.css-elca.org/workshops.html. Deadline for registration is Aug. 28, 2009.



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Mission Investment Fund loans

Low rates that come with a higher purpose

A Mission Investment Fund loan offers more than just a competitive interest rate. It's backed by decades of hands-on experience in church-related building projects. As a ministry of the ELCA, we understand the specific building needs and goals of congregations and ELCA-related ministries, and we offer unique benefits to borrowers:

- Specialized church-building expertise
- Competitive rates with low or no fees
- Comprehensive, professional building-consultation services at no charge

With a range of options, we have a loan that can help meet your ministry's goals. For example, our Long-Term Loan provides financing for initial building construction, renovations and repairs, and other capital improvements. The minimum loan amount is \$100,000. And we offer a choice of an attractive adjustable or fixed rate.

6.0% APR
MIF Long-Term Loan
Adjustable Rate

Up to 25-year term, with rate adjusted each five years.

6.625% APR
MIF Long-Term Loan
Fixed Rate

10-year maximum term.

Rates in effect as of July 1, 2009. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) subject to change without notice.

Whether it's our Long-Term Loan or any other, there are no origination fees or appraisal fees (for loans under \$2.5 million).

For more information, visit elca.org/mif or contact Paula Kitt, MIF Marketing Representative for this synod, 773.682.2738, paula.kitt@elca.org.

What can we do for the hungry?

BY REV. JOHN SCHROEPEL,
AREA MINISTRY 5 ADVOCATE FOR THE HUNGRY

It's a tough year for most people. Most have less money than last year, some much less, and taxes on most things are going up. It seems that most of us, governments included, have been spending beyond our means. We thought things would stay the same or get better. Instead we find ourselves in a recession but with predictions that we are coming out of it. How are we going to manage all of this?

It seems that we have to strictly examine our Christian principle of stewardship. Is this item something we need or something we just want? What can we share? Schools, churches and families are all going to have to teach stewardship, budgeting, wise spending and good business practices to all.

We are told, and I believe, that there is enough food in the world for all people. Somehow it has to be shared and gotten to the people who need it. I agree with President Obama that if Africa would quit fighting they could produce enough food for all of their people. Somewhat idealistic but a wonderful thought. Violence of all sorts takes a huge toll of the world's resources that could be used for food and other good things.

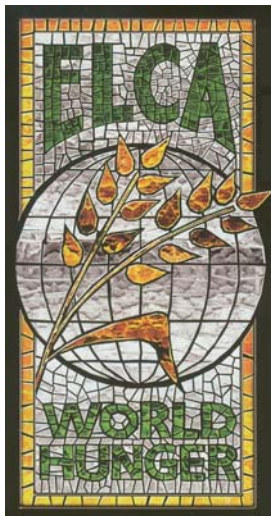
Lutheran World Relief (ELCA and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod) tells us that there are a number of prolonged droughts in countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Sudan depleting the food reserves, and countries such as Tanzania and others are counted on in such situations for reserve food.

In our country there are a lot more gardens this year and people are sharing garden produce. It may be that lawns will have to be used for gardens. I've seen much of that in other countries. I started planting fruit trees in the back yard.

But we really have to ask ourselves if we are spending our money on something we really need or something we really don't need. In this way hopefully we will have all of our accounts in order with something left over to share.

It should be a right for everyone in the world to have food. There has got to be an answer and the answer is probably to be found within the heart of EVERY single person. Governments have little to give and so it is left to Christians and all people of good will. The world needs to measure its ethics and expenditures knowing people are starving to death in our world.

In *Praise and Thanksgiving*, we sing "Where all obey you, No one will hunger."



Festival of Sharing Quilt Festivals

Each year the Festival of Sharing auctions off hand made quilts for Church World Service Blankets+ program. This favored part of the day's activities for many.

The funds raised from the auction are used to provide blankets people displaced by natural disasters such as hurricane Gustav. In Keene, Texas, 8,000 lightweight CWS blankets and 75 heavy weight CWS blankets were provided. Thousands more blankets around the world for refugees from political turmoil and natural disasters. The plus of the Blankets+ program provides education or housing or tools. CWS is helping to rebuild lives and create livelihood opportunities by working with local partner agencies in areas of need around the world. The + can provide tools for someone completing trade school for welding, carpentry, masonry, plumbing and electrical work. Trainees receive a tool kit appropriate to their area of study when they complete training. The training might also be in agriculture related fields to grow food for the community. Blankets+ may help a family that has a small plot of land to build a home.

You can support this program by sending a quilt to the Festival of Sharing office by September 15th to be included in the Quilt Auction. Or you can attend the auction on October 17th at the Festival of Sharing in Sedalia and bid for a quilt. You can see some of the beautiful quilts that have already been donated by going to the Festival of Sharing webpage on the Office of Creative ministries website (www.umocm.com/festival.htm). We highlight a quilt of the week. You can see a picture of the quilt and see information on who made it and size. Quilt Festivals are being scheduled for the fall around the state where you can also get a sneak peek. For additional information on the Festival of Sharing you can contact Terri Williams, Festival of Sharing Coordinator/ Associate Director at 573-474-3332 or festival@umocm.com



One of the many quilts that will be auctioned off Oct. 17 at the Festival of Sharing in Sedalia, Mo.

See more quilts at www.umocm.com/festival.htm

Mentoring Church Leaders

Thursday, September 10, 2009
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)
Rockbridge Christian Church
301 W Green Meadow Rd.
Columbia, Mo.

The Mentoring Church Leaders event is a practical introduction to the art and practice of mentoring church leaders. By the end of the event, participants will be able to:

Understand the difference between apprenticeship, mentoring and coaching and be able to articulate how to effectively combine the three practices;

- Understand the appropriate use of accountability when mentoring church leaders;
- Develop of choose coaching questions that affect behaviors;
- Use the M² mentoring tools to facilitate continuity between appointments;
- Help Church leaders develop and take responsibility for their own SMART goals;
- Know how to evaluate the effectiveness of mentoring relationships;
- Know when to terminate the mentoring relationship.

Dr. Bill Tenny-Brittian, consultant, coach, pastor, church planter, and author of numerous articles, books, and blogs on (among other topics) spirituality and prayer, evangelism, small groups, and raising disciples who live out their faith, Bill partners with Bill Easum as a Senior Consultant and Coach in 21st Century Strategies. Bill is also the Managing Editor of Net Results.

To register online visit <http://msrcrm.vinehosting.com/courseevents/continuing-ed/mentoring-church-leaders/>

Questions? Contact Krystal Jacobs, 573-635-1187 or email: krystalmsr@earthlink.net

What's UP with Campus Ministry?

THIS MONTH BY REV. KEVIN CLARK, KANSAS STATE



What can we do to help our students stay spiritually connected while at college?

I saw the pain in the mother's face as her son ignored her urging and refused to sign the e-mail list at the Lutheran Campus Ministry display table. Hers was not the only concerned face I saw during the three weeks I spent telling folks about LCM during New Student Orientation at K-State. Parents and Grandparents, Pastors, Youth Directors, and Sunday School Teachers know only too well that once a student leaves for college, now more than ever, they will make their own choices about God, Faith and Religion.

Summer in campus ministry can be a strange swirl of activities. Conferences, Conventions, New Student Orientation Activities at the University, and Vacation time are intermingled with a few unusually quiet days in the office. As I sit at my desk on one of these days, my eyes are drawn to a small stack of student referrals gathered at the Synod Assembly in June. Some have phone numbers or e-mail addresses, others have only a name. Of course we can usually find a phone number or e-mail address in the Campus Phone Book or on the internet. Still, I find myself reflecting on what a tiny connection I have right now with that top student in the stack—just a name!

Thinking back to New Student Orientation, I remember all those good conversations I had with students and parents at the LCM display table. How much better to know not only a name, but a face and a family as well, and to have had (albeit brief) a real conversation! I know that some of those faces I will never see again, but some I will; and they will come because their connection with LCM is more than just a name!

I covet that first time they will come through the door at Luther House! A study of churches once showed that people who actually come through the door of a church for any reason are 10 times more likely to return for worship. I am sure the same holds true for Campus Ministry, so I am thinking of ways to get new students and potential new students to walk through the Luther House doors—for any reason!

Cleaning house is also a good activity on one of those few quiet summer days in the office. I stumble across a letter dated 1968, and discover that Don Fallon, who was the Lutheran Campus Pastor in those days, had asked congregations to have their student bring a letter of introduction from their home congregation to the Luther House—IN PERSON. Of course the letter could easily have been mailed. That sly old fox, I think, Pastor Don knew even before the study how important it was to get students in the door that first time!

Parents and congregations know only too well, when it comes to young people, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." But I say, "You may not be able to make them drink, but you can still lead horses to water!"

Let's think together about ways to build connections between individual students and LCM. How about bringing your High School Youth Group to visit a Lutheran Campus Ministry site? How about inviting an LCM pastor to visit your congregation? How about sending your college-bound students to campus with a package, an envelope, or a check to be delivered in person to the LCM ministry site or to a local congregation? Or how about referring a student—send us their e

(Continued on page 9)

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

BY NORM SMITH, LMM

Lutheran Men in Mission's (LMMs) Vision: *For every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation.*

Men's Retreats

We are currently beginning the planning process for a men's retreat in the Central States Synod. I have talked to several men about the retreat and we are currently considering the time frame and the location of the retreat(s). I believe that the retreat will be from Friday evening to Saturday evening, but that is not locked yet.

I would like to hear from you if you are interested in attending a men's retreat locally this fall or early winter, let me know your availability, and where you live so that we can begin the planning process.

One Year To Live (OYTL) Men's Retreats

Two OYTL retreats have been held so far this year, one in Nebraska and one in Colorado with three more currently scheduled for this fall. Both of the retreats that were held earlier this year were at or near capacity with both making an exciting difference for the men who attended. We now anticipate that the OYTL retreats will continue to spread across the country and will be dependent only on staffing availability. The next three OYTL retreats are scheduled:

October 2 – 4	Greater Denver Area
October 15-18	(On the North/South Carolina border)
November 13-15	Camp Edwards near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

If you have four or more men from your congregation or area who are interested in attending any of these retreats please notify me as soon as you can so that I can send you additional information on the retreats and we can reserve a space for you at the retreat.

Mentoring

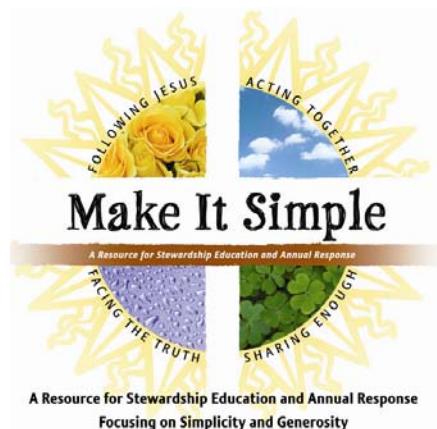
I have not had very much response to my challenge for mentoring in last month's article. It uses a model call the "I-Go" model, it is simple and easy and you will receive great benefit!

Identify—Invite—Invest

The "I-Go" model is a simple, organic strategy that provides a three-step process for building relationships with young men and women. It is based on the three "I's" of relationship building (identifying, inviting, and investing) and upon the conviction that "*I will go*" and do this. In this model, you don't have to wait to get going. You just go and do it.

If you have begun mentoring in your congregation or are considering it please let me know or if you did not read last month's article on mentoring and are interested please let me know also and I will send you information on it.

Please contact me on any of the subjects discussed above or any other Men's Ministry subjects that you may be interested in. Also if you are interested in becoming involved in LMM/men's ministry, or would like additional information on any of the events or activities, please contact me, Norm Smith at normanlsmith@earthlink.net or 913-706-0291. Also please visit the LMM website for updated information at www.lutheranmen.org.



Make It Simple, a resource for stewardship education and annual response is available for use in your congregation this year. Copies are for sale through the synod office. Contact Rev. Cynthia Schnaath, cschnaath@css-elca.org. New this year, your church is making it available for you free via the web. Check out www.elca.org/makeitsimple

Financial counseling resource

The Board Of Pensions and the Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) are offering our members, current and retired and their households a valuable service — *LSS Financial Choice*.

LSS-Financial Counseling Service provides a range of services to help in these financially stressed times. It offers four FREE sessions that are confidential and with a certified consumer credit counselor. The number to reach them is 1-800-528-2926.

This is for ALL members and families, and is resourced by LSS of Minnesota.

(Continued from page 7)

-mail address or phone number, whatever information you have. Even if it's just a name, it's something! It may be a tiny connection. It may seem insignificant, but we know how God can use small and insignificant seeming things to bring even miracles into being in the lives of God's children!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kevin Clark

Lutheran Campus Ministry Contact Information:

Kansas State University
Lutheran Campus Ministry
1745 Anderson
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-539-4451
e-mail therevkev@att.net
<http://www.k-state.edu/lcm-elca/>
Pastor Kevin Clark

Kansas University
Lutheran Campus Ministry
18 E. 13th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-3502
785-843-4948
e-mail lutherans@ku.edu
<http://www.kulutherans.org/>
Pastor Shawn Norris

St. Louis University
Washington University in St. Louis
Lutheran Campus Ministry—St. Louis
7019 Forsyth Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105-2120
314.863.8140; fax 314.863.3393
e-mail lcm-stl@sbcglobal.net or
pastor.rebeccab@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.lcmstl.org>
Pastor Rebecca Boardman

Students in Rolla?

If any congregations have college students who will be attending Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) in Rolla, Mo. this coming school year, please let them know that Hope Lutheran, ELCA, is located 1.5 miles north of the I-44 exit 186 in Rolla. Send students' names and contact info to Hope Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 1737, Rolla, MO 65402, or e-mail: wschlumer@socket.net.

Worship services are at 10 a.m. every Sunday.

Central States Women's news

BY IRIS TURNBULL, PRESIDENT



Gift of Grace

Listen to others with love and compassion, reflecting the grace of God.

I arrived home from the 22nd annual convention of the Central States Women of the ELCA late this afternoon, realizing that before I could go to bed this evening there were a few items on my 'to do' list or as some of us learned this weekend, maybe I should call it my 'ta-da' list! Providing an article for this newsletter was foremost on that list. But, I could not resist looking over the evaluation forms from our attendees before I did anything else. One hundred and sixty-seven attendees had the opportunity to let their board know just how they felt and many of them did! As I read the comments, it reminds me of a family discussion around the kitchen table (at our house there would have to be coffee involved)- we all have the same goal in mind, but could have different thoughts in how it should all play out! Please be assured that this board takes all of the suggestions into consideration as plans are getting underway for the 2011 convention to be held July 23-25 in Branson, Mo.



Convention choir director, Jan Malpert, is just one of many who worked together to make our synodical gathering a grace filled experience!

Convention highlights include:

- ◆ More than \$1,700 raised via bowling for Camp Tomah Shinga
- ◆ 1200 pounds of school materials and more than \$500 in monetary donations for *Help Us Learn ... Give Us Hope*
- ◆ Grace filled messages from Lutheran Campus Minister, Rev. Kevin Clark; Linda Davis convention chaplain; Rev. John Kreidler, representing the CSS; and Diane Frederick, of the W of the ELCA Churchwide Board
- ◆ Abounding hospitality by God's Sunflowers Cluster, led by B.J. Smart, with special note of the Friday Fellowship crew and the registration committee
- ◆ Camp themed worship and the more traditional closing communion service by Peace Lutheran, Manhattan
- ◆ Toe tapping rhythm of the Barefoot Dixie Land Band
- ◆ Venues of meditation, storytelling, orphan train history, and ta-da moments through workshops put in place by First Lutheran, Manhattan
- ◆ Elections of president, Iris Turnbull; treasurer, Jewell Swinney; and board members, Susie Borgstrom, Mary Keidle, and Deborah Rupprecht

The elections are over, the offerings counted and the communion ware is packed away until next year! The 22nd annual convention of the Central States Women of the ELCA is part of history, but now the work begins anew!

Call, Iris Turnbull at 785-736-2887 or email at classic@bluevalley.net for further info.

Around the synod . . .

Sept 27 — Save the Date

KAW PRAIRIE BUILDING DEDICATION THIS FALL! Let's be the church together this fall—come celebrate what God's done through the leadership and congregations of the Central States Synod—missionally, ecumenically, and spiritually—in the planting and first building of our 2004 mission start, Kaw Prairie Community Church. Kaw Prairie's bi-denominational building dedication service will be Sunday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. In addition to powerful music (contemporary & hymns both), media, and message, Bishop Mansholt and Heartland Presbytery's Executive Presbyter Charles Spencer will both be there to bring greetings and their inspiring perspectives, as well. Refreshments will be served afterwards, and children are welcome, too—the 2-storey indoor playland will be open after the service for their enjoyment. RSVP with Diane Lee at dianel@kawprairie.org

Director of World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, ELCA to visit Manhattan

Peace Lutheran, Manhattan, Kan. is hosting Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of World Hunger and Disaster Appeal for the ELCA on Sunday, November 15. He will be at the two morning services (8:30 & 11 a.m.) as well as making a presentation during the Education Hour, starting at 9:45 a.m.

All are welcome and invited to help give Rev. Rift a warm Central States (and Manhattan!) welcome. For more information, contact Lindsay Ballowe at lindsay@peace-to-you.org or call 785-539-7371.

FREE Choir Robes

Advent Lutheran, Olathe has 49 blue choir robes in good condition, and in various sizes, that are free for the taking. Interested parties should contact Advent's administrative assistant, Wendy Nieman, to arrange pickup. Call 913-681-2074; Email: wnieman@adventolathe.org

A Communion of Tribes: Congregations and Their Gifts in Ministry With Young Adults

Join Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* to explore how your church can welcome youth and young adults, and celebrate the gifts of all who gather at Christ's table.

When: Saturday, September 12, 2009, 8:30 am to 3 pm

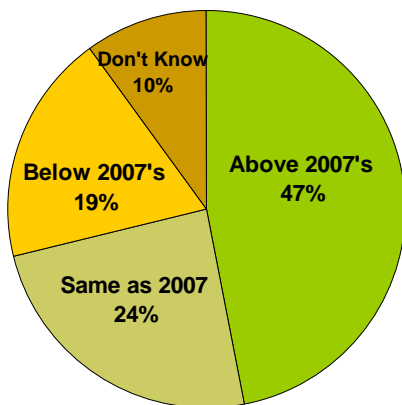
Location: Central United Methodist Church, 5144 Oak Street, KCMO

Registration: \$75 for two people, \$85 for three; includes a copy of the book for each team, continental breakfast and lunch. Congregation teams of two or more urged to attend. Free off-street parking available. [Register here](#) or contact calling@thefund.org

This event is sponsored by The Fund for Theological Education www.thefund.org & Central United Methodist Church, www.centralcares.com

ARE CHURCHES RESPONDING WELL TO RECESSION? ⁵

71% of Protestant churches finished 2008 with offerings at or above 2007's total



Larger churches are more likely to have seen offerings grow in 2007

Attendance	Above '07
1-49	35%
50-99	45%
100-249	51%
250+	56%

Compared to your calendar year 2007 offerings, were your total offerings for 2008...above 2007s or below 2007s or the same as 2007s?



More Workshops, Seminars, Courses

Please be sure to check the synod Web site for additional educational opportunities around the synod and across the country. Visit:

www.css-elca.org/workshops.html

Parishes in the Call Process

- (a) intentional interim/interim
- (b) developing congregational profile
- (c) interview phase
- (d) call pending

Area Ministry 2

Smith Center, American & Athol,
St. John (b)

Area Ministry 3

Lindsborg, Messiah (c)

Area Ministry 4

Manhattan, First—associate (c)

Area Ministry 5

Haysville, Resurrection (a)

Area Ministry 6

Upper Wolfe, Robinson &
Zion, Everest (a)

Area Ministry 7

Kansas City, St. James (b)
Lee's Summit, Martin Luther (b)
Lenexa, Salem (c)
Prairie Village, Faith (c)
Raytown, Blue Ridge Trinity (b)

Area Ministry 9

Cole Camp, Brauersville Immanuel
and Stover, Pyrmont Trinity (a)

Area Ministry 10

Ferguson, Zion (a)
Hazelwood, Good Shepherd (a)
St. Louis, Holy Trinity (a)
Sullivan, Peace (a)



**Hollis
Renewal Center**

Spend some time at Hollis this summer. For info, go to:
www.holliscenter.org or email
holliscenter@kc.rr.com

SYNOD CALENDAR

August

- 13 Interim Pastors' Meeting — Synod Office
- 17-23 ELCA Churchwide Assembly — Minneapolis MN
- 28 Synod Council Executive Com. — Synod Office
- 28-29 Candidacy Retreat
- 31 Staff Retreat — Hollis Renewal Center

September

- 2 PMC — St. Louis
- 7 Synod Office Closed — Labor Day Holiday
- 11-12 Deans & Lay Chair Meeting — Synod Office
- 14 Mission Endowment Fund Meeting — Synod Office
- 19 PMC — Kansas City Cluster at Atonement, OPKS

Upcoming Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) Events

BY SUZANNE BARTLING, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

MLM Night on the Town: Sunday, August 30, 2009 starting at 2 pm. This is a fun, fellowship activity starting with a play suitable for all ages followed by delicious Thai Cuisine. Begin at **The Barn Players** (6219 Martway, Mission, Kan.) to see the play *The Secret Garden*. Then, meet at the **Thai Place** (4130 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, Mo.) for a wonderful Thai Dinner.



Hollis Renewal Center/Metro Lutheran Ministry Golf Benefit: Friday, October 9, 2009 starting at noon at Sunflower Hills Golf Course, 12200 Riverview, Bonner Springs Kan. Come join us for this fun golf event that benefits your two favorite Lutheran not-for-profit agencies, Hollis Renewal Center and Metro Lutheran Ministry.

MLM Youth Servant Event-Saturday, October 17, 2009 — 9 am to 3 pm starting at MLM 3031 Holmes, Kansas City MO. Lutheran youth groups will be painting exteriors of homes (first floor only—no ladders!) and doing yard work for elderly and disabled persons. Each youth group will have their own home to work on during the event. Guidance and training, materials and supplies and lunch will be provided.

MLM Power of Each One-Saturday, November 7 starting at 6 pm at the Starlight Theatre (4600 Starlight Road, KCMO). Come join us for the fun, fellowship event that raises needed funds for MLM's mission and ministry. Evening includes a delicious catered dinner and entertainment under the stars at Starlight Theatre.

MLM Christmas Store: Saturday, December 5 through Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, Mo. The MLM Christmas Store helps 1,000 needy families (about 3,000 individuals) have a merrier Christmas. Each family member receives a donated gift and the whole family receives a blanket, food vouchers, a Bible, and other gifts for the entire family. We need many "Christmas Store elves" to make the Christmas Store possible!

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Suzanne Bartling, MLM Director of Outreach Ministry at 816-931-0027 x240 or suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

Lutheran Planned Giving

Arkansas-Oklahoma & Central States Synod

August 2009

What is a Willing Witness?

Individuals who have arranged for a gift from their estate to go to one or more of the ministries of the ELCA are *Willing Witnesses*. Planned gifts give lasting support to the ministries of the church chosen by the donor.

These planned gifts may take such forms as:

- A bequest of a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the estate
- A primary beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy
- A remainder interest of a retirement plan or IRA
- A "Payable on Death" designation of a savings account or certificate of deposit
- A remainder interest in a charitable life income annuity/trust
- A remainder interest in a revocable living trust
- Other property gifts which will ultimately go wholly or partially to the church

We are the beneficiaries of generous gifts given by parents and others. We celebrate the ministries of our agencies and institutions as they serve the needs of people which we cannot meet as individuals.

To ensure these ministries will remain strong and responsive to the needs that emerge each day, it is our challenge to provide gifts that will have a lasting impact on future generations. We become *Willing Witnesses* by investing in the church a portion of the financial resources with which we have been entrusted to use during life. Through this action, we witness to our faith and support those ministry organizations we care about.

The purpose of Lutheran Planned Giving is to serve you in charitable financial planning for today and for your future. At the same time, LPG wants to help you advance the work of the church in ways that are important and meaningful to you.

Are you a *Willing Witness*? If yes, have you had an opportunity to notify the office of Lutheran Planned Giving so that we may recognize your caring vision. To find out more, please contact Joyce "JP" Palmer for a confidential conversation regarding your planned giving needs and questions.

Lutheran Planned Giving Joyce "JP" Palmer

Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner
9911 N. Hawthorne Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64157
Cell: 816-204-5181
E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com

ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving is a service to ELCA congregations and individuals to help them plan for themselves, loved ones and the work of the Lord, by providing education and consultation in the area of stewardship of accumulated assets.

All services are available without cost or obligation.

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