



# InterActs

GROWING THIS CHURCH TOGETHER

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St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, is the setting for the 2011 Synod Assembly.

## A Community Gathered by Christ: From Stranger to Neighbor

### Anticipating the 2011 Synod Assembly

The 2011 Synod Assembly, scheduled for May 7, is fast approaching and preparations are well underway! If your congregation has not registered or if you wish to attend as a visitor, now is the time to sign up at [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org). The deadline for early bird registration is March 25.



#### Opening Worship

The synod assembly will be held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. Opening worship will be held on Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., at St. Andrew with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson preaching. Come together with other Lutherans to enjoy and participate in choral music from Swahili and gospel traditions and inspiring instrumental music from the Minneapolis Area Synod Senior Band. Bring your family and friends and join us in becoming neighbors through song as we begin our Synod Assembly. All are welcome! Offering received at this worship will go to new mission starts within the Minneapolis Area Synod.

#### Keynote Address

The keynote address will be given by the Rev. Vivian Jenkins Nelson. Jenkins Nelson is the co-founder of INTER-RACE, a diversity think tank located at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, and is nationally recognized as a diversity **Synod Assembly, continued on page 7**



### Seminary of the **STREETS**

March 17, 6-8 p.m.

**Christ English Lutheran Church, Minneapolis**

This month's topic is: "From stranger to neighbor: The issue of race." Race, privilege, entitlement continue to divide the body of Christ. Vivian Jenkins Nelson, a nationally known leader around issues of race, will help us begin to talk and strategize around this important issue. Text is Acts 10.

Register online at [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

# How Social Are You?

by Sara Masters, director of communications

*From Wikipedia: Social Media is the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue.*

For us in the church, social media is another way to reach congregants and potential congregants, to open a dialogue. And it's cheap!

I talked with Pastor Chris Enstad, Elim Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale, who uses social media daily – personally and professionally. In his experience, the church does best when it meets people where they are. “One of the places where folks are gathering is online. They are organizing themselves and talking to each other. They sometimes are discussing deep, spirited issues in these online environments,” says Pastor Chris. He feels it is important and a requirement for us as a church (congregations, synods and churchwide) to have a presence online.

Being online or having a presence could involve many things. Chris has a personal Twitter feed, is on Facebook, his church is on Twitter and Facebook, and it has a website. He does not have separate “Chris” and “Pastor Chris” accounts. He has never come across a time when he needed to separate them. He says, “Being a pastor in the community that you’re serving and where you also live with your family is one of those things where your vocation is intertwined with all the things you do as a family.” He goes on to mention that “Facebook and Twitter are both much more public spheres than I think a lot of people have been used to in the past. I just jumped in to see what would happen and so far so good.”

When Pastor Chris first arrived at Elim Lutheran last summer, two young men in the congregation had already opened social media accounts for Elim. They both have technological backgrounds with marketing experience and they saw this as a way to share their gifts with the congregation. Pastor Chris sees his role as a permission giver. “I want to see how far we can go with volunteers taking the reigns,” he says. He meets monthly with those volunteers and between meetings they coordinate and communicate with each other by email and texting to make sure all their online efforts are staying up-to-date and fresh.

They have now ventured into video. A volunteer brought a video camera to church one Sunday; they are experimenting with uploading sermons on YouTube and linking to them from their website. These ideas/initiatives have come from volunteers, and they are free!

Pastor Chris hopes to try using social media in his sermons. “I would love to have a service where people texted to a stream while I preached. The stream could consist of reactions to what I’m saying and questions.” This could



be a distraction to parishioners, but Chris says, “I think we need to try lots of things to see what works for folks.”

As Chris puts it, “Social media is a lot more democratic than some of the older ways of doing church.” Social media allows introverts and others to engage in the life of the church where in the past they would not have done so. Chris says, “What I have found is that, more likely than not, folks that maybe wouldn’t have come up to you or engage in an idea they may or may not agree with, have a stronger sense that they can respond in an online world rather than face-to-face or over the phone.”

Does your congregation have a Facebook page and/or a Twitter feed? Updating these online tools does not take a lot of time. It takes less time to update a Facebook page than some websites.

Pastor Chris also mentioned that churches should explore a Wordpress blog page to use as a main website. This is a free alternative and is more dynamic than most church websites out there. If you haven’t explored any of these options, “you are missing a huge segment of a) people and b) a way to multiply your ministry by getting the word out,” says Chris.

Chris says, “Yes, there is much talk about too much clutter and not getting your message out to people. The battle for people’s attention will never be won as social media gets more popular and more the norm. So we must ask ourselves how we can have a presence out there with our message in a healthy way.”

For us as a church to be relevant, we must go where the people are. They might not be in church every Sunday, but you can bet the change in the offering plate that they are checking their Facebook page and/or Twitter stream several times a day.

# Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church Supports Community Works Project Receiving CARE Award

Hennepin County's Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works project recently received a Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) award of \$100,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The CARE program aids communities in creating partnerships to reduce toxins in the local community. Hennepin County and community partners will use the grant to launch the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor Environmental Collaboration, which will identify, prioritize and address environmental health risks.

"Investment in transit isn't just about transportation. It's about creating healthy and sustainable communities for residents," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, who represents the area. "This grant will help us design a healthier Hiawatha Corridor and guide us in building it."

Historically, the Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor has served as a rail, highway and utility services corridor, and remains a hub of industrial activity. The collaboration will consider all potential environmental risks along the corridor, including indoor/outdoor air quality, hazardous waste, lead paint, radon, water quality and brownfields. Brownfields are sites whose reuse or redevelopment is hindered by the known or perceived presence of contamination, and are common in industrial areas.

Pastor Dan Ankerfelt, of Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church says, "Our letter of support for the Hennepin Community Works CARE grant means that we can continue to be good stewards of creation and to develop an intentional plan to address our churchwide social statement of Caring for God's Creation. In addition, working together with many community partners will help our church to be a stronger witness within Hennepin County and with a government agency like the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We see this as a new model of collaboration and cooperation within our community that can assist our church in finding a new avenue to be heard and to help create a greater impact for the sake of God's mission to the world."

In the words of Bishop Peter Rogness (*Star Tribune*, Sunday, February 6, 2011), "this model is a form of coming together in a common vision with a common purpose as 'we the people.' Caring for God's creation with others!"

## Book of Faith Jubilee Inspires People To Engage the Bible

The second Book of Faith Jubilee at Luther Seminary, "Inspiring Everyday People to Engage the Bible," builds on the inaugural 2009 event, "Equipping Everyday People to Read the Bible."

From April 29 through May 1, pastors, lay persons and congregational leaders will continue the conversation. The jubilee will be hosted by Luther Seminary in partnership with the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative, Augsburg College and Augsburg Fortress.

Through presentations, conversation and practical takeaways, this conference will inspire and equip congregational leaders to lead their congregations into reading the Bible in engaging new ways.

Four keynote presentations are planned:

- Nadia Bolz-Weber, pastor, House for All Sinners and Saints, Denver, Colo.
- Craig Koester, professor of New Testament, Luther Seminary
- John Roberto, president and founder, LifelongFaith Associates
- Jessica Duckworth, associate professor of Christian formation and teaching, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

Workshops will be led by Luther Seminary faculty and ecumenical church leaders, and include:

- Bible Fluency and Adults
- Brain Secrets for Engaging Scripture
- Diversity in the Bible
- Engaging the Bible in Confirmation
- Imagining the Uses of Bible in Worship
- No-Prep Bible Study Method
- Storytelling as Biblical Engagement in a Digital Culture

Registration is now open for the Book of Faith Jubilee. For more information or to register, visit [www.luthersem.edu/jubilee](http://www.luthersem.edu/jubilee) or call 651-641-3416.

*The Book of Faith Initiative kicked off in August 2007. The purpose of the initiative is to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world.*



# Comings & Goings

## NEW TO THE SYNOD:

**Rev. Diane Goulson**, from Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Henderson, pastor.

**Rev. Melanie Jo Lichtenberg**, from Saint Paul Area Synod, to Buffalo United Methodist Church, Rogers, family ministries associate pastor.

**Rev. Krista Strum**, from Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to Word of Peace Lutheran Church, Rogers, associate pastor.

## WITHIN THE SYNOD:

**Rev. Jonathan Buuck**, from on leave from call, to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Shakopee, shared time ministry prison worship pastor.

**Rev. Kenath K. Harris**, from on leave from call, to U.S. Army Chaplain School, Fort Jackson, S.C., instructor.

**Ms. Patricia Lee, DM**, from North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale, to Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, chaplain.

**Rev. Jerry O'Neill**, from Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Center, to on leave from call.

**Rev. Richard Rittmaster**, from on leave from call, to National Guard, Fort Hood, Tex., chaplain.

**Rev. David Solberg**, to Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, interim pastor.

**Rev. Robert Wertz**, from on leave from call, to Mount Olivet Careview Home, Minneapolis, chaplain.

## GOINGS/RETIREMENTS with Godspeed:

**Rev. Charles K. Anderson**, ordained May 3, 1973, retired January 1, 2011.

## CONGREGATIONS IN INTERIM:

Alleluia!, St. Michael, pastor  
Bethany, Minneapolis, pastor  
Bethel Evangelical, Minneapolis, pastor  
Cross of Glory, Brooklyn Center, pastor  
Family of Christ, Chanhassen, senior  
Gustavus Adolphus, Minneapolis, pastor  
Hope Evangelical, Minneapolis, pastor  
Jordan New Life, Minneapolis, pastor  
Lord of Life, Ramsey, senior, associate  
Salem Evangelical, Minneapolis, pastor  
Siloa, Braham, pastor (PT)  
St. John's Evangelical, Mound, senior  
Woodlake, Richfield, senior  
Zion Evangelical, Minneapolis, pastor

## CONGREGATIONS IN ACTIVE CALL PROCESS:

All Saints, Minnetonka, senior  
Faith, Isanti, pastor  
Good Shepherd, Wayzata, associate

Mt. Carmel, Minneapolis, associate (PT)  
Prince of Peace, Brooklyn Park, senior  
St. Barnabas, Plymouth, associate  
St. Mary Magdalene, Savage, pastor  
St. Philip's, Fridley, senior  
West Union, Carver, pastor

## CONGREGATIONS CALLING FINAL CANDIDATE:

Crown of Glory, Chaska, senior  
East Union, Carver, pastor  
Trinity Evangelical, Watertown, pastor  
Zion, Buffalo, associate

## IN MEMORY:

**The Rev. Frank H. Andersen** died February 1, 2011, at the age of 94. Born June 9, 1916, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, in 1942, and from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, in 1945. He was ordained in 1945. He served congregations in Hillhead, Lake City and Havana, S.D.; Ruthton and Newport, Minn. He retired in 1981.

Preceded in death by granddaughter, Jolie Trompeter, Rev. Andersen is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elizabeth; children, Norman, Janet Trompeter-Schlieman (Doug), Pastor Gary (Diane); six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**The Rev. Marshall D. Johnson** died January 26, 2011, at the age of 75. Born November 15, 1935, near Middle River, Minn., he graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, in 1957; from Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, in 1961; and from Union Seminary (Columbia University), New York,

**In Memory, continued on page 6**

## InterActs

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*Deadline for submission of articles for the April issue is Monday, March 21.*

# What's **Happening**

## March 2011

**Luther Seminary's FirstThird Dialogues, March 4-5**, Luther Seminary, St. Paul; Solomon's Porch, Minneapolis. Topic: "Raising Children: Fostering Faith in a Digital Age." The digital age raises particular challenges for those who care about the Christian faith formation of children. Craig Detweiler will talk about his work with gaming and its impact on young people, particularly focusing on its implications for ministry. The purpose of the FirstThird Dialogues is to bring together experts and practitioners who are concerned with ministry issues in the first third of life. More information at [www.firstthird.org](http://www.firstthird.org).

**CANTUS Concert, March 6**, 1 p.m., Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 E 21st St., Minneapolis. Cantus consists of 26 female singers between the ages of 20 and 40 from Trondheim, Norway. The women of Cantus and their conductor Tove Ramlo-Ystad simply perform Nordic choral poetry at its best. This concert is sponsored by The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church and The Edvard Grieg Society/Norway House. Suggested donation \$10 at the door.

**LACE Chapter Meeting, March 10**, 10-11:30 a.m., Luther Seminary Campus Center Auxiliary Dining Room. Topic: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them: The Advent and Event of Parenting as Spiritual Journey" presented by Dr. Dawn Alitz. Explore the theological implications of becoming a parent by listening to the faith expressions and desires of adults who are experiencing this life stage. A study looked at expectant and/or new parents in six different

ELCA congregations to explore how they experience parenthood in terms of religious experience, and if they perceive the congregation to have a role in this experience. Open to all. For more information contact Diane E. Shallue, AiM at 612-331-5988 or [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org).

**All Metro 30 Hour Famine, March 11-12**. All churches in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Synods are invited to participate in the 30 Hour Famine alone or with other congregations in your area.

**Ending Racism: Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality, March 12**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Ave. S, Richfield. For the past 12 years, Women of the ELCA has committed to working towards ending racism. Women from across the country have been trained to present anti-racism education in their churches and communities. Join the Women of the ELCA in the commitment to end racism. All women are welcome. Bring a friend. For more information, contact Jan Philibert at 612-722-4335 or [nenibe2@hotmail.com](mailto:nenibe2@hotmail.com).

**Town Hall Forum with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, March 13**, 6 p.m. This online forum will be hosted by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. The live webcast will be broadcast from the Lutheran Center in Chicago. More information is at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

**Worship Dialogue Gathering, March 15**, 11:30 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 4842 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Mr. Michael Silhavy, Archdiocese of St. Paul and

Minneapolis, will speak on "The New Translation of the Order of Mass." Bring bag lunch if desired. For more information phone 612-827-4406.

**Seminary of the Streets, March 17**, 6-8 p.m., Location TBD. Topic: The Issue of Race. Text: Acts 10. For more information, see [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

**Resource Development: The View from 4,000 Feet with Brenda Moore, March 17**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Webinar. This big picture overview of resource development will instill an understanding of the importance of an integrated fundraising program, develop an awareness of the elements of a resource development program and equip participants with implementation steps for creating a comprehensive program. The course is designed primarily for nonprofit CEOs, school principals, volunteer board members, pastors, stewardship directors and resource development professionals in the first five years of their career. Cost is \$75. To register, go to the ALDE website.

**Faith & Life Lecture Series – Faith and World View: Is There a Hole in Our Gospel? March 18**, 7:00 p.m., St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth. Richard E. Stearns is president of World Vision. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.faith-and-life.org](http://www.faith-and-life.org) for more information, or call 763-475-7136 or e-mail [info@faith-and-life.org](mailto:info@faith-and-life.org).

**Understanding How Systems Function, March 24**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Workshop 2 will explore ritual and family systems. How do families and

Events highlighted by a colored box are sponsored by the Minneapolis Area Synod.

**What's Happening, continued on page 8**

# Opportunities

## Worship and Music

**Pianist/Accompanist** – Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Lakeville (PT).

**Organist** – Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Excelsior (PT).

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*For more job opportunities, visit the synod website, [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).*

## Administrative and Other Positions

### ASP.NET Web Development

**Specialist** – Luther Seminary, St. Paul (FT).

**Marketing Director** – Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis (FT).

**Parish Nurse** – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis (PT).

**Information Systems Specialist** – Luther Seminary, St. Paul (FT).

**Refugee Employment Counselor** – Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis (FT).

## March Issue of *The Lutheran* Looks at Struggling Congregations

**T**he *Lutheran's* March issue looks at “coming to grips with struggling congregations.” The magazine found that challenges abound, but so do ministry responses. Learn how a shuttered congregation keeps on giving to its community. See how another congregation stopped, looked around and saw what’s going down – but now up. And find out what the ELCA presiding bishop has to say on the topic. The section includes resources and a study guide by Robert Blezard, an ELCA pastor in Pennsylvania, which is available in the print edition and at [www.thelutheran.org](http://www.thelutheran.org) (free to print and Web subscribers; click on “study guides”).

Read Peter Marty’s column and ponder “the sweet spot of vocations.” Walter Wangerin Jr. writes on Lent and humility. Ponder a hard Lenten lesson by reading “Forsaken?” And discuss “Ambience,” which is more than pillows for congregations – their welcome rests in the theology of the cross.

There’s something for everyone in *The Lutheran's* March issue: see which films our reviewers list as the

“most spiritually literate” of 2010. Get to know an 85-year-old who says it’s never too late to volunteer. Meet a teen who takes worn-out shoes and helps build “safe surfaces for children to play on.” Learn how to make Mother’s Day special with a



“net” corsage and how to hand out love from your glove box. Find a way to encourage your children to tune in during worship. And get advice on how to resolve pastor/parishioner conflicts.

What’s happening in the church and beyond? See how ELCA Bible camps are using technology to get you there and keep you connected. Hear what four ELCA ethicists have to say about civility following the shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Read the “News” section to learn about the church at large, including the lawsuit against the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress, and the retirement of the head of the ELCA Board of Pensions. Meet an ELCA pastor who is cleared for takeoff. And see how two

congregations are looking to a pastor who’s had a hard life to help in their ministries.

## In Memory, continued from page 4

in 1966. He was ordained in 1961. He served as pastor of Bronx Lutheran Church, New York, as religion faculty at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and as a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Bergen, Norway. He was active in teaching, publishing and writing for several decades. He also served as academic book editor at Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, and as director of Fortress Press until his retirement in 1997.

Rev. Johnson is survived by his wife of 51 years, Alice Joy; children, Nathan (Cynthia); Catherine Greeley (Steven); and Jennifer Beth Johnson (Michael); seven grandchildren, his brother, Walfrid Johnson, and his sister, Sylvia Caesar.

## Synod Assembly, continued from page 1

practitioner, trainer and researcher. Focusing on the theme of ‘A Community Gathered by Christ: From Stranger to Neighbor,’ Jenkins Nelson’s message at Synod Assembly will center on radical hospitality: We thought that our role was to be hospitable to the stranger; now we know that it is to be transformed by the stranger.

### Important Dates

- Resolution deadline – March 4
- Early-bird registration ends – March 25, midnight
- Exhibits/displays registration deadline – March 25, midnight
- Last day for refunds – April 22
- Registration closed – April 29, midnight
- Opening worship – May 6 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie

### Proposed Agenda (Draft)

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 7:15 a.m.  | Registration  |
| 8:15 a.m.  | Opening of the Assembly Service of the Word   |
| 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Plenary #1</b><br>Welcome and introductions<br>Credentials report<br>Adoption of Rules of Procedure and Proposed Agenda Resolutions                  |
| 9:40 a.m.  | Break – displays and exhibits   |
| 10:00 a.m. | <b>Plenary #2</b><br>Opening prayer and song<br>Keynote address by Vivian Jenkins Nelson<br>Resolutions<br>Stewardship report/announcement of endowment |
| 12:00 noon | Lunch   |
| 12:45 p.m. | <b>Plenary #3</b><br>Opening prayer and song<br>Credentials report<br>Resolutions<br>Nominations and elections<br>Churchwide representative report      |
| 2:40 p.m.  | Break – exhibits and displays   |
| 3:00 p.m.  | <b>Plenary #4</b><br>Opening prayer and song<br>Resolutions*<br>Presentation of awards<br>Recognition of 2010 honorees                                  |
| 3:45 p.m.  | Prayer service and closing of the 2011 Synod Assembly   |

*\*If resolutions are completed early, the rest of the agenda will be adjusted accordingly.*

## Worship Modules Available to Congregations

Worship formation modules, related to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, have been developed to support ongoing worship education and renewal throughout the church. Each module is designed to be approximately three hours and may stand alone, be combined, or be used as one component of an existing event.

The following topics are currently available in electronic form as pdf files by request to [worship@elca.org](mailto:worship@elca.org). Most are formatted to be led by local leaders. There is no cost to use these materials.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship: A Deeper Look* – Explore the riches of the liturgical material in ELW.

Scripture Shapes Worship – This event invites any member of the worshiping assembly to reflect on the use of Scripture in a variety of worship practices.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship: More Freedom and Flexibility* – Reflect on worship in your particular context, explore the possibilities that freedom and flexibility encourage, and consider how to introduce something new in worship.

Worship & Mission – Explore the inseparable nature of worship and mission and how the mission of God is enacted and expressed through our worship practice.

The Place Where We Worship – Focus on principles for worship regarding worship space, including thoughtful preparation of existing spaces, changing or creating worship spaces, and the art and environment for worship.

**Worship Modules, continued on page 9**

## Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering Meeting

March 19, 1-3 p.m., St. Peder’s Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis

**For women who will attend the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering.**

*Get to know each other, discuss travel plans, find roommates, distribute our signature sashes and make the promotional materials for distribution at the Gathering.*

Bring others who may not have registered yet.

**RSVP to Sue Schnickel at 612-721-2269 or [schnick@mtn.org](mailto:schnick@mtn.org).**

churches deal with the special times in peoples lives? We will approach the transitional rituals of ministry with an eye on the impact of the transitions for all the people in the nuclear family system. Cost is \$50 per workshop. Questions? Contact Roger Schwarze at 651-777-5102 or [rschwarze@quest.net](mailto:rschwarze@quest.net). Workshop is sponsored by the Bridge Builder Team of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

**Healing Memories Workshop, March 25-27.** A Healing of Memories workshop intended for veterans, their families and those who care for them will be held locally Monday dinner through Wednesday lunch, March 25-27. The facilitator, Father Michael Lapsley, is the noted Anglican priest who survived a letter bomb attack that took his one eye and two hands while he was serving as chaplain for the African National Congress. Lapsley went on to forge a healing pathway through trauma for himself and others. This workshop is scheduled to be accessible to pastoral care providers and to retired veterans who want to make peace with their memories. Contact Sheila Laughton for more information at 651-641-0008, ext. 13, or [sheila@loyolaspiritualitycenter.org](mailto:sheila@loyolaspiritualitycenter.org).

**The Concert for Hope and Healthy Households, March 27, 7 p.m.,** Immanuel Lutheran Church, 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie. Vibrant Faith Ministries will host a benefit concert featuring renowned musician Ken Medema and mural painter Paul Oman. During the concert there will be an auction to support Vibrant Faith Ministries. To submit donations contact Paul Hill at [phill@vibrantfaith.org](mailto:phill@vibrantfaith.org). There is no admission charge for the concert,

but your kind gift/pledge will be accepted at the concert.

### April 2011

**Walking the Talk of Welcome, April 2,** Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 910 W County Road D, St. Paul. A half-day workshop for congregations wanting to welcome LGBT persons into worship and church life. Participants will discuss ways to create a welcoming atmosphere within their own congregations and strategize actions that illustrate that welcome. Watch the website ([www.lc-tc.org](http://www.lc-tc.org)) or contact [ric.lctc@gmail.com](mailto:ric.lctc@gmail.com) for more information.

**Faith and the Earth, April 3, 9:30 and 11 a.m.,** All Saint's Lutheran Church, 15915 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka. Come to this forum to discuss how you think Christians are called to serve as stewards of God's creation. Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy Executive Director Rev. Mark Peters and Youth Coordinator Nate Blumenshine will share why they feel called as Christians to encourage our political leaders to protect the environment. All are welcome.

**Safeguarding God's Children, April 5, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.,** St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 8400 France Ave. S, Bloomington. Safeguarding God's Children is an in-depth educational and training program for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in everyday life and in ministry. The workshop will train participants to use the Safeguarding God's Children materials (available through the synod office) in their own training sessions. For more information and to register, go to the synod website, [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

**LACE Chapter Meeting, April 7, 10-11:30 a.m.,** Luther Seminary Campus Center Auxiliary Dining Room. Topic: "Image Is Everything: Exploring Female Faith Identity through Religious Education" presented by Claire Bischoff. Claire will share a curriculum she designed to stimulate the exploration of healthy female faith identities with adolescent girls and discuss what she learned when she implemented it at an urban Lutheran church and at a suburban Catholic school. Open to all. For more information contact Diane E. Shallue, AiM at 612-331-5988 or [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org).

**Native American Spirituality Seminar, April 8-9,** Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 3900 Winnetka Ave. N, New Hope. The theme of this seminar is "The Indigenous Mind . . . the Quantum Mind." Speakers are Basil and Charlotte Brave Heart. To register, email [clem744@charter.net](mailto:clem744@charter.net). Register by April 1.

**Lutheran AIDS Network 2011 Biennial Conference, April 11-12,** Central Lutheran Church, 333 S 12th St., Minneapolis. Visit the conference website at [www.lutheranaids.net/conference](http://www.lutheranaids.net/conference) 2011 for up-to-date information on registration categories, individual banquet tickets, scholarships and hotel reservations.

**Worship Dialogue Gathering, April 12, 11:30 a.m.,** St. John's Lutheran Church, 4842 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Rev. Donald Luther, ELCA pastor, will speak on "Sighs Too Deep for Words – Pastoral Care." Bring bag lunch if desired. Phone 612-827-4406 for more information.

**College of Retired Church Workers Luncheon, April 12, noon,**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. For retired clergy, associates in ministry, church workers and spouses of the Minneapolis Area and Saint Paul Area Synods. Cost is \$12, payable at the door. Reservations required by April 7. Contact Cyndi Berg at 651-224-4313.

**Seminary of the Streets, April 14**, 6-8 p.m., Location TBD. This month's topic: "Health Care and Education" Text: Acts 3:1-10. For more information, see [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org).

**Faith & Life Lecture Series – Faith and Healing: Storytelling and Spiritual Health, April 15**, 7:00 p.m., St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, 17205 County Road 6, Plymouth. Kevin Kling is a well-known playwright and storyteller whose commentaries can be heard on NPR's "All Things Considered." Free and open to the public. Visit [www.faith-and-life.org](http://www.faith-and-life.org) for more information, or call 763-475-7136 or e-mail [info@faith-and-life.org](mailto:info@faith-and-life.org).

**Understanding How Systems Function, April 28**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Workshop 3 will consider process theology and family process – the connections between process in philosophy and theology and process in family therapy. Congregational implications will be explored. Cost is \$50 per workshop. Questions? Contact Roger Schwarze at 651-777-5102 or [rschwarze@quest.net](mailto:rschwarze@quest.net). Workshop is sponsored by the Bridge Builder Team of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

**Book of Faith Jubilee, April 29-May 1**, Luther Seminary. Luther Seminary is partnering with the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative, Augsburg College and Augsburg Fortress to bring

together lay leaders, teachers, pastors and church staff for a three-day conference. Keynote speakers: Nadia Bolz-Weber, Craig Koester, John Roberto, Jessicah Duckworth. Visit [www.luthersem.edu/jubilee](http://www.luthersem.edu/jubilee) for more information, call 651-641-3416 or e-mail [kairos@luthersem.edu](mailto:kairos@luthersem.edu).

### May 2011

**LACE Chapter Meeting, May 1**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis. Topic: "Faith Formation 2020" presented by John Roberto, president of Lifelong Faith Associates. What will Christian faith formation in churches look like in 2020? The new environment in which Christian faith formation will operate in the decade from 2010-2020 will demand new thinking and new models, practices, resources and technologies to address the spiritual needs of all generations. For this event only, LACE members free, non-LACE members \$10 at the door. For more information contact Diane E. Shallue, AiM at 612-331-5988 or [dianes@ulch.org](mailto:dianes@ulch.org).

**2011 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, May 6-7**, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie. See article on page 1 for more information.

**Worship Dialogue Gathering, May 17**, 11:30 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 4842 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Dr. Kristin Anderson, associate professor of art history, Augsburg College, will speak on "The Spirit in the Church's Art." Bring bag lunch if desired. For more information phone 612-827-4406.

### June 2011

**Generous Hearts: Encouraging Planned Giving Ministry in the Congregation, June 3**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

**ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering, June 10-11**, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 301 County Road 19, Excelsior. Music from various cultures will enhance worship and meals will include food from around the globe. Registration for this event will be available starting in March. For information or to register, visit [www.elca.org/globalevents](http://www.elca.org/globalevents) or call 1-800-638-3522.

**ELCA Day at Valleyfair, June 20**, Valleyfair, Shakopee. More information to come. Contact Mary Kaye at 612-532-7083.

### August 2011

**2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 14-20**, Orlando, Florida. The 12th Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be held at the Orlando World Center Resort. Voting members will gather for legislative action, Bible study and daily worship rooted in the Word and Sacraments.

**Town Hall Forum with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, August 18**, online (during 2011 Churchwide Assembly). More information is at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

### Worship Modules, continued from page 7

Exploring Musical Riches in ELW  
– Enlarge the musical vision of music leaders by exploring treasures in ELW.

Leading the Assembly's Song  
– Leaders from around the country have been trained to lead this module and will come to your area to present it. Cost is approximately \$700 to bring a leader to your site.

For more information about using these materials in your synod, cluster or congregation, email [worship@elca.org](mailto:worship@elca.org).

# Our Malaria Work's Three Rs

by Mary Simonson Clark, Minneapolis Area Synod coordinator for Our Malaria Work

Thank you to the congregations who joined Our Malaria Work. It's exciting to serve together in this life-giving work of praying, learning, giving and advocating to contain malaria among our neighbors in Africa. As of February 11, 2011, Minneapolis Area Synod congregations have given approximately \$36,500. Sixty-five congregations have shared stories of their work, scheduled events, and/or sent donations. Certainly, additional congregations are engaged in malaria awareness activities and have yet to share their accomplishments.

## Has Your Congregation Joined Our Malaria Work?

If your congregation has yet to join Our Malaria Work, begin today! Here are a few ideas for enjoyable activities.

- Sell green t-shirts and totes that promote the use of mosquito nets (free from Mary, contact information below). After all, nothing says "St. Patrick's Day" like a green mosquito net shirt or tote bag!
- Schedule a presentation during your Lenten services or for Sundays beginning in April. Contact Mary at [marysimonsonclark@gmail.com](mailto:marysimonsonclark@gmail.com), 612-636-5104 or 952-933-8836.
- Celebrate spring (and mosquito season) by donating \$25, which can pay for indoor residual spraying of one home, or donate the amount you pay for every can of insect spray you buy.
- Plan a "sleep under [a net]" leading up to World Malaria Day on April 25. This is a great way to raise awareness of malaria and generate donations through pledges.
- Honor the women in your life on Mother's Day by donating \$50 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. \$50 can pay for anti-malaria medication for a mother-to-be.

## Rejoice!

We rejoice with our congregations who recently joined in Our Malaria Work. Here are just a few of their accomplishments or plans.

- Maple Grove Lutheran confirmation youth push pins of netting onto an African map to record their collections for Our Malaria Work.
- House of Prayer Lutheran Church's youth led the worship service on February 6; their Souper Bowl collections gained about \$1,000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.
- At Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Waconia, fifth through seventh graders recently concluded a very exciting "end malaria campaign" during which they shared information about malaria and raised over \$1,300.



© BONNIE GILLESPIE, VOICES FOR A MALARIA FREE FUTURE

- Diamond Lake, Nokomis Heights, Trinity Congregation, and Mount Olivet of Plymouth are all "striking out malaria" through bowling events.
- Prairie Lutheran Church is giving their Lenten midweek offerings to Our Malaria Work and using the MoSKITo script during a service.

## Our Malaria Work's Three Rs, continued on page 11

### Synod Participation

Based on our current information, the following is a list by conferences of congregational participation in Our Malaria Work.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Bloomington                | 5 of 8 congregations or 62.5%           |
| Central                    | 12 of 17 congregations or 70.6%         |
| Crosstown                  | 3 of 9 congregations or 33.3%           |
| North Minneapolis          | 8 of 15 congregations or 53.3%          |
| Northern                   | 3 of 11 congregations or 27.3%          |
| Northwest                  | 6 of 20 congregations or 30%            |
| Northwest Hennepin         | 5 of 13 congregations or 38.5%          |
| South Minneapolis          | 9 of 17 congregations or 52.9%          |
| Southwest                  | 7 of 19 congregations or 36.8%          |
| Western Parks & Lakes      | 3 of 12 congregations or 25%            |
| 394 Corridor North         | 4 of 12 congregations or 33.3%          |
| <b>Total for the synod</b> | <b>65 of 153 congregations or 42.5%</b> |

# Good Shepherd Visits Family in Ethiopia

The name of the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia is the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). Mekane Yesus means, in Amharic, the place where Jesus lives. During their February 2011 trip to Ethiopia, members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis, saw again that Jesus does live mightily in the people of Mekane Yesus. Their deep spirituality, their confident prayer, and their joyful faith were witnesses of the power of the gospel in this church, the third largest Lutheran church in the world. “As we sat in the Lalo Aira church building, we saw it fill up, with worshipers tightly packed into the benches there. Then a lean-to outside the church filled with people. Then we saw the faces of people filling the windows of the church as they stood all around the building eagerly listening to the good news of God’s love,” said Karen Walhof, one of the Good Shepherd travelers.

Good Shepherd began its relationships with church institutions in Ethiopia in 2005. Trips by members in 2006 and 2007 deepened those relationships and led to a companion relationship with the Lalo Aira Congregation in Aira, a small town in far western Ethiopia.

“We began our work in Ethiopia because we thought we would help ‘them,’” Walhof said. “But then we went there and discovered there was no ‘them,’ there was only ‘us’ – God’s people, brothers and sisters in Christ. Different faces, different places, different life circumstances; but the same Lord that redeems us, the same faith that gives our lives purpose and meaning, the same baptism that binds us together as family. And after five years of this companion relationship, we *are* family.”



During the time Good Shepherd members were in Aira, Ethiopia, Pastor Debra Samuelson, senior pastor, met with the women students at Onesimus Nesib Seminary, for prayer and conversation and encouragement.

Aira is also the location of Aira Hospital, a primary-care hospital owned by the EECMY, and Onesimus Nesib Seminary, one of their seminaries. Last year, with the help of Global Health Ministries, Good Shepherd and Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church, Minneapolis, raised funds to ship a 40-foot container of medical equipment to the Aira Hospital, to replace out-dated and worn equipment. The Good Shepherd travelers, along with Scott Lien from Global Health Ministries, were able to see the new equipment in use.

The travelers also spent time attending classes and worshipping with the students at the seminary, at other church educational institutions, and with the BirBirDilla Synod staff. The synod is headquartered in Aira.

## Our Malaria Work’s Three Rs, continued from page 10

- Minnehaha Lutheran Church had a month-long malaria campaign at the end of 2010. Their children are a part of their promotion and now they plan to donate their Lenten Wednesday soup supper offerings to Our Malaria Work.
- West Union Lutheran Church plans to give their Easter offering to Our Malaria Work!

### Be a Part of Our Malaria Work’s Three Rs!

Report how your congregation joined in Our Malaria Work. If you have not joined, we request that you begin activities today to raise awareness about malaria. Rejoice in our work to bring life to our neighbors in Africa!



PHOTO BY MARIE CLARK

Bishops Dyck and Johnson receive the signed basketball at the February 25, 2011, Team Up Against Malaria game held in conjunction with the Timberwolves and the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Left to right are Timberwolves’ President Chris Wright, United Methodist Bishop Sally Dyck, Bishop Craig Johnson (mosquito net in hand) and menacing mosquito, Lynette Obara.

# Local Vet Examines Life in the Aftermath of War

by Amy Blumenshine, DM, *Coming Home Collaborative*

To understand the suffering of veterans and their families requires hearing their stories. A local Lutheran missionary kid and Vietnam veteran has recently published his memoir, chronicling his “drifter” lifestyle and efforts to heal from various maladies, including nihilism.

Bob Tuff, author of *Thirty One Lives*, will speak at the Veterans Ministry Roundtable, noon to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 8 at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 2315 Chicago Ave. S, Minneapolis.

Anyone interested in ministry with veterans and their families is invited to attend. A simple lunch is served gratis; please pre-register at ListenToVets@comcast.net or 612-871-2967. Talking with Tuff about his experiences will continue the roundtable’s exploration of the war wound of moral injury.

Many find their war experiences hard to express. Writes Tuff: “I never, ever talked about Vietnam except for a quick diversionary answer or a lie here and there to titillate someone’s imagination. There was just too much residue guilt and shame, but I gave that up a while back so now I can just get it out and get on with it. Better late than never, they say. About Vietnam I’m prone to say: ‘It took me 25 years, but I did get over it.’”

According to Dr. Ray Scurfield, Veteran’s Administration therapist, author and educator, “The reality is that combat, war, natural disasters and other traumatic experiences *always* have a significant impact on all who experience them, both shorter-term impact and longer-term impact that may persist over years and even decades. This does not mean that the impact of a war or of Katrina is necessarily a *psychiatrically disordered* response, but there *always* is an impact.”

Many war veterans say that “I lost a part of me” in the war, to include their youth, their innocence, their naiveté. One vet told Scurfield, “I went over to Vietnam as a blue-eyed, 21-year-old kid from Minnesota – and I returned an old man.”

Some struggle for years to regain their ability to function in the society that sent them to war. Tuff writes, “In some ways it would just be a huge relief to return to prison because my life story clearly demonstrates my inability to function effectively in this fast-paced modern social environment.” He had been involved in illegal activities for many years after returning from Vietnam before being caught and sent to prison.

He had completed his prison sentence and had found some life satisfaction, but that changed with the 2003 invasion of Iraq. “I had the uneasy feeling that this country had lost its moral compass and the uncomfortable



effects of PTSD came back full force to me. The invasion took place, there were no weapons of mass destruction and the nightmare unfolded just as I saw it. Thousands of our soldiers died while tens of thousands had their existence reduced to life confined in a wheelchair or worse. For what? Who knows? Who cares? The only thing I knew for sure was that I was up to here with the whole mess, so I quit my job and dropped out. I vowed not to get a haircut until the last American boy and girl was home safely from the war zone.”

Scurfield notes: “Military personnel are uniquely sanctioned by our country to go into harm’s way, to be perpetrators of violence against others and to be willing to risk injury or death, and to risk the lives and health of one’s comrades-in-arms. Being a ‘licensed perpetrator’ of death carries with it a remarkably potent legacy of impact that may be the most enduring and problematic outcome of being a combatant, to include guilt, shame and rage – and has enormous, distinctive consequences and implications about what is needed for post-war healing.”

Tuff, in his memoir, attributes his staying alive and not committing suicide to “a lot of grace from somewhere. Because of my new found spiritual connection, I had a clear cut idea where it had come from – not from within myself but from some force far greater that also expected more from me.”

Visit Scurfield’s website at [www.usm.edu/socialwork/scurfield](http://www.usm.edu/socialwork/scurfield).

*The Coming Home Collaborative is an open and growing volunteer association of people concerned with the psychological and spiritual healing of veterans, especially those currently reintegrating with their families and communities, founded by a group of helping professionals affiliated with Walk-In Counseling Center and Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.*

## ELCA Releases Proposed Social Statement on Genetics

The ELCA released *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, a proposed social statement on genetics, the result of more than five years of study, consultation and deliberation throughout the church. After review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops in March and the ELCA Church Council in April, the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is expected to consider the proposed social statement when it meets in August in Orlando, Fla.

*Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* was developed by an 18-member task force with broad experience in science and ethics. The task force created an initial draft of the social statement which it released in March 2010 for comment and review by ELCA members and congregations.

The proposed social statement affirms that human beings are “innovative stewards,” called to dedicate themselves to the flourishing of life. It emphasizes that the moral imperative “to respect and promote the community of life with justice and wisdom” should guide the use of genetic knowledge in medicine, agriculture and other areas.

*Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* is believed to be one of the first such statements by an American church that develops a comprehensive ethical framework for addressing human power and issues such as medical, agricultural and cultural concerns. The full text is at [www.ELCA.org/genetics](http://www.ELCA.org/genetics) on the ELCA website.

Janet L. Williams, task force co-chair and genetics counselor, Intermountain Healthcare, Murray, Utah, said the document is significant for the ELCA because it lays out an ethical framework for scientists, theologians, ELCA members and pastors to engage in respectful dialogue regarding the application of genetic technologies. “It provides recognition of the rapidly changing science in genetics and acknowledges that the application of the science presents challenges and opportunities that would benefit from broad consideration of impact across the interconnected mesh of life,” she said

The statement recognizes and affirms that ELCA members have differing views about the appropriate use of such technologies, she said. “The statement is a call to leadership and responsibility by lay and clergy with respect to the good use of the science,” Williams said. She added that congregations should seek out conversations with people who work with such technologies and provide forums for “compassionate and respectful dialogue.”




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“Beyond the comprehensive scope of the document, it is significant because it teaches our church and society to see the call to love others

to include the community of all living creatures, both today and in the future,” said Dr. Per Anderson, task force co-chair, religion professor and associate dean for global learning, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. He suggested that ELCA members could use *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to understand new challenges and see “opportunities (for) loving others through genetic science and technology.”

“They can use its moral vision and values to deliberate as individuals or with others about God’s will for ever-expanding powers to understand and manipulate the basic structures of life. They can use this statement to engage a topic that matters to all people and that can seem too complex to comprehend and respond,” Anderson said.

*Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* calls on individuals, agencies, organizations, corporations and governments to establish practices that advocate for genetic research and discovery for the good of all, and it affirms the good of genetic technologies and economic enterprises that enable the community of life to flourish. It calls for research to improve human health and encourages dialogue and greater understanding regarding uses of genetic technology.

*Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* rejects human reproductive cloning; uses of genetic technology for economic reasons without moral deliberation; policies that encourage “genetic determinism” or create unsustainable practices; uses of genetic information without consent, or uses that result in discrimination in employment or insurance coverage; and expansion of genetic research or technology that endangers humans.

# Community-Based Primary Health Care Now Implemented in Nigeria

by Dr. David Thompson

The Minneapolis Area Synod is pleased to announce the implementation of a Community-Based Primary Health Care (CBPHC) program in the state of Adamawa in Nigeria. This is where our companion synod, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN), has its highest membership, likely 1.7 million members. Our medical team has worked for nearly five years with Global Health Ministries and the Health Board of the LCCN to the point of now launching the CBPHC pilot project. Minneapolis resident, David M. Thompson, M.D., MPH, is serving as a program consultant to the LCCN Health Board in directing the establishment of this exciting public health endeavor. A group of eight Lutheran health professionals from Nigeria are currently in Jamkhed, India, for a month of intensive CHPHC training.

### What Is a Community-Based Primary Health Care Program?

When resources are limited, it is important to choose an effective and sustainable method for improving the health of communities. Research has shown that, although hospitals and clinics provide critical and needed services and form the center of our health care systems, they alone have been ineffective in changing the health behaviors that result in high rates of morbidity and mortality. Nigeria is a very good example of this. It has many fine institutions, but its mortality rates are among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. There is now solid research evidence that CBPHC can be effective in significantly lowering mortality rates, particularly for children under age five years and for women in the age of procreation. This is because it brings about key behavior changes which, in turn, save lives. The effect is sustainable because it results from the combined will and activity of the people who live and die in their communities. They own the changes and the consequent health improvements.

CBPHC requires three partnerships to be successful: a community that takes ownership, outside experts that can bring new knowledge and resources, and a supportive government relationship. The model chosen is that of the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, Maharashtra State, India. This program, with close to a half a century of experience, is internationally recognized for its excellence and effectiveness. Christians, Muslims and traditional religions working together in reaching shared goals.



### The Jamkhed Model

The CRHP Jamkhed first established a simple health center that had emergency medical and surgical capabilities. They quickly developed a mobile program reaching into the community. Ultimately men's and women's clubs were created to bring everyone in a village together to analyze their problems and come up with solutions. Experienced women were chosen by the villagers who were then trained to be community health workers. Communities were empowered and enabled to analyze and solve their own problems.

### Pilot Projects

In July 2010, the LCCN Health Board decided to begin with two pilot projects at opposite ends of the state. The focus was to begin in two underserved areas and to not make the choice of sites on the basis of whether or not there was a local health facility (either LCCN or government). The program would liaison with the nearest health facility and work towards developing a stable and sustainable primary health care system over time. The priority was to develop a successful community-owned CBHC model as the foundation upon which a primary health care system could be built over time.

In a fully integrated CBPHC program, there are diverse activities/approaches (curative and preventive health care, clean water and sanitation programs, food and animal production education, women's empowerment, etc.), all of which have a positive effect on health. Each requires specialized expertise, personnel and resources, some of which may be readily available and others which may not

**Community-Based Primary Health Care, continued on page 15**

## Mun gode Ubangiji (Thank you, Lord)

by Carolyn Hirsch, Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Delano

Last October, in the remote village of Pai, Nigeria, we met with the Lutheran evangelists who tend to the spiritual needs of their village. The soft-spoken man who told us about their life in Pai explained that there were many challenges for the residents there. (There were blessings too: They had just received a canoe so that children from the even more remote village of Gyebri, separated from Pai by a river, could now attend school in Pai.) When he finished, I asked about the most pressing need in their village right now. He was quiet a moment and then responded, “Bed nets – we need bed nets.” How many, I asked. He did some figuring with paper and pencil, wrote a number and handed it to me. Sixty-three. Only 63. I wondered, what could I do to share the safety of the world I live in with the residents of Pai?



### Community-Based Primary Health Care, continued from page 14

be. Some would be more expensive while others might produce quicker or more visible results.

We are praying that more Minneapolis Area Synod congregations will team up with LCCN in Nigeria to become “companion congregations.” Support for health programs is needed for sanitary water wells (\$2,000-5,000) and also for the rehabbing of 12 dispensaries (\$5,000-18,000). If you would like to learn more about this exciting new development in the life of our companion synod partnership with the Lutheran Church of Christ of Nigeria or how you might be involved or support our efforts, please contact either Dr. David Thompson at [thomp060@umn.edu](mailto:thomp060@umn.edu) or the synod’s companion synod coordinator, Kris Perry, at [k.perry@mpls-synod.org](mailto:k.perry@mpls-synod.org).

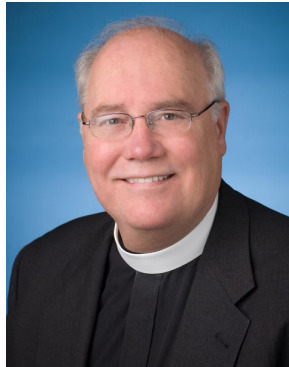
I used to be able to go to bed at night with a cup of tea and my favorite book, read for a while, say my gratefulness prayers and fall asleep, but then I went to Nigeria. Now as I go to sleep, I think of the children in that village of Pai – little ones sleeping on their mattresses, especially the unlucky ones who are not protected by bed nets – the ones most preyed upon by the malaria-carrying mosquitoes that have easy access. And I ask myself: What have I done to share the safety of the world I live in with the children of Pai?

Then on January 23 I was given the opportunity to share that safety. I had the privilege of telling the stories of our trip to Nigeria to the members of my congregation, Light of Christ Lutheran in Delano. I was also allowed to give a two-minute “temple talk” at each of the two services that Sunday. I talked about bed nets.

This story touched the hearts of my fellow parishioners, and on January 23 they generously contributed \$1,500, more than enough to protect the entire village and set up a fund for future bed net needs.

I sleep easier now knowing that, in those little huts in Pai, children will be protected, families will have one less worry and lives will surely be saved. The evangelists are doing their part, and Light of Christ Lutheran is too.

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you set the solitary in families. We commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Keep them, we pray, free from bitterness, from the thirst for personal victory and from pride in self. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience and godliness.*



They have done great, important, transformational work for our congregations. We have in the Minneapolis Area Synod, 35 interim pastors available for transitional ministry. We have 25 pastors currently working under congregational contracts with synodical calls. They have discovered that the investment of time spent with each other has lightened the load and enhanced their ministries. I want to salute them for their faithful good work and for their self-perceived collaboration.

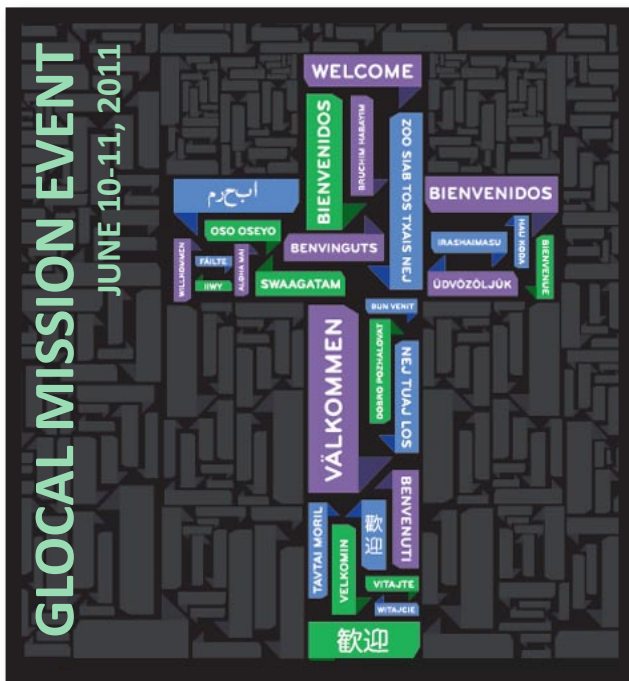
I am mindful that as Lent is upon us, yet extra work is expected of our rostered leaders. I would urge all of us as a ministerium to connect ourselves with communities of leaders who can also enhance our effectiveness and “lighten” our load. God has privileged us by calling us into a church which is not only congregational but also wider and deeper. We are partners in a synod and in a churchwide organization. Too many times we act as if we are solitary and isolated.

This Lent, I encourage you to take care of yourself; be a part of a broader community of leaders so that the gift of our church’s structure of a three-fold expression is experienced in your ministry.

*Bishop Craig Johnson*

That prayer for families in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* has always struck me as a good prayer for rostered leaders (pastors, diaconal ministers, deaconess and associates in ministry). We need to be aware of our need for community, and search for communities of leaders with whom we can associate and collaborate, those with whom we can bare our souls.

Every month, I am extraordinarily impressed with a group of at least 25 pastors who meet together to share their victories, joys, sorrows and mistakes. They serve as interim pastors in our synod.



## ELCA Glocal Mission Event June 10-11

The Minneapolis Area Synod will host an ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering on Pentecost weekend at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 301 County Road 19, Excelsior. “Glocal” is an emphasis on the connection between global mission and local mission.

Presenters will speak about mission. Music from various cultures will enhance worship and meals will include food from around the globe. Registration is only \$35.

Registration will begin in March. For information or registration, visit [www.elca.org/globalevents](http://www.elca.org/globalevents) or call 1-800-638-3522.

If you are willing to work at the event, please contact Mount Calvary Lutheran Church at 952-474-8893.