

# Opportunities

**In Memory, continued  
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## **Music and Worship Opportunities**

### **Contemporary Worship Music**

**Director** – Ezekiel Lutheran Church, River Falls, Wis. (PT).

**Minister of Music** – Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bloomington (FT or PT).

## **Youth and Family Ministry Opportunities**

### **Youth and Family Ministries**

**Director** – Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul (PT).

### **Youth and Family Ministry**

**Coordinator** – Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Joseph (PT).

## **Administrative and Other Positions**

**Ministry Assistant for Health and Shared Ministries** – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis (PT).

**JRLC Statewide Organizer** – Joint Religious Legislative Coalition/ Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis (FT).

**Product Manager** – Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis (FT).

**Collections Specialist** – Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis (PT).

**Bookkeeper** – St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North St. Paul (PT).

Minnesota in 1951 and Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill., in 1968. He was ordained in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in 1968. He served in U.S. Army 106th Division, and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. The parishes he served included St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, West Fargo, N.D., and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul. He retired in 1989.

Rev. Peterson is survived by his wife of 64 years, Florence; children, Karen (Curt) Lerum, Carol (Gene) Lallak, Kristine (Clark) Poelzer, Thomas (Carol), Nancy Peterson Anderson (Richard Block), and Jonathan (Kathy); 13 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brothers, Carl (Dorothy) and John (Jean).

**The Rev. Ralph F. Strand** of Minneapolis died September 10, at the age of 82. Born May 11, 1927, in Escalon, Calif., he graduated from the University of California, Davis, Calif., in 1951 and Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., in 1958. He was ordained in 1958. He served congregations in Axtell, Yutan and Holdrege, Neb. He retired in 1992.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Amy, Rev. Strand is survived by sons, Philip (Betsy) of Woodbury, Timothy of St. Paul; granddaughters, Emma and Sarah; brother, Donald (Joanne) of Turlock, Calif.; sister, Carol (Mark) Hildebrand of Cupertino, Calif.; several in-laws and 27 nieces and nephews.

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

## **Am I My Veteran's Keeper?**

*by Amy Blumenshine*

“Am I my veteran's keeper?” is the question posed October 25 in two Sunday morning presentations at All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka.

Very practical resources for addressing issues faced by military veterans and their families as the

veterans come home from war will be offered by Dan and Karen Goedken at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dan worked for the federal Department of Veterans Affairs for 30 years, coordinating programs in the western half of the nation. Karen was a military nurse for 20 years.



“We all have an opportunity and indeed an obligation to be of service to those who have been a service to us.” explained Dan. He said that the typical veteran prefers not to draw attention to himself or herself. He further noted that many veterans might not be seeking help until a decade or so after their military experiences.

Looking ahead to early November, churches will be deciding how to address Armistice/Veteran's Day. In our country, the government cannot instruct churches what to do, but long ago Congress asked churches to remember Armistice/Veterans Day on the second Sunday of November. Check out the

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## Fall Ministerium, continued from page 1

the Fall Ministerium. There was no small amount of tension at the table as we undertook the task! It was a long and messy process, but we have ultimately come to a format about which we are excited and one we trust will meet the challenge heard through the inreach.

I share that brief story about process because I want you to know that we experienced first hand many of the pitfalls that come with talking about race. It is hard work, and it is messy. That is why we could not actually come up with a “title” for the ministerium—it is too complicated to try to narrow down to one catchy phrase.

So we invite you to join us in the messiness:

- To come together to move out of our comfort zones;
- To hear the stories of how racism still haunts our churches and communities;
- To take the risk of sharing our own experiences, struggles, and fears with our colleagues in ministry;
- To imagine what it might be like to be a church that takes seriously the call to break down the dividing wall between us;
- To examine the barriers that exist in our synod and congregations.

We are pleased that Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, director for African national strategy of the ELCA, will be our preacher for the morning. You then will hear from leaders across the synod about their own journeys and be invited into conversation with colleagues to share some of your own stories. Moderator of the conversation will be Vivian Jenkins Nelson, founder of Inter-Race and member of Jordan New Life Community Church.

To register, fill out the form at [www.mpls-synod.org](http://www.mpls-synod.org), or call the synod office at 612-870-3610. Lunch is optional for \$10 and will be catered by students in the Broadway

Culinary Arts Program at the nearby Broadway Community School, a Minneapolis Public School for teen mothers.

*Along with Beckman Yetzer, the current Unity Table members are Bishop Craig Johnson, Mr. Robera Battal, Rev. Kelly Chatman, Ms. Julianne Leerssen, Rev. Terrance Jacob, Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, and Rev. David Wangaard.*

### SAVE THE DATE

#### **2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Ministerium**

**November 12  
8:30-noon**

**River of Life  
Lutheran Church**

**2200 Fremont Ave. N  
Minneapolis**

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Minneapolis Area Synod Web site at [www.mpls-synod.org/programs/vets](http://www.mpls-synod.org/programs/vets) for resources for November 8.

Developing a dialogue about war is what veteran Tyler Boudreau recommends churches do in order to help people heal in the aftermath of war. He has been engaged in an effort to heal himself after over 12 years as a Marine, including a deployment in Iraq in 2004. His memoir, *Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine*, uses Dante's *Inferno* as a metaphor.

Boudreau bicycled across country this summer in an attempt to work through his own symptoms and stimulate public discourse about the wars of our time. As Boudreau pedaled 3,413 miles from Washington state to his home in Massachusetts, he connected with other veterans and held public events along the way. He chose the west to east direction because he wanted “every ounce of energy dedicated to getting home, back to my family.” He has been trying different methods of getting back to his family, “re-programming” himself, in the five years since he resigned his commission.

Many church leaders have asked him how churches can be helpful in addressing the post-war recovery of veterans and their families. Boudreau recommends that a climate of open dialogue about the wars of our time be established in churches so that returning veterans do not have to do all the heavy lifting of making meaning of their experiences by themselves. He believes in the healing power of story as a way through the conflicts of opinion. Many outbursts, he says, should be viewed as expressions of pain.

“You want to get this kind of dialogue where it gets humanly complex, without judgment, orienting on the stories, not a conclusion. Imagine a veteran walking into a space where people are doing this. Now a veteran will not have a problem walking into this community and telling their story, I guarantee you,” says Boudreau.