

March
2012

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



From Bishop Bill Gafkjen

New Vision for a New Day
Listen Deeply. Think Creatively. Act Boldly.

"Let anyone with ears listen!" [Jesus, a bunch of times]

Lent can be a time to open our ears and hearts to listen in ways that we do not usually listen...to God, to each other, to the world.

Our days are often overwhelmed by the clang and clutter of so much to do, so much information to absorb, so many concerns to address, so many worries and wonderings and wanderings that we lose track of who we are, whose we are, and what the world really needs from us as God's people. Lent can be a time to lay aside some of the clutter, to turn our attention away from the clanging cymbals of our days and listen deeply to the rhythms and rumblings of God's Spirit.

Some of us do, in fact, see Lent as a time to listen deeply, mostly to God's work in our own lives, much like the great writer Frederick Buechner suggests:

"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

[Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation]

This is important and good, a beginning step toward listening deeply to God's Word and work in our lives.

But what would happen if we also took time this Lent to listen to others' lives more deeply? What if we found ways to set the clutter aside for forty days of listening to the people around us – our family, our friends, the folks at coffee between worship, the server at the coffee shop – to listen deeply for their hopes and fears and the presence of God's Spirit for, in and through them?

And, what if we found ways to listen more deeply to our world? We are inundated with information, so much that we can't absorb or process it all. What is the deep need underneath the news, the emails, the blogs, the tweets, the Facebook statuses? What is our neighborhood crying out for? How is creation waiting with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the very gifts we have to share?

Listen! Listen!
God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.
[ELW #513]



Bishop William O. Gafkjen

*Empowering, Equipping and Encouraging the
People of God to make Christ Known*

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Around the I-K Synod: 2012 Synod Assembly Service Project

June 7-9, 2012 ♦ Covington, KY



Each year, individuals from each congregation in the I-K Synod participate in the annual assembly service project. This year, we ask that congregations collect items for two service organizations that help individuals and families lead better lives. There will be a designated collection area at the assembly for items from the lists below.

The Clearinghouse is a non-profit organization that provides food, clothing, rent, and utilities to financially challenged families. Located in Aurora, IN, volunteers serve an average of 1,306 clients on a monthly basis. Items for congregations to collect and bring to assembly:

- Walmart and Kroger gift cards
- canned meat, fruit, vegetables, soups, powdered milk
- boxed meals, macaroni & cheese, pastas
- infant needs (diapers, baby food, cereal, formula)
- Ziploc bags, toilet paper, paper towels
- soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items

Safe Passage, Inc. is a domestic violence prevention and intervention service located in Batesville, IN. For more than 14 years, Safe Passage, Inc. has provided domestic violence victim services throughout Southeastern Indiana, and is dedicated to helping individuals and families live strong, safe lives that are free of violence. Items for congregations to collect and bring to assembly:

- Post it notes, steno pads, pens
- Scotch tape refills or dispensers
- antibacterial hand soap (dispensers or refills)
- heavy duty/straw brooms
- Regular or business size white "security" envelopes
- notebooks (single subject)
- Dawn dish detergent
- PineSol® or other household cleaner

About Your Synod: Collaborative Weaving Project: *Bound together and tightly woven together in love*

The I-K Synod worship committee has invited all ten synod conferences to participate in an initiative to illustrate how God is at work, weaving together the diverse ministries, contexts, energies, and passions of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod's congregations into a rich and colorful tapestry bound together by God's love and grace.

Each conference will facilitate a collaborative weaving process that will result in 10 three-foot-by-50-foot woven panels. Linda Witte Henke, the liturgical artist within our synod who designed the project, will join these panels together into a single tapestry that will define our 2012 I-K Synod Assembly space and provide a reminder of how God weaves together the Church's diversity into a calling of shared ministries.

The completed tapestry will debut at the 2012 I-K Synod Assembly, scheduled for June 7-9 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, KY. After that, the tapestry will be available for use throughout the Church, including congregations of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

2012 I-K Synod Events & Opportunities

Want to know more about the Collaborative Weaving Project?

You can find contact information for conference deans at www.iksynod.org. Click on **Contact Us** and then **Conference Officers**. She/he will know the coordinator for your conference in charge of volunteers to assemble and weave the panel. You can also read, download and print the instructions at www.iksynod.org. Click on **What's New**.

Your conference's woven panel is one of several elements in this initiative. Please send your panel to the I-K Lutheran Center by **April 25, 2012**.



BiblePlaces.com

This is a cool Web site and a great resource for Bible studies, Sunday School, or just your free time when you want to surf the Web!

BiblePlaces.com features photographs and descriptions of sites in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Greece with an emphasis on biblical archaeology, geography and history.