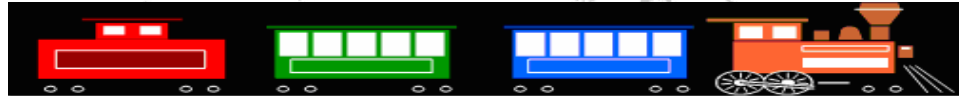


**Report of the Christian Education Team  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**June 5 – 7, 2008**

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***"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."  
(Proverbs 22:6)***



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We have been encouraged, equipped, and empowered by the vision of our synod and our mission statement.

The vision of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod – every person a missionary – affirms the basic need for faith formation and discipleship training in our congregations.

The mission statement of the Synod Christian Education Team is to encourage, equip, and empower believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.

Seven faith practices have been identified with the ELCA's Call to Discipleship: pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve, and give. We have utilized four as our operating principles during 2007.

**Pray.** We prayed for all of the synod education ministries in each conference. Each month our team members would pray, individually, for one of the conferences in a rotating schedule. We invited the conference dean and congregations to share prayer requests ahead of time. For an entire month, we prayed for the rostered and lay leaders who were doing the primary ministry of faith formation and discipleship training in those congregations and schools.

**Encourage.** We encouraged quality and growth of our educational ministries. We were present at the 2007 Celebration of Ministries in Fort Wayne to build relationships with voting members and visitors. This assembly was the roll-out of the Faith Formers Handbook, a portfolio of essential components to shape the building of an educational ministry in most any congregational setting.

Team members read and discussed current literature related to the panorama of Christian education. *Disciple-making Teachers*, by Josh Hunt, was the main reading selection for 2007. We began developing a flex-model, called "Whistle Stops", to use when visiting conferences and congregations to

encourage better practices and problem solving techniques in education ministry for children and adults.

**Serve.** We have been serving as a resource and clearinghouse for education materials and organizations. We value our membership in the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE), and the National Church Library Association (NCLA). We maintain partnership with the Congregational Resource Center (CRC) in Indianapolis, and with Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. There are immediate links to these resources on the synod Web site, at the Christian Education page.

**Give.** We have continued to give better ideas and time-sensitive information through the weekly synod e-newsletter, web site, and [ed.network](#). The [ed.network](#) is our on-line publication for clergy and lay leaders in Christian education. This publication is available for downloading on the home page of [www.iksynod.org](#). In 2007, we transitioned from hard copy issues to totally online. Six different issues covered topics relating to: administration tips, ideas for educating the educator, LACE, CRC, the living library, evaluating your Christian Education ministry, new year planning, and worship in education.



"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." (Proverbs 22:6)

The word train can be a noun or verb. The noun is the actual choo-choo, from the engine to the last car, each car linked to the next and all cars traveling in the same direction – hopefully forward. Train as a verb has several meanings: to prepare, to discipline, to aim, to teach, to prime, to direct.

**MEMBERS OF THE 2007 SYNOD CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM:**

Karen Seykowski, Team Leader	<a href="mailto:kjseykow@juno.com">kjseykow@juno.com</a>
Joyce Walther, Communications Leader	<a href="mailto:jwalther@parallax.ws">jwalther@parallax.ws</a>
Jan Philpy	<a href="mailto:gphilpy@indy.rr.com">gphilpy@indy.rr.com</a>
Ed Seykowski	<a href="mailto:edseykow@juno.com">edseykow@juno.com</a>
Gordon Starr	<a href="mailto:gstarr@iquest.net">gstarr@iquest.net</a>
Pr. Heather McCulloch, Ass't to the Bishop for Outreach, Evangelism, & Stewardship	<a href="mailto:pastor.heather@gmail.com">pastor.heather@gmail.com</a>