



**Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy,
Global Mission, Campus Ministry and
Synod Assembly Planning
Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Pastor Bill Gafkjen

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During my ministry internship with Lutheran Campus Ministry at South Dakota State University in the early 1980s on Sunday mornings, we sometimes used a rock and roll liturgy called “Synergy.” Despite the excellent education I had received at St. Olaf College, I had to look up the word in a dictionary to understand what we were doing! I learned that synergy is the “interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects.” How’s that for an image of what happens when we embark on mission and ministry together as a synod?

Take a look at these verbal snapshots of a just few of the many ways in which synergy emerged through the ministries of this synod in 2007...

- Full-time campus ministries on six university campuses providing community, comfort, challenge, and cheer for students faculty and staff...mission outposts that are only possible because of the vision and generosity of congregations and individuals of this synod through regular benevolence and designated gifts reaching far beyond what they can do locally. In fact, designated giving in excess of \$40,000 for campus ministries in 2007, combined with declining funds from the operational budget of the synod and churchwide expressions of the church, kept ministries alive and vital that might otherwise have struggled to just keep going.
- Ten people from congregations of this synod worshipping, working, and walking alongside scores of people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile for more than a week...sharing and experiencing “God in Between” in ways that magnify their sense of God’s goodness in connection with the deep needs of God’s people beyond what they would each have experienced alone at home.
- Nearly twenty individuals applying for candidacy toward rostered ministry in this church...each one’s formation and ministry becoming a multiplication of the loaves and fishes given them by family, friends and congregations to bless hundreds of others in seminaries, other institutions of the church and congregations yet to be served.
- Thousands of dollars generously given by congregations and individuals from this synod winging their way to the other side of the globe to fund pig and fish farming and sewing enterprises for residents of Nias Island in Indonesia who still

- struggle to recover from the 2004 tsunami and 2005 earthquake...each dollar transformed into income to sustain families now and for generations to come.
- Tens of thousands of dollars given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal through congregations of this synod...making this synod one of the leaders in the region and, in the hands of churchwide and international World Hunger staff, giving the gift of life to thousands of children and adults alike on every continent in this wide world.

I am sure you get the picture. If synergy hasn't imprinted itself in your spirit yet, spend some time reading through all the other reports in this Bulletin of Reports; soon the snapshots will become a collage and then a mural and then something too big to fathom or contain. We will collect even more synergistic snapshots in the year(s) ahead as we embark together on the initiative to more intentionally live into our shared vision of Every Person a Missionary and continue to deepen and grow faithful mission and ministry throughout Indiana and Kentucky and beyond.

Synergy...combined effect far greater than the sum of individual effects in the good and gracious economy of God...Synod. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Bill Gafkjen, Assistant to the Bishop

