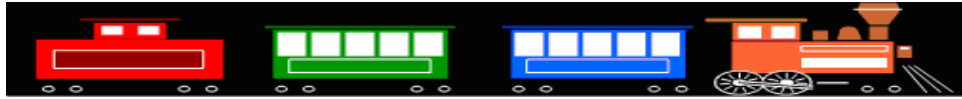


"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." (Proverbs 22:6)



Synod Christian Education Team Annual Report for 2008

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 in the conference for their month.

Encourage. We encouraged quality and growth of our educational ministries. We were present at the 2008 Celebration of Ministries in Lexington to build relationships with voting members and visitors. We sponsored the breakout presented by Beth Lewis, CEO of Augsburg Fortress, introducing the Book of Faith Initiative to all attending the I-K Synod Assembly in June.

Team members were invited to the Evansville Conference Spring Assembly and used a power point presentation on the *Faith Formers Handbook* which we specifically tailored to their interests and requests. And, an on-line copy of *Faith Formers Handbook* was added to the synod website. This accomplishment enables anyone to view and/or download specific or all pages. The *Faith Formers Handbook* is not copyrighted – one can freely adapt, copy, and distribute.

Current literature related to the panorama of Christian education was read and discussed by the team. *The Lutheran Handbook II*, edited by Kristofer Skrade, was the main reading selection for 2008.

We have developed a workshop engaging small groups, called "Classrooms Alive!", for use when visiting conferences, ministeriums, and congregations. "Classrooms Alive!"

equip participants to use better practices and problem solving techniques in education ministry whether it be with children or with adults.

Serve. We continue to serve 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 synod's weekly 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. Five different issues covered topics relating to: rethinking faith formation, Easter, Pentecost, summer possibilities, tips for recruiting volunteers, The Book of Faith, politics and Christian education, Our Calling in Education (ELCA Statement), the puzzlemaker resource, 10 Ways for Teachers to follow the Call of Discipleship, Getting Fluent in Faith's First Language, and occasionally some book reviews.



"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 includes the engine to the last car, each car linked to the next and all cars traveling in a forward direction. Train as a verb has several meanings: to prepare, to discipline, to aim, to teach, to prime, to direct.

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