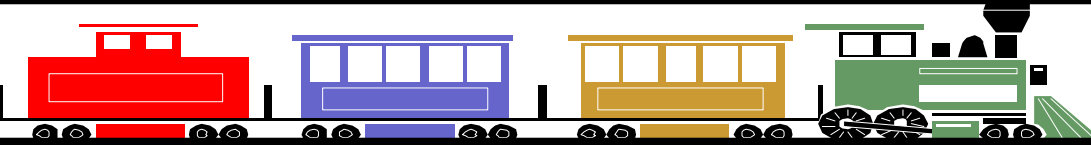


A reproducible networking newsletter for the Christian Education Ministries of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, to equip, empower, and encourage believers of all ages to develop their relationship with God and neighbor through faith development and discipleship.



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

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Politics and Christian Education

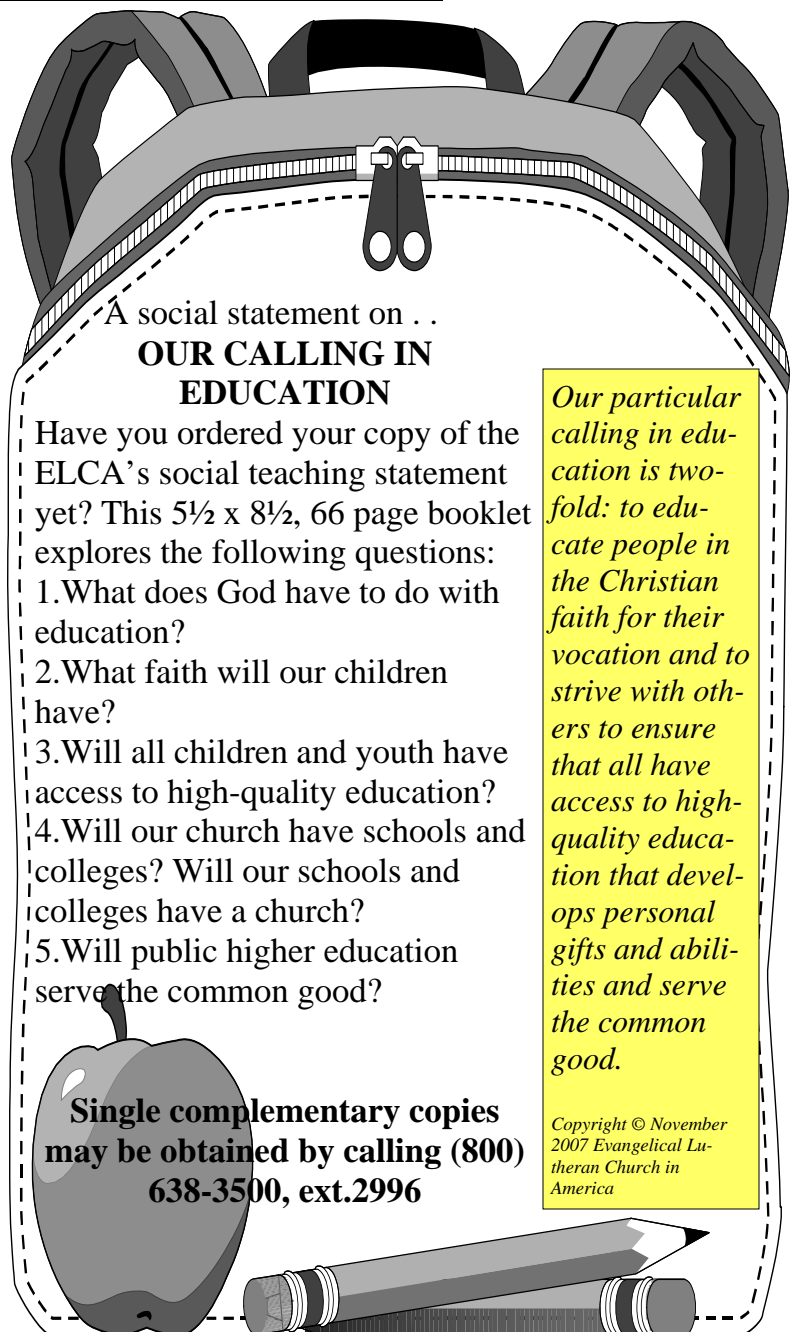
Do Christians need to vote? Believe it or not, some Lutherans vote, work at the polls, and even others serve as elected officials. Still others volunteer to work or donate monies to political campaigns.

Our forefathers were not as touchy about "the separation of Church and state" as we currently are. One only needs to look at the Supreme Court building inside and out to see the Christian heritage of our forefathers. The building is adorned with the Ten Commandments and other Judaic-Christian symbols. Even our money has "In God We Trust" printed on it. The Congress begins each session with a prayer offered by a government paid Chaplain. We need not apologize for being a Christian nation. The 1st Amendment says "freedom of religion" not "freedom from religion".

Let's look at the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections. Which candidates support our individual "Christian Values" and those of the ELCA? Since 1991, the ELCA has adopted eight "Social Statements" which publicly state the values of the church-wide body. These Social Statements can be found on the ELCA website: www.elca.org/socialstatements.

As Christian Educators, we need to become aware of which candidates support our values and which do not.

(Continued on page 2)



A social statement on . . .

OUR CALLING IN EDUCATION

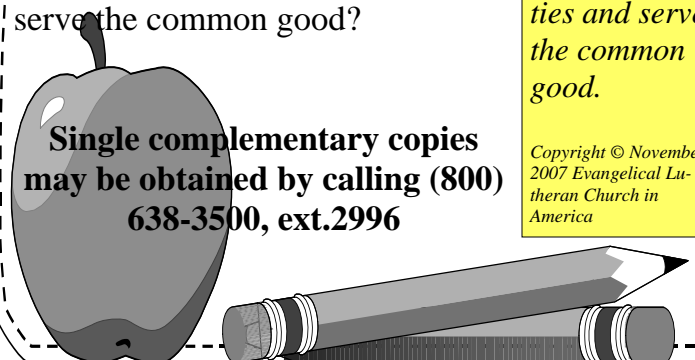
Have you ordered your copy of the ELCA's social teaching statement yet? This 5½ x 8½, 66 page booklet explores the following questions:

1. What does God have to do with education?
2. What faith will our children have?
3. Will all children and youth have access to high-quality education?
4. Will our church have schools and colleges? Will our schools and colleges have a church?
5. Will public higher education serve the common good?

Our particular calling in education is two-fold: to educate people in the Christian faith for their vocation and to strive with others to ensure that all have access to high-quality education that develops personal gifts and abilities and serve the common good.

Single complementary copies may be obtained by calling (800) 638-3500, ext.2996

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GETTING FLUENT IN FAITH'S FIRST LANGUAGE

Pastor Heather McCulloch, assistant to Bishop Stuck and director of Outreach and Evangelism, wrote the article in the May 2008, *The Epistle*:

"Do you talk about Jesus when you are in church on Sunday morning?"*

SAY WHAT?!?

Pastor McCulloch continued, "It may sound like a crazy question but 85% of Lutherans don't talk about Jesus on Sunday morning. And if you think that statistic is surprising, did you know that only 18% of the American public is in church any given Sunday?"** If we are not using "faith's first language" with our fellow worshipers, why do we expect to share Jesus with the other 82% of the population who are not in our churches?

Join us in the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative, a five-year enterprise that invites this entire Church to renew, enliven, and empower people for mission and service by reading and studying God's Word. The first goal is to invite everyone at all levels of the church to join the conversation, make a commitment, and become part of the initiative.

Check out the ELCA website: www.elca.org/bookoffaith and learn more.

*Download *The Epistle* from www.iksynod.org.

**Statistics shared by Rev. Dave Daubert of A Renewal Enterprise

Borrow the Book of Faith Starter Kit from the Congregational Resource Center, Indianapolis. The media you wish to borrow will be sent free of charge; you pay return postage (book rate).

Visit online catalog: www.cts.edu

1. Click on CTS Library;
2. Click on Search: CRC and CTS Library both listed

CELEBRATE SAINT NICHOLAS DAY!

On Saturday, December 6, celebrate St. Nicholas Day as a good "teaching moment" for the whole community. St. Nicholas Day provides a perfect way to HAVE:

- **FUN:** On arrival, the children could leave their shoes by the "fireplace" where later they will find a small gift from Saint Nicholas; read the story of the real St. Nicholas; "paint" St. Nicholas ginger cookies (Speculaas) with multi-colored powdered sugar glazes;
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Enjoy a meal together; make it simple (snacks, finger foods), or pizza and soda, or a traditional pitch-in
- **WORSHIP:** Have special emphasis on St. Nicholas as patron saint of sailors and children; select hymns and prayers to complement outreach project(s); conduct a blessing of outreach gifts; explain how the example of St. Nicholas' life shows the love of Christ
- **SERVICE:** Collect hats, scarves, mittens, socks and/or food for children who visit the local food pantry; carol around the neighborhood; create an ornament for their family



(Politics, continued) Election laws prohibit the church from publicly supporting candidates, but do not prohibit us from privately supporting candidates who support our Christian values. We support those candidates with our time, talents, treasures . . . and our votes. Putting Godly people in leadership positions takes educated effort. Help others:

GET EDUCATED AND INVOLVED!

***Interested in being part of
the I-K Synod Christian
Education Team?
Contact: Joyce
jwalther@parallax.ws***