

March
2010

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



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

From Bishop Jim Stuck

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I watch the Winter Olympics I can't help but think about the similarities between being an Olympian athlete and being a disciple of Jesus. For an athlete to perform at his or her highest level there needs to be an intense focus that involves discipline, sacrifice and hard work. For a baptized disciple, especially as we enter the season of Lent,

there is an enhanced focus as we increase our disciplines of "self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and acts of love."

However, there is a difference between an athlete and a baptized disciple. The difference is the object of the focus. For the athlete the focus is "winning the gold." But, for the disciple it is the Cross. As disciples we focus

not on what we can achieve, but on what God has done for us and for the world in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our lives are centered in God's love in Christ and God's continuing presence in the world through the body of Christ, the Church.

May God strengthen us in our Lenten disciplines so that the love of Christ might be revealed through us.

ELCA News

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Youth Gathering of the ELCA will return to New Orleans in 2012. Returning to a host city consecutively is unprecedented in the history of ELCA Youth Gatherings. The gathering will take place July 18-22, 2012.

Recognized as the largest event organized by the 4.6 million-member denomination, the ELCA Youth Gathering is a triennial

event that brings together tens of thousands of high school-age Lutherans from across the country and overseas for leadership development, faith formation, service opportunities and more. The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the Definitely Abled Leadership Event (DAYLE) will be held July 15-18.

DAYLE is a leadership event designed to "bless and empow-

er" gifted young people with a range of physical, cognitive and emotional differences. MYLE is a "multi-ethnic and multi-generational" event designed to equip young leaders to help lead their congregations into "fuller inclusion as a diverse church in a diverse world."

Go to www.elca.org/gathering and become part of the movement, ELCA for NOLA!

Around the I-K Synod

On January 22, 2010, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elwood, Indiana, received the Chamber Member of the Year Award for Religion from the Elwood Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recognized the congregation's contributions to the community through the End of the Month Meal Ministry, the Food for the Soul Garden, and monthly stewardship focuses.

The St. John youth group has also started a social ministry project called S.O.U.P., (Savory Options Unconditionally Provided). The youth will be putting together savory soup mixes to be given to the local food pantry. The group's hope is that the congregation will participate with them in helping feed the hungry. Contact Pr. Paulette Stahlke at reverendmom@hotmail.com.



From the People of Faith Series:

**A GARDENER, TWO TRAVELERS,
AND A CHEAT**
**Adam, Abraham,
Sarah, Jacob**

What a great name for a Bible study!
Bible studies feature leader session guides, learner session guides, and session prep DVDs to assist with leader preparation. Course kits are available and contain one leader guide, one learner guide, and one DVD.

www.augsburgfortress.org

About Your Synod: *What is a Deaconess?*

Diakonia is the Greek word for service, and as Jesus took a towel and washed the feet of the disciples, God calls us to respond with loving service in a world needing God's healing touch. Deaconesses respond with loving service in a world needing God's healing touch.

A **Deaconess** is a woman who is consecrated by the Church to a ministry of service. She is part of a community that offers vision,

encouragement and guidance. She is professionally trained and has a solid understanding of Christian theology. A deaconess comes from a variety of ethnic groups, ages, backgrounds, and places.

Most importantly, she has a heart for *diakonia* - for loving service to all in need, because of the love of Christ.

Deaconesses, along with other diaconal ministries, are the

church outside the church and, often times, are the church's face in society.

In its 90 year history, the Lutheran Deaconess Association has consecrated 739 deaconesses who have served throughout the world as parish staff, missionaries, social workers, lawyers, nurses, teachers and more.

Learn more at www.thelda.org.

Upcoming Event: **Worship for Mission**

- Have you thought about different styles of music in worship?
- Have you wondered "Can we be both contemporary *and* liturgical?"

Address these questions and explore the use of technology in worship at the I-K Synod "Worship for Mission" event.

This event is for any member of

the I-K Synod interested in learning more about Evangelical Lutheran Worship and participating in conversations about worship renewal.

March 13, 2010

**Faith Lutheran Church
Jeffersonville, IN**

or

April 24, 2010

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lafayette, IN**

Learn more at www.iksynod.org

Registration Fee: Pre-registration \$15; \$20 registration at the door; covers lunch, material.

Questions?

Contact Pr. Rudy Mueller at (317) 253-3522 or rmueller@iksynod.org.

2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

**2010 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly
June 4-6, 2010**

God's work. Our hands: *Extraordinary Grace Through Ordinary People*

What's going on at this year's Synod Assembly?

Election of a bishop, thanksgiving, farewell and God-speed for Bishop Stuck, inspiring worship, celebrative dinners, fellowship-rich receptions, presence and leadership of ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, inspiring and informative break out sessions, and all aspects of assembly that help us to be the church together

Diana Butler Bass, keynote speaker

www.dianabutlerbass.com

Ken Medema, assembly musician

www.kenmedema.com

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Kickoff Breakfast

In February, our camps became an independent organization—Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana Kentucky, Inc.

Join us as we celebrate our new ministry with a free spring breakfast!

Sat. April 10-Lutherwald - 9:00 a.m.

Sat. April 17-Lake Luther - 9:00 a.m.

Sat. April 24-Lutheran Hills - 9:00 a.m.

Visit www.lomik.org for directions. RSVP (260) 667-7750 or lom-ik@juno.com.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.