

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



From Bishop Jim Stuck

Dear Friends in Christ,

In a few days we will elect a new bishop for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. What an exciting time this is for the synod. I remember the first bishop's election in which I participated. I was a newly ordained pastor and had traveled to Columbus, Ohio for a special meeting to elect the bishop. There were several qualified

candidates and it was a close election. After the election and as we were leaving the meeting one of the veteran pastors said: "This must have been God's will, because it certainly wasn't mine."

I have thought of that statement often as we have elected bishops and even as I was elected. There usually are many qualified pastors who

surface as candidates. We really don't know who would be the right one, but I have trusted that God's Spirit has been active in each election bringing forth the right person to lead us at this time.

I ask for your prayers that we might be open to the Spirit's movement as God's will is done in our midst.

ELCA News: *Prayer Network Offers Comfort and Hope*

CHICAGO -- Lutherans are praying for people all over the world. They are praying for soldiers readying for battle, families facing home foreclosures, couples with relationship struggles, individuals who need work and for others. Through the ELCA's Prayer Network, thousands of prayer requests

are being received and cared for by the 4.6 million-member ELCA.

"We are responding to prayer requests from all over the world, submitted in a variety of languages, even from people who are not Lutheran," said Rev. Kathryn I. Love,

director for prayer and spiritual renewal, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission.

Love encourages people who desire prayer to visit www.prayingchurch.org on the ELCA Web site.

Around the I-K Synod

Pastor Bill Gafkjen, Assistant to the Bishop, and his wife, Janet, will travel to Chile May 26-30 as an expression of the IN-KY Synod's companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH). They will visit congregations affected by the February 2010 earthquake and explore the ways in which this synod may effectively accompany and support reconstruction efforts, and bring greetings on behalf of Bishop Stuck and the members of the synod to the national convention of the IELCH that weekend. Pr. Gafkjen also hopes to present to Pastora Gloria Rojas, IELCH Presiding Pastor, the first installment of funds raised in this synod to assist in reconstruction. Both Pr. and Mrs. Gafkjen hope to share stories, reports, and photos at a synod assembly breakout session. A report of the trip will be shared via synod communication means during the summer.

The offering from the sending Eucharist at the Synod Assembly on Sunday, June 6, will be designated toward the IELCH reconstruction effort. More information can be found at www.iksynod.org/ministry/globalmission/chileearthquake.asp.

About Your Synod: *What is Candidacy?*

The I-K Synod's Candidacy Process follows the guidelines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A person considering the ministry as vocation begins a journey of discernment that moves in two directions: the candidate discerns the call to rostered ministry, and community of the Church also discerns its relationship with the candidate.

Candidates journey through a process of Entrance, Endorsement, and Approval, which takes place in concert with coursework, internship, and other requirements.

The I-K Synod candidacy com-

mittee acts on behalf of the ELCA in discerning with a candidate the rostered ministry to which he or she is called: ordained or lay (Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, or Diaconal Ministry).

A person's individual sense of call to ordained, commissioned, or consecrated ministry must be confirmed by the larger community of the church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the candidacy process invites representatives of the church to determine whether a person's character, ability, health and wellness, spiritual formation, preparation, and commitment are appropriate for the

roster on which that person seeks to serve. The candidacy committee of each synod has the responsibility for approving a candidate for rostered ministry.

Typically, the I-K Synod has about 60 active candidates in process toward rostered ministry and another 10-15 who are inquirers, applicants, on hold, or approved but not yet called. The majority of those candidates receive affirmation of their call to rostered ministry in the form of a call from a congregation or other ministry once they are approved by the candidacy committee and assigned to regions of the church.

Upcoming Event

Women of the ELCA Spiritual Gathering

July 23-24, 2010

Holiday Inn, 2800 Presidential Drive, Fairborn, OH

Registration \$35.00 until June 30- \$10 late fee

Contact: Marilyn Saum 812-875-2737

Email msaum@indiana.ed

www.iksynod.org/ministry/IK-SWO/SpiritualGather10.pdf

Spiritual renewal through Bible study, worship, singing, friendships, journaling and entertainment. In the end, you'll identify avenues of service to others and learn to let God supply you with the strength you need.

2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

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

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-- "The Mission of the church," ELW, p. 75



**Book of Faith Travel Seminars
Turkey: Crossroads of our Faith
October 11-23, 2010**

Discover the land of Apostle Paul and our Christian heritage in Turkey where Christianity took shape and spread to become the religion of the Roman Empire. Visit cities where Paul ministered. and explore the cave churches of Cappadocia. Discover Byzantine history in Istanbul which gave rise to the Church of St. Sophia, the largest in Christendom for 900 years. See brochure at www.crossingborders.com under Tours.



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