

# I-K Lutheran



*Where mission meets the road*

## From Bishop Bill Gafkjen

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

When Bishop Jim Stuck was first elected and called twelve years ago, he initiated a process of conversation, exploration and discernment throughout the synod that resulted in clarification of our mission, vision, core values, and operating principles. (The resulting document is available at [www.iksynod.org/resourcesmain.asp](http://www.iksynod.org/resourcesmain.asp).) That process revealed that the operational foundation for our life together as the I-K Synod is our baptismal mission to empower, equip and encourage one another to make Christ known. As we move through a time of transition to new leadership in the bishop's office and the other transitions that accompany that change, this mission continues to provide energy and direction for our work together, even as we face challenges and opportunities that very few folks had in mind twelve years ago.

Over the next few months we will explore this mission as intentionally and as deeply and broadly as we can in a wide variety of arenas to discern what God is up to and calling us to in the next chapters of our life as the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA. We will also explore what is needed in terms of structure, processes and resources for us to live faithfully into that mission in every nook and cranny of this synod.

Right now is a good time to begin that conversation wherever you are. Why not place that mission statement at the center of your next Bible study or congregation council meeting or conversation over a cup of coffee? Look through the "empowering, equipping and encouraging one another" lens to explore what God is up to and what God is calling your community of faith to in your part of the synod and what you need to do, change or share to make that happen. Take a moment to share what you learn or explore with someone beyond your usual circle of contacts as a way to broaden the conversation and take one small step forward in empowering, equipping and encouraging each other to make Christ known throughout this synod and beyond its borders.

**Peace be with you, Bishop Bill Gafkjen**

## ELCA News - ELCA Details 2010 Budget Reductions

CHICAGO -- Recent actions by the ELCA Church Council to reduce the 2010 current fund spending authorization for the churchwide organization affected a variety of ministries. The council reduced this year's churchwide current fund by \$4.2 million to \$65.1 million, a reduction of 6.1 percent from the previously authorized \$69.3 million.

Nearly three-fourths of the churchwide organization's funding is assigned to its five program units. Funding in those units reduced by the council action is as follows: Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, \$400,000; Global Mission, \$448,000; Multicultural Ministries, \$94,870; Church in Society, \$131,000; Vocation and Education, \$592,000.

Ministries and programs affected by the reductions in these units were international scholarship grants, the elimination of some unassigned funding for starting new congregations, reductions in grants to colleges and universities, and decreases in seminary and campus ministry grants. Other reductions include decreases in program activities, general office, administrative costs, and position vacancies.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Treasurer, plus the service units, communications and development were reduced a combined total of nearly \$627,000.

Other reductions were \$1.7 million from the general treasury and \$200,000 in a strategic initiative fund.

Nearly all of the reductions came from a decline in mission support funds, which are provided by congregations through synods to churchwide ministries, said Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer. She reported that through June 30 mission support income declined about \$3.7 million or about 15 percent from the same period in 2009.

## Around the I-K Synod



**On July 18, Bishop Bill Gafkjen preached at the annual summer *Friends of Lutherwald* Hog Roast.**

**Typically, the gathering begins with worship in the morning followed by the barbecue meal and camp tours. This year the camp tours included an open house of the new Lake Village youth cabin.**



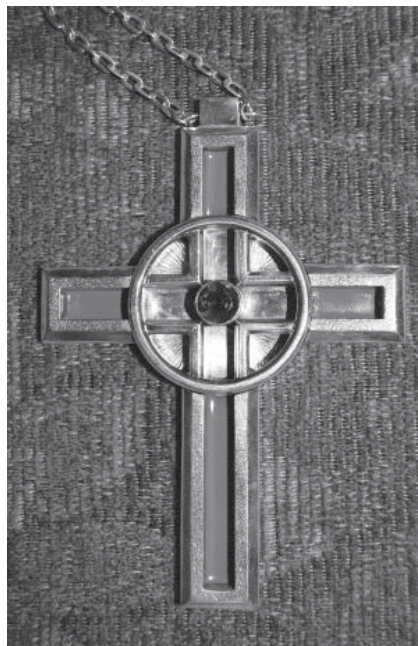
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## About Your Synod: The Bishop's Pectoral Cross



**The Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishop wears a pectoral cross made of silver. On the back are engraved the names and dates of each of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishops since the formation of the ELCA.**

Bishops wear a pectoral cross necklace when presiding over ordinations or other worship-related events. A bishop also wears this cross when attending meetings or events unrelated to worship. The name for this cross comes from the Latin word *pectus*, which means to be near the breast. When a new bishop is installed, the presiding bishop places it around the new bishop's neck and says, "Receive this cross and wear it as a sign of your calling to serve Christ and his people, and as an emblem of the office to which you have been elected." Typically the chain brings the cross to the center of the chest, near the heart.

The color violet traditionally represents the office of bishop. Some ELCA bishops wear a purple shirt, clerical collar and suit to non-worship events and for practical purposes, he/she can place the cross in the left shirt pocket so that the chain is visible, but the cross is safely tucked away.

Abbots, cardinals and popes have been wearing pectoral crosses for centuries. In museums or special collections are crosses made with compartments that contain relics, such as fragments of the cross of Jesus Christ or the bones of saints. The I-K Synod pectoral cross does not have such a compartment for relics.

The I-K Synod pectoral cross is made of silver and has a violet stone in the center. The body of the cross is inset with red enamel. On the back are engraved the names and dates of office of each Indiana-Kentucky Synod bishop: Bishop Ralph Kempinski, Bishop James Stuck and now Bishop William Gafkjen.

## 2010 I-K Synod Events & Opportunities



**This event will benefit pastors and lay rostered leaders of the I-K Synod who are struggling with the financial burden of secondary education costs, low compensation and pension contributions.**

### **Annual Freed to Lead Fund Golf Outing September 30, 2010 Bear Chase Golf Club Shelbyville, Indiana**

Hole sponsors include Lutheran Child and Family Services, California Connection Catering and the Fort Wayne Visitors and Convention Bureau

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is the sponsor for the awards dinner.

**Contact Joe Skvarenina at (317) 253-3522 or [joes@iksynod.org](mailto:joes@iksynod.org)**

### **Do you belong to a congregation whose office does not have access to the Internet?**

If so, please encourage members to subscribe to the weekly I-K Synod email by calling Danielle at (317) 253-3522 or by visiting the home page of [www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org) and using the subscriber box. Since we no longer print and mail synod news on a regular basis, the Lutheran Center wants to connect with you electronically. It is one of our goals and core values to be interconnected and we are committed to communicating with you as much as we can.



**Indiana-Kentucky Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.