

Every person a missionary

*Every person a missionary
Every pastor a mission director
Every congregation, conference and ministry a mission center*

Each day is an opportunity to ask, "What is God up to in the world and how can I help?"

People from throughout the Indiana-Kentucky Synod have been meeting, praying, exploring Scripture and engaging in mutual conversation in the hope of moving more deeply into their own embodiment of this vision.

The goal, in addition to every person a missionary? Every rostered leader a mission director and every ministry site a mission center, of course!

The initial EPAM journey was led by the staff of A Renewal Enterprise, the consulting firm under contract with the synod, in partnership with synod staff, especially Heather McCulloch and Bill Gafkjen, assistants to the bishop.

After participating in a retreat with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council and conference deans in January, the EPAM team has prayed together to build relationships, to discern a sense of purpose and direction as missionaries, and to support one another in following that direction and purpose into the world.

Team members throughout the synod have enjoyed retreats, on-site meetings with synod staff and a series of interactive webinars to study Scripture and involve one another in con-



Bishop James Stuck preaches to EPAM retreat participants.



The Rev. Bill Gafkjen is an EPAM synodical co-leader, along with the Rev. Heather McCulloch.

versation and journaling.

EPAMers now use a Facebook-type networking site (Ning) for further conversation and personal transformational growth. They visit the site often, asking questions, challenging and pushing one another, sharing ideas and practices, praying together, and risking, laughing and learning together.

Live like a missionary and share the journey ... learn to engage your work and world with purpose and passion.

The I-K Synod EPAM team is now ready to invite all members of each synod congregation to undergo personal transformation by developing and participating in small groups in congregations (or clusters of congregations).

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New resources are available to guide members to a theological and biblical understanding of God's mission in our world.

Regional EPAM rallies will be offered in the synod in October. Participants will experience the EPAM materials and processes and be trained for implementing them in their conferences, congregations and neighborhoods.

EPAM participants will learn to discern God's activity in daily life and through the actions of people they meet. As witnesses EPAMers will learn to discern and recognize God's work and then jump in to help in any way possible. In short, EPAM journeyers will learn to embrace EPAM—"every person a missionary"—as a defining characteristic of their own lives.

Be ready to become an intentional EPAMer when the invitation to join the journey knocks on your door in late 2009 and early 2010. □



Mission support table chair Morgan Studer and Mary Beth Foster find encouragement to ask where God is at work in the world and how they can help.



What does salvation mean in the book of Isaiah? Pastors Judy Follis and Wendy Piano list the many images of salvation in Isaiah.

Fall EPAM schedule

If you are looking for personal transformation and wish to engage your work and world with purpose and passion, join the September EPAM webinar or take part in a one-day congregational rally.

Sept 21, 7 p.m. CDT: EPAM overview webinar for everyone.

A "come and see" encouragement for all I-K Synod participants to invite congregations and people to get a glimpse of what will happen at the fall rallies.

Oct. 10 or 17: regional one-day congregational rallies for everyone.

Bring a team from your congregation. Bring a cluster of congregations. This banquet feast is for everybody.

Questions? Contact Bill Gafkjen at bgafkjen@iksynod.org or Heather McCulloch at hmcculloch@iksynod.org.

Interested in joining the EPAM Ning networking site? Contact Danielle Burrus at dburrus@iksynod.org.

Join the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative

As a response to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible initiative, congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod have made the commitment to be a part of the conversation.

The ELCA has made available new resources for use in studying the Bible (see page D) and the official www.bookoffaith.org Web site offers ideas, suggestions, practices and tools to allow each congregation to adopt and personalize its own study.

Comments from members of I-K Synod congregations:

- "I appreciate the way that our congregation doesn't have to rely on one specific resource."
- "I feel much more comfortable using my Bible now that I've studied the basics through the Book of Faith initiative. I never would have thought of putting tabs into my Bible to mark the books!"
- "Members of our congregation like the Book of Faith online social network and I saw that there are Facebook Book of Faith groups too. I'm on the computer all the time, so it was easy to join an online community."

Our congregations

Which congregations in the I-K Synod are participating in the Book of Faith initiative?

- House of Prayer, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- Good Shepherd, Indianapolis.
- Lamb of God, Indianapolis.
- Trinity, Valparaiso, Ind.
- Immanuel, Plymouth, Ind.
- Christ the King, South Bend, Ind.
- St. Mark, Batesville, Ind.
- Faith, Jeffersonville, Ind.
- St. Thomas, Bloomington, Ind.

- St. Peter's, Stendal, Ind.
- Cross of Grace, New Palestine, Ind.
- Servants of Christ, Indianapolis.
- First Lutheran, Columbus, Ind.
- St. James, Greenfield, Ind.

Add your church's name to the list this year.



Ask questions first, buy later:

What to look for when buying a study Bible

What translation is this Bible?

One of the most common translations in the ELCA is the New Revised Standard Version. This is the translation used in *Sundays and Seasons* and is probably the one used on Sunday mornings in your congregation. The new Lutheran

Study Bible published by Augsburg Fortress uses the NRSV translation. Another popular translation is the New International Version.

Is this translation an update of an existing translation or did the translators go back to the original Greek and Hebrew texts to do the translating?

Both the NRSV and the NIV translators went back to the original Greek and Hebrew to do their translating. Even Bible translators can make mistakes, or new information or archeological finds like the Dead Sea Scrolls can change the way a word or a phrase is translated. Using the oldest, most complete texts in the original Greek and Hebrew help to ensure as accurate a translation as possible.

Who are the translator(s)? Is it one person or a committee?

A committee is almost always better because the Bible is meant to be studied and read in community. Translating, studying, preaching and praying Scripture are always done in community.

Even if you are studying the Scriptures alone you are surrounded by a great cloud of translators, scholars, preachers, teachers and, of course, the Spirit.

Who is writing the study notes?

In the Harper Collins Study Bible and the New Interpreters' Study Bible, the notes are by a variety of well-known and respected scholars.

In the new Lutheran Study Bible the notes have been prepared by Lutheran scholars (many seminary professors) and pastors.

Are the study notes and other aids presented in a way you can understand and easily use?

The new Lutheran Study Bible uses symbols, articles, maps and charts to enrich your Bible study. It contains introductions to the books of the Bible, insights on reading and understanding the Bible, an article on Martin Luther and the Bible, and even Luther's Small Catechism.



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Visitors and staff enjoy the notes and articles in the new Lutheran Study Bible. Jan Philpy (center) especially appreciates the “Faith Reflections,” which provide thoughtful questions that encourage individuals to apply the Bible readings to everyday life events.

Exciting new Book of Faith resources

- *Foundational Training DVD: Leading in Faith*. Seven sessions designed to help prepare small group leaders to lead Bible study. Emphasis is on the four-method approach to scriptural interpretation and on building community in the group. Suitable for both new and experienced leaders. DVD only.
- *Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith*. Seven sessions delve into major questions of the Bible. Leader’s guide, learner’s guide and DVD.
- *Books of Faith Bible Study Series*. Choose from the following books of the Bible: 1 John (four sessions), Exodus (six sessions), Genesis (eight sessions), John (eight sessions) and Romans (six sessions). Leader’s guide, learner’s guide and DVD.
- “Together in Faith Bible Study Series.” Excellent for groups following the Revised Common Lectionary (specific Sundays during Pentecost) or for use as thematic studies. *God’s*

Extraordinary Church delves into Ephesians (six sessions). *God’s Will for Life* focuses on Mark (three sessions). Leader’s guide, learner’s guide and DVD.

- “People of Faith Bible Study Series.” We explore the faith journeys of key people in the Bible to discover ourselves in *A Gardener, Two Travelers and a Cheat: Adam, Abraham, Sarah and Jacob* (four sessions). Great for those new to Bible study or those looking for a fresh new introduction to the Bible. Leader’s guide, learner’s guide and DVD.
- *Opening the Book of Faith*. The original book, providing an introduction to the Bible and Lutheran perspectives that guide understanding of Scripture.
- *Opening the Book of Faith Leader Guide (Expanded)*. Equips the leader to guide discussions.
- *Opening the Book of Faith Course DVD*. Includes a promotional clip to introduce the initiative as well as discussion-starting video clips for the first three sessions of *Opening the*

Book of Faith Course.

- *Opening the Book of Faith Course Kit*. A seven-session course for those preparing to launch the Book of Faith initiative. Includes all three of the above resources.
- *Rediscovering the Book of Faith Learner Book*. Three sessions exploring how the Bible came to be our Book of Faith. An exciting way to invite a congregation to become part of the Book of Faith conversation.
- *Rediscovering the Book of Faith Leader Guide*. Equips the leader to guide the course discussions with lessons presented in a simple format to minimize leader preparation time.
- *Rediscovering the Book of Faith Course DVD*. Features discussion-starting video clips that can be used as promotional clips to invite congregants to the course. It will help engage participants in the Book of Faith conversation.
- *Rediscovering the Book of Faith Course Kit*. A three-session course providing an excellent way to launch the Book of Faith initiative in a congregation. Includes all three of the above resources.
- *The Book of Faith 40-Day Lenten Journey*. A devotional resource connecting 40 personal daily readings and weekly worship with the study of Scripture, structured around seven key petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. The 40-Day Journey will help engage everyone in devotional reading of Scripture.

For more details and order information, go to www.bookoffaith.org.