

# The Epistle

July 2007

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For clergy, lay leaders, and friends of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

[www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org)

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**Dear Friends in Christ,**

**“May I pray for you?” “Let’s pray.” I have heard those words many times during these nearly ten years spent serving on the synod program staff.** We have prayed together in staff meetings, with synod council, with congregations, with individual persons, in worship, and during difficult conversations. Hours and hours have been spent in prayer. Private and corporate prayers have been lifted up. Prayers have been raised to God in praise and thanksgiving, prayers for comfort and strength, for healing, for guidance, and for direction. We have stopped mid-argument and pre-decision-making to pray together. We have bowed heads, held hands, and placed arms around one another.

When I look back on this past decade and think about the experiences and opportunities in which I have been so privileged to participate, those moments in prayer keep coming back as the most powerful of all.

Often in leadership and in ministry, we feel the pressure and need for “success” or “survival,” and the challenges, frustrations, and disappointments seem difficult. A lot rides on our shoulders and few of us live up to the expectations and demands that we and others place upon us.

***So, let’s think this through...***

We begin and end each day, each meeting, and each conversation in prayer. We believe that it is God who guides, protects, and is the leader of each ministry and mission. We know this to be true and yet, once we say “amen,” we go back to our agendas, goals, and plans. I have found however, that when the entire discussion or meeting is in prayer- actually becomes prayer, there is enormous freedom and relief. The risky becomes less of a risk. The burden is much less of a burden. Possibilities are more possible. That’s not to say we can’t disagree or shouldn’t wrestle with difficult choices; those are certainly part of leadership. We are accountable and have responsibilities. It is to say, however, that when we continually invite God into the process and constantly lift up the fact that this is indeed God’s world and God’s mission for God’s people, it helps remind us that this work is so much more than what we might want or think we need.

When God is invited into each and every minute of the day; into our travel, our laughter, our worries; into bill paying, garden tending, and meal preparation; into choir practice, child care, and bulletin folding; into everything we do, then what is attainable and accomplished is limitless.

When God is invited into each minute of the day; into our travel, our laughter, our worries; into bill paying, garden tending, and meal preparation; into choir practice, child care, and bulletin folding; into everything we do, then what is attainable and accomplished is limitless. The tasks, no matter what they are, become ministry and mission.

I have prayed with and for you and have been blessed and inspired by your prayers. As I prepare to leave my position as Director for Outreach and Evangelism, I want to thank you for the opportunity and the friendship, hospitality, collegiality, and partnership that you have extended. I couldn’t possibly express my gratitude to you for all that I have received. So, dear friend, please know that I will pray for you. For your family, your congregation, and your ministry. The people of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod will always remain in my heart and prayers. *Let’s pray.*

Joyfully serving,

*Terri Dillon*

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***Empowering, Equipping, and Encouraging the People of God to Make Christ Known***

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## Walk side by side with our I-K Synod travelers to Chile:

[www.godinbetween.blogspot.com](http://www.godinbetween.blogspot.com)

By Pr. Bill Gafkjen, I-K Synod Assistant to the Bishop

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this blog and to invite you to follow along as a bunch of folks from our synod travel to Chile to accompany our sisters and brothers in Christ who live and serve in that fascinating country.

The group leaves Indianapolis on August 1 and will return August 13. During that time they will work alongside members of Buen Samaritano Congregation in Santiago to build a covering over a walkway between the church building and the preschool by the same name that the congregation offers as part of its ministry. The group will also visit other congregations and ministries of the *Iglesia Evangelica Lut-erana en Chile (IELCH)*, our companion church. Having experienced a similar sojourn with the IELCH in 2004, I know that the participants in this trip will experience the amazing presence of God in their midst as they laugh and pray, talk, work and play with the good people of the church there.

This trip is part of our companion relationship with the IELCH. The companionship has been established under the "accompaniment model" of global relationships. This model is a departure from what most folks think of as traditional models of global mission -- and it is countercultural as well. Accompaniment is about a mutual relationship between equals who trust each other to be faithful stewards of God's mission in their respective parts of the world. This means that relationship is more important than resources and we steer clear of donor/receiver dynamics in the relationships. We commit to learning from each other and to doing what we can to encourage and support one another's mission and ministry.

This is one of the reasons we have chosen the theme "**God In Between**" for this trip. This is the title of a delightful book by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and beautifully illustrated by Sally Sweetland. In that book individuals slogging through life are claimed by new joy and delight in community through the discovery that God is "in between." God is in between us, in the relationships we have with one another. The participants in this trip (US travelers and Chilean hosts alike) will be guided by this expectation, this faith, this promise.

*Walking side by side with one another they will see God.*

## Lakeside Theological Convocation

*The Freedom of the Christian: The Church and Public Life* September 4-6, 2007

Lakeside Methodist Retreat Center, Lakeside, OH

### Presenters are:

- Kevin Dudley, pastor of The Church at North Pointe, a developing congregation in a northern Columbus suburb.
- Gary M. Simpson, a division chair and professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.
- Marcus Lohrmann, bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod
- Andrew Genszler, director for advocacy and the Washington Office for the ELCA.

**E-mail:** [cornett@TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu](mailto:cornett@TrinityLutheranSeminary.edu)



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*(Your e-mail address will always remain confidential.)*

**Know and Be Known: Small Groups That Nourish and Connect**  
**By Brooke B. Collison**

*A book review by Rev. Wade E. Apel  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Noblesville, Indiana*

“Spiritual needs of the members and the community may be in danger of neglect,” writes Robert Hoshibata in the foreword of Know and Be Known. He captures the essence of the book and the gift that small group ministry can offer to the body of the Christ. He writes, “This ministry is a means by which the spiritual needs of a congregation may be met through the connections that are developed, strengthened, and nurtured through participation in small groups.”

People in our communities are longing to form deeper relationships with each other and Collison views the small group as a safe place for group members to learn and support each other through life.

Whether the congregation that you are currently serving has dozens of small groups or if the only small group is the church council, you can benefit from reading this book. It begins by laying a foundation for why small groups are important in any community and then provides a framework by which you can begin a small group ministry. Collison provides advice on how to effectively identify group leaders or facilitators and form groups in an environment that encourages open sharing among the members. While the congregation I am currently serving has an established small group ministry, I am planning on using sections of this book to help train existing leaders and develop new leaders at a workshop in the near future.

One of the greatest strengths of this book is the chapter entitled, “How to be a good group member.” Collison pulls from his 16 years of experience as a group member to illustrate many of the common problems that plague small group dynamics. His presentation makes you feel like you are a member of the group. I found myself laughing at times because I could relate to the manner in which individuals can dominate a conversation or fail to listen to each other. I found the methods suggested for evaluating groups to be extremely beneficial, and I suggest that all small groups do a “Group Health Assessment” once a year.

If you believe in the value of having small groups as a vital part of your life, this book has value for you. The four appendices of the book are worth the price of the book. They include valuable tools such as discussion starters for small groups, training activities for leaders, and group assessment strategies.

Collison, Brooke B. Know and Be Known: Small Groups That Nourish and Connect. Herndon, VA 20171: Alban Institute, 2007.

## Festival to gather Lutheran creative writers

By Anne Basye, ELCA  
Associate Director for Global Resources



If you're a writer of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry, mark your calendar now for the first-ever gathering of Lutheran-affiliated creative writers. ***Called to Create: A Lutheran Festival of Writing at Luther College*** will bring together creative writers who have been shaped by the Lutheran tradition. Through readings, lectures, panel discussions, and open-mike events, the festival aims to support and encourage serious writing and to cultivate a community of writers in the Lutheran world.

***Called to Create*** will take place November 2-4 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The 19 confirmed writers include keynote speakers National Book Award winner Walt Wangerin and Marilyn Nelson, Poet Laureate of Connecticut. Other participants include Paul Shepherd, writer in residence at Florida State University and winner of the 2004 Mary McCarthy Prize; poets Joyce Sutphen and Gracia Grindal; and writer-pastor Heidi Neumark, who will preach at the closing service.

***For more information about the festival, participants, and how to register, visit <http://programming.luther.edu/lutheranwriters> or e-mail [lutheranwriters@luther.edu](mailto:lutheranwriters@luther.edu)***

## EmbodyHealth

Take the health risk assessment on the Mayo Clinic ***EmbodyHealth*** Web site and earn \$100 from the Board of Pensions!

If you participate in the health activities outlined on ***EmbodyHealth***, the BOP will put \$200 in your account for the 2008 plan year! Learn more at [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org) and watch for your plan member toolkit coming by mail in September.

## Synod Calendar 2007

### August 2007

#### God In Between: A Trip to Chile

August 1- 13, 2007

I-K Synod members travel to Chile

Visit [www.godinbetween.blogspot.com/](http://www.godinbetween.blogspot.com/)

#### Worship Jubilee 2007

August 3-6, 2007 Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

Visit [www.elca.org/worship/jubilee/index.html](http://www.elca.org/worship/jubilee/index.html)

#### I-K Synod Retired Pastors' Luncheon

August 3, 2007

MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

#### 2007 Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly

"Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks be to God!"

Navy Pier in Chicago - August 6-12, 2007

Visit [www.elca.org/assembly/](http://www.elca.org/assembly/)

#### I-K Synod Candidacy Retreat

August 22-25, 2007 Waycross Retreat Center

Visit [www.iksynod.org/events/Candidacy%20Retreat07/candidacyretreat07.asp](http://www.iksynod.org/events/Candidacy%20Retreat07/candidacyretreat07.asp)

Contact April Lynch at [alynch@iksynod.org](mailto:alynch@iksynod.org)

#### I-K Synod Transitions Workshop

August 27, 2007 Pleasant View, Indianapolis

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

#### I-K Synod Leadership Support Committee Meeting

August 28, 2007 I-K Synod Office Chapel 9:30 am

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

### September 2007 (Office closed Labor Day)

#### I-K Synod Global Mission Meeting

September 8, 2007 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room

Contact Jean Eisen at [eisenj@bellsouth.net](mailto:eisenj@bellsouth.net)

#### I-K Synod Interim Ministers Meeting

September 10, 2007 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

#### I-K Synod Council Meeting

September 14-15, 2007 Lutheran Hills Camp

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

#### I-K Synod Conference Deans Meeting

September 20, 2007 I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

#### I-K Synod Academy For Mission Meeting

September 27, 2007 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room

#### I-K Synod Professional Leaders' Conference

September 30 - October 2, 2007

Turkey Run State Park, Indiana

Contact Karen Eppert at [keppert@iksynod.org](mailto:keppert@iksynod.org)

## Communicating in Today's World

### Part III of a three-part series

By Hope Moran

*The Internet brings new methods of communicating and many of the new sites are geared toward social networking. People long for relationships and will go to great lengths to find them. For outreach purposes, we just need to be there and make contact with people. We can help them build relationships that will last a lifetime and beyond.*

*When my children and their spouses were home recently, we talked about all of this. One of them said they never send anything hand-written and can't remember the last time they bought a stamp. Cards are e-cards, bills are done online, etc. They all agreed, though, that a hand-written letter or card still makes a big impact and a phone call creates a personal touch. Ultimately, the most important form of communication began in the Garden with face-to-face talks.*

### Communication Resources

**Facebook:** This is a social utility that connects you with people around you. Originally designed for college students but now open to everyone with an email address, you can join networks and groups relating to high schools, colleges, geographic regions and networks like, "Hey! Are your toes cold?" Anyone can make a network or group for others to join. You can list your current status by saying that "Hope Moran is happy the NHL playoffs are on TV!" You can leave messages for each other privately or on your "wall" which is open for everyone to see. You can post quotes, which groups you belong to, and even give others cyber gifts. One major advantage with Facebook is that an unlimited number of pictures can be posted, as well as videos.

**Podcast:** Listening to a podcast is like hearing a radio broadcast. You can go to sites online and listen to messages, sermons, or interviews. You can also download these to MP3 players such as iPods to listen to later. Podcasts can be live, as well. You can subscribe to a podcast from a particular person or organization and get updates when new ones are available. Some churches such as Christ the Savior in Fishers have made it possible to listen to their sermons online or by downloading them to an MP3 player. Visit [www.christthesavior.org](http://www.christthesavior.org) and click on "sermons." The radio broadcast, *Grace Matters* also offers this service from their Web site.

**YouTube:** This is a place where you can share videos you have made. The YouTube slogan is "Broadcast Yourself." It has become the leading Internet entertainment site and has recently started giving out awards. You can find music videos and artistic or comedy films and anyone can watch them. A church can post a video of a recent mission trip or event for everyone to see. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

### **Other communication links:**

**Twitter:** [twitter.com](http://twitter.com) Answer the question "What are you doing?" with text messages, chat, or web posting.

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/](http://www.linkedin.com/) A social networking site that relates primarily to professional experience and resume building.

**Odeo:** [odeo.com/](http://odeo.com/) A podcast management tool that enables people to record and share podcasts.

**Wiki's:** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki) A wiki is a webpage that allows many users to create the content.

Hope L. Moran Associate in Ministry [www.stjameselca.org](http://www.stjameselca.org)

Indianapolis Conference Coordinator <http://www.indplsconf-elca.org>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/hopesnotes>

My Blog: <http://blog.myspace.com/hopesnotes>

St. James Youth Group MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/stjamesyouthgroup>

# Transformations

## Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

**Pr. Alice Murto** (retired) and husband Robert as Robert recovers from major heart surgery.

The family of **Robert T. Tedrowe**, former treasurer of the I-K Synod, who died July 5, 2007.

**The family of Frannie Kirkpatrick, wife of Pr. Ralph Kirkpatrick** (OLFC), whose father passed away July 6, 2007, in Charleston, South Carolina.

The family of **Danielle Burrus**, I-K Synod Communications, who mourns the death of her mother, Simone Baepler. Mrs. Baepler died on June 17, 2007 in Valparaiso, Ind.

**The families of Terri Dillon, I-K Synod Assistant to the Bishop, and Sylvia Ore**, I-K Synod Bookkeeper, who mourn the death of Myra Maedge, Terri's grandmother and Sylvia's mother-in-law. Mrs. Maedge died on June 11, 2007.

The family of **Pr. James Hilleson** (Lutheran Church of the Cross, Muncie, Ind.), whose father, Edmund Hilleson of Lee, Ill., died June 4, 2007.

The family of **Pr. Cathy Lauterhahn** (Chaplain, St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis) as they celebrate the birth of granddaughter Gracy Lou Catherine Fraysure, born on May 17, 2007.

The family of **Pr. James Capers** (Lamb of God Church, Indianapolis), as they celebrate the marriage of daughter Kiesi to Milton Bouger on June 16, 2007.

**Pr. Scott Vana** (OLFC, Our Saviour, W. Lafayette, Ind.), whose wife Sandra was diagnosed with cancer.

**The family of I-K Synod Bishop Jim Stuck and David Deckard** (Lutheran Hills manager), as they celebrate the birth of granddaughter Kyla Elizabeth, born on May 13, 2007.

**Pr. Roger Schmidt** (retired), who underwent successful open heart surgery on May 2, 2007, in South Bend, Ind.

**Pr. Tom BeMiller** (retired), whose wife, Mary-Louise underwent successful back surgery.

*Please pray for the following as their lives and ministries take new directions:*

## Ordinations and Installations:

**Joseph D. Faust** was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Friday, June 8, 2007, at the 2007 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Faust has been called to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church, Linton, Ind.

**Pr. Timothy Knauff, Jr.**, was installed at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in South Bend, Indiana on June 3, 2007.

**Pr. Gregory W. Smith** was installed at Faith Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana on January 21, 2007.

**Pr. Karen McNeill-Utecht** was installed at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Princeton, Indiana, on February 11, 2007.

**Kenneth Hebel**, Associate in Ministry, was installed at Messiah Lutheran Church in Brownsburg, Indiana, on April 22, 2007.

## Deaths:

† **We mourn with the family and friends of Pr. Thomas Roberts, who died at home on July 8, 2007.** Pr. Roberts had been serving St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Formerly, he had served as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Cromwell and St. John's Lutheran Church in Dubois, both in Indiana. He is survived by his wife Anita, two daughters Kathy and Rachel, his parents, a brother and sister-in-law, four sisters and two brothers-in-law. The funeral took place on July 11, 2007 at St. Mark's in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Memorials can be made to a fund established for Pr. Roberts' daughters' education. Call St. Mark's at (419) 738-3122 for more information.

[www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org)

# Congregations in the Call Process:

As of July 16, 2007

## Mission Discernment:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	
Bethany, Indianapolis, IN	Interim Pr. Martin Bornhoeft
Bethany, LaPorte, IN	Staff Position
Bethany, Louisville, KY	
Bethel, Gary, IN	Interim Pr. Chris Armiger
Bethlehem, Gary, IN	Interim Pr. Mike Steinke
Calvary, Louisville, KY	
Calvary, Cromwell, IN	Interim Sr. Elsie Fregeau
Christ, Madisonville, KY	
Christ, Terre Haute, IN	
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Interim Pr. David Norland
Faith, Owensboro, KY	
First, Columbus, IN	
Grace & Peace, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Tim Linstrom
Hope, Indianapolis	Interim Gina Bridgewater
Prince of Peace, Bellevue, KY	Interim Pr. Jerry Cantrell
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
St. George, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. James, Holland, IN	Interim Pr. Cindy Geisen
St. John, Lawrenceburg, IN	Interim Marilyn Nelson
St. John, Louisville, KY	Staff Position
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Interim Pr. Tom Weitzel
St. Mark, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Husby
St. Paul, Michigan City, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Poole
St. Paul, Seymour, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
St. Peter, Stendal, IN	
Trinity, Logansport, IN	
Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	Interim John Stacy
Trinity, Union City, IN	Interim Bonnie Sparks
Zion, Bristol, IN	Interim Karen Strietelmeier
Zion, Pershing, IN	
Zion, North Manchester	Interim Alice Smith
Zion, Sunman, IN	

## Searching for Candidates:

Faith, Jeffersonville, KY	Interim Pr. John Hawkins
Gethsemane, Ft Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Resurrection, Gas City/Marion, IN	
St. Paul, Frankfort, IN	Interim Pr. Mary Frohs
Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position

## Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Bethlehem, Chesterton, IN	Interim Pr. Thelma Megill-Cobbler
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Cross and Crown, IN	Staff Position
Emanuel, Evansville, IN	
Gloria Dei, South Bend, IN	Interim Marvin Wittkopf
Grace, Elkhart, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Vonesh
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Interim Pr. Fred Jordan
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Interim Pr. Jim Simpson
Redeemer, Bryant, IN	Interim Pr. Mack Goeglein
St. James, Greenfield, IN	Interim Pr. Joyce Gerwing
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	Interim Pr. Jim Milligan
St. Paul's, Haysville, IN	Interim Pr. Dwayne Daehler
St. Paul, Middlebury, IN	Interim Pr. Donn Abdon
St. Peter, Milton, KY	Interim Dan Diekhoff
Trinity, Goshen, IN	Interim Pr. Laura Meier

## Calls Accepted in 2007:

Grace/Messiah, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. Timothy Graham (June)
Gloria Dei, Highland, IN	Pr. David Trexler (June)
Bethlehem, Indianapolis, IN	Pr. Marcus Felde (June)
Hilltop, South Bend, IN	Pr. Michael Cobbler (June)
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN	Pr. Luke Bouman (June)
Trinity, Linton, IN	Pr. Joseph Faust (May)
Cross of Christ, Int., Crown Point, IN	Pr. David Norland (Apr)
St. Mark, Interim, Batesville, IN	Pr. Tom Weitzel (Apr)
Messiah, Brownsburg, IN	Pr. Ken Hebel (Feb)
Holy Trinity, South Bend, IN	Pr. Timothy Knauff (Feb)
Cross and Crown, Indianapolis, IN	Pr. Mark Wilhelm (Feb)
IU-Campus Ministry	Diac. Min. Jeff Schacht (Jan)
Christ, Hammond	Pr. Roger Storms (Jan)

### Older Adult Ministries Week: October 14-21, 2007

Join us in celebrating the Older Adult Week throughout the Indiana-Kentucky Synod!

Resources and Worship Planning tools are available at [www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org).

Did you know that two-thirds of all people who have ever lived to the age of 65 are alive today?



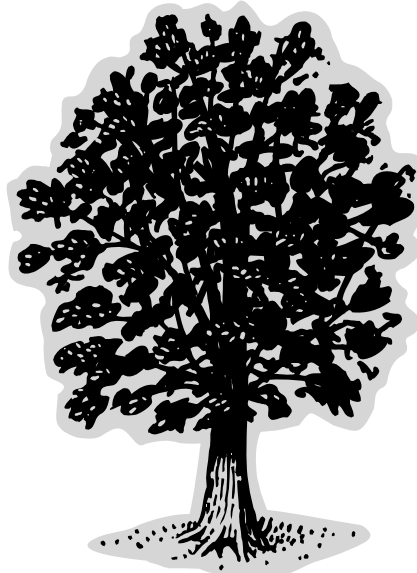
**♪ The choir director at Gethsemane Lutheran, Lexington, Ky., wishes to donate 40 blue choir robes, with collars that have blue and gray on them. There is also a choir director's robe. If interested, contact Bill & Norma Akers at [bandmakers@yahoo.com](mailto:bandmakers@yahoo.com). ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪**

**2007 I-K Synod Professional Leaders' Conference  
Turkey Run State Park September 30 - October 2, 2007**

**Keynote Speaker  
Rev. Mark S. Hanson,  
Presiding Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**



**Open to all Pastors,  
Associates in Ministry,  
Deaconesses and  
Diaconal Ministers on  
the I-K Roster**



“I think of this Professional Leaders Retreat as our annual ministerium, and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Turkey Run State Park is a wonderful place to relax, have conversations, re-create, and return to our place of service renewed and refreshed.” - **Bishop Jim Stuck**

**Visit [www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org)  
for agenda and registration form.**

**Registration Deadline:  
August 24, 2007**



**Special focus:  
Celebrating 100 years of  
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*... where every member is a missionary, every pastor a mission director, and every congregation a mission center.*