

The Epistle

January 2009

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

www.iksynod.org

Dear Partners in Mission,

As I write this article, our nation is about to witness the inauguration of a new president. It is a historic time as we transition into a new chapter of leadership, and it is being done peacefully and effectively. We have much to be thankful to God for as a nation.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod is moving into a transition time also. As I announced in the last *I-K Epistle*, I will not be available to serve another term as your bishop. We are fortunate to have a process that encourages an effective transition for the sake of mission and ministry. Here are some features of our process:

Election – My term as your bishop will end on August 31, 2010. I-K Synod Assembly delegates will elect a new bishop 3 months prior on June 4-6, 2010. This gives the new bishop an opportunity to transition from one call to another and to think through decisions that need to be made quickly, especially concerning staffing.

The election process calls for as many as five ballots, the first one being a nominating ballot on which any ordained and rostered pastor of the ELCA may be nominated. There is also time allotted at the assembly for introductions of candidates and for a question and answer session.

Discernment – The I-K Synod has in place a fine discernment process that begins next fall with a survey of our congregations to determine the needs of the synod for mission and ministry and the gifts needed in the office of bishop to serve those needs. That information will be gathered and made available for all. In January and February of next year, conference ministeriums will gather the names of possible candidates and the ministeriums will ask them to fill out a questionnaire and indicate their availability for call. An appointed team will gather the questionnaires and share them with the voting members attending the assembly in June. The I-K Synod Council will soon appoint a team to oversee this process.

Support – Throughout this process we will have the support of the ELCA Churchwide offices. Most likely, ELCA Presiding Bishop Hanson will be present to conduct the election and his office will work closely with us during the discernment process beginning at our assembly this June.

Prayer – I often tell congregations beginning the transition time from one pastor to a new pastor, that the most important thing any of us can do is pray. It is through prayer that we become aware of God's will for us and for the Church. I ask for your prayers as I promise to be in prayer for a faithful time of discernment and transition.

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In the meantime, we will continue to respond faithfully to the call to share the love of Jesus with the world. We will look for ways to be missionaries in our daily lives and encourage one another in our calling to be disciples of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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

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

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod's three-year intentional focus on our common vision of "every person a missionary" (EPAM) is underway!

More than 25 people from throughout the Indiana-Kentucky Synod have begun meeting, praying, exploring scripture, and engaging in the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints in hope of moving more deeply into their own embodiment of this amazing vision. Out of their own experience over the next few months these folks will create plans and processes for moving this focus into synod conferences and congregations in late 2009 and beyond.

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 journey these folks have embarked upon is led by the staff of A Renewal Enterprise, the consulting firm under contract with the synod, in partnership with synod staff, especially Assistants to the Bishop Heather McCulloch and Bill Gafkjen.

In the gospel according to Matthew (6:5-6) Jesus discourages his disciples from being like those who stand in public places and pray loud enough for others to see and reward their piety. Instead, he suggests, "Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." After an initial retreat with synod council and conference deans January 23-24, this first round of EPAM participants will enter something of a prayer room with one another in order to build relationships, discern their own sense of purpose and direction as "missionaries," and support one another in following that direction and purpose into the world. This will happen through monthly Webinars focused on leadership development, three one-day retreats in each region (south, central, north) of the synod, and networking with each other through a specially created site, similar to Facebook, called Renewable Leaders.

Along the way, the six key practices below guide this journey deep into a key missional question, "***What is God up to in the world and how can I help?***"

- **Asking Purposeful Questions**
- **Using Participative Processes**
- **Working Playfully**
- **Taking Place Seriously**
- **Being [Re]productive**
- **Seeing Possibilities**

What can the rest of us do while these committed folks are on this journey? Pray for them. Follow and share updates that will be available through synod communications. Explore your own relationship with this synod's missional vision – as individuals, as families, as congregations. Participate in the various ways in which EPAM is already beginning to get traction in other aspects of our life together as a synod: the 2009 Synod Assembly, this fall's Professional Leaders gathering, and in the other gatherings and ministries of this synod.

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



Development Associate Appointed for Freed to Lead Fund: **Joseph Skvarenina**

Joseph L. Skvarenina has been appointed as Development Associate for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Freed to Lead Fund. He comes to the synod through the Association of Lutheran Development Executives and will begin work on Jan. 20, based in the synod office in Indianapolis.

Skvarenina (pronounced Skav-er-eena) comes to this three-year full-time position with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod having 36 years of fundraising experience.

“I feel called to fund raising,” he shared during his interview for the position in November. “Some people are surprised to hear that in connection with raising money, but I truly feel called to what I do because it increases commitment to the Church. The Holy Spirit has a role here, and you pray about it.”

Skvarenina’s most recent work was as Vice President of Fund Development for the Center for Leadership Development in Indianapolis, which assists minority youth to become business and community leaders. He has also held positions with Habitat for Humanity, the National Benevolent Association, and Lutheran High School (Indianapolis).

A resident of Greenfield, Indiana, Skvarenina has been recognized several times for public service, including receiving the key to the City of Greenfield, recognition by the Indiana General Assembly Resolution 27, and the Distinguished Hoosier award from former Governor Frank O’Bannon. His community service work includes the American Cancer Society, official historian for Hancock County, and the Lutheran Services Club, which has named him Lutheran Man of the Year.

As Development Associate, Skvarenina will partner with the fund’s development board in a four-year capital campaign to raise \$3.5 million in new money for the fund. The Freed to Lead Fund was established last fall by a generous seed grant from Lilly Endowment.

The fund’s purpose is to assist in the training and support of rostered leaders of the I-K Synod by providing scholarships for synod-endorsed seminarians and leadership grants to the synod’s rostered leaders for:

1. theological education debt
2. pension equity
3. special circumstances that create undue financial burden.

“I am looking forward to working with Joe on the Freed to Lead Fund Capital Campaign,” said the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, Director of the Freed to Lead Fund. “Joe brings experience and gifts for fund raising and combines them with a quiet but rock-solid faith that I am sure will be a true gift to the I-K Synod.”

When asked about beginning a capital campaign in the current economic situation, Skvarenina said, “It’s almost like attitude determines altitude. Saint Paul tells it best in Philippians 4 when he emphasizes his concern for and service to others. It is our mutual mission to encourage and support others, which is what the Freed to Lead Fund is designed to do. In essence, our attitude will determine how far we go and how much we raise to help others.”

A three-year grant from the Fund for Leaders of the ELCA will combine with the Lilly Endowment seed grant to assist in funding this development position with the I-K Synod.

For more on the I-K Synod Freed to Lead Fund, see www.iksynod.org/FreedtoLeadFund/.

“I feel called to fund raising. Some people are surprised to hear that in connection with raising money, but I truly feel called to what I do because it increases commitment to the Church. The Holy Spirit has a role here, and you pray about it.” *J. Skvarenina*



Accepting Applications Feb. 1, 2009

*Who Can Apply for a Freed to
Lead Fund Grant?*

1. Indiana-Kentucky Synod endorsed candidates
2. Rostered leaders of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod ELCA who are currently in active ministry and intend to serve a minimum of three years

For what purposes can grants be used?

There are two categories of grants:

1. Scholarships Grants to support endorsed candidates currently in seminary.
2. Leadership Grants to assist rostered leaders currently serving in active ministry.

**Want to know more? Visit [www.iksynod.org/
FreedtoLeadFund/index.asp](http://www.iksynod.org/FreedtoLeadFund/index.asp)**

For questions about the Freed to Lead Fund grant application process, contact the chair of the Grant Review Board, Pr David Schreiber at FTLGrant-Forms@iksynod.org.

Winter Ministry Institute 2009

*Emergent Church for an Emerging Future:
Faith Communities in the Post Modern Era*
February 19-20, 2009

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Schenk Chapel

One of the four featured speakers is I-K Synod Pr. Mark Minnick, of the innovative *come2ministries* in Fort Wayne, Ind.

From the brochure: *The converging forces of post modernism, Generation X, and digital technology have had a significant impact on the life of the more traditional, mainline denominational congregations. What is the Emerging Church? It is both a conversation and a network of people and communities attempting to re-imagine the future of the church in response to postmodern culture.*

To learn more and to register, visit [www.trinitylutheranseminary.edu/
ContinuingEd/Calendar.asp](http://www.trinitylutheranseminary.edu/ContinuingEd/Calendar.asp) and click on the Winter Ministry Institute link.

Visit www.iksynod.org for more listings

I-K Synod Finance Committee Meeting

January 21 at 1:00 p.m.
I-K Synod Lutheran Center Chapel
Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod EPAM Kick-Off Retreat

January 23-24 at Fishers Conference Center
Bill Gafkjen at bgafkjen@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Conference Deans' Meeting

January 23 Fishers Conference Center
Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Council Meeting

January 23-24 Fishers Conference Center
Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Christian Education Team

January 29
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Muncie, Ind.
10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Ed Seykowski at edseykow@juno.com

February 2009

Worship Workshop "Word of God. Word of Life."

February 28 at 9:00 a.m.
Christ, Jeffersontown (Louisville), Ky.
Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

EPAM Webinars will be offered the third Monday of each month at 8:00 EST/7:00 CST. All EPAM participants are strongly encouraged to participate in each Webinar.

Webinar Schedule

February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
No webinar in July
August 17
September 21

Participation in the Webinars is by invitation and registration is required for each Webinar.

I-K Synod Staff EPAM leadership:

*Pastors Heather McCulloch
hmcculloch@iksynod.org and Bill Gafkjen
bgafkjen@iksynod.org.*

Becoming a Renewable Church

*Northeast Conference Ministerium
Pre-Lenten Retreat
February 2-4 at Camp Lutherwald*

Featuring 2009 I-K Synod Assembly keynote speaker Kelly Fryer, managing partner of A Renewal Enterprise, Inc., a consulting firm that helps people engage work and world with purpose and passion by equipping them to live out their decisions to become renewable organizations, leaders, and communities.

Cost for room and board: \$50.00.

To register, email: office.rlc@verizon.net and mail check for \$50 to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 14318 Lima Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818. Make your check out to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Registration will close January 29.



Call or visit your doctor for your medical numbers and take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment.

The 2009 Mayo Clinic Health Assessment is now open on the EmbodyHealth web portal at www.elcaforwellness.org. If you have ELCA-primary health benefits, use the assessment to take stock of and grow your health annually — and earn \$100 in the process.

Now is the time to prepare. Try to have your medical numbers on hand so you can enter them when you take the health assessment: height, weight, HDL, LDL, total cholesterol, triglycerides, blood sugar (glucose) and blood pressure. While the numbers aren't required to complete the assessment, having them will give you a better idea of your health status.

Don't know your numbers? Schedule a checkup using your 100% medical preventive benefit. If you've had a checkup in the last year, contact your clinic for the numbers.

Please take the assessment by March 29. Doing so will help us achieve our goal of 75% participation and give each of us a 2% discount on ELCA health contributions for the entire year. Our estimated 2009 savings potential is \$47,000.



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Which congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod are participating in the Book of Faith initiative? Add your church's name to the list in 2009!

This list is also posted on www.iksynod.org.

- House of Prayer, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- Good Shepherd, Indianapolis Ind.
- Lamb of God Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 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, Ind.
- First Lutheran, Columbus, Ind.
- St. James, Greenfield, Ind.

LOST AND FOUND



IN CONCERT

Coming to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly

June 4-6, 2009

Fort Wayne, Indiana

WWW.SPEEDWOOD.COM

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Heather Gill (granddaughter of former I-K Synod Council member, Lora Williams) who was hospitalized for possible lung rejection.

Rodelyn McPherson (Associate in Ministry, Ball State University Campus Ministry), who celebrates the birth of her 17th grandchild, Andersen Patrick Williams, on Dec. 1.

Pr. Fred Hubert (retired) and Mary Elizabeth Walker, who were married Dec. 28.

Pr. Gerald Cantrell (retired) and wife Nancy, who celebrate the birth of granddaughter Alexandra Nicole Hopkins on Nov. 8.

Prs. Charles Strietelmeier (Augustana, Hobart, Ind.), who celebrates the birth of his first grandchild, Max Liedtke, on Dec. 24.

Pr. Liz Nickel (St. Peter, Spencerville, Ind.), who is undergoing treatment for severe breathing problems and praying for a successful diagnosis and treatment.

Pr. Michelle Elfers (St. Mark, Louisville, Ky.), who has recently undergone a heart catheterization.

Brenda Dembroski (I-K Synod Mission Investment Fund), whose husband Jon is cancer-free after undergoing rigorous treatment.

Pr. Roger Drews (retired), who celebrates the birth of three grandchildren: Kyle Drews, Sept. 26; Hope Drews, Oct. 29; and Maxwell Lang, Dec. 16.

Rev. Tom McShannock & Rev. Sandra Hutchens (Mt. Zion, LaGrange, Ind.), who celebrate the birth of their first grandchild: Alexandria Marie Treziok, born Jan 4.

Pr. Reuben Evenson (retired) whose wife Ellen mourns the loss of her mother, Marie Woodyard, on Jan. 7.

The family of Richard Shireman, former pastor in the I-K Synod, who was killed in an accident on Jan. 9

Gary Philpy (former I-K Synod treasurer), and his family, who mourn the loss of Gary's father who died in January.

Pr. Jack Hoffman (retired), who recently underwent successful gallbladder surgery and is recovering at home.

Pr. John Sturz (OLFC, St. Mark's, Uniondale, Ind.), whose mother Ruth Sturz died Jan. 19 at the Lutheran Center in Rockford, Ill.

Ordinations and Installations:

Pastor Jill Kepler Campbell was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on **January 10, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.** Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Campbell has been called to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Batesville, Ind.

Pr. Steven Wood was installed as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Seymour, Ind. on Jan. 11.

Deaths:

†**We mourn with the family and friends of Pastor C. Donald Richter (retired), who died December 23, 2008 at his home in Albion, Ind.** He leaves behind his wife, Eleanor, and children, Steven Richter of LaPorte, Ind; Jeff Richter of Portland, Ore.; David (Carol) Richter of Albion; Donna (John) Sarage of Xenia, Ohio, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. The funeral took place December 27, 2008 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Rev. Ralph Easterhaus officiated.

Have you sent in your Rostered Leader's Report to the Synod Bishop and Annual Congregational Report?

Please complete these forms by the end of February and e-mail or snail-mail the Rostered Leader's Report to the Synod Bishop to Karen Eppert's attention at the Indiana-Kentucky Lutheran Center. Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org.

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of January 7, 2009

Mission Discernment:

Abundant Grace, Greenwood, IN	
Ball State Camp. Min., Muncie, IN	
Bethany, Indianapolis, IN	Interim Pr. Martin Bomhoeft
Bethany, LaPorte, IN	Staff Position
Bethany, Louisville, KY	
Bethel, Gary, IN	Interim Pr. Chris Armiger
Bethlehem, Gary, IN	Interim Pr. Mike Steinke
Calvary, Bluffton, IN	Interim Pr. Gene Kinney
Calvary, Cromwell, IN	Sr. Elsie Fregeau
Calvary, Louisville, KY	
Christ, Madisonville, KY	Interim Pr. Mary Poston
Corydon Parish, Corydon, IN	Ms. Ellen Mills
Emmanuel, Merrillville, IN	Interim Pr. Carol Poole
Faith, Logansport, IN	Interim Matt Knopf
Faith United, Richmond, IN	
Gethsemane, Indianapolis, IN	
Grace, Huntingburg, IN	
Grace and Glory, Goshen, KY	
Holy Cross, Rockport, IN	
Holy Trinity, Muncie, IN	Staff Position
Hope, Indianapolis	Mr. Terry Englert
Messiah, Brownsburg, IN	Interim Donn Abdon
Messiah, Fort Wayne, IN	Int. Pr. Joyce Gerwing
New Joy, Westfield, IN	Staff Position
Prince of Peace, Bellevue, KY	Interim Pr. Neal Boese
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
St. George, Edinburg	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. John, Dubois, IN	
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. John, Otwell, IN	Interim Pr. John Stacy
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	Int. Pr. Nathan Wadewitz
St. Matthew, Paducah, KY	
St. Paul, Milan, IN	Int. Pr. Ron Haseley
St. Paul, Smyrna, IN	Sem. Jason Bense
St. Paul, Vincennes	Int. Pr. Cindy Geisen
St. Stephen, Louisville, KY	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Third, Louisville, KY	Interim Steve Renner
Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Zion, North Manchester, IN	Interim Alice Smith

Searching for Candidates:

Calvary, Angola, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	Staff Position
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Pr. David Norland
First, Attica, IN	
Resurrection, Madison, IN	Int. Pr. Dennis Zimmerman
St. Peter/St. Matthew, Camden/Delphi	

Trinity, Logansport, IN
Zion, Pershing, IN

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	Int. Pr. Richard Vonesh
First, Columbus, IN	Interim Pr. John Hawkins
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN	Debra Meuter
Hopeful, Florence, KY	Staff Position
Resurrection, Marion, IN	
St. Mark, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Husby
St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion, Kendallville, IN	Int. Pr. Thelma McGill-Cobbler
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	
St. Paul, Michigan City, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Poole
Zion, Sunman, IN	


Calls Accepted in 2008:

Depauw University, Greencastle, IN	Pr. Gretchen Person (Nov)
Church of the Cross, Muncie, IN	Pr. Elaina Salmon (Nov)
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Pr. David Smith (Nov)
St. Paul, Richmond, IN	Pr. Jerry Mielke (Nov)
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Pr. Jill Campbell (Dec)
Redeemer, Jasper, IN	Pr. Gretchen Enoch (Dec)

2009 Chrism Mass Schedule

Visit www.iksynod.org soon for times, contacts, and links to congregations and maps.

- March 2:** Faith, Lexington, Ky.
- March 3:** Holy Trinity, Muncie, Ind.
- March 4:** New Hope, Monticello, Ind.
- March 17:** House of Prayer, Elizabethtown, Ky.
- March 19:** Augsburg, Porter, Ind.
- March 24:** Emanuel, Greendale, Ind. (Lawrenceburg)
- March 30:** St. Andrew, Speedway, Ind.
- March 3:** First English, Goshen, Ind.
- April 1:** Resurrection, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
- April 2:** Grace & Peace, Evansville, Ind.

<p>WORSHIP FOR MISSION: <i>Word of God. Word of Life.</i> Worship Workshops</p> 	<p>Evangelical Lutheran Worship <i>Celebrate the first key Lutheran worship book in 30 years!</i></p> <p>The ELW includes more than 700 hymns and segments of liturgical music, some from the Lutheran Book of Worship, With One Voice, and from sources that provide national and international songs. ♪</p> <p>The workshops are for worship leaders, clergy, musicians, congregation council members, worship committee members, and anyone interested in this new resource. ♪</p>
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Registration Fee: Early bird registration \$40; \$50 for registration at the door
Third person from same congregation \$15; Covers refreshments, lunch, materials

I plan to attend : (Check appropriate box.)

February 28, 2009
 Christ Lutheran Church
 Jeffersontown, KY
 Early bird deadline: Feb. 1

March 21, 2009
 Pilgrim Lutheran Church
 Indianapolis, IN
 Early bird deadline: March 1

I am interested in the following workshops. Check two.

- _____ 1. "Principles of Liturgical Language" with Lorraine Brugh
- _____ 2. "Proclaiming and Praying the Word: A Workshop for Lectors and Prayer Leaders" with Rudy Mueller
- _____ 3. "Preaching the Word" with the plenary speaker
- _____ 4. "Writing Intercessions" with Steve Reshan
- _____ 5. "Singing the Word: Music as Proclamation" with Maretta Hershberger
- _____ 6. "Non-verbal Communication" with Fred Meuter

Name _____

Address _____

Home Congregation _____

Cong. City/State _____



9:00 Gathering and Sign-in
 9:30 Morning Prayer
 10:00 Plenary Presentation
 11:00 Workshop Session I
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 Workshop Session II
 1:50 Panel Discussion
 2:15 Sending Eucharist

SEND TO: Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
 Attention: Karen Eppert
 911 E 86th Street, Suite 200
 Indianapolis, IN 46260



Where every member is a missionary, every pastor a mission director, and every congregation a mission center.