

The Epistle

March 2008

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,

This year at the Synod Assembly we will begin a three-year initiative in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod called “Every Person a Missionary” (EPAM). This initiative has been a part of our vision since 2001 when we approved the synod mission, vision and core values. We are convinced that if we follow our mission, which is “Empowering, Equipping and Encouraging the People of God to Make Christ Known,” every person will be a missionary in daily life.

This is not easy to do, especially for those of us who are leaders in the Church. We get caught in the tension of maintaining the congregation versus encouraging the hard work of witnessing to Christ in the world. It is more comfortable for us to give our energies to keeping the structures of the church running smoothly than finding ways to give ourselves away (as individuals and church) for the sake of the world.

As leaders in the church we are also expected to work hard at getting more members into the congregation so that the pews are full and the bills are paid. These are important matters for the church, but they are not of greatest importance. What is most important is that we witness to the love of Jesus in word and deed wherever we are called to serve in the world and that we invite those we serve to do the same.

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As your bishop, I have decided that I need to change how I see my calling as a baptized child of God. I have always seen my calling “within” the church and now I need to see how God is calling me to do ministry “outside” the church. I am excited about the possibility of discovering how to be a missionary in my daily life beyond the walls and the confines of the church. I am looking forward to finding out what God is doing in the world and how I might be a part of that activity.

I invite you to join me in growing in this area of discipleship. I know that there are many of you who have already committed to doing this and we need to hear the stories of your mission activity in and for the sake of the world. We can be encouraged by your witness as we grow and learn together over the next three years.

I also invite you to join me in prayer that we, by the power of the Spirit, might be given what is needed to be faithful in our witness to what God has done and is doing in the world for the sake of the world.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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



It's the Lutheran Center!

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod office building sports a brand-new sign across the front that faces 86th Street in Indianapolis.

Thank you, Cindy Fuhrman, for all your phone calls and emails to make the installation of the sign happen.

The Indiana-Kentucky Lutheran Center welcomes Carol Webb to the office staff

Carol writes:

"I am delighted to join the staff of the Indiana-Kentucky Lutheran Center. I have long felt called to work in a faith-based organization, and believe this is the place where God has been leading me. When I walked in the front door for my interview, I felt like I had walked into someone's home. As I drove home that afternoon, I realized that I had entered someone's home – *Christ's home*. A long-time Episcopalian, I am active in my home parish in Lebanon, where I am the organist and the chairperson of our church council.

I graduated from the University of Denver with an MA in English. Reading is one of my passions, along with music and collecting turtles. I have an Australian shepherd who delights in herding my three cats. My two sons and one daughter-in-law live in Hawaii.

"I Love to Tell the Story"

2008 Evangelism Gathering, sponsored by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Academy for Mission

"Developing a Mission Identity" with Guest Speaker, Rev. David Daubert

Registration begins at 6: 00 p.m. Friday, March 28 and continues on Saturday, March 29, ending at 3:00 p.m.

St John's Lutheran Church
901 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

For directions to the church, please call 502-895-9320.

The cost is \$30.00, and does not include hotel reservations.

To register, contact Pr. Heather McCulloch, at hmmculloch@iksynod.org.



Spiritual Directors

The synod staff is developing a resource listing of spiritual directors by conference.

If you are a spiritual director and would like your name included on the list, please e-mail your name, contact information, and conference to Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org or mail your information to the synod office at the address below. Also, please state whether you are certified and where you received your training in spiritual direction.

Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
911 E. 86th Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46240-1840
www.iksynod.org
Phone: (317) 253-3522
Fax: (317) 254-5666



Each year on the middle day of Synod Assembly we take time to honor rostered leaders who are observing 25 and 50 years of service.

This year's honorees are:




Fifty Years

The Rev. Richard D. Dunning, retired and residing in Milford, Ind.
The Rev. Frederick D. Hubert, retired and residing in Greenfield, Ind.
The Rev. Donald G. Luck, retired and residing in Columbus, Ohio
The Rev. John C. Stacy, serving as interim for Trinity, Terre Haute, Ind.
The Rev. Richard G. Whonsetler, retired and residing in Prospect, Ky.

Twenty-Five Years

The Rev. Jane C. Aicher, serving at Bethlehem, Chesterton, Ind.
The Rev. John B. Fields, III, serving at Hopeful, Florence, Ky.
The Rev. John W. Kost, serving at Faith, Indianapolis, Ind.
Diane L. Marten, Associate in Ministry, serving at Lutheran Deaconess Foundation, Valparaiso, Ind.
The Rev. Frederick W. Meuter, III, serving at St. John, Fort Wayne, Ind.
The Rev. Jeffrey A. Romer, serving at Good Shepherd, Louisville, Ky.
The Rev. David D. Yoder, serving at Gethsemane, Indianapolis, Ind.

Who should attend Synod Assembly 2008?

-  **All Rostered Leaders:** *Clergy, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers*
-  **Lay Voting Members:** *Two from every congregation, with additional members from larger congregations.*
-  **All other leaders and members who are interested in the future of God's Church and the strength of our community**

New in 2008

Online Registration: Visit www.iksynod.org and click on registration link.

The Bulletin of Reports, which contains documents relevant to Synod Assembly, will be issued in digital form on CD-ROM disks. There are three primary reasons for these changes:

- † To deepen the faithful financial stewardship of the synod's resources;
- † To provide more efficient stewardship of synod staff time;
- † To take a small step toward using less paper, thereby, shrinking the impact of the assembly on the environment.

“Pray Without Ceasing”

National Workshop on Christian Unity

April 14-17, 2008

Marriott Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

(across the street from the ELCA Churchwide Offices)

- Early Registration Fee (\$125) extended through March 15th
- Register online at www.nwcu.org.
- Hotel registrations must be made separately

Attend eight or more seminars each day on critical ecumenical issues and meetings of denominational worship services

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, general Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

Opening Prayer Service Preacher: Sr. Dr. Lorelei F. Fuchs, SA, Theological Consultant, The Interchurch Center

Bible Study Leader: Dr. James W. Fleming

Closing Panel/Discussion: Local Churches and the global Church

Summer Session at LSTC begins

June 16

Registration is now open for Summer Session 2008 at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Classes run from June 16 -20 and June 23 – 27.

Learn from LSTC faculty members Ed Krentz, Craig Satterlee, and Michael Shelley, and from distinguished guest professors Kelly Fryer (author, *Reclaiming the “L” Word*), Phyllis Kersten (pastor, Grace Lutheran Church), and Alicia Vargas (professor, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary).

Find complete details on the web at:

www.lstc.edu/lifelong_learn/08summersession/

Read or listen to ELCA Presiding Bishop Hanson’s Easter Message at www.ELCA.org/bishop/messages/m_easter2008.html.

I-K Synod Calendar

Visit www.iksynod.org for more event listings

March

Synod Office Closed for Good Friday

March 21, 2008

Easter Sunday

March 23, 2008

I-K Synod Conference Deans Meeting

March 27, 2008, I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

“I Love to Tell the Story” Evangelism Gathering

March 28-29, 2008

St John’s Lutheran Church

901 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

Contact Pr. Heather McCulloch at

hmmculloch@iksynod.org

April

I-K Synod Communications Committee Meeting

April 9, 2008

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Danielle Burrus at dburrus@iksynod.org

Early-Bird Registration for Synod Assembly Closes

April 11, 2008

I-K Synod Council Meeting

April 11-12, 2008

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Worship Committee Meeting

April 24, 2008

I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Candidacy Committee Meeting

April 24-26, 2008, I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod First Call Retreat

April 27 - 29, 2008

Benedict Inn Conference Center

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

Travel to Indonesia this July: I-K Synod Global Mission Team organizes journey to North Sumatra to visit the HKBP, the largest Lutheran Church in Asia
Speaking As Lutherans Together (SALT) Companion Synod mission trip opportunity now available July 16-31, 2008, for approximately 15 participants



The group will travel from Indianapolis to Medan, which includes 32-36 hours by plane and six hours by bus to the SALT venue hotel on Lake Toba. The five-day SALT seminar will take place at the Sopo Toba resort in the Batak Lutheran heartland.

Following the completion of the course, there will be several days of planned travel within North Sumatra to visit other friends and ministries of the HKBP. Cultural and “English as a Second Language” training will be provided for the team.

Cost: Participants are responsible for raising their own funds associated with the trip.

Estimated Budget:

- Airfare: \$1,800
- Local transportation: \$200
- Room & Board: \$525 (based on \$35/day)
- Incidentals: \$200
- Facility costs subsidy for HKBP participants: \$500
- Total: \$3,225

Payment Schedule: \$100 non-refundable payment due at time of application, 50% due by date of ticketing (mid-May), and the remainder due prior to departure. No exceptions.

General Qualifications:

- Christian faith and a commitment to the mission of the Church
- Openness to culturally diverse expressions of the Christian faith
- Respect for people of different religions
- Well developed interpersonal skills and compassion
- Demonstrated ability to carry out responsibilities adapt to different standards and practices.
- Ability to work within the framework of local administration
- Adaptable and flexible, a sense of humor, good physical and emotional health
- Live and serve in a way that reflects the vision of the ELCA and the I-K Synod

Visit www.iksynod.org/ministry/globalmission/salt2008.asp for more information or contact Pr. Paul Harder at Paul.Harder@valpo.edu.

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Pr. George Halsted (retired, Rensselaer, Ind.), whose wife Arlene is recovering from successful surgery.

Pr. Joe Trester (Gethsemane, Lexington, Ky. and I-K Synod Council) whose brother-in-law Larry Dyer has been diagnosed with stage 3 esophageal cancer.

Pr. Laura Altman (St. John, Richmond, Ind.), who underwent rotator cuff surgery on February 11.

Pr. Mike Brown (Risen Lord, Bargersville, Ind.) who was involved in a serious car accident in February.

Judy Rehmel (I-K Synod vice president), whose sister-in-law Marie Iddles died February 12.

Pr. Mack Goeglein (retired, Fort Wayne, Ind.) and family whose grandson Luke Bishop died February 18 after an almost life-long battle with leukemia.

Pr. Roger Schmidt (retired, South Bend, Ind.) who underwent surgery February 13 for a subdural hematoma. Pr. Schmidt is also undergoing radiation treatments for prostate cancer.

Pr. Ron Voss (formerly of Servants of Christ, Indianapolis, Ind.) whose son Andy and his two children Isaac and Rachel died at their home in Iowa February 20.

Pr. George Silavs (Slovak Zion Synod), whose wife Paija lost her sister on February 10.

Mary Chapin (I-K Synod Council) whose mother Loretta Cummins passed away in February.

www.iksynod.org

Stay in touch with all the news from the Indiana-Kentucky Synod by subscribing to the weekly e-mail newsletter.

To subscribe, visit www.iksynod.org. Enter your e-mail address into the box in the upper right corner. *(Your e-mail address will always remain confidential.)*

Deaths:

† We mourn with the family of **Pr. Robert E. Cassell (retired)** who died **January 11, 2008 in Ohio**. Pr. Cassell served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhart, Ind., from 1970 to 1988. He is survived by one son, one granddaughter, one sister, and one sister-in-law. Memorials may be given to Grace Lutheran Church, 831 W. Marion St., Elkhart, IN 46515

† We mourn with the family of **Pr. Henry Carl Nickel (retired)**, who died **January 25, 2008, in Schererville, Ind.** Pr. Nickel served St. John's Lutheran Church, Hammond, Ind.; Bethlehem Lutheran, Gary, Ind.; Holy Shepherd, St. John, Ind.; Grace, Dyer, Ind.; and Hope Lutheran, Cedar Lake. He was preceded in death by his wife Charlotte. Funeral services were January 31 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. John, Ind. Memorial gifts can be made to Holy Shepherd Church or Hospice of the Calumet Area.

♪ "Singing the Psalms" February 2008 *Sanctus* worship newsletter online now at www.iksynod.org ♪



Congregations in the Call Process:

As of February 28, 2008

Mission Discernment:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Vonesh
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, Cromwell, IN	Interim Sr. Elsie Fregeau
Calvary, Louisville, KY	
Christ, Madisonville, KY	
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	Staff Position
Faith United, Richmond, IN	
Grace, Huntingburg, IN	
Grace/St. Paul, Greensburg, Smyrna, IN	
Holy Cross, Rockport, IN	
Holy Shepherd, St. John, IN	Staff Position
Holy Trinity, Muncie, IN	Staff Position
Hope, Indianapolis	Interim Gina Bridgewater
Messiah, Brownsburg, IN	Interim Donn Abdon
New Joy, Westfield, IN	Staff Position
Prince of Peace, Bellevue, KY	Interim Pr. Jerry Cantrell
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
St. George, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. John, Louisville, KY	Staff Position
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion, Kendallville, IN	Int. Pr. Thelma McGill-Cobbler
St. Paul, Michigan City, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Poole
St. Stephen, Louisville, KY	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Zion, Franklin, IN	
Zion, North Manchester	Interim Alice Smith

Zion, Sunman, IN

Searching for Candidates:

Christ, Terre Haute, IN	
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Redeemer, Jasper, IN	
Resurrection, Madison, IN	Interim Pr. Thomas Weitzel
Resurrection, Marion, IN	
St. James, Holland, IN	
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Interim Pr. Jane Ellen Jarrell
St. Mark, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Husby
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	
Trinity, Logansport, IN	Interim Pr. Dwayne Daehler
Zion, Bristol, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Strietelmeier
Zion, Pershing, IN	

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Christ, Jeffersontown, IN	Staff Position
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Interim Pr. David Norland
Faith, Owensboro, IN	
First, Columbus, IN	
Grace, Elkhart, IN	
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Interim Pr. Fred Jordan
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Interim Pr. Howard Buchholz
St. James, Greenfield, IN	Interim Pr. Joyce Gerwing
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	
St. Paul, Versailles, IN	Interim Pr. Dennis Zimmerman
St. Peter, Stendal, IN	
Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	Interim Pr. John Stacy
Trinity, Goshen, IN	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
St. Paul, Seymour, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt

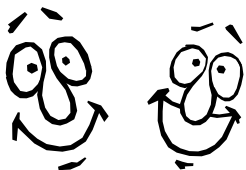
Calls Accepted in 2008:

St. John, Lawrence, IN	Pr. Marlyn Nelson (Jan)
Faith, Owensboro, KY	Int. Pr. Jim Culver (Jan)
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Int. Jane Ellen Jarrell (Jan)
Dir. of Outreach, Indianapolis, IN	Pr. Heather McCulloch (Jan)
Mahayana Ministries, Evansville, IN	Pr. Russell Vance (Jan)
Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. Dan Fugate (Feb)

**Read along with Bishop Stuck and
the I-K Synod Staff!**

**During the month of March,
they are reading**

***Church on the Edge of Somewhere:
Ministry, Marginality, and the Future by
George B. Thompson, Jr.***



Thank you for all the lovely notes and Christmas cards that we received at the synod office. We enjoy reading your family updates and the kind wishes and words of encouragement that you send our way.

**2 1ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA
JUNE 5-7, 2008**

*Lexington Convention Center
Hyatt Regency Lexington
Radisson Plaza Hotel and the Convention Center
Lexington, Kentucky*



Special focus this year: Every Person A Missionary (EPAM), a major multiple-year focus on empowering, equipping and encouraging every person affiliated with every synod congregation to live as a missionary in daily life.



Keynote Speaker: Pr. Jill Rowland; Visit www.soulcafe.org



Assembly Musicians: Dakota Road; Visit www.dakotaroad.com



ELCA Churchwide Representative: Nancy Arnison, Director, ELCA World Hunger Program

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