

The Epistle

May 2007

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

www.iksynod.org

Dear Partners in Ministry,

One of our colleagues, Mike Brown, recently gave me a book describing the transformation that is happening in the church today. *The Emerging Christian Way: Thoughts, Stories & Wisdom for a Faith of Transformation* is a collection of essays written by leading authors and creative thinkers in today's church. The first chapter in the book written by Marcus Borg describes a new way of being Christian that is emerging in the churches of North America. He calls this a paradigm shift from *belief-centered* Christianity to a *transformation-centered* Christianity. In a belief-centered paradigm, faith is about believing the right things about God.

In a transformation-centered paradigm, faith is about trust and loyalty.... trusting the transforming power we have in our relationship with God through Christ and remaining loyal to him. In this new paradigm beliefs are still important, but he says, "It is trust and loyalty that transform us. Beliefs may precede them or follow them or remain quite unconnected to them. But beliefs do not save us, do not transform us. Trust and loyalty do."

Marcus Borg puts into words what I have been feeling for many years: it is the relationship with Christ that empowers us. I

would actually say that it is not our trust and loyalty that transforms us, but God's trustworthiness and God's loyalty received in Jesus that saves us and transforms us. This is most clearly seen in our understanding of Scripture (especially as communicated by Martin Luther). Belief in the Bible is not a matter of accepting everything in it to be literal and absolute fact. What saves us and empowers us is not that we believe that the Bible is true. What saves us and transforms us is the experience of the power and presence of God found in scripture. Luther called the Scripture the "cradle in which the Christ Child is laid." In Scripture we find Jesus. This is why we believe in the Bible and this is why we call it the Word of God.

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When my faith was awakening as a teenager, after I got past seeing the Bible as a bunch of neat stories and filled with passages that I had to memorize for catechism classes, I began to read it in a new way as I struggled with issues of living. As I read Scripture, the Spirit of God seemed to jump out at me on every page. I seemed to meet Jesus every time I opened and read the Bible. The person I met was the person who had been there from the beginning in my baptism. Through the power of the Spirit my faith was being sparked and I was meeting Jesus... the one in whom I could trust and the one to whom I could give my life. This is why I know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God; the Bible does come from the hand of God in a majestic and mysterious way.

Recently the Conference of Bishops started an initiative to broaden and deepen our understanding of the Scriptures, especially through the lens of our Lutheran heritage. My hope and prayer for the church today is that we might re-claim Scripture as the revealed Word of God for this generation and for generations to come, so that all might be transformed by the power of God at work in us and through for us the sake of the world.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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



The Reverend Ruben Duran
2007 Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Ruben Duran serves as Director for New Congregational Development in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is responsible for promoting the development of area strategies, local initiatives and emerging models for the multiplication of new communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean.

Ruben is a native of Lima, Peru, South America. He served parishes in the Seattle, Washington and Los Angeles, California areas prior to becoming

Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA. He has also served as Associate Director for Latino Outreach in the former Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA and Executive for Congregational Outreach Services in the former Division for Outreach, ELCA prior to his current position.

Ruben is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California; Trinity Lutheran College (formerly the Lutheran Bible Institute) in Seattle, Washington and the Escuela Nacional de Turismo in Lima, Peru.

Ruben and his spouse, The Rev. Jean M. Duran, have three daughters: Rebecca (22), Sara (18) and Anna (15). Jean is currently serving as pastor at Living Lord Lutheran Church in Bartlett, Illinois.



A New Trip to Germany—Recalling the Life of
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Luther & Bonhoeffer: A Tradition Both Affirmed and Corrected
October 27– November 5, 2007

Hosted by Pastor Bill Novak of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and
Sven Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Lu-
theran Child & Family Services in Indiana/Kentucky



The trip departs Indianapolis and includes tours of Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, and Munich. Cost per person based on double occupancy is \$2,895. Package includes round-trip airfare from Indianapolis to Berlin, return from Munich, first class hotels, breakfast daily, one lunch, five dinners, all sightseeing and excursions per itinerary, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach, all transfers, and licensed local guides. For more information, contact Grueninger Tours at info@grueningertours.com or (317) 465-1122 or (800) 844-4159.

I-K Synod Church in Society Committee: *First Annual Alternative Spring Break in Washington, D.C.*

Many of us remember heading for warm and sunny climes during Spring Break: Daytona Beach, Pensacola, or just anywhere "out-of-Dodge" where it was possible to forget about term papers, projects and finals. Last month several of us trekked not to the beach, but to Washington, D.C. for the 1st Annual Alternative Spring Break that was sponsored by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Church in Society Committee.

Charles Allen and Jeff Schacht who are campus ministers from Butler and IUPUI, two Butler Pharmacy students, and several members of the Church in Society Committee began our week in Pentagon City where we attended the 2007 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference whose theme this year was "...and How are the Children?" The conference culminated in a trip to Capital Hill where nearly 1,000 participants met with their legislators to advocate about health care and education issues that pertain to the health and well-being of children throughout the world.

During the remainder of the week, we spent our afternoons volunteering our time at the offices of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area where we tackled several projects for the staff. In the evenings we ventured to the University of Maryland where we met with members of the Lutheran Campus ministry for worship, fellowship, and service at an after school program near campus. We saw the sights during our final day in D.C. where a few among us were delighted to be photographed with C3PO, Seinfeld's puffy shirt, and Dorothy's ruby slippers.

In 2008, the 2nd Annual Alternative Spring Break will take place from March 7 to 14. Students and adults who cannot get away for an entire week are heartily invited to join us for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference from May 7 to 10. Watch the synod's website for further details or contact Cindy Geisen at matterofcat@hotmail.com

Thank you,
I-K Synod,
for your
gifts to the
ELCA World
Hunger!

Dear Pr. Gafkjen,

I'm writing to say THANK YOU!

You and the other hunger leaders in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod made 2006 a remarkable year, with a 53% increase in giving to the World Hunger Appeal over 2005. It's an amazing, life-giving accomplishment! Thank you for your leadership and your concern for poor and hungry people everywhere!

Blessings, Nancy Michaelis, ELCA Hunger Leader Liaison



Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly Elections *Positions to be filled in 2007*

Officer Position:

- 1 4-year term for I-K Synod Secretary

SYNOD COUNCIL:**Clergy:**

- 3 3-year terms, 2-term limit, elected at large
- 1 2-year term for Synod Council Youth

Consultation Committee: 6-year term, 1 term limit

- 1 clergy position

Discipline Committee: 6-year term, 1 term limit

- 2 Lay Positions (one male; one female)
- 4 Clergy-at-Large positions

Positions open for election in 2007:

- *North Central Conference:* 1 3-year lay male
- *Northwest Conference:* 1 3-year lay male
- *East Kentucky Conference:* 1 3-year lay female
- *Northeast Indiana Conference:* 1 2-year unexpired term



Important Synod Assembly Deadlines

May 17 Hotel Room Block release date

May 21 Pre-Assembly registration ends; nominations and resolutions from conferences due to Karen Eppert

May 25 Deadline for 800 copies of pre-approved materials for information packet sent to Grace Lutheran, Fort Wayne

Questions? Contact Pr. Bill Gafkjen at bgafkjen@iksynod.org.

Synod Calendar 2007

May 2007**I-K Synod First Call Retreat**

May 6 - 8, 2007

6:00 pm Sunday to 11:30 am Tuesday
Benedict Inn and Conference Center

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Christian Education Committee Meeting

May 9, 2007

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Purdue Lutheran Campus Ministry

Contact Karen Seykowski at kjseykow@juno.com

I-K Synod Interim Ministry Meeting

May 14, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Academy For Mission Meeting

May 17, 2007

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Terri Dillon at tdillon@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Candidacy Funding Team (FATCAN)

May 18, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I-K Synod Chapel

Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Global Mission Committee Meeting

May 19, 2007

I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Contact Jean Eisen at skinut2357@yahoo.com

I-K Synod Conference Deans Meeting

May 24, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Office closed for Memorial Day**June 2007****I-K Synod Council Meeting**

June 8, 2007 at Synod Assembly

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

2007 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly

June 8-10, 2007

Fort Wayne, Indiana

I-K Synod Outreach and Evangelism Team Meeting

June 21, 2007

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

I-K Synod Chapel

Contact Terri Dillon at tdillon@iksynod.org

Communicating in Today's World

Part II of a three-part series

By Hope Moran

There are so many ways to communicate today. It's pretty exciting, but it can be a bit overwhelming. Here is a brief description of some of the newer forms:

Text messaging: Text messaging is the form that teens use to talk with their peers. Text messaging has created its own shorthand. Some of those have carried over from online chatting such as "brb" for be right back, "jk" for just kidding, and "lol" for laughing out loud. Abbreviations are forming everyday for texting like "b4" for before, "cu" for see you, and "pos" for parents over shoulder to alert friends that they have to watch what they say. This is a good way to send a quick reminder to youth about an event. The down side is that there is a cost for each text message a person sends *and* receives, but unlimited text messaging is now available for a price.

Blogs: These are simply journals on line to which people may respond and exchange comments. Blogs can range in information content from very personal reflections to political views. They can be used to post sermons, weekly devotions, travel experiences while on the road to keep people back home up to date. WordPress is a popular service for setting up a blog. Visit the Web site at <http://wordpress.org/>.

MySpace: It is a social networking set of websites where people set up their own Web pages and enter photos, music, videos, a personal profile, blogs, calendars and more. An individual accumulates friends with photos who have their own MySpace pages. They can be listed in order of friendship which can be quite competitive. Some compete to add as many friends as possible and will proclaim their stats of having 400 friends. Church youth groups can set up their own MySpace to post pictures of events, upcoming events, keep track of birthdays and more. Bands and organizations have sites as well as individuals. MySpace allows for a lot of creativity. People need to be careful about the information they share because anyone and everyone is looking at it and sharing what they read. Some employers even look at MySpace pages to see what an individual might really be like. Like everything, it can be a good communication tool but can also be used to bring harm to others. Being aware and careful are important on MySpace as in every other avenue of life. You can check it out at www.myspace.com.

More to come on communication with our youth in the July Epistle!

Hope L. Moran

Associate in Ministry www.stjameselca.org

Email: conferencecoordinator@stjameselca.org


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

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

[hopesnotes](http://www.myspace.com/hopesnotes)

St. James Youth Group MySpace: [http://](http://www.myspace.com/stjamesyouthgroup)

www.myspace.com/stjamesyouthgroup

facebook		Name:	Hope L. Moran
		AIM:	lotowicz
		Events:	None

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Joyce Windhorn (retired, I-K Lutheran Outdoor Ministries), whose sister, Ethelyn Richter, died in a car accident on March 5, 2007

Sister Nora Frost (Deaconess, Grace, Elkhart, Ind.), who continues to recover from illness relating to Crohn's disease. We also pray for Sister Nora's father, who had been hospitalized and subsequently underwent rehab at a facility in the area.

Pr. Barry Neese (Campus Ministry, Lexington, Ky.), whose wife, Kris, mourns the death of her father, the Rev. Eldred Johnson, in March 2007.

Pr. Walter Wangerin (Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.), who mourns the death of his younger brother, Michael John Wangerin.

Pr. Dan Strobel (St. Andrew's, Speedway, Ind.), whose younger brother, Michael, was deployed to Kuwait at the end of March, 2007. Please keep Michael's wife Christine and children, Jacob and Abigail in your prayers.

Pr. Jerry Moe, Prince of Peace, Merrillville, Ind.), whose wife, Birthe, mourns the death of her mother on April 14, 2007.

The families and friends of the shooting victims at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

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

Ordinations and Installations:

Pr. Jeff Otto was installed as the pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran, Corydon Ind. and St. Peter's Lutheran, Corydon by Pr. Shirley Ross-Jones on March 4th.

Mr. Ken Hebel, Associate in Ministry, was installed at Messiah Lutheran Church in Brownsburg, Ind. on April 22, 2007.

Pr. Jerry Mielke was installed as the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond, Ind. by Rev. Paul Krebs on February 18, 2007.



The Tenth Biennial Church-wide Assembly of the ELCA will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois, on August 6-12, 2007.

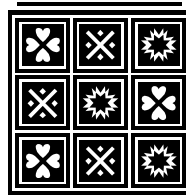
Learn more at www.elca.org/assembly.

Celebrate *Older Adult Ministry Week* this year on October 7-13, 2007.

Valuable resources on www.iksynod.org coming soon!

Need Summer Camp Brochures?

Summer is just around the corner. Don't miss out on the great summer of programs at our synod camps: Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald, and Lake Luther! If you need more summer camp brochures, contact Pr. Mark Radloff at mradloff@iksynod.org or (260) 667-7750.



Lutheran World Relief has made available a new quilt video entitled, *Ordinary to*

Extraordinary. This new video takes viewers to Mali, West Africa, where more than 30,000 LWR quilts have been distributed over the last few years. You can request a few loan of this video by calling **1-800-LWR-LWR-2**.

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of April 19, 2007

Mission Discernment:

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	
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Interim Pr. David Norland
Cross and Crown, IN	Staff Position
Emanuel, Evansville, IN	
Gethsemane, Ft Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Hope, Indianapolis	Interim Gina Bridgewater
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
St. George, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. James, Greenfield, IN	Interim Pr. Joyce Gerwing
St. James, Holland, IN	Interim Pr. Cindy Geisen
St. John, Lawrenceburg, IN	Interim Marilyn Nelson
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. Peter, Stendal, IN	
Trinity, Logansport, IN	
Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	
Trinity, Union City, IN	Interim Bonnie Sparks
Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Zion, Pershing, IN	
Zion, North Manchester	

Searching for Candidates:

Bethlehem, Chesterton, IN	Interim Pr. Thelma Megill-Cobbler
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Gloria Dei, South Bend, IN	Interim Pr. Marv Wittkopf
Grace, Elkhart, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Vonesh
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Interim Pr. Fred Jordan
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Interim Pr. Jim Simpson
Redeemer, Bryant, IN	Interim Pr. Mack Goeglein
Resurrection, Gas City/Marion, IN	
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	Interim Pr. Jim Milligan
St. Paul, Frankfort, IN	Interim Pr. Mary Frohs
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, Richmond, IN	

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Bethlehem, Indianapolis, IN	Staff Position
Christ, Terre Haute, IN	Interim Pr. Jennifer Osheim
Faith, Jeffersonville, IN	Interim Pr. John Hawkins
Gloria Dei, Highland, IN	Interim Pr. Howard Buchholz
Grace/Messiah, Ft. Wayne, IN	Int. Mary Jo Mikulski
Prince of Peace, Bellevue, KY	Interim Pr. Jerry Cantrell
Trinity, Goshen, IN	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Trinity, Linton, IN	Interim Mark Schnabel

Calls Accepted in 2007:

Messiah, Brownsburg	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	Pr. Jeff Schacht (Jan)
Christ, Hammond	Pr. Roger Storms



Have you seen the resources available from *The Lutheran* magazine?

Visit <http://thelutheran.org/article/sglist.cfm>. Most of the resources are free. You'll find bulletin blurbs and reproducible bulletin inserts, church resources, and downloadable graphics for your publications or webpage. You can browse and search back issues, participate in discussion forums, read their blog and check out their classifieds.

Please note: The Indiana-Kentucky *Epistle* newsletter is now going online. As of this issue, you will be able to read it at www.iksynod.org. Beginning in July, the *Epistle* will be available online only, but if you still wish to receive a paper copy, please call the office at (317) 253-3522 or email Danielle at dburrus@iksynod.org.

➔ A Synod Assembly 2007 Request

Please send via e-mail two photos from your congregation or ministry center to **Pr. Robin Owen at pastor-robin@verizon.net**. These pictures should include one photo of your building's front door, and one photo from an outreach, evangelism, or mission activity with which your congregation or group has been involved this past year. Thanks! —*I-K Synod Outreach & Evangelism Team Assembly Booth Committee*



SENT BY GOD'S GRACE
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

**Grand Wayne Convention Center
Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 8-10, 2007**

**2007
INDIANA-KENTUCKY
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Keynote presenter: *The Rev. Rubén Duran, Director for Development of New Congregations, Outreach & Congregational Mission*

Find out more at www.iksynod.org or call 317-253-3522



Special focus:
*Celebrating 100 years of
Lutheran Campus Ministry*

All rostered leaders, including clergy, associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers, and two lay voting members from every congregation should attend. Other leaders and members are welcome!

Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
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... where every member is a missionary, every pastor a mission director, and every congregation a mission center.