

The Epistle

May 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,

Sabbatical. It's from the biblical concept of the 'the sabbath', the day of rest. In many professions, a sabbatical is offered after a period of time working. It's a time of rest.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Minimum Compensation Guidelines say this about sabbaticals:

*Congregations should offer their rostered leaders **sabbatical** leave time for spiritual and personal renewal, which may be a maximum of eight weeks after four years or 12 weeks after six years in a congregation. Such sabbatical leave time should normally be offered at either of these intervals during a long pastorate and should not preclude vacation time during the year of sabbatical leave. This leave should include special continuing education emphasis. The request, specific description and purpose of the sabbatical leave are to be submitted to and approved by the church council at least six months prior to the time it is to begin.*

During sabbatical leave, the congregation continues to provide normal compensation, and pays for pulpit supply and related congregational ministerial expenses... Normal vacation time may be used to extend the sabbatical leave. A report of his/her sabbatical activities is to be submitted to the congregation Council... Continuing education and sabbatical leave time accrue to an individual during the service in a single congregation.

Bishop Stuck is on sabbatical. Someone had to write this article.

♪ "Cast the lots and the numbers Rudy,
Ear-lye in the morning." ♪

Later this year Bill Gafkjen will take some sabbatical time, and I took one last year. We are trying to model for rostered leaders the importance of taking a sabbatical; and we are trying to encourage congregational leaders to provide sabbatical time for their rostered leaders.

You know that you function better when well rested. The sabbatical time offers rest and refreshment to the rostered leader, and by virtue of the educational component, sharpened gifts and skills that benefit the congregation. Good planning between the rostered leader and council leadership (or Mutual Ministry Committee) is a critical component in making the sabbatical time a fruitful endeavor.

There are opportunities to have sabbaticals funded by outside foundations. Page 17 of the Clergy Compensation Guidelines and page 15 of the Guidelines for Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers provide links to further information.

Keep Bishop Stuck in your prayers as he enjoys this sabbatical time. He'll be back in September (and will be present at Synod Assembly).

Peace, *Pr. Rudy Mueller*

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

A new look for www.elca.org

The ELCA website, www.elca.org, has been redesigned for easier navigation. The site contains content from and about every unit, program, and ministry of the ELCA churchwide organization, and information from and about synods, congregations and ministry partners.

The site has been divided into four main areas:

Who We Are

Find general information about the Lutheran church, its history, leaders, and organization. In the Churchwide Organization section, there are links to every program and service unit, and every office of the ELCA Churchwide Organization.

What We Believe

Learn about the ELCA's traditions, theology and statements and find resources on prayer and beliefs. There is a glossary of terms and other resources for learning about our faith tradition which can serve as a valuable resource for new members or those new to the Lutheran tradition.

Our Faith in Action

From disaster relief to advocacy, the ELCA is involved globally. People love to read and hear stories and in this section of the site there are well-written stories that you can use to show how the ELCA reaches out in many different ways.

Growing in Faith






Find information on Lutheran schools, vocation and specific ministries of the ELCA, like youth, young adult, and multicultural ministries.








Take the time to explore www.elca.org today!

Lutherans Read the Bible

Visit www.elca.org/bookoffaith to learn how your congregation can participate in the ELCA five-year collaborative reading initiative.

-  Group Assessments
-  Conversation Tools
-  Books
-  Bible Studies
-  Videos

-  E-Updates
-  Dwelling in the Word
-  Graphics
-  Historical Documents
-  Other resources



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

What Do We Say About Jesus?

Do you talk about Jesus when you are in church on Sunday morning?

By Pr. Heather McCulloch, assistant to the Bishop and director of Outreach and Evangelism

It may sound like a crazy question but 85% of Lutherans don't talk about Jesus on Sunday morning. And if you think that statistic is surprising, did you know that only 18% percent of the American public is in church any given Sunday?

Coming to grips with what it means to be Lutheran today was the focus of the recent I-K Synod Academy for Mission "I Love to Tell the Story" Evangelism Gathering in Louisville in March.

Rev. Dave Daubert of A Renewal Enterprise (and formerly ELCA director for the Renewal of Congregations) shared the above statistics with those at the gathering, saying that if we can't share Jesus with one another in our congregation, how will be able to share Jesus with the 82% of the population who are not in our churches?

"Not knowing what to say about our faith is one reason people are reluctant to share their faith with others," said Pr. Heather McCulloch, assistant to the Bishop and director of Outreach and Evangelism. Using the Lutheran confessions, Daubert outlined our core beliefs in four key points.

- **God is God**
- **We are not God**
- **What we aren't, Jesus is**
- **What Jesus is, we get**

Remembering these four points can help you share your faith with the people in your life, church or un-church. "It can be scary talking to others about your faith. The best place to start is your own congregation. Start by sharing what God is up to in your life with those right next to you in church," encourages McCulloch.

The Institute for Leadership in Church and Society 2008 at Trinity Lutheran Seminary presents
The Impact of Grief and Loss in the Family Setting on Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Rev. Dr. Herbert Anderson, presenter

This program will help clergy, congregational leaders, and individual family members understand and address the issue of grief and loss in community settings.

Cost is \$50 for clergy and professional leaders; \$30 for congregational volunteers.

Register by June 2 to qualify for discount of \$5.

Contact Skip Cornett at wcornett@trinitylutheranseminary.edu.

Sabbatical...

Pr. Bill Gafkjen will be on sabbatical leave July 1 through September 22, 2008.

Under the theme "Living Inside Out: A Journey Toward Missional Integrity," Bill will take time to deepen his spiritual life, relax, and enjoy and deepen his relationships with his wife, Janet, and two kids. He will also explore ways in which he might more effectively live what he believes and professes as a missional leader in the church, and how he and his family might live more faithfully as missionaries in daily life.

He will do some reading, research and writing about the church and its mission, and he hopes to play a round of golf or two along the way.

As part of his role as assistant to the Bishop, Bill is responsible for the following areas of the synod's ministry: Campus Ministry, Candidacy, Global Mission, Synod Assembly Planning, and Church in Society (including World Hunger and other societal concerns like the ONE Campaign, advocacy, and disaster response).

During Bill's sabbatical leave his administrative assistant, April Lynch, will field calls and concerns about these areas and direct folks in appropriate directions and to helpful people.

Chairpersons of the committees with whom Bill works will handle concerns related to these ministries, and assistants to the Bishop Heather McCulloch and Rudy Mueller will address related concerns as necessary from the perspective of Office of the Bishop.

I-K Synod Calendar
Visit www.iksynod.org for more
event listings

May 2008

I-K Synod Financial Aid Team

May 15, 2008

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod SALT 2 Orientation

May 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

King of Glory Lutheran Church, Carmel, Indiana

Contact Jean Eisen at eisenj@bellsouth.net

I-K Synod Companion Synod Sunday

Huria Kristen Batak Protestan, District V
Indonesia

May 18, 2008

I-K Synod Conference Deans Meeting

May 22, 2008

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Disaster Response Committee

May 23, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact April at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Office Closed for Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2008

June 2008

I-K Synod Assembly 2008

June 5-7, 2008

Lexington Convention Center

Hyatt Regency Lexington

Radisson Plaza Hotel and the Convention Center

Lexington, Kentucky

I-K Synod Council Meeting

June 5, 2008

I-K Synod Assembly, Lexington, Kentucky

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod SALT 2 Orientation Meeting

June 14, 2008

I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Contact Jean Eisen at eisenj@bellsouth.net

July 2008

I-K Synod Pastoral Counseling Meeting

July 10, 2008

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

I-K Synod Office Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

We are walking together with our fellow Lutherans in Chile!

Pr. Shirley Ross-Jones of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Louisville, Ky.

Jean Eisen, chairperson of the I-K Synod Global Mission Committee, worshipped with us on Sunday, March 30. The music throughout worship that day was from various South American countries. Jean sent our congregation authentic Chilean recipes a few weeks before her presentation so that we could feast upon some delicious Chilean dishes at the lunch that preceded her slide show.



What can your congregation do to further our I-K Synod companion relationship?

- Pray for our partners
- Learn about the culture
- Support mission work, especially women's projects

For a presentation in your congregation, contact the I-K Synod Global Mission Committee Chair Jean Eisen at eisenj@bellsouth.net.

Following lunch we were privileged to hear stories and see slides of the visit of a team from the I-K Synod to Chile last summer. Not only was it very interesting, but it also helped us to feel much more connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ in our companion synod, as well as to the Buen Samaritano pre-school that we support.

"Global Mission" for the I-K Synod means celebrating God's presence to the ends of the earth. It reminds us that there are churches on every continent working as hard as we are in this country to faithfully proclaim and embody the good news of what God has done through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Through Global Mission, the I-K Synod, along with the rest of the ELCA, practices a theology of accompaniment, which calls churches to walk together in service in God's mission while each church maintains primary responsibility for its own area.



Come to the 2008 ELCA Global Mission Event!

The 2008 ELCA Global Mission Event will take place July 17-20, 2008, at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse in La Crosse, Wis.

Join missionaries, international church leaders, and ELCA members in celebrating God's mission in the world. Plenary speakers include filmmaker Katrina Browne, a group of HIV-positive women from Nigeria, Dr. Parichart Suwanbubbha, Mahidol University Research Center of Peace Building, Thailand, and Rev. Lisandro Orlov, Latin American regional coordinator of the Lutheran World Federation HIV/AIDS campaign.

With childcare and special programs for children, and junior and senior high youth, the GME is great for congregations, confirmation classes, families, singles, and youth! For more information or to register, visit the GME web site, www.elca.org/gme or call (800) 638-3522, ext.2642.

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Pr. Richard Hunt (retired, Muncie, Ind.), whose wife, Marj, has returned from a long stay at Methodist Hospital.

Pr. Bert Pauluhn (St. John, Goshen, Ind. and St. Peter's, Millersburg, Ind.) who is recovering from back surgery.

Larry Reck (former lay minister, Christ Lutheran, Terre Haute, Ind.) and family, whose wife, Alice, passed away on March 24, 2008.

Pr. Jeff Hawkins (CSA HOPE Inc., North Manchester, Ind.) and family, whose father, Glen Hawkins passed away on April 1, 2008.

Judy Rehmel (I-K Synod vice president), who continues chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

Frieda Kraemer (widow of Pr. Emeritus William Kraemer and mother of Pr. Tim Kraemer (Haysville, Ind.) and Chaplain Jim Wetzell (Brownsburg, Ind.), who is recovering from back surgery.

Pr. Amy Meyer (former pastor at Christ the King, South Bend, Ind. and current pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Wittenberg, Wis.), and family, whose husband, Jon Meyer, passed away on April 19, 2008.

Pr. Paul Krebs (retired, Anderson, Ind.), whose brother-in-law, Rev. Edward Meyer of Muscatine, Iowa, died April 15, 2008.

Pr. Richard Miller (retired), whose daughter Paula Kay Kehrer passed away Sunday, April 13 in Evansville, Ind.

Cheryl Walker (I-K Synod Council, Northeast Conf.), whose father passed away.

Ordinations and Installations:

Pastor Daniel Fugate was installed as Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Life at Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. on May 11, 2008. Pr. John Peterson, Dean of the Northeast Conference, presided.

Pastor Jennifer Faust was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on April 5, 2008, at First Lutheran Church, Ellington, Conn. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Faust has been called to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Loogootee, Ind., and was installed on April 13, 2008. Pr. Mary Poston presided.

Deaths:

† **We mourn with the family and friends of Pastor Walter Johnson (retired, Bloomington, Ind.) whose wife Nona died Tuesday, May 6, 2008.** A memorial service was held at St. Thomas Church of Bloomington, Ind. The officiant was Pr. Lyle McKee, Pastor of St. Thomas Church, assisted by Pr. Rich Zawistoski of Chicago. Monetary memorial gifts will be accepted by the congregation for the construction of a columbarium.

The 21st Annual Festival Gathering of Biblical Storytellers presents:

Who Are You? Face to with the Mystery
August 6-9, 2008

Simpson Retreat and Conference Center
Atlanta, GA

Storytelling ♦ Workshops ♦ Epic Telling ♦
Bible Stories ♦ Story Swap ♦ Picnic ♦
Recreation & Meditation ♦ Worship ♦
Bookstore ♦ Lighting the Fire ♦
Questions? nobsint@nobs.org

www.nobs.org

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of May 7, 2008

Mission Discernment:

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	Interim Sr. Elsie Fregeau
Calvary, Louisville, KY	
Christ, Madisonville, KY	
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	
Church of the Cross, Muncie, IN	Interim Elaina Salmon
Faith United, Richmond, IN	
Grace, Huntingburg, IN	
Grace/St. Paul, Greensburg, Smyrna, IN	
Holy Cross, Rockport, IN	
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. Neal Boese
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
Resurrection, Madison, IN	Interim Pr. Tom Weitzel
St. George, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. John, Louisville, KY	Staff Position
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	
St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion, Kendallville, IN	Int. Pr. Thelma McGill-Cobbler

St. Paul, Milan, IN	
St. Peter/St. Matthew, Camden, Delphi	
St. Stephen, Louisville, KY	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Zion, North Manchester	Interim Alice Smith
Zion, Sunman, IN	

Searching for Candidates:

Christ, Terre Haute, IN	
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Interim Pr. David Norland
First, Attica, IN	
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Shepherd, St. John, IN	Staff Position
Redeemer, Jasper, IN	
Resurrection, Marion, IN	
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
Trinity, Logansport, IN	Interim Pr. Dwayne Daehler

Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	Interim Pr. John Stacy
Zion, Franklin, IN	
Zion, Pershing, IN	

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Vonesh
Christ, Jeffersontown, IN	Staff Position
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
First, Columbus, IN	
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Interim Pr. Fred Jordan
Hopeful, Florence, IN	Staff Position
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Interim Pr. Howard Buchholz
St. James, Holland, IN	
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Interim Pr. Jane Ellen Jarrell
St. Paul, Versailles, IN	Interim Pr. Dennis Zimmerman
St. Pauls, Frankfort, IN	
Trinity, Goshen, IN	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Trinity, Union City, IN	
St. Paul, Seymour, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
Zion, Bristol, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Strietelmeier

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)
Faith, Owensboro, KY	Pr. Liberty Lausterer (Apr)
St. Peter, Stendhal, KY	Pr. Jennifer Osheim-Owen (Apr)
Indianapolis, IN	Marilyn Smith, Associate in Ministry
St. James, Greenfield, IN	Pr. Lawrence Gember (May)
Grace, Elkhart, IN	Pr. Tim Diemer (May)



You may not know that...

The congregation of Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., has voted to change its name to Light of the Cross Worship Center.

**21ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA**

JUNE 5-7, 2008

**Rev. Dr. Jill Rowland
Keynote Speaker**



Session 1: Explorers on the Expedition

The apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to open up their lives, to live openly and expansively. God calls us to do the same as explorers in the church—to open up our lives, to live openly and expansively to God's work in the world.

Session 2: Crisis in the Church: An Imaginative Response

To encounter crisis is to encounter the possibility of truly being the church. Crisis is not the end of opportunity but only its beginning—where danger and opportunity meet, where the future is in balance and events can go either way. The question is how will we respond imaginatively to this crisis?

Session 3: Being the Missional Church

Darrell Guder urges us to see that the "answer to the crisis of the North American church will not be found at the level of method and problem solving;" rather, the "real issues in the current crisis of the Christian church are spiritual and theological." We are being invited to the enterprise of exploration into God, of developing a new imagination about "who we are and what we are for" as the church, of exploring what it means to *be church*, of imagining what it means to be and live as a *missional church*.

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