

The Epistle

November 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,

At a recent Synod Council meeting, I announced that I will not be available to serve another term as your bishop. This probably does not come as a big surprise to most of you because I have been open about my desire to serve the church in a new way. Since I am in my second term, I am often asked if this synod has term limits (some synods allow a bishop to serve only two terms). I usually answer: "The synod doesn't have term limits, but I do." It has been an incredible honor and satisfying for me to serve you and the church in this way.

I want you to know, however, that the next 21 months will not be a lame-duck time for me as your bishop. I am very excited about what is planned for the next three years as we "empower, equip and encourage each other to make Christ known" in the world. Personally I have four major goals for myself as I serve until the new bishop is elected and installed in 2010. Besides my regular duties, these are the opportunities that excite me:

- **EPAM – Every Person a Missionary.** This is part of our vision for the I-K Synod that we have been working on for nearly 10 years. Over the next three years we will have new opportunities to learn and grow as disciples so that we can faithfully share the love of Christ in our daily lives.
- **Book of Faith** – We will also have opportunities with the whole ELCA to learn and grow as disciples in our knowledge and study of scripture. When we study scripture seriously we are transformed by the power of the Word and empowered to faithfully share that Word with the world.
- **Freed to Lead Campaign** – The Lilly Endowment has given us a wonderful opportunity to grow in our support of rostered leaders in the church. We will be helping these leaders deal with loans incurred through many years of education so that the burden of debt caused by these loans does not inhibit their leadership. Also, we will be addressing the need from the front end of education by raising money for our scholarship funds to support candidates presently in school.
- **Called-To-Connect Visits** – I will continue to visit congregations and talk with rostered and lay leaders about the mission and ministry of the church at all levels and how we support what we do together as God's people.

All of this, plus my regular duties, should keep me plenty busy for the next few months. I am mindful that we all serve by the grace of God. I have been a recipient of that grace through the generous love and support that you, and the colleagues I work with daily, have shown me. I am very grateful for the partnership we share in ministry and I look forward to many more opportunities to witness to the love of God that we share in Jesus, the Christ. May the Spirit of God rest powerfully upon us.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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

feautor.org

A free, multilingual, open space to share religious resources

Feautor.org is an ELCA shared resources Web site packed with items to download that have been created by individuals and congregations for your use. Most resources are available in a word processor file that can be edited, and as an Adobe Acrobat file that is ideal for printing. Freely sharing locally produced materials is practicing a 'Stewardship of Ideas.' Use these ideas, modify them for your purposes as allowed, share them with others, and in turn, share some of your best ideas, too.

A sample of what you will find at feautor.org: (There are over 915 Web pages of resources!)

- Policy to Prevent Abuse of Children and Youth
- Devotions for Staffs Facing Staffing Changes
- Guide for a Lutheran-Catholic Marriage
- Computer Security Basics
- Lenten Bible Reading Challenge
- A Litany of Godspeed and Farewell
- Introduction to Lenten Devotions
- Info Guide for the Movie "Luther"
- Companion Synod Sunday
- Condolence to Bereaved at Christmas Letter
- Looking at Resources Through a Lutheran Lens
- Celebrating Congregational Anniversaries
- Rural Prayer Petitions
- Bulletin Announcement Form
- Worship Stickers
- Good Friday Drama
- Hanging of the Greens Prayer
- An Order of Service for Men and Women Being Mobilized or Deployed
- Expansion Ceremony
- Baptismal Banners
- Responsibilities of the Church Musician and Education of the Church Musician
- Stewardship Training and Programs
- Wildflower Devotions



Final Report **Buen Samaritano Preschool in Santiago, Chile**

Indiana-Kentucky Synod support for the Buen Samaritano Preschool in Santiago, Chile, has now ended. The great generosity of congregations and individuals within the synod over the past three years has allowed us to send \$54,160 to the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile,

IELCH, our companion synod in South America. The IELCH and the I-K Synod Global Mission Committee wish to thank everyone who has upheld Buen Samaritano financially and in prayer. When Buen Samaritano Preschool opens its doors for the next school year in March 2009, the IELCH is hopeful that public funding from the Chilean National Agency for Nursery Schools will allow the school to continue its outreach to children from lower income families in Santiago.

Choosing Partnership, Sharing Ministry: A Vision for New Spiritual Community

by Marcia Barnes Bailey

(The Alban Institute, 2007 ISBN: 978-1-56699-343-2)

A book review by Pr. Ted Stoneberg, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Pastoral Care & Counseling, Anderson University School of Theology, I-K Synod Counselor to Ministerial Families

Was it only after we had a significant number of female theologians and pastors that we began to hear how Jesus advocated for collaborative rather than hierarchical ministry?

In 1982, Carol Gilligan in *A Different Voice* identified and documented the different socialization of boys and girls. She observed that boys value rules over relationships, and girls value relationships more highly. Gilligan went on to help us imagine organizations and businesses that were structured around the valuing of relationships rather than hierarchical leadership.

Now Marcia Bailey practices a partner ministry with Marcus Pomeroy at Central Baptist Church of Wayne, Penn. In this book Bailey shares some of the insights she and Pomeroy have gleaned as their ministry developed. Although Bailey is the author of the book, Pomeroy wrote the forward and is included throughout the book. Bailey served the church before Pomeroy was called. During the interviewing for that position, Bailey made clear that she would not be content to be an associate or co-pastor. She wanted to share equally in the ministry, including the preaching. Marcus embraced that vision also. However, neither of them knew exactly what this would mean or how it would look. They only knew that this appeared to be Jesus' vision of the church, and they set about the difficult task of making it happen.

In his forward to the book, Pomeroy wrote, "I was invited to the hope of an organic, non-hierarchical partnership through the path of contemplative spirituality. In my previous 28 years of ministry I had experienced the isolation, burnout, and spirit-destroying consequences of the traditional hierarchical leadership model." His words capture the appeal of this book, enticing those in ministry to consider this alternative model of church leadership. He identifies three killers associated with hierarchically structured ministry: isolation, burnout, and spiritual deadness.

It has been my experience occasionally to practice as a co-therapist and a team teacher. This teaming is not as time efficient or as economical for whomever is paying the salaries, but the outcomes have been much more enjoyable because the experience was shared—both the joys and the difficulties. The shared work was idea-generating and resulted in shared responsibility, and those we served valued the enhanced counseling or teaching.

Bailey and Pomeroy began by working out their shared vision and mutual relationship. It probably helped that both of them were experienced in ministry, were a female and male team, and were ready for an alternative to hierarchical ministry. As Pastor Bailey emphasizes, partnership must be freely chosen, not dictated. They were able to dismantle carefully and gradually the hierarchical structure and expectations of the congregation and to lead the congregants into a web of relationship and partnerships.

One of the significant assumptions of hierarchy is that when a man and woman are working together, the man will be in the dominant position and the woman will be "the other." This team's modeling of mutuality between a man and woman apparently helped the congregants to view themselves as partners with each other and with the pastoral staff. The book provides a very detailed model for developing this style of ministry when two pastors are called to serve a congregation and choose to function in partnership. It does not address how this might happen when a congregation has only one called pastor. It is my assumption that a solo pastor would need to rely on some congregational leaders to help the pastor model this style of leadership for the rest of the congregation.

This would be a good resource to read whenever a rostered person is making a transition into a new ministry setting or when a multiple staff ministry is looking for a new model of operation. Changing the style of ministry and the structure of a congregation is very hard work under any circumstance, but it has a better chance of working at the beginning of a new relationship or when there is enough anxiety in the system to be open to change.



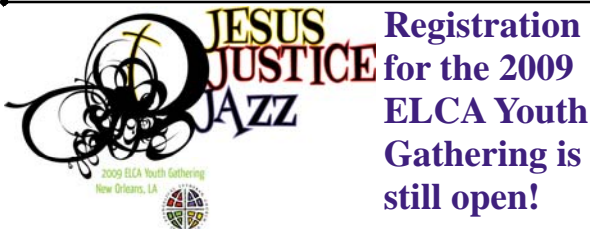
**Thank you,
Cindy
Fuhrman!
You've
been a
blessing to
us.**

If you've ever visited the I-K Synod Lutheran Center or called the office, you have probably encountered the smiling face and cheerful voice of Cindy Fuhrman. You may have seen her taking photos at Synod Assembly or giving a presentation at a communications workshop. Cindy always embraces the opportunity to work in partnership with other people; she embodies I-K Synod core values in every way.

Cindy has chosen to retire from her work at the synod office to spend more time with her husband and daughter, and to work on her personal and volunteer projects, of which she always has many. We will miss her energy, talent, compassion and ministry to others.

We wish Cindy well in whatever she decides to do and we thank her for all the work that she has accomplished here, and for her enthusiasm and sense of Christian community. Cindy's last day at the Lutheran Center is December 11.

May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you today and always, Cindy. —*The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Staff*



**Registration
for the 2009
ELCA Youth
Gathering is
still open!**

Online registration will remain open until it is full, or until January 15, 2009. Go to registration information at archive.elca.org/youth/gathering.html. If you have already registered your congregation, please make any changes, substitutions, or additions by December 15.

Visit www.iksynod.org for more listings

Candidacy Committee Meeting

November 21-22, 2008

Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

POSTPONED: Nov. 22 -Worship Workshop, South Bend, Ind. Questions? rmueller@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Conference Deans' Meeting

November 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

I-K Lutheran Center Chapel

Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Lutheran Center Closed for Thanksgiving

November 27-28, 2008

Companionship Sunday with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, IELCH

Nov. 30-the first Sunday in Advent

I-K Synod World Hunger WebEx Meeting

December 1, 2008

7:30 p.m. EST (You will need a computer and/or phone.) Contact Walda Helvie at walda.helvie@insightbb.com

I-K Synod Christian Education Team Meeting

December 2, 2008

I-K Lutheran Center Chapel

Contact Pr. Heather McCulloch at

hmcculloch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Communications Workshop

December 2, 2008, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Ind.

Contact Danielle Burrus at dburrus@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Disaster Response Task Force Meeting

December 3, 2008, 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

I-K Synod Chapel

Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Global Mission Team Meeting

December 6, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room

Contact Jean Eisen at eisenj@bellsouth.net

I-K Synod EPAM Webinar

December 15, 2008

Contact Pr. Heather McCulloch at

hmcculloch@iksynod.org

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Freed to Lead Grant

Review Board Meeting

December 18, 2008

Thrivent office, Greenwood, Ind.

Contact Pr. Tom Weitzel at tweitzel@iksynod.org

I-K Lutheran Center Closed for Christmas

December 24-26, 2008

I-K Lutheran Center Closed for New Year's Day

January 1-2, 2009

2009 Clergy Renewal Program Grant Application Due February 20

Each year the Lilly Endowment offers money to congregations and pastors in Indiana so that pastors have the chance to take a break from the everyday work and stress related to serving a congregation.

Lilly Endowment may award 40 grants of up to \$50,000 per congregation to allow a pastor to experience a renewal, a "time for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing." The congregation may use up to \$15,000 of that amount for expenses associated with the program.

Eligibility requirements and the application procedures are available online at *clergyrenewal.org*. There are also several hard copies available here at the Lutheran Center or if you wish for us to send you one, please email us at *dburrus@iksynod.org*.

Position up for Election: Vice President of I-K Synod

From the I-K Synod Constitution: Duties of Vice-President
S8.21. The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a layperson. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.
S8.22. The vice-president shall chair the Synod Council.
S8.22.01. The vice-president shall be an ex officio synod delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

Among the positions up for election at the 2009 Synod Assembly will be that of vice president of the I-K Synod. The current vice president, Judy

Rehmel, whose term is ending, has chosen not to run again.

The Synod Council is gathering names of individuals interested in this position. It is open to a lay male or female who is a current member of an Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, congregation. The term lasts four years.

More information about responsibilities of this position, is available at www.iksynod.org/events/Assembly09/Elections/2009iksynodpositionsforelection.asp.

If you feel that the Holy Spirit has given you the gifts for this ministry, or if you know someone who would have an open heart for this work, please contact Cecil Bultman at (812) 852-4488, Joyce Kissel at *jak-er2@tds.net*, or Paul Knoerzer at *pknoerzer@att.net*.



Freed to Lead Applications Coming Soon

The **Freed to Lead Fund** grant review board is working toward a February 1, 2009 date to begin accepting applications from clergy and congregations. Visit www.iksynod.org/FreedtoLeadFund/index.asp for information and updates.

Great News!
book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

The 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering Bible will be the new Lutheran Study Bible (NRSV) being published by Augsburg Fortress as part of the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative.

The purpose of the Book of Faith initiative is to increase biblical literacy and fluency throughout the ELCA for the sake of the world.

As in previous Gathering Bibles, the Final 15 daily devotions will be printed in the front of the Bible so that you can gather with your group each evening to talk about the day, reflect on scripture, pray, and prepare for the next day. Every registered participant -- youth and adult -- will receive a copy of the Gathering Bible in New Orleans.

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:

Pr. Freda Scales (Trinity, Valparaiso, Ind.) who lost her home and all belongings to a fire September 16.

Pr. Sam Klopfer, retired, and wife Ellen, who were in a car accident in September.

Pr. Kathleen Haller (Trinity English, Fort Wayne, Ind.), whose mother, Eileen J. Whippo, died September 25.

Pr. Dwayne Daehler (Lafayette, Ind.) who suffers from lung disease.

Pr. John Santoro (Trinity, Valparaiso, Ind.) who was hospitalized for surgery relating to gall stones.

Pr. Lowell Anderson, retired, whose wife Elly was hospitalized for pancreatitis.

Pr. John Peterson (Fort Wayne, Ind.), who recently underwent heart catheterization and had two stents installed.

Pr. Liz Nickel (St. Peter, Spencerville, Ind.), who is undergoing therapy for pneumonia and pulmonary disease. She also rejoices over the birth of grandson Jacob, born Nov. 2.

Jon Dembroski, husband of Brenda Dembroski, Mission Investment Fund, who is battling cancer.

Pr. Timothy Knauff (Holy Trinity, South Bend, Ind.) whose grandmother Dorothy passed away in October.

Pr. Mark Strietelmeier (Zion, Portland, Ind.), who underwent laparoscopic abdominal surgery in October and is recovering at home.

Judy Rehmel (Vice President, I-K Synod Council), who continues to undergo chemotherapy for cancer.

Pr. Mark Minnick (Come2go Ministries, Fort Wayne, Ind.), who recently entered the hospital to have his defibrillator replaced.

Pr. and Mrs. Jim Cress (Grace Lutheran, Columbia City, Ind.) who celebrate the birth of granddaughter Eveline Ruth Schelle, October 25.

Tracy Paschke-Johannes (seminarian awaiting call, currently serving at Holy Trinity, Muncie, Ind.) and husband Jeff, whose young son Samuel is hospitalized.

Pr. Fred Hubert, retired, who recently underwent emergency surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm.

Harold Erdmann (I-K Synod Council), who continues chemotherapy for cancer.

Pr. Ron Haseley (retired, interim at St. Paul, Milan, Ind.), whose mother, Lizzie Haseley, died Nov. 8.

Pr. Sue Socha (Emmanuel, LaOtto, Ind.), who recently underwent successful elbow surgery.

Ordinations and Installations:

Pastor Michael J. Zurek was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on November 22, at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Saint John, Ind. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Zurek has been called to Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Saint John, Ind.

Pastor Karen Strietelmeier was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on November 23, at Augustana Lutheran Church, Hobart, Ind. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Strietelmeier has been called to Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol, Ind.

Pr. Gil Krouse was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Union City, Ind. on Oct. 19.

Pr. Dana Newhouse was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Terre Haute, Ind. on Oct. 26.

Pr. David Doane was installed as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Ind., on Oct. 12.

Pr. Sandra K. Hutchens was installed as pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange, Ind., on July 27.

Pr. Thomas McShannock was installed as pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in LaGrange, Ind., on July 27.

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of September 16, 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, Louisville, KY	
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	Staff Position
Christ, Madisonville, KY	Interim Pr. Mary Poston
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, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. John, Dubois, IN	
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. John, Otwell, IN	
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	Int. Pr. Nathan Wadewitz
St. Paul, Milan, IN	Int. Pr. Ron Haseley
St. Paul, Smyrna, IN	
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
Zion, Sunman, IN	

Searching for Candidates:

Calvary, Angola, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
Calvary, Cromwell, IN	Interim Sr. Elsie Fregeau
First, Attica, IN	
Hopeful, Florence, KY	Staff Position
Resurrection, Marion, IN	
Resurrection, Madison, IN	Int. Pr. Dennis Zimmerman
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Int. Pr. Jane Ellen Jarrell
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	
St. Peter/St. Matthew, Camden/Delphi	

Trinity, Logansport, IN Int. Pr. Dwayne Daehler
Zion, Pershing, IN

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN Int. Pr. Richard Vonesh
First, Columbus, IN Interim Pr. John Hawkins
Christ, Jeffersontown, IN Staff Position
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN Staff Position
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN Int. Pr. David Norland
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN Staff Position
Redeemer, Jasper, IN Interim Gretchen Enoch
St. Mark, Evansville, IN Interim Pr. Karen Husby
St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion, Kendallville, IN Int. Pr. Thelma McGill-Cobbler
St. Paul, Richmond, IN Int. Pr. Jerry Mielke

Calls Accepted in 2008:

Trinity, Terre Haute, IN Pr. Dana Newhouse (Aug)
Christ, Louisville, KY Pr. Bimen Limbong (Aug)
Grace, Interim, Huntingburg, IN Pr. Ron Atkins (Sep)
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN Pr. Darlene Grega (Sep)
Emmanuel, Interim, Merrillville, IN Pr. Carole Poole (Sep)
Freed to Lead Fund, Indianapolis, IN Pr. Thomas Weitzel (Sep)
St. Francis Health Services, Indianapolis, IN Pr. Jim Wetzel (Sep)
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN Pr. Libby Manning (Oct)
St. Paul, Seymour, IN Pr. Steve Wood (Oct)
Christ, Terre Haute, IN Pr. Donna Glazier (Oct)
Zion, Bristol, IN Pr. Karen Strietelmeier (Oct)
Holy Shepherd, St. John, IN Pr. Michael Zurek (Oct)
Zion, Franklin, IN Pr. Jerome Diers (Oct)
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)



**We are
still
missing
a bath-
room
key!**



Please check your pockets, purse, briefcase, back seat of car, washing machine, dog toys, whatever...and send it back. We need it! -I-K Synod Staff

MISSION Initiatives

Celebrating Risk!

Apply now for a Mission Initiative Grant if your congregation:

- Has an opportunity for evangelism in a new population,
- Needs to learn about its community,
- Needs preparation for evangelism,
- Wants to try a new kind of outreach effort,
- Is in time of pastoral transition and needs consultation to develop an evangelical vision before it can know what gifts to seek in the next pastor,
- Wants to improve visibility or freshen up worship,
- Needs to learn a new language,
- Needs a special tool for outreach in its context,
- Desires to send its evangelism team to a training event,
- Envisions a new worship service tailored to the culture of the community,
- Wants to try something new,

Criteria

- **Mission-centered**
- **Local**
- **Contextual**
- **Interdependent**
- **Informed**
- **Self-perpetuating**
- **Innovative**

Want to know more?

Contact Pr. Heather

McCulloch at

hmcculloch@iksynod.or

Building Vital Congregations and Just Communities: A Primer

Did you know? President-elect Barack Obama, a former community organizer, used many principles of community organizing to run his campaign?

Did you know? Pastors Ron Luckey in Lexington and Michael Cobbler in South Bend view their participation in community organizing as an integral part of their ministry?

Did you know? Last month 23 people from the I-K Synod and Region Six gathered to learn the basics of congregation-based community organizing with an eye to integrating it into the ministry of their congregations?

The aim of congregation-based community organizing is to empower people to identify and redress unjust situations in their local community. This is accomplished through a deliberate process of pinpointing issues of injustice, researching the effects on the community, proposing a solution, challenging the appropriate public officials to take action, and holding those officials accountable for following through with the promises they have made. Congregation-based community organizing constructively harnesses the energy of congregations and communities. It is a means not only of speaking on behalf of those on the margins, but inviting the people who are on the margins to speak.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Church in Society Committee is delighted to spearhead this effort in the synod. More information coming soon.

Interested? Contact Pr. Cindy Geisen at matterofcat@hotmail.com.

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