

The Epistle

September 2007

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

www.iksynod.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this article I am looking forward to completing my 75th *Called2Connect* congregational visit this weekend. What a joy it has been for me to visit with rostered and lay leaders of our congregations and hear how God's mission is being done throughout the Indiana-Kentucky Synod! I intentionally spend the first half of my time with leaders listening to what God is doing through them in the community. Then I share what God is doing through us as a synod and churchwide organization throughout the world. I always leave those gatherings strengthened and encouraged about the future of the church.

What encourages me most about these gatherings is the energy and excitement I sense around the table as we talk. There is a genuine enthusiasm for the mission and ministry that we share as the people of God for the sake of the world. Less often do I hear, "How are we going to keep the doors of our church open?" More often I hear, "What is God calling us to do in this time and this place?"

Less often do I hear now, "What have the synod and ELCA done for us lately?" More often I hear, "How can we be more involved in the wider work of the church?"

This transition can only be attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit nudging us into a more hopeful future.

I want to attribute this change of focus and attitude to the faithful work that you are doing as leaders of the church. Leaders shepherd our people and encourage in us an outward, missional focus in ministry. Not only are congregational leaders and members hearing that Jesus died for their sins, they are also hearing that God is calling us in Christ to give of ourselves for the sake of the world. I thank you for that leadership.

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Let me give you just one example. One congregation that I visited had spent many years focused on building a facility and growing the congregation. The leaders wondered if they were going to make it at all. While I was with them they began to reflect on this new time in their life as a congregation. The congregation was growing up and leaders and members realized that it was no longer time to live off others, but instead to give themselves away *for others*.

Joyfully, those leaders told me that they had decided to ask the congregation to move from sharing one percent of their income for the work of the wider church to 10 percent per year! This was a huge leap of faith for them because they were still straining to meet their regular operating budgetary needs. The pastor and other leaders had laid the groundwork for this leap of faith by continually lifting up the mission of the whole church and the need for us to give of ourselves for the sake of the Gospel.

At our last assembly, we also took such a leap of faith as a synod. We voted to increase the amount that we send to the churchwide organization from 50 percent to 51 percent of what we receive from congregations. The only way we can take such a leap of faith is by joyfully trusting that God will continue to provide all that we need so that we might accomplish the mission we have been called to do.

May the Spirit continue to give us such faith.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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

**Winter 2007 Kaleidoscope
Newsletter Available Online at
[www.cts.edu/Documents/
KALEIDOSCOPE.pdf](http://www.cts.edu/Documents/KALEIDOSCOPE.pdf)**

The winter 2007 resource newsletter from the Congregational Resource Center at the Christian Theological Seminary features seasonal visual and print resources for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Hanukkah, Las Posadas, and Kwanzaa.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod is a supporting covenantal partner with this resource center, so the materials there are available for all our congregations to borrow.

Located in the lower level of the CTS Library, the materials are available whenever the library is open. Visit the online catalog at www.cts.edu. Click on CTS Library. Click on Search: CRC and CTS Library are both listed.

Art Vermillion, Director of the CRC will be happy to assist you. Contact him at (888) 287-7364, or e-mail him at avermillion@cts.edu.

**"I Love to Tell the Story"
Evangelism Gatherings**

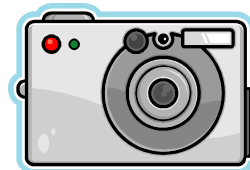
The I-K Synod Academy for Mission team is presenting three events to help our leaders and members become motivated to be evangelists. Each event will focus on one theme relating to evangelism: prayer, missional identity, and discipleship. The events will take place on:

- **November 16-17, 2007:** Pleasant View Lutheran Church, 802 W. 73rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46260
- **March 29-30, 2008:** Christ Lutheran Church 9212 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40299
- **April 25-26, 2008:** Pleasant View Lutheran Church, 802 W. 73rd St., Indianapolis, IN 46260

Cost is \$30 per event and \$80 for all three events. You must register at least 2 weeks before each event. Childcare will be provided.

For a registration form or for questions, call Pr. Jamie Gallagher at (812) 687-4221 or Pr. Vicki Garber at (859) 331-4694.

**Please e-mail me
your photographs!**



I am always looking for good photographs of people from your congregation participating in events, programs, and ministries. Since many people today use digital cameras, it is easy to use your shots on the I-K Synod Web site or in the *I-K Lutheran* newspaper.

Here are a few pointers about the photos that I would like to receive from you:

- Avoid photos of people posing for the camera. Action photos are more interesting.
- Send me current photos only.
- Don't put too many people in the photo; keep it simple.
- Be sure that the photo is clear and in focus.
- I need information for a caption: the date the photo was taken, where the event took place, what the event is, and of course, spelling of names of the people in the picture listed from left to right.
- If you have general information about the event, ministry, or program featured in the photo, please include it, too.
- I need your contact information in case I have questions, and to give credit for photos whenever possible.

Thank you for your help and contribution to our mission and ministry. *Danielle Burrus*

dburrus@iksynod.org



**Older Adult
Ministries Week:
October 7-13, 2007**

*Join us in celebrating
the Older Adult Ministries Week
in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod!*

*Resources and Worship Planning tools
are available at www.iksynod.org.*

The Meandering Way: Leading by Following the Spirit

By Gary A. Shockley

A book review by Marcia Berner

St. George Lutheran Church, Edinburgh, Indiana

Gary A. Shockley catches the reader's attention with his title: *The Meandering Way: Leading by Following the Spirit*. Meandering? When was the last time you "meandered" through the day? Did you justify it as following the Spirit? I was hooked by the contradictions my mind conjured up.

Shockley doesn't try to avoid those contradictions. He allows us to enjoy the mental image of Jesus with his PDA in hand, or his "things to do" list. He draws our attention to the idea of Jesus hustling through his days from one time-shackled obligation to another. We see Jesus as we see our own busy selves in our own time-driven weeks. It jars. Early on we realize that Jesus *meandered*, and we don't.

Jesus HAD the time to sit down and talk to the disciples. He had the time to eat with drop-in guests (even guests by the thousands). He took his time getting to Mary and Martha's house and arrived after their dear brother had died. The women were in a fury with Jesus...if he had come when they first told him of the crisis, Lazarus would still be alive. It is so easy to see the situation in our mind's eye. We have been there. We would NOT have been meandering. We might not have arrived before death, but we would have been hustling when we *did* arrive.

He builds the case well: Jesus meandered. He was following the path laid out by his Father. Even on the journey to his own death, he neither rushed nor had his heels dug in, bucking and halting. No. He meandered.

Shockley opens up his own ministry to show us his failure to meander. He allows us to think through our ministry (and our failure to meander?). It is easy to stand convicted. He doesn't cast stones. He entices us to imagine ourselves meandering. That contrasts with the truth. The truth is that we often drive ourselves to the point of exhaustion...to the point of being a dry well with absolutely not a drop more to give to ourselves or to anyone else. He knows where we are. When we hear Jesus saying, 'Take my yoke upon you,' we think that he's got to be kidding. I'm already feeling driven, weary, and burdened by a thousand different things. Now he wants to add his yoke? Yep! Jesus knows where we are. Shockley knows where we are.

Jesus talks about yoking and introduces us to the finer points of it. Jesus was saying, "I want to place my tailor-made yoke upon you. I'll be attached to the other side to help you carry your load. We'll pull together, shoulder to shoulder." The yoke of Jesus is light because we are sharing it with him as we meander together through life.

Enlightened pastors see that lay people are as driven and hassled as pastors are. They too need meandering lessons. In learning to meander, however, it is easier to *know* than it is to *do*. Our minds can grasp that God calls us to be faithful, he does not call us to be successful; however, it is hard to get our employers to buy into that. Imagine saying to the one with the whip in his metaphorical hand: Whoa! God made us to be *human beings*, NOT *human doings*. Uh huh.

Read Gary Shockley's book for yourself. It may convince you that you would like to be a meanderer. It may even show you how to pull that off.

**COME TO THE WATERS**

July 10-13, 2008 ~ Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration for the Seventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the women's organization of the church, is now open.

Facts you should know:

- July 10-13, 2008
- Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City.
- The featured speaker, Sister Joan Chittister, co-chairs the Global Peace Initiative of Women, a partner organization of the United Nations.
- The 16-page registration booklet was mailed to Women of the ELCA congregations and is online.
- Online registration is open at www.womenoftheELCA.org/tg08/registration.html.

Communion Ware Sets Available

Sets of communion ware used at Worship Jubilee and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly are available for purchase while supply lasts for \$130 (includes free UPS 4-5 day shipping).

The hand-blown glass paten and chalice are etched with the cross from **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**. These sets are being sold at cost. Once the sets are sold, no more will be produced.

For more information or to purchase a set, contact Anne-Marie Bogdan at (800) 638-3522, ext. 2590.

- Flagon: 10" tall, 40 oz.
- Chalice: 3 1/2" diameter, 7" tall.
- Paten: 7 1/2" diameter, 2 1/2" tall.

Synod Calendar 2007**September 2007****I-K Synod Academy For Mission Meeting**

September 27, 2007 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room
Contact Pr. Heather McCulloch at hmcculloch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Professional Leaders' Conference

September 30 - October 2, 2007
Turkey Run State Park, Indiana
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Campus Ministry Retreat

September 21-22, 2007 2:00 pm
Benedict Inn
Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

October, 2007**I-K Synod Church in Society Meeting**

October 11, 2007, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
I-K Synod Office Chapel
Contact Pr. Cindy Geisen at matterofcat@hotmail.com

I-K Synod Outreach & Evangelism Team Meeting

October 13, 2007 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room
Contact Pr. Heather McCulloch at hmcculloch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod New-to-Roster Gathering

October 16-17, 2007
Salem Lutheran Church, Indianapolis
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Worship Committee Meeting

October 18, 2007 10:00 am- Noon
I-K Synod Office Chapel
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Global Mission Meeting

October 20, 2007 10:00 am- 3:00 pm
I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room
Contact Jean Eisen at eisenj@bellsouth.net

I-K Synod Pastoral Counseling Team

October 24, 2007 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm
I-K Synod Office Chapel
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Leadership Support Team

October 30, 2007 9:30 am-12:00 pm
I-K Synod Office Chapel
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

WELCOME

Welcome, Pastor Heather McCulloch!

*Interim Assistant to the Bishop
for Outreach, Evangelism, and Stewardship*

Pastor Heather McCulloch has joined the Indiana-Kentucky Synod staff as the Interim Assistant to the Bishop for Outreach, Evangelism and Stewardship. She began work in her office on September 17 and her interim term will run for six months. It is a shared staff position with the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA.

An Indiana native, Pr. McCulloch graduated from Franklin College, Indiana, in 1989 with a degree in Political Science and graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 1999. She comes to the synod staff after serving Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky, for seven years.

Pr. McCulloch will be working with mission congregations, supporting existing congregations, working with congregations in or wishing to begin the Natural Church Development process, and serving as program staff for the Stewardship Committee. She will also be serving as programming staff for several other synod committees. You can contact Pr. McCulloch at (317) 253-3522 or hmcculloch@iksynod.org.

ELCA Board of Pensions 2008 Wellness Benefits Basics

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What you need to know ...

- The ELCA Board of Pensions is going to pay you to take the confidential Mayo Clinic health risk assessment and pursue health improvement activities.
- Take these steps and it will credit up to \$300 into your 2008 personal wellness account (defined legally as a health reimbursement arrangement).
- If your spouse is covered by the plan and participates, you'll get another \$300 credit. Use these dollars to reimburse yourself for eligible health care expenses like deductibles and copayments.
- If 75% or more of the members and spouses receiving ELCA PPO Benefits in our synod take the health risk assessment, our entire synod's congregations and organizations will receive a 2% discount on health plan contributions for 2008.
- This discount applies starting the month after our synod reaches the 75% goal. The earlier we reach 75%, the more we'll all save on 2008 health contributions.
- Remember, the health risk assessment is confidential. The Board of Pensions will not share personal health risk assessment results or participation information with employers or synod offices.

What you need to do ...

- Read the member toolkit coming by mail this fall from the Board of Pensions.
- Register on the Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth web site at www20.mayoclinicembodyhealth.com/
- Take the health risk assessment well before Jan. 1, 2008.
- Pursue health improvement activities online.

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Pr. Roger Schmidt (retired) as he recovers from major heart and abdominal surgery.

The family of **Pr. Steve Kummernuss** (St. Mark's, Auburn, Ind.), whose father died in New York on July 31, 2007.

The family of **Pr. Jerry Mielke** (Interim, St. Paul, Richmond, Ind.), whose father-in-law, Joe Franklin, recently underwent surgery.

Judy Rehmel (I-K Synod Vice President) who recently underwent surgery and is recovering at home after a week-long stay in the hospital.

Pr. Jeremy Russell (Emmanuel, Lawrenceburg, Ind.), whose mother, Elaine, died in August, 2007, in Manassus, Virginia.

Pr. Vernon Graham (Associated Churches, Fort Wayne, Ind.), who recently suffered a stroke.

Pr. Tim Graham (Mission pastor for Grace and Messiah Lutheran Churches, Fort Wayne, Ind.) and family, who celebrate the birth of a grandson on August 22, 2007.

Pr. Ann Marshall (formerly of Mt. Pleasant, Kendallville, and St. Mark, Albion, and former dean of the northeast conference), whose son Nathan was badly injured in a car accident on August 29, 2007. He continues to recover at Parkmain Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Pr. Mark Havel (Cross of Grace, New Palestine, Ind.), whose grandmother, Connie Giraud, recently had a stroke.

The family of **Mary Louis Harter**, wife of Pr. Nathan R.R. Harter (deceased, St. John's, Anderson, Indiana), who died at the end of August, 2007.

Geraldine Arney, former I-K Synod Council member, who lost her daughter, Deana, to cancer in July, 2007

Carol Zehr (Lay Minister, Evansville Conference), whose son Ryan Ahrens died in September, 2007.

Karen Eppert (Administrative Assistant to Bishop Jim Stuck) and family, as she celebrates the birth of her second grandchild, Elise Jane Wettlauf, born to Lauren and Tim Wettlauf in Nazareth, Penn. on September 14, 2007. Elise was welcomed home by sister Annika Wettlauf.

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

Ordinations and Installations:

Pastor Timothy Graham was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, August 26, 2007, at Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bishop Jim Stuck presided and preached. Pr. Graham has been called to serve at Grace/Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Pastor David Trexler was installed at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Highland, Ind., on Aug. 19, 2007.

Pastor Marcus Felde was installed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, on September 23.

Deaths:

† We mourn with the family of **Pastor David Ylvisaker** (retired, St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion, Ind., Chaplain at the U. S. Veterans Medical Center in Marion), who died September 1, 2007 in the Harbour View Care Center in League City, Texas.

In addition to his wife, Judy, Rev. Ylvisaker is survived by his daughters, Kristi May, of Pleasanton, Calif. and Karen Ancil of Marion, and their children, Nick, Alayna, Gabriel, and Wyatt Ancil, and Jake, Clinton, and Justin May; a brother, Dr. John R. Ylvisaker, of Clarkston, Mich.; a sister, Barbara Y. Newsom, of Sarasota, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held in Marion in St. James Lutheran Church on a date to be announced. A private family service and burial will follow in the spring.

Listen, God is calling...

Know someone who might wish to attend the "Visit Trinity" Weekend?
"Visit Trinity" is a discernment and informational weekend at Trinity Lutheran Seminary for prospective students on Oct. 13-15, 2007.

Students considering the ministry will learn about the application process, talk with faculty and students, meet alumni and talk about discerning God's call to mission and ministry.

See the schedule and registration information at www.trinitylutheranseminary.edu

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of September 17, 2007

Mission Discernment:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	
Bethany, Indianapolis, IN	Interim Pr. Martin Bomhoef
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
Christ, Madisonville, KY	
Christ, Terre Haute, IN	
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Interim Pr. David Norland
Faith, Owensboro, KY	
First, Columbus, IN	
Hope, Indianapolis	Interim Gina Bridgewater
Prince of Peace, Bellevue, KY	Interim Pr. Jerry Cantrell
Prince of Peace, Russell Springs, KY	
Redeemer, Jasper, IN	Interim Pr. Jennifer Faust
St. George, Edinburgh	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. James, Holland, IN	Interim Pr. Cindy Geisen
St. John, Lawrenceburg, IN	Interim Marlyn Nelson
St. John, Loogootee, IN	
St. John, Louisville, KY	Staff Position
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
St. Mark, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Husby
St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion, Kendallville, IN	
St. Paul, Michigan City, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Poole
St. Paul, Versailles, IN	Int. Pr. Dennis Zimmerman
St. Peter, Stendal, IN	
Trinity, Logansport, IN	
Trinity, Union City, IN	Interim Pr. Bonnie Sparks
Zion, Bristol, IN	Interim Pr. Karen Strietelmeier
Zion, Pershing, IN	
Zion, North Manchester	Interim Alice Smith
Zion, Sunman, IN	

Searching for Candidates:

Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Gethsemane, Ft Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Interim Pr. Fred Jordan
Resurrection, Gas City/Marion, IN	
St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Interim Pr. Tom Weitzel
St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN	
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	Interim Pr. Mary Frohs
St. Paul, Seymour, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
Trinity, Goshen, IN	Interim Pr. Laura Meier
Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	Interim Pr. John Stacy
Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Emanuel, Evansville, IN	
Faith, Jeffersonville, KY	Interim Pr. John Hawkins
Gloria Dei, South Bend, IN	Interim Marvin Wittkopf
Grace, Elkhart, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Vonesh
Grace and Peace, Evansville, IN	Interim Pr. Tim Linstrom
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	
St. James, Greenfield, IN	Interim Pr. Joyce Gerwing
St. Paul's, Haysville, IN	Interim Pr. Dwayne Daehler
St. Paul, Middlebury, IN	Interim Pr. Donn Abdon

Calls Accepted in 2007:

Bethlehem, Chesterton, IN	Pr. Jane Aicher (Sept)
Culver Academy, Culver, IN	Pr. Curtis Heyde (Sept)
Bethlehem, Gary, IN (Interim)	Pr. Mike Steinke (Sept)
Greencroft, Goshen, IN	Vanette Kashmer, AIM (Sept)
Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY	Pr. Steve Scott (Sept)
Pathways Retreat Center, Goshen, IN	Jule Stegeman, Diac. Min (Sept)
Grace/Messiah, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. Timothy Graham (June)
Gloria Dei, Highland, IN	Pr. David Trexler (June)
Bethlehem, Indianapolis, IN	Pr. Marcus Felde (June)
Hilltop, South Bend, IN	Pr. Michael Cobbler (June)
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN	Pr. Luke Bouman (June)
Trinity, Linton, IN	Pr. Joseph Faust (May)
Cross of Christ, Int., Crown Point, IN	Pr. David Norland (Apr)
St. Mark, Interim, Batesville, IN	Pr. Tom Weitzel (Apr)
Messiah, Brownsburg, IN	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	Diac. Min. Jeff Schacht (Jan)

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

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Enter your e-mail address into the box in
the upper right corner.
(Your e-mail address will
always remain confidential.)

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR CONGREGATION TO WALK SIDE BY SIDE WITH OUR COMPANION SYNOD IN CHILE!

Relax and enjoy! Give your congregation the opportunity to enjoy stories, photos, fellowship and prayer with I-K Synod folks who traveled to Chile this summer.



Here's how:

- Invite team members from the recent I-K Synod Global Mission trip to Chile to visit with your congregation.
- Hear and see how they experienced the presence of God in their midst as they laughed, prayed, talked, and worked with our companion synod brothers and sisters of the IELCH, the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile.
- Listen to them share their discovery that God is “in between us,” in the relationships we have with one another.
- Visit www.godinbetween.blogspot.com; learn about the mission trip.
- E-mail Jean Eisen at skinut2357@yahoo.com to schedule a visit.



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

Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
911 E. 86th Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46240-1840
www.iksynod.org
Phone: (317) 253-3522
Fax: (317) 254-5666

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