

The Epistle

September 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,

It feels good to be back in the office and on the road doing the work that God has called me to do as your Bishop. I am grateful for the support I received from the Synod Council and especially the synod staff so that I could truly have a “sabbatical” experience.

The word sabbatical comes from a Hebrew word that means to rest, stop, quit or take a break. That was my intention from the beginning of my planning. But, like most of you, I didn’t really mean it. I had agendas. I felt I needed to justify my time away (doing nothing) by doing something. I had grand plans. I would attend continuing education events. I would read books. I would watch movies with my wife and family and friends and discuss those movies and gain insights into the culture which would enhance my preaching. I wanted to become a better preacher, since that is what I am called to do: Proclaim the Gospel. I also wanted to organize my life and get my study cleaned and organized and clean out all my e-mails and deal with all those little things that I neglect at home because I am too busy most of the time.

As you might suspect, my plans did not work out. I attended the educational events and I read some books, but I never accomplished what I wanted. About half-way through the sabbatical I realized I was not doing very well on accomplishing my goals and I began to get depressed because I thought I would return from sabbatical and everything would be the same. My life would be unorganized. I would not have worked on my preaching. And I be would tired.

Then it happened. The work that God planned for my sabbatical began to take place. As Kris and I traveled 7,500 miles in an old Dodge van (95,000 miles and 13 years old) and hiked the trails of the American and Canadian Rockies, and Northern California, Oregon and Washington, the work that God had planned happened. After six weeks I stopped dreaming about my work and was given a “new and fresh” spirit about my calling. I truly “rested, stopped, quit and took a break” from my job. As the ground of my soul lay fallow for this period of time I was refreshed and renewed by God’s Spirit.

Needless to say, I returned ready to re-enter my work. I do not sense an urgency to get everything done or take care of everything. I found out that things were taken care of just fine while I was gone, thanks to the work of the staff, especially Rudy Mueller, Heather McCulloch, Bill Gafkjen and Karen Eppert. Part of what “Sabbath-taking” teaches us is that our ministry does not depend on us. God continues to work, even when we don’t work. What “Sabbath-taking” helps us to do, then, is to enter God’s work in new and exciting ways.

I am excited to be back and serving the Lord, the Church and you. I look forward to continuing the journey together and finding new ways to respond to God’s work in the world for the sake of the world. I am grateful that God has given us Sabbath.

Your brother in Christ,

Bishop Jim Stuck

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



**I-K Synod to
Send 17
Members to
ELCA
Churchwide
Assembly in
August 2009**

Pastor Jeffery Gramza
Jill Watson
Pastor Steve Rye
Philip Zillinger
Pastor Charles Strietelmeier
Cheryl Walker
Pastor Shirley Ross-Jones
William Beghtel
Pastor Gary Groth
Bonnie Harstad
Joyce Partyka
Mary Hudson
Hansel Ramathal
Bishop James Stuck
Judy Rehmel
Ted Miller
Kate Knoerzer

East Central Indiana Conference
Evansville Conference
Lafayette Conference
Indianapolis Conference
Northwest Indiana Conference
Northeast Indiana Conference
South Central Conference
North Central Conference
Southeast Indiana Conference
East Kentucky Conference
Youth/Young Adult (NWIN)
PC/L
PC/L
Bishop
Synod Vice President
Synod Secretary
Synod Treasurer

**Has your congregation
considered becoming a
Book of Faith congregation?**

The *Opening the Book of Faith Course* is the first step for those preparing to launch Book of Faith initiatives in local congregations. This seven-session course outlines the purposes and goals of Book of Faith for small group leaders and education committees.

Coming in 2009:

A new *Lutheran Study Bible* integrates study material maps, timelines and historical background with articles and notes from Lutheran perspectives and principles for Bible study.

The *Book of Faith Forty Day Lenten Journey* connects 40 personal daily readings with Scripture study and provides a way to engage small groups with Scripture during Lent.

Visit www.bookoffaith.org



Second International Crossings Conference: WHO do you say "I Am"?

October 20-22, 2008

Our Lady of the Snows, St. Louis, Missouri

\$300 includes full program, food, lodging

A chance for pastors, preachers, teachers, and Christians of every walk of life to look again at ~~Luther's distinction of the Law and the Gospel, and its role in the crucial task of getting honest about God today~~

- in daily life and work
- in preaching, teaching, and worship
- in our Christian mission to the world
- in our calling as family members, citizens, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

The conference offers three major presentations, a variety of short sessions on related topics, and a pre-conference workshop on a model for studying Biblical texts with today's God-question in mind, daily prayer and the Holy Eucharist.

Keynotes include: Mary Sue Dreier, Steven Kuhl, John Strelan; **Speakers:** Gary Simpson, Edward Schroeder, Robin Morgan, Fred Niedner, Sherman Lee, Philip Kuehnert, Stephen Krueger, Katherine Kleinhans, Jukka Kaarianen, Michal Hoy, Lori Cornell, Jerome Burce, Marcus Felde

For more conference information and registration, visit www.crossings.org.



**October 15-17
Quaker Hill
Conference Center
Richmond, Indiana**

**Hosted by the I-K Synod
Church in Society Committee**

No drug treatment for women...

In 2006, the Fayette County Jail in Lexington, Ky., was offering a drug treatment program for male inmates that reduced the recidivism rate from 60% to 19%. Regrettably, no program existed for female inmates. Members of the community organization BUILD persuaded the mayor to commit \$175,000 for a treatment program for female inmates. BUILD members have been following up annually to make sure that the program remains funded.

Typically, local congregations perform direct service: sacrificial acts of mercy and charity for those in need. They often do not engage in direct action: building power, getting at the root of problems in a community, and proposing solutions to public officials and holding them accountable for carrying out those solutions. Congregations involved in congregation-based community organizing like BUILD (**B**uilding a **U**nited **I**nterfaith **L**exington through **D**irect-action) gain knowledge about how its principles can both strengthen congregational life and lead to more effective public arena ministry.

“The goal of BUILD and any congregation-based community organization is nothing less than to change the course of history in the city or town in which it works. That may sound grandiose, but I can tell you from my experience in Lexington and in serving on the ELCA’s Congregation-Based Community Organizing Team, faith-based organizations of this type are doing just that all over the country. I invite you to attend the Vital Congregations: *Just Communities* workshop and discover how you can respond to God’s mandate to do justice.”
Rev. Ron Luckey, Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington, Ky., and instructor for Vital Congregations workshop

Ready to take action, but unsure where to start? Register now for **Vital Congregations: *Just Communities***.

\$155 for double-occupancy room and board

Some scholarships are available.

Registration deadline is October 3.

For more information and registration form, visit

www.iksynod.org/ministry/Church%20in%20Society/vitalcongsjustcomm.asp

Contact Pr. Cindy Geisen at matterofcat@hotmail.com

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25, 2009

“That they may become one in your hand.”
Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” -*John 17:21*.

This week represents a longstanding expression of the ecumenical movement – a worldwide movement among Christians to heal divisions within the Church.

Resources available mid-October include:

- **Daily scripture and prayer guide**
- **An ecumenical celebration of the word of God**
- **Prayer card**
- **Art/poster**
- **Worship bulletin cover**
- **2009 Week of Prayer sample kit**

Online resources available at:
www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm

Subscribe to bimonthly e-newsletter at
www.elca.org/ecumenical.

Body, Mind, and Soul: Celebrating, Strengthening and Sustaining Clergy Wholeness in Small Congregations

2009 Summer Collegium at Virginia Theological Seminary: a nine-day ecumenical conference for clergy of small congregations and their spouses and partners, will take place June 24-July 2.

All related costs to the Collegium, including travel, room and board, books, pulpit supply and child care are paid for by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Deadline for applications is December 15, 2008. For more information, visit www.vts.edu/education/collegium.

Visit www.iksynod.org for more listings

I-K Synod Council Meeting

September 26-27, 2008
Camp Lutherwald, Howe, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Professional Leaders' Conference

September 28-30, 2008
Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Communications Meeting

October 1, 2008, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
I-K Synod Chapel
Contact Pr. Jim Cress at jamescress@aol.com

I-K Synod Finance Committee Meeting

October 10, 2008, 3:00 p.m.
I-K Synod Chapel
Contact Kate Knoerzer at knknoerzer@aol.com

I-K Synod Freed to Lead Committee Meeting

October 16, 2008, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
I-K Synod Chapel
Contact Pr. David Schreiber at
prdave@RLCIndy.org

I-K Synod Pastoral Counseling Committee Mtng

October 16, 2008, 1:00 p.m., I-K Synod Chapel
Contact Pr. Ted Stoneberg at
tastoneberg@anderson.edu

I-K Synod Campus Ministry Meeting

October 17-18, 2008
I-K Synod Downstairs Conference Room
Contact April Lynch at alynch@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Finance Committee Meeting

October 18, 2008, I-K Synod Chapel
Contact Kate Knoerzer at knknoerzer@aol.com

I-K Synod Communications Workshop

Indianapolis and Lafayette Conferences
October 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
I-K Synod Office Downstairs Conference Room
Contact Cindy Fuhrman at
cfuhrman@iksynod.org

I-K Synod New to Roster Gathering

October 28-29, 2008
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Leadership Support Committee Mtng

October 30, 2008, 9:30 p.m. - 12:00 noon
I-K Synod Office Chapel
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

Lilly Endowment Approves \$741,000 Grant for I-K Synod Freed to Lead Fund



To Assist Economic Challenges of Rostered Leaders

A grant of \$741,000 has been awarded to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA by Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its "Economic Challenges Initiative," saying that the grant proposal of the I-K Synod "was outstanding."

The grant includes \$570,000 to be used as matching seed money over a four year period to directly assist rostered leaders with such economic challenges as seminary education debt, pension equity, and special circumstance. An additional \$171,000 was awarded for administrative purposes.

The grant proposal sent to the Endowment on July 1 calls for the establishment of a new Freed to Lead Fund in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod that will not only make use of the Endowment grant as matching dollars for the assistance of rostered leaders, but will also make use of matching funds from the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission for scholarships to synod-endorsed seminary candidates. The reception of the Endowment grant effectively initiates the new fund.



Bishop James R. Stuck and Freed to Lead Director Pr. Thomas L. Weitzel sign the grant agreement from Lilly Endowment.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

"This is a great opportunity for us that Lilly Endowment has made possible," said Synod Bishop James R. Stuck upon receiving word of the grant award. "We are very thankful and grateful for Lilly Endowment's vision and willingness to support us in the support of leadership in our church."

The I-K Synod was one of a number of Protestant denominations in Indiana that were invited in September of 2007 to develop a plan and submit a grant proposal to address "severe personal financial pressures ... undercutting the ability of pastors to lead congregations effectively and well."

In response, Bishop Stuck appointed the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel of Alexandria, Ky., as project director, asking him to draw together a Planning Task Force to develop a plan for a new fund to address these economic issues and to submit a grant proposal to the Endowment. The Planning Task Force began their work in January and submitted the proposal on July 1. The Endowment provided a preliminary grant of \$50,000 to help fund the planning effort.

"The planning team worked very hard to develop the vision and organization behind our new Freed to Lead Fund and to present a very strong proposal for the Endowment's consideration," said Bishop Stuck. "I really appreciate the work that the team has done."

Planning Task Force for Fund: Pr. Thomas Weitzel, Alexandria, Ky., Project Director; David Eickman, Hebron, Ky.; Kathy Groth, Napoleon, Ind.; Gary Philpy, Zionsville, Ind.; David Rees, Indianapolis, Ind.; Pr. Robin Owen, Batesville, Ind.; Pr. David Schreiber, Indianapolis, and Retired Pr. Richard Frazier, Fort Wayne, Ind.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND

As the new Freed to Lead Fund is now established, the Rev. Thomas Weitzel has been called to serve on the IK Synod staff as the fund's Director. In addition, the Synod Council will this month approve the organizing documents developed by the Planning Task Force and appoint seven people to serve on the fund's Grant Review Board (five from the Planning Task Force and two from the Candidacy Committee's Scholarship Team) and three people to serve on the fund's Leadership and Development Board (also from the Planning Task Force). Six more positions on the Development Board will be appointed in coming months, including the board chair.

A major component of the new Freed to Lead Fund will be its development, endowment and perpetuation for future assistance in the training and support of rostered leaders. A capital campaign is planned with a goal of raising \$3.5 million in new money above the Endowment's grant.

For that purpose, the call has also gone out for members of the Development Board to work with a Fund Raiser to plan and execute the capital campaign. Members of this board are asked to bring a gift of \$50,000 or more to the fund along with business acumen and development success.

The call has also gone out for a full-time Fund Raiser to be hired Jan. 1. Resumes are being received and interviews are planned for early November.

The administrative portion of the Lilly Endowment grant will be applied to this position and supplemented for three years by the ELCA Fund for Leaders. In the fourth year, the ELCA Foundation will become a funding partner. www.iksynod.org/FreedtoLeadFund/

Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Pr. Bill Steinke (St. Paul's, Middlebury, Ind.), who recently underwent tests in the hospital.

Brenda Dembroski (I-K Synod Mission Investment Fund), whose husband Jon Dembroski is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Pr. Gene Hollingsworth (First English, Goshen, Ind.), whose family celebrates the birth of granddaughter, Annika on July 25.

Pr. Jerry Cantrell (retired), who underwent successful pancreatic surgery to remove a tumor.

Pr. Jennifer Osheim-Owen (St. Peter, Stendhal, Ind.), whose mother was diagnosed with skin cancer and who also fractured her ankle.

Pr. John Malzahn (Holy Trinity, Muncie, Ind.) who underwent surgery to remove kidney stones.

SALT team members who arrived safely home after a two-week trip to Indonesia to visit and study with members of the HKBP, I-K Synod companion synod.

Pr. Betsy Dartt (House of Prayer, Elizabethtown, Ky.), and family, whose cousin, Todd Bachman, was killed in the attack during the first day of the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

Pr. John Hofer (retired), whose family mourns the death of daughter-in-law Suzan Hofer, who died on August 9.

Harold Erdman (I-K Synod Council), who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

Grieving family, friends, and colleagues of Bishop John Schreiber, Southeast Michigan Synod, who died August 16.

Grieving family and friends of Ellen Schnabel, wife of Valparaiso University President Emeritus Dr. Robert Schnabel, who died September 7, 2008.

Pr. Thomas BeMiller (retired, Myrtle Beach, SC), who underwent prostate surgery.

Pr. Freda Scales (Trinity, Valparaiso, Ind.), who lost her home and all its contents to an electrical fire on September 16.

Bishop and Mrs. Jim and Kris Stuck, whose daughter, Jodi Dalton gave birth to Joshua James on September 16.

Ordinations and Installations:

Pastor Dana Alan Newhouse was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on September 13, at Peace Lutheran Church, Connersville, Ind. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. He has been called to Trinity Lutheran Church in Terre Haute, Ind.

Pastor John Andrew Hickey II, was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on July 12, at Christ Lutheran Church, East Northport, New York. He has been called to serve as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Goshen, Ind.

Pastor J. Timothy Diemer was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Elkhart, Ind., on August 3.

Pastor Larry Gember was installed at St. James Lutheran Church, in Greenfield on July 22.

Pastor David Darling was installed as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Holland, Ind., on September 7.

Deaths:

† **We mourn with the family and friends of Pastor Roger C. Dierks** (retired) who died July 17, 2008, in DeWitt, Iowa. Pr. Dierks leaves behind wife Elsabea, sons Jeffrey and Stephen Dierks and daughter-in-law Diane. The funeral took place on July 26 at Elvira Zion Lutheran Church, Clinton, Iowa.

† **We mourn with the family and friends of Pastor Wilbur Dean Miller** (retired), who died July 13, 2008, in Goshen, Ind. Pr. Miller leaves behind wife Joann, son Stewart C. Miller, and daughter Kathy Nisley. The funeral took place July 17 at First English Lutheran Church, Goshen, Ind. Pr. Gene Hollingsworth preached and presided.

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, Angola	
Calvary, Bluffton, IN	Interim Pr. Gene Kinney
Calvary, Louisville, KY	
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	Staff Position
Emmanuel, Merrillville, IN	Interim Pr. Carol Poole
Faith, Logansport, IN	Interim Matt Knopf
Faith United, Richmond, IN	
Grace, Huntingburg, IN	
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	
Resurrection, Madison, IN	
St. George, Edinburg	Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
St. John, Nappanee	Interim Pr. David Stephey
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. Peter/St. Matthew, Camden, Delphi	
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:

Antioch, Hoagland, IN	Int. Pr. Richard Vonesh
Calvary, Cromwell, IN	Interim Sr. Elsie Fregeau
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
First, Columbus, IN	
First, Attica, IN	
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN	Staff Position
Hopeful, Florence, KY	Staff Position
Resurrection, Marion, IN	

St. Mark, Batesville, IN	Int. Pr. Jane Ellen Jarrell
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	

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

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Christ, Jeffersontown, IN	Staff Position
Christ, Madisonville, KY	Int. Pr. Mary Poston
Christ, Terre Haute, IN	
Christ the Savior, Fishers, IN	Staff Position
Church of the Cross, Muncie, IN	Int. Pr. Elaina Salmon
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Int. Pr. David Norland
Hebron, Hebron, KY	Staff Position
Holy Shepherd, St. John, 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, Michigan City, IN	Interim Pr. Richard Poole
Trinity, Logansport, IN	
St. Paul, Seymour, IN	Interim Pr. Ken Witt
Zion, Bristol, IN	Int. Pr. Karen Strietelmeier
Zion, Franklin, IN	

Calls Accepted in 2008:

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)
Trinity, Union City, IN	Gil Krouse (June)
Trinity, Goshen, IN	John Hickey (June)
Christ—Interim, Madisonville, KY	Pr. Mary Poston (June)
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Pr. Sandy Hutchens (June)
Mt. Zion, LaGrange, IN	Pr. Tom McShannock (June)
St. James, Holland, IN	Pr. David Darling (July)
Holy Trinity, Lafayette, IN	Pr. David Doane (July)
St. Paul's, Versailles, IN	Pr. Jim Culver (July)
Trinity, Terre Haute, IN	Pr. Dana Newhouse
Christ, Louisville, KY	Pr. Bimen Limbong

Stay tuned...

EPAM (Every Person A Missionary)

All Synod Kick-off:

November 14-15, 2008

***Word of God.
Word of Life.***
**Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Worship Workshops**

These workshops are intended for any member of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod who is interested in learning more about Evangelical Lutheran Worship or participating in conversations about worship renewal in the life of a congregation.

November 22, 2008	Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Ind. Rev. Craig Satterlee, Lutheran Sch. of Theology at Chicago
February 28, 2009	Christ Lutheran Church, Jeffersontown, Ky. Rev. Susan Briehl, Valparaiso University
March 21, 2009	Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind. Rev. Susan Briehl, Valparaiso University



**Planned workshop topics
include:**

- Principles of liturgical language
- Proclamation of Word and Liturgy: A Workshop for Lectors and Assisting Ministers
- Use of the lectionary – On Sundays and in daily devotions
- Writing intercessions
- Singing the Word
- Non-verbal communication

**See the *Sanctus* worship newsletter for registration form.
Contact Pr. Rudy Mueller at rmueller@iksynod.org or (317) 253-3522.**

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