

The Epistle

September/October 2009

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

www.iksynod.org

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? *WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?*

It is time for us to gather, learn more about the actions taken at the Churchwide Assembly, and discuss how we will continue to move forward in mission.

Throughout October, we have planned seven regional sessions for congregational leaders, members, and clergy to share reflections and respond to questions, and more importantly, to focus on all that unites us and moves us forward together in mission.

In the meantime, as you prepare to attend a session, visit www.elca.org and read about what happened at the Churchwide Assembly and read ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson's [concluding message](#).

We ask that you continue to pray for our Church and congregations, pastors and bishops, and for one another as we find ways to "bear one another's burdens." Please remember that as we continue to work to build up the body of Christ, we are committed to moving forward in mission.

Trusting in God and one another,

Bishop Jim Stuck

All meetings are scheduled from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Monday, October 12

[St. Andrew's Lutheran Church](#), Speedway, Ind.

Thursday, October 15

[Bethany Lutheran Church](#), LaPorte, Ind. (6 p.m. worship service before 7 p.m. meeting)

Monday, October 19

[Christ Lutheran Church](#), Jeffersontown, Ky.

Wednesday, October 21

Risen Savior Lutheran Church
8010 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
[See map.](#)

Thursday, October 22

[Lutheran Church of the Cross](#), Muncie, Ind.

Monday, October 26

[Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church](#), Evansville, Ind.

Thursday, October 29

[Faith Lutheran Church](#), Lexington, Ky.

Questions? Contact Karen Eppert at (317) 253-3522 or keppert@iksynod.org

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

Discerning your Role in the Health Care Reform Debate

As we enter autumn a major public concern is the status and proposed reform of our nation's health care system. The church, *your* church, has a stake in this debate.

"People of faith care about health care because Jesus was a healer, and God cares about people in poverty. For Christians, those two scriptural values converge in this public issue," said Rev. Drew Genszler, ELCA Director of Advocacy. "Through congregational and health ministries, Lutherans also know the front lines of what living with marginal or no health care can do to people and families."



The *Church in Society Committee* of the I-K synod offers the following tools to help you navigate this discussion and discern your role in this debate as a person of faith.

1. Contemplate

Pray for those affected by poor health, inadequate access to health care, and lack of health care coverage.

Journal about your own health story, including your experience with the health care system. What worked well? What did not? What would you change, and what would you keep the same?

2. Educate

Read and consider the [ELCA Social Statement on health and health care, "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor."](#) This and each of the ELCA social statements are available via the ELCA website or by contacting Cindy Geisen (Chair, Church in Society Committee) at matterofcat@hotmail.com.

Conduct an event. The ELCA is providing a toolkit your congregation can use to hold a [Health Care Sunday](#). You may also choose to host a "[Health Care Café](#)" with family and friends or church groups. This small group discussion guide will help you share your concerns about health care.

3. Advocate

Visit <http://www.elca.org/advocacy> and [join the ELCA's e-advocacy network](#) to receive updates from the ELCA Washington office about health care reform.

Contact your Senators and Representative via telephone by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. Or send a letter or email to their office. Tell them your own story and urge them to pass comprehensive health care reform this year.

Set up in-district visits with your senator and representative.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper expressing your position as a person of faith.

Lost in the Middle: Claiming an Inclusive Faith for Christians Who Are Both Liberal and Evangelical

by Wesley J. Wildman and Stephen Chapin Garner. Alban Institute 2009
 Reviewed by Pr. Cindy Geisen, Interim, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Richmond, Ky.

This book is addressed to “Christians who feel theologically and spiritually displaced...[who] feel lost in the middle between the noisy extremes of religion and politics and long to feel at home right where they are.”

Throughout much of the text, the authors attempt to delineate the middle ground. They analyze underlying theological issues that divide left and right, and examine the sociological and historical factors that contribute to polarization within Christianity.

Yet, the first sentence (see above) foreshadows two elements of the book that I found problematic. First, in making a case for the middle ground, they frequently oversimplify the positions of both left and right. In other words, the authors’ positions often lack nuance and sophistication.

Second, anger and frustration frequently seep through the text. I found this especially obvious in a section entitled, “Conflicting Caricatures,” in which the authors skewer positions on both the Right and Left. Despite their disclaimers and pleas for humor, I found this section of the book to be plainly offensive.

We absolutely need voices in the Church who call us to thoughtful appreciation of our differing perspectives. I was disappointed not to find that voice in these pages.

- *Cindy Geisen*



Pr. Marvin Wittkopf to Retire

Bishop Jim Stuck and Pr. Jeff Gramza thanked and honored Pr. Marvin Wittkopf at the September 2009 Retired Rostered Leaders’ luncheon for his dedication and commitment to the ministry of conflict management in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

Pr. Wittkopf developed a variety of programs and ministries for the synod, and established the Conflict Management Committee in 1991. Members of this team operate as consultants to troubled congregations by gathering data, providing feedback and enabling conflicted congregations to set goals and manage expectations.

Pr. Wittkopf is retiring this year and he and wife Miriam are moving to Novi, Michigan, to be closer to family.

INVITE YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGREGATION TO TAKE THE BISHOP'S SURVEY ONLINE.

The survey is available from the home page of the I-K Synod Web site, www.iksynod.org. Click on the first button under "What's New?" This button will bring you to a page with the following items:

- Indiana-Kentucky Synod Mission, Vision, Core Values
- Who Chooses the Shepherd-Litany Prayers of Discernment for the election of a Bishop
- Biographical Information Form
- Duties of the I-K Synod Bishop
- Congregational Survey to download and print
- Online Congregational Survey

You can also cut and paste the following URL into your Web browser:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2kmfw5cfzeda78g/a011sg08htnob/greeting>

MAKING A GIFT TO THE FREED TO LEAD FUND JUST GOT EASIER!



Find the new PayPal button at www.iksynod.org/FreedtoLeadFund/index.asp.

The Freed to Lead Fund was established to assist in the training and support of rostered leaders in the I-K Synod by providing scholarships for endorsed seminarians and Leadership Grants to rostered leaders for:

1. Theological education debt
2. Pension equity
3. Circumstances that create undue financial burden

Make a gift today!



Visit www.iksynod.org for more listings

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Speedway, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Finance Team

October 13, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
I-K Synod Lutheran Center Chapel
Contact Kate Knoerzer at knknoerzer@aol.com

Indiana-Kentucky Synod New to Roster Gathering

October 14-15, 2009
Pleasant View Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church, LaPorte, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Finance Team

October 17, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
I-K Synod Lutheran Center Chapel
Contact Kate Knoerzer at knknoerzer@aol.com

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church, Jeffersontown, Ky.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Risen Savior Lutheran Church
8010 W Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Evansville, Ind.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

What Does This Mean & Where Do We Go from Here?

October 29, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington, Ky.
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

Worship for Mission Event: "A Still More Excellent Way"

October 31, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Come2go ministries, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Contact Karen Eppert at keppert@iksynod.org

I-K Synod Mission Roundtable Meeting

October 31, 2009
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
I-K Lutheran Center Chapel
Contact Carol Webb at cwebb@iksynod.org



St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn, Ind., is offering ten adult sized albs in excellent shape. Call for delivery arrangements: 260-925-3882.

PASTORAL SUPPORT NEWSLETTER
PUTTING ON YOUR OXYGEN MASK FIRST:
“Strategies for Thriving”

Effective ministry and faithful relationships require establishing appropriate boundaries so that our priorities are maintained. Attending to one’s boundaries is important for all persons in ministry whether married or single. The relationships that we have with the people with whom we serve are very important, but they can be very challenging or even compromising.

Ministry also often places us in a position of anxiety. To be effective in ministry it is important for us to learn how to manage our anxiety so that our ministry is not disabled.

The fall issue of our quarterly support letter is focused on self-care management of anxiety and maintenance of boundaries to protect one’s marriage.

Visit www.iksynod.org/ministry/Pastoral%20Care/Fall09StrategiesforThriving.pdf to read the pastoral support newsletter.

Sanctus

“A Still More Excellent Way: Contemporary Music, Luther and the Future of the Church”

The fall issue of the Sanctus worship newsletter is now online. Among other articles and information, you will find:

- Eucharistic Prayer suggestions for November and December
- Update on worship resources
- Calendar of events
- Review of Music in Christian Worship which connects with the Worship for Mission Events

www.iksynod.org/filestodownload/Sanctus%202009/Sanctus0909.pdf

WEEKLY PRAYER PEACE CIRCLE

ENVISION PEACE.
PRAY FOR PEACE.
BE PEACE.

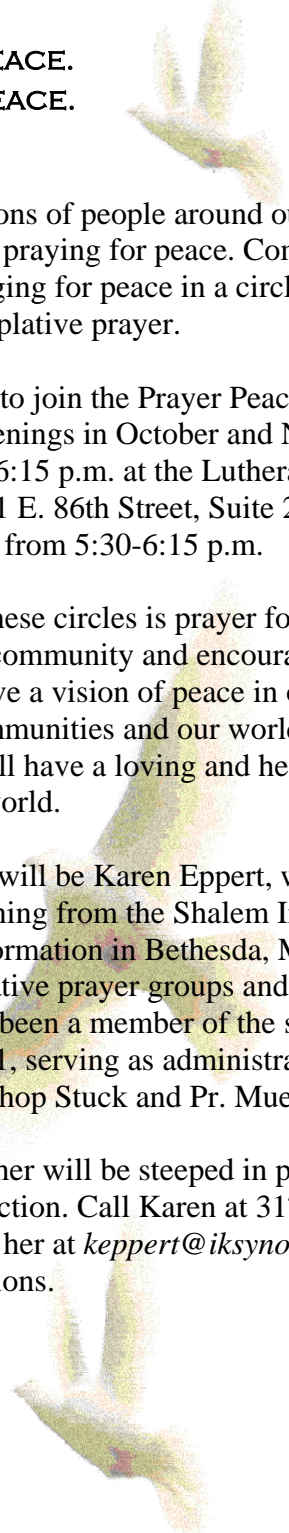
Join with millions of people around our planet who are praying for peace. Come and share your longing for peace in a circle of guided contemplative prayer.

All are invited to join the Prayer Peace Circle on Monday evenings in October and November from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at the Lutheran Center (chapel) 911 E. 86th Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN, from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

The intent of these circles is prayer for peace, connection in community and encouragement to claim and live a vision of peace in our hearts, our communities and our world, trusting that this will have a loving and healing effect on our world.

The facilitator will be Karen Eppert, who has completed training from the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, MD, to lead contemplative prayer groups and retreats. She has been a member of the synod staff since 2001, serving as administrative assistant to Bishop Stuck and Pr. Mueller.

Our time together will be steeped in prayer and silent reflection. Call Karen at 317-253-3522 or e-mail her at keppert@iksynod.org with any questions.



Transformations

Prayers of Celebration and Concern:

Judy Rehmel (former I-K Synod vice president), who continues to undergo intensive treatment for cancer.

Pr. Walter Chellberg (retired, Lafayette, Ind.), whose sister Eleanor M. Lindquist of Chesterton, Ind., died July 18.

Pr. Shirley Ross-Jones and husband Vernon whose parsonage and church basement flooded with three feet of water in August due to massive amounts of rain in Louisville, Ky.

Pr. Nathan Wadewitz (St. Mark, Ft. Wayne, Ind.) who underwent surgery to repair a heart valve.

Pr. Heather McCulloch (I-K Synod Assistant to the Bishop) who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken arm.

Gary Manning (I-K Synod Council), who underwent surgery to remove a tumor.

Pr. Rudy Mueller (I-K Synod Assistant to the Bishop) and wife Nancy, who welcomed grandson Noah Rudolph into the world in August.

Praeses Piter Hutapea (Companion synod HKBP District V superintendent), who has recovered from a heart attack a few months ago.

Pr. Greg Smith (Faith, Fort Wayne, Ind.), whose mother Virginia Voelker-Smith underwent surgery for colon cancer.

Pr. Jerry Curry (St. George, Edinburgh, Ind.) whose wife Alice has been diagnosed with cancer.

Pr. Stephen Flynn (Hope, Frankfort, Ky.), whose mother-in-law, Mary Walker, died in August.

Family and friends of Rene Siria (I-K Synodical Women's Organization convention planner, formerly WELCA). Mrs. Siria died in September.

Congregation of Emanuel, Lawrenceberg, Ind., who is grieving with parents Mark and Katrina on the loss of both children to the H1N1 flu within three weeks of each other.

Pr. David Furuness (retired, Indianapolis), who mourns the death of his mother Norma.

Jon Dembroski, husband of Brenda Dembroski (Mission Investment Fund), who has experienced a recurrence of lung cancer.

Family and friends of Sister Lois Stormfeltz, (Holy Shepherd Church, St. John, Ind.), who died in July.

Pr. Roger Drews (retired, Wisc.), whose son suffered a stroke and has been diagnosed with two brain tumors, and whose wife Sandy underwent surgery for a blocked small intestine.

Pr. Steve Kummernuss (St. Mark's, Auburn, Ind.), whose father-in-law Denny Roe has pancreatic cancer and whose mother-in-law has breast cancer.

Pr. David Ault (Bethany, South Bend, Ind.), who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Pr. Mark Strietelmeier (Zion, Portland, Ind.), and wife Cindy who welcomed their first grandchild Isaac Edward Homan into the world in late September.

I-K Synod Bishop Jim Stuck and family who mourn the death of the bishop's mother, Ruth Stuck, who died on September 27.

Ordinations and Installations:

Pr. Howard Clevenger was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament September 12 at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church, Tarlton, Ohio. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Clevenger has been called to serve at Cross of Christ in Crown Point, Ind.

Pr. Sharon Walker was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament August 9 at Shiloh Lutheran Church, Walton, Ind., where she has also been called to serve. Bishop Jim Stuck preached and presided.

Pr. Nan Dehnke was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament August 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, Ind. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Dehnke has been called to serve at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vincennes, Ind.

Pr. Bjorn Teichert was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament October 11 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Ind. Bishop Jim Stuck presided. Pr. Teichert has been called to serve at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Warren, Mich.

Pr. Tracy Paschke-Johannes was installed as associate pastor into the ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Muncie, Ind., on Aug. 2, 2009.

Pr. Martha Hampton was installed into the ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Marion, Ind., on August 30, 2009.

Congregations in the Call Process:

As of September 14, 2009

Mission Discernment:

Bethany, Indianapolis, IN Interim Pr. Martin Bomhoeft
 Calvary, Cromwell, IN Sr. Elsie Fregeau
 Christ, Evansville, IN
 First Trinity, Indianapolis, IN
 Gethsemane, Indianapolis, IN Int. Pr. David Furuness
 Gethsemane, Lexington, KY Int. Pr. John Hawkins
 Grace, Huntingburg, IN Int. Pr. Ron Atkins
 Grace and Glory, Goshen, KY Int. Pr. Brian Fingerson
 Hilltop, South Bend, IN Interim Pr. Bill Hoerger
 Redeemer, Elkhart, IN
 St. George, Edinburg, IN Interim Pr. Jerry Curry
 St. John, Otwell, IN Interim Pr. John Stacy
 St. Mark, Fort Wayne, IN Int. Pr. Nathan Wadewitz
 St. Mark, Spencerville, IN Int. Pr. David Stephey
 St. Mark, Uniondale, IN
 St. Paul, Milan, IN Int. Pr. Ron Haseley
 St. Peter/St. Matthew, Camden/Delphi Int. Pr. Scott Vana
 St. Stephen, Louisville, KY Interim Pr. Laura Meier
 St. Thomas, Richmond, KY Interim Cindy Geisen
 Third, Louisville, KY Interim Steve Renner
 Trinity English, Fort Wayne, IN Staff Position
 Zion, Hartford City, IN

Searching for Candidates:

Calvary, Bluffton, IN Int. Pr. Gene Kinney
 Emmanuel, Merrillville, IN Int. Pr. Carole Poole
 First, Attica, IN
 Hopeful, Florence, KY Staff Position
 Messiah, Brownsburg, IN Int. Pr. Donn Abdon
 St. Matthew, Paducah, KY Mr. John Rogers
 St. Paul, Smyrna Sem. Jason Bense
 Trinity, Logansport, IN Int. Pr. Larry Devos
 Zion, North Manchester, IN Interim Pr. Jeff Hawkins
 Zion, Pershing, IN
 Zion, Sunman, IN

Interviewing and Extending Calls:

Ball State Camp. Min., Muncie, IN
 Bethel, Gary, IN
 Calvary, Angola, IN Int. Pr. Ken Witt
 Faith, Logansport, IN Sem. Matt Knopf
 Resurrection, Madison, IN Int. Pr. Dennis Zimmerman

Calls Accepted in 2009:

St. Paul, Michigan City, IN Pr. Mark Reshan (Jan)
 St. Mark/Mt. Pleasant, Albion/Kendallville, IN Pr. Phyllis Smoot (Jan)
 Antioch, Hoagland, IN Pr. Kris Madsen (Jan)
 First, Columbus, IN Pr. Larry Isbell (Feb)

Calls Accepted in 2009, cont.:

St. John Episcopal, Elkhart, IN	Pr. Terri Peterson (April)
Resurrection, Marion, IN	Pr. Marty Hampton (May)
Gethsemane, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. Debra Meuter (May)
Come2go, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. Jesse Christopherson (June)
Holy Trinity, Muncie, IN	Pr. Tracy Paschke-Johannes (June)
Shiloh, Walton, IN	Pr. Sharon Walker (July)
St. Paul, Vincennes, IN	Pr. Nan Dehnke (July)
St. John, Dubois, IN	Pr. Mary Poston (July)
Corydon Parish, Corydon, IN	Pr. Robyn Kistemaker (August)
Redeemer, Bryant, IN	Pr. Bjorn Teichert (Aug)
Cross of Christ, Crown Point, IN	Pr. Howard Clevenger (Aug)
St. Mark, Evansville, IN	Pr. Don Gray (August)
St. Paul's, Frankfort, IN	Pr. Joshua Burkholder (August)
Christ the King, South Bend, IN	Pr. Terri Peterson (Aug)
St. Luke, Newburgh, IN	Pr. Tom Vanselow (Aug)
St. Peter, Milton, KY	Pr. Chad Adamik (August)
Messiah, Fort Wayne, IN	Pr. James Cress (Sept)

Book of Faith Congregations:

Ascension Lutheran, Louisville, Ky.
 Faith Lutheran, Lexington, Ky.
 House of Prayer Lutheran, Elizabethtown, Ky.
 King of Glory Lutheran Church, Carmel, Ind.
 Bethel Lutheran Church, Noblesville, Ind.
 Evang. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Indy, Ind.
 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Resurrection Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Lamb of God Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Ind.
 St. John Lutheran Church, North Liberty, Ind.
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Ind.
 Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Ind.
 Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.
 St. John Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.
 Epiphany Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.
 Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, North Manchester, Ind.
 St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Batesville, Ind.
 Faith Lutheran Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.
 Grace Lutheran Church, Greensburg, Ind.
 Zion Lutheran Church, Hartford City, Ind.
 St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Ind.
 St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church, Stendal, Ind.
 Our Saviour, Princeton, Ind.
 Holy Shepherd, St. John, Ind.



Indiana-Kentucky Synod Worship Workshops

A Still More Excellent Way



Contemporary Music, Luther, and the Future of the Church

Workshop leaders will show how to use technology to make musical and liturgical choices. We offer this event three times for any member of the I-Synod interested in learning more about Evangelical Lutheran Worship and participating in conversations about worship renewal in the life of a congregation or ministry site.

Registration Fee: Pre-registration \$15; \$20 registration at the door
Covers refreshments, lunch, material.

[Online registration](#) open now for the first event:

- **Oct. 31, 2009**
come2go ministries
Fort Wayne, IN

Upcoming events include:

- **November 21, 2009**
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lafayette, IN

- **March 13, 2010**
Faith Lutheran Church
Jeffersonville, IN



Contemporary and Lutheran: The Next Steps - David Frincke
Building a Contemporary Repertoire - Mareta Hershberger
Using Technology - Mark Minnick
Principles of Worship: Music - Rudy Mueller
Options for Liturgical Planning - Tom Weitzel

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