

# I-K Lutheran

*Where mission meets the road*

## From Bishop Jim Stuck

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the end of this month I will have completed my final year as your bishop. It has been an honor for me to serve as shepherd of the synod. It has been an extraordinary privilege for me to walk the journey of faith and service in and through the church with you. I will miss those opportunities to be with you in celebrative and challenging times.

One of the truths that I learned from my father and father-in-law (who were both pastors in the church) was that the Call in ministry is for a "time and a place." My time to be your bishop has ended and I look forward to what my next Call might be in the church.

I look forward to what God is doing; He continues to provide leaders to meet the needs of the church. I am encouraged by the missional leadership I see emerging; God is blessing us with faithful, bold and courageous leaders. I am grateful for our mission-minded synodical leadership and our newly elected bishop, Bill Gafkjen. I am grateful for you and your commitment to be in mission in the world for the sake of the Gospel.

At the assembly I was honored for my service as your bishop. It was humbling and heart-warming. I am grateful for the expressions of love and appreciation and the generous donations to the Freed to Lead Fund and a Camper Scholarship Fund through Outdoor Ministries. I give thanks to God for you all and am grateful for your support of me and the church. Thank you for your prayers and may God continue to bless you richly. And may we continue to share the Good News of Jesus with the world.



Your brother in Christ, *Bishop Jim Stuck*

## ELCA News ELCA Bishop Says Time for Immigration Reform is Now

**CHICAGO (ELCA)** -- The time has come for immigration reform in the US, according to the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA. Although issues surrounding immigration are "complex and not easily resolved," the biblical witness for reform is clear, Hanson wrote in a July 13 pastoral letter to the 4.6 million-member ELCA.

"The distinctions that so often divide humankind are overcome in Christ," wrote Hanson. "By grace through faith on account of Christ we are joined together in a radically inclusive community."

"We cannot welcome people into the ELCA, however, without caring about their lives, their concerns and their experiences as newcomers in this country. For that reason the ELCA repeatedly has affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience," culminating in a 2009 Churchwide Assembly action. That action commits the ELCA and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) to work toward comprehensive immigration "reform that balances respect for the law with the recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles," he wrote.

In his letter Hanson identified LIRS' four foundational values for immigration reform -- keeping families together, maintaining basic human and worker rights, helping new neighbors come out of the shadows, and seeking a path to permanence for new neighbors.

## Around the I-K Synod

**It is not holiday food-drive season, but local food pantries need food right NOW. Suggestions:**

Canned meats such as tuna, chicken or fish, peanut butter  
Soups and stews, rice and pasta, cereal  
Canned vegetables, including tomatoes and tomato sauce  
Canned or dried beans and peas  
Canned fruits  
Fruit juice, canned, plastic or boxed  
Box mixes such as macaroni and cheese or Hamburger Helper  
Shelf-stable milk: dehydrated milk, canned evaporated milk and instant breakfasts

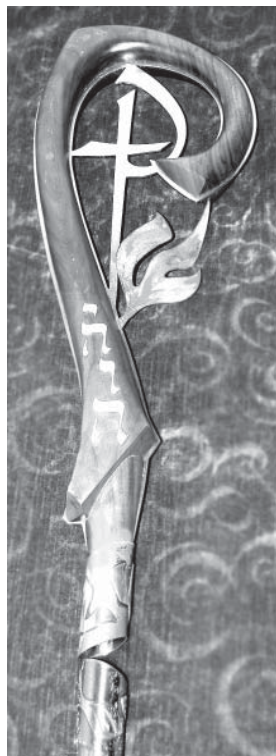


### FREE Book of Faith Webinars

**Aug. 3, 8:00 p.m.**  
Spark Webinar: "Training the Trainer"  
**Aug. 5, 3:30 p.m.**  
Building Bible Literacy with Children  
**Aug. 10, 1:15 p.m.**  
Book of Faith Bible Studies Overview

Visit [www.augsburgfortress.com](http://www.augsburgfortress.com) and click on **Community**, then **Webinars**

## About Your Synod: The Bishop's Crozier



The symbol for the office of bishop is the crozier, or shepherd's staff because a shepherd is expected to protect his flock from danger.

You may have noticed that Bishop Stuck carries a beautiful shepherd's staff when presiding at ordinations. The name of this staff is *crozier*, also spelled *crozier*. The carved crozier carried by the bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod was handmade by Sandra Mikel Essex in 1993. She writes, "Because a shepherd's staff must have been made from the wood at hand, it seemed appropriate to use walnut, a beautiful hardwood indigenous to both Indiana and Kentucky."

Ms. Essex incorporated the symbols of the Trinity into her crozier design. God is represented in the Hebrew words, fashioned out of sterling silver, "I am that I am" from the book of Exodus. For the Son, Ms. Essex used brass to form the Greek *chi* and *rho*, the oldest of the Christ symbols, in combination with the cross. The flame, made out of red, brown and yellow colors swirled together as enamel and baked on copper represent the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world.

Since the crozier must be taken apart to fit in its case, the artist has used brass to conceal the joints of the staff. Sterling silver renditions of burning bushes and doves are laid on the top half of the brass ferrule and on the lower ferrule, sterling silver fish represent the faithful since the bishop, as clergy, is known as a "fisher of men."

Bishop Stuck has also used the crozier for children's sermons. He remarked that children seem to be intrigued by its shape and design. Also, since the crozier comes apart for storage and transportation, and fits into a rectangular case (pictured), Bishop Stuck has had to answer many questions about what could be in the case he carries: A musical instrument? A set of tools? A rifle? This always brought the opportunity to tell the story, *to make Christ known!*



## 2010 I-K Synod Events & Opportuni-

### Stewardship Workshop North: "Celebrating a Generous God"

For pastors, lay rostered professionals, congregational leaders, stewardship committees, and church council members

Saturday, September 11  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Registration form and additional information available online at [www.iksynod.org](http://www.iksynod.org)  
Keith Mundy, ELCA Assistant Director For Stewardship, will be the keynote speaker.

\$15.00 for materials, lunch; Call 260-486-1664 or send an email to: [Marceilet@redmons.com](mailto:Marceilet@redmons.com)

### Calling all singers...

Join the choir for Bishop-Elect Gafkjen's installation on Saturday, September 11, 11:00 a.m., at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The worship team is recruiting singers to form a choir for the festival worship service. We'd love to fill the choir loft!

We encourage all choir directors to recruit singers from their congregations and help them learn the music. The music team will conduct area rehearsals within the last two weeks before the event itself. A final rehearsal will be held on Saturday morning prior to the service.

Information about the music will be forthcoming in a few weeks, but until then contact Maretta Hershberger, music coordinator, [mhershberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhershberger@sbcglobal.net).



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.