

# STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION | 2009

## Where Love Lives Indian Land, South Carolina

“I baptized a baby a few weeks ago—a first for us here in our new congregational building,” says the Rev. Jason Schafer, pastor of Crossroads Lutheran Church in Indian Land, S.C. “The baptism was a joyous occasion for the family as well as a symbol of new life for our congregation.”

Crossroads Lutheran Church is a 2006 mission start of the ELCA South Carolina Synod. Indian Land is a rapidly growing community near Charlotte, N.C., with many new families moving into the area each day. **Only three adult members are South Carolina natives.** Within six months of ministry, Crossroads’ attendance more than doubled.

Schafer says that **in a mobile society, it’s important to make connections.** At Crossroads, seniors, with family scattered across the country, discover a caring community. Mothers, busy and overstressed, find solace and friendship through Crossroads’ Wednesday evening Bible study. And **children from the surrounding area discover the love of Jesus Christ,** sometimes for the first time, through Crossroads’ day camp.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

There are 24 Lutherans in the U.S. Congress: 4 in the Senate and 20 in the House of Representatives. Fifteen are members of the ELCA.

Called to Be a Public Church is intended to encourage congregations to participate in voter registration drives, voter mobilization campaigns, and poll monitoring. Available online at [www.elca.org/advocacy/publicchurch/index.html](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/publicchurch/index.html).

“Developing this vibrant, new congregation has been a humbling experience—something miraculous that I’ve never been able to fully understand,” says Schafer. **“It’s powerful to see God at work in this way among us at Crossroads.** The Kingdom

is growing here in this place,” he added. “Crossroads truly is a place where love lives—a place where we meet Christ.”



For more Stories of Faith in Action, visit [www.elca.org/stories](http://www.elca.org/stories).  
Do you have a story to share? E-mail us at [stories@elca.org](mailto:stories@elca.org).



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God’s work. Our hands.

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