



Seeds for the Parish

March-April 2002

RESOURCE PAPER FOR LEADERS OF ELCA CONGREGATIONS

Vol. 15, No. 2

2003 ELCA Youth Gathering: Do Life! Ubuntu!

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It's not too early to be thinking about the 2003 ELCA Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Ga. The dates are July 16-20 and July 23-27. The theme for the Gathering is "Do Life! Ubuntu." This theme is centered in the concept of reconciliation and assumes God's intention for the interconnectedness of the cosmos.

What does *ubuntu* ("oo-boon'-too") mean? Ubuntu comes from the Nguni group of languages spoken in sub-Saharan Africa. It literally means "humanity." Archbishop Desmond Tutu developed a theology around ubuntu in light of the South African system of apartheid. His sense of ubuntu derives from a Xhosa expression which, translated roughly, means "a person depends on other people to be a human" or "I am because we are."

Every ELCA congregation received a packet in late January including a promotional video, two posters and an informational brochure. Registration materials will be sent to every ELCA congregation this April. Online registration opens September 16 and closes October 16. Registration via the U.S. mail opens September 30, 2002, and closes May 3, 2003. With the Gathering running two weeks, there is room for everyone who registers for the Gathering. No one will be turned away.

The early-bird registration fee is \$224 per person, which includes all the program materials and secondary insurance. After February 3, 2003, the registration fee is \$274 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 must accompany each registration. Housing and meals are not included in the registration fee. All who come to the Gathering must meet the age and grade criteria and be part of a registered counselor unit from an ELCA congregation. That means youth can bring their non-ELCA friends as long as a congregation sponsors them. Adult counselors must be 21 or older by July 16, 2003. Youth must be entering the 10th, 11th or 12th grade in the fall of

2003, or be a 2003 high-school graduate.

There is a person in every synod trained by the Gathering staff to provide assistance through the process of registration.

You can find a complete list at www.elca.org/gathering

Other related events in Atlanta in the summer of 2003:

- **Definitely-Abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE)** July 13-16.

The Definitely-Abled Youth Leadership Event is for youth with all types of disabilities and their caregivers. Registration fee is \$100 per person, youth and caregivers. The fee includes housing, meals, programming and insurance. Caregivers receive complimentary registration to the Gathering. Learn more about DAYLE at www.elca.org/gathering/DAYLE/index.html

- **Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE)** July 13-16. The Multicultural Youth Leadership Event empowers young people of color to claim their voice within the ELCA. Registration fee is \$100 per person, youth and adults. The fee includes housing, meals, programming and insurance. Only youth and adults from congregations registered for the Gathering may attend MYLE. Check out more about MYLE at www.elca.org/gathering/MYLE/index.html

- **Lutheran Youth Organization** Convention, July 20-23. The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) represents the voices of over 500,000 youth in the ELCA present on a churchwide level through the Board

of the LYO and the LYO Convention, which is held every three years during the ELCA Youth Gathering. In 2003, the LYO Convention will be held between the two Gathering weeks. For more information about LYO and the LYO

Convention, visit the youth ministries Web site at www.elca.org/dcm/youth/lyo/index.html

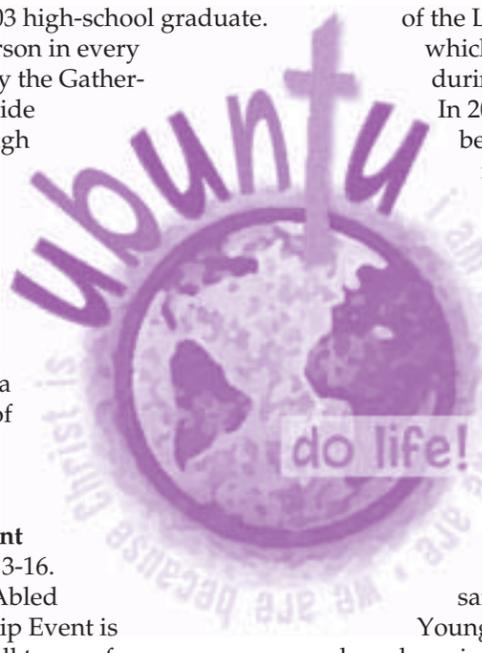
International Guest Program

Enrich your Gathering experience by hosting an international guest. By exercising Christian hospitality, your youth will feel the power of sharing the same faith across the world.

Young people from 40 countries have been invited. To host an international guest at the Gathering, your congregation pays \$1000 plus domestic transportation to and housing at the Gathering. You also provide a host home for a two- or three-week stay. Go to the Gathering Web site to learn more.

Ubuntu University

Ubuntu University is a transformational learning opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors to travel and engage in faith-based contextual learning. Teams of youth and adults will travel in the U.S. and Africa, learning firsthand about issues that affect the health of God's people and God's world. Participants in these trips will be asked to share their insights at the Gathering and contribute to a post-Gathering print resource. Travel will take place in Spring 2003, and includes a participation fee of \$500. All other expenses will be covered. For more detailed information and application forms, go to the Gathering Web page at www.elca.org/gathering or call the Gathering office at 800/638-3522, ext. 2100.



Making Christ Known 2002: Promise for a New Day

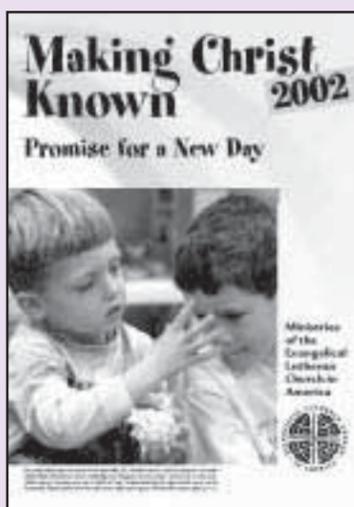
"Wow – the ELCA is really doing a lot!" That comment came from a reader of the new "Making Christ Known 2002: Promise for a New Day." This popular newspaper is filled with 20 pages of stories about how much we do together as 11,000 congregations through our regular mission support.

Ever wondered how many missionaries we have and what they do? This resource takes you to Tanzania, Sudan, Lebanon and Moscow.

What about in our own backyard? Exciting mission congregations are reaching neighbors without church homes in Salt Lake City, San Antonio and York, Pa. There's even a thriving congregation within a prison in Rockwell City, Iowa.

Then there's the Lutheran preschool in Naperville, Ill., that touches 320 children and their parents.

Read about the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Iowa that provides a place where students can be themselves and nurture their faith at the



same time. Meet the St. Olaf College grad who says, "When you come out of a Lutheran college, the word 'service' should be stamped on your forehead. They don't just teach you how to make a living, they teach you a way of life." Your regular offerings support all these ministries.

Recall fond memories of Lutheran outdoor ministries when you read about the international camp counselor from Papua New Guinea who took what he learned at camp, returned home and turned his congregation upside down.

Be proud to be part of a church that provides a day camp in Axtell, Neb., for people with disabilities.

You help support the largest human service network in the United States,

serving troubled youth in Alaska as well as single mothers in Missouri. See their faces and read their stories.

Learn how Lutherans responded to the disaster in New York City, as well as other disasters around the country and around the globe.

When you're finished, you'll say, "Wow – the ELCA is really doing a lot!" And you'll know, with your regular offerings, you are a part of it.

Order enough free copies of "Making Christ Known 2002: Promise for a New Day" for each family in your congregation. Call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 and request item number 6-0001-6336-3. Pay only shipping and handling.

Not to be missed ...

- Children and worship, p. 3
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Worship and ministry resources you need to know

Arts Anew Manual

Want to integrate the arts into worship?

The *Arts Anew Manual* is a free resource available to congregations that are interested in forming an arts council or organizing an arts program. The manual is the result of an intense two-year arts program at a mid-sized ELCA church in suburban Chicago. The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Arts Council decided that liturgical worship is enhanced through visual arts of banners and symbol, music, movement, drama and poetry.



The *Arts Anew Manual* can serve as a model for organizing and maintaining a congregational arts program. It gives step-by-step suggestions on recruiting members and brainstorming ideas, and describes examples of worship renewal and art education activities.

Publication and distribution of the *Arts Anew Manual* is made possible through a 2001 Worship Renewal Grant to the Good Shepherd Arts Council from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment.

The supply of books is limited and will be sent out on a 'first come, first served' basis. To receive a copy of the *Arts Anew Manual*, go to www.good-shep.org or send a request to Arts Council, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1111 N. Elmhurst Rd., Prospect Heights, IL 60070.

Libro de Liturgia y Cantico

Leader Guide

The ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, is pleased to now have available the latest Spanish worship resource, *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico (LLC) Leader's Guide* (ISBN 0-8066-4245-9; \$40 plus shipping and handling). This large-print edition of the worship book is intended for worship leaders and musicians. The large-format, spiral-bound book includes the complete LLC text, a complete psalter and supplemental indices. It also includes: Holy Communion, Baptism, Confirmation; in addition to pastoral rites such as Absolution, Marriage, and festivals.

The series of Spanish worship resources includes: *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico* pew edition (ISBN 0-8066-1128-6; \$12.50 plus shipping and handling) and *Ritos Ocasionales*, the Spanish version of the *Occasional Services Book* (ISBN 0-8006-3391-1; \$25 plus shipping and handling).

All of these worship resources are available by calling Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.

For additional information on Spanish language resources, check out the Division for Congregational Ministries Spanish Web site www.elca.org/dcm/espanol.html or call the ELCA Resource and Information Service at 800/638-3522 for a copy of the new 2002 Spanish Resource Catalog.

Books to start drama ministry

Augsburg Fortress and Community Church of Joy (a Lutheran congregation in Glendale, Ariz.) have developed two new books of dramas. *Acts of Faith 1* is a compi-

lation of brief dramas that are connected to the lectionary texts beginning with Advent and ending with Easter.

The dramas are easy to use, require only small groups of actors and minimal props, and are brief in duration, (only 5-10 minutes needed per drama). The dramas written for youth and adult audiences are intended to be used with worship and preaching in the congregation. The message for the day is actively presented to the members by the words and actions of each drama. *Acts of Faith 1* includes the drama "Help! We Want to Start a Drama Ministry!" (ISBN 0-8066-4493-1, \$7.99 plus shipping and handling)

Acts of Faith 2 is a collection of short dramas connected to the lectionary texts for the season of Pentecost. This book helps to keep the life of the congregation vibrant during the spring and summer months (ISBN 0-8066-4494-X, \$7.99 plus shipping and handling).

To order these books, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648, or visit www.augsburgfortress.org

Corrections

In the January/February 2002 issue of *Seeds for the Parish*, we had an error sneak through. In the story about Women of the ELCA Bible study introductions on page 5, we gave the dates for the introduction at Wartburg Seminary as April 24 and 25. We have since found out that this event will be held April 25 and 26 (Thursday and Friday of that week).

The other correction is in the November/December 2001 issue on page 6 in the article on "Help for treasurers on filling out the W-2 forms." We've been informed by the writer Richard Goodlin that the IRS has redesigned the W-2 forms so some of the box numbers have changed. We're very sorry for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

Consider this column looks at the Sending

In the last few issues of "Seeds," the *Consider this* column has been discussing practices around the various parts of the Eucharistic liturgy. In this issue, we'll look at the Sending.

In this column, those who are responsible for planning and leading worship are invited to consider some alternatives to their current practice in an effort to heighten the meaning of the Communion liturgy for the worshipers. The ELCA's official statement on the practice of Word and Sacrament, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, is the foundation for all of these suggestions. You can find this document at www.elca.org/dcm/worship/sacpracst.html For further information, contact Scott Weidler, associate director for worship and music, via e-mail at sweidler@elca.org.



The SENDING

If your current practice is:

The blessing follows immediately after the prayer.

The blessing and dismissal are led from the altar or another location up front.

The pastor always announces the blessing.

Parish announcements are made earlier in the service.

The pastor says the dismissal ("Go in peace...").

Postludes are always played.

Consider this:

Allow for intentional silence before the benediction. Remember, constructive use of silence must be taught.

To be clear that the liturgy has moved from Meal to Sending, the blessing and dismissal could be led from some place other than the altar. Suitable locations would be from the ministers' chairs, from the baptismal font (emphasizing their ministry in the world is centered in their baptism), or the doors to the church (emphasizing being sent forth into the world). Depending on the architecture, the entire assembly could process to the font or out of doors for the Sending.

The blessing is rightly spoken or sung by the ordained presiding minister. It is always appropriate for a bishop, when present, to pronounce the blessing, even when he/she was not the presiding minister.

Announcements about activities of mission and education in the life of a congregation can be understood as part of the Sending. They could follow the blessing and conclude with the dismissal, "Go in peace. Serve the Lord."

The dismissal is the responsibility of the assisting minister, preferably a lay person. The charge to be a minister in all you do throughout the week is symbolically more powerful when it comes from a colleague – another lay member of the congregation.

Consider varying the postlude practice by the seasons. For example, omit them during Advent and Lent; simple, brief pieces on "green" Sundays; and bigger pieces on "white" and "red" days.

Seeds for the Parish

www.elca.org/col/seeds

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Link children, worship and faith-development

Empowered to Join the Song: A Congregational Resource for the Children in Your Midst is designed to help congregations at the beginning step in the process of understanding the opportunities and responsibility for the children in their midst. It's a video resource published by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM). Each package includes a video, suggestions for use, and an "Instrument for Congregational Action"—a process tool for facilitating discussion. *Empowered to Join the Song* offers a starting point for congregations that wish to renew or change the commitment they have to children and their faith development in the life of the congregation. It



offers a challenge to "think outside the box," and lifts up the importance of music ministry as the avenue by which this may take place. The 25-minute video is designed to spark conversation among clergy, council members, parents and other leaders to think about what possibilities exist in their local context. It seeks not so much to show how to do music ministry with children, but shows the importance of establishing a vision for music ministry to

grow in a congregation. Before any action can happen, the congregation needs to establish a vision. Who should be involved in creating this vision? What ideas should be included in the vision? Finally, what is necessary to translate the vision into action? The intent is to help children ages 5-18 to "become and remain

life-long worship participants." *Empowered to Join the Song* was recorded during a week-long choral camp for fourth- through sixth-graders in Tucson, Ariz. The video includes scenes from worship preparation, rehearsals, worship, and camp life, coupled with interviews from choristers, directors, mentors, parents and other support personnel. They were all gathered for the sole purpose of advocating for the children of the church.

Here is some of what you will find in *Empowered to Join the Song*:

- Children leading worship
- Worship affirmed as the heartbeat of human life
- Faith development linked to worship
- Parents, children, teachers, clergy and staff linked to the "process" of music ministry



Singers at the choral camp at which *Empowered to Join the Song* was recorded last summer.

• Excellent musicianship with children demonstrated by recognized leaders, including insights from Dr. Anton Armstrong, St. Olaf Choir conductor at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and Carole Lea Arenson, pastoral musi-

cian from King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe, Ariz.

• Music for worship, including an ALCM-commissioned work by Carolyn Jennings, composer, St. Olaf College.

• A way to transcend the "traditional vs. contemporary" worship styles debate by placing emphasis on the vision for children

This video project was produced by Carole Lea Arenson and David Hein, in cooperation with the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and Dr. Greg Peterson, ALCM past president.

Empowered to Join the Song costs \$15 and may be purchased through the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' Web site at www.alcm.org or by calling 800/624-ALCM.

--David Hein is the director of music ministries at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa.

New ELCA message on commercial sexual exploitation

Behind the glamorous and enticing images of escort services, gentleman clubs and Internet pornography stands a pervasive system that uses people's sexuality to make profit. Millions of young people in our country and around the world are forced or lured by false promises into prostitution. Yet we in the church often ignore and avoid addressing this evil.

A new ELCA message, adopted by the Church Council in November 2001, provides a resource for congregations to discuss and address "Commercial Sexual Exploitation." The message "hopes to raise awareness of an industry that sexually exploits vulnerable persons, principally

women and girls, but also men and boys."

The message describes "the system of sexual exploitation," exposes its "tangled web," and identifies "arenas for action." Adult forums, men's and women's groups, social concerns committees and other congregational groups can use it to create awareness and action. A group of churches may use it as a basis for conversation and changing what is taking place in its own community.

People may also discuss the message and report on their congregational discussions and actions online at the Division for Church in Society's Web page, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* at www.elca.org/jle

This site also contains a partial listing of Web resources on commercial sexual exploitation.

"Commercial Sexual Exploitation" was included in the January-February Action Packet. Multiple copies of this message are available for 10 cents each (plus shipping and handling) from Augsburg Fortress by calling 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6286-3). A single, complimentary copy may be obtained by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. A Spanish translation is available using the same information. This message, along with all the ELCA social statements and messages is online at www.elca.org/dcs/studies.html

Ministry in daily life ideas from ELCA congregations

Over the next few issues of "Seeds" we'll be offering ideas about ways congregations can nurture ministry in daily life. These were excerpted from the results of a survey conducted by the ELCA Division for Ministry. Thirty-five congregations were polled—urban and rural, large and small, geographically and demographically diverse. These suggestions are not theoretical—the congregations have used them in practice. They occur within existing congregational structures and programs (such as confirmation, worship, adult education) and are not "add-ons." For further information, contact Sally Simmel, ELCA Division for Ministry by e-mail at ssimmel@elca.org, or phone 800/638-3522, ext. 2874.

Confirmation

• Have an ongoing mentoring program for confirmands that lasts throughout the confirmation period. Adult mentors are trained and they and their confirmand partners go into the mentor's workplace, to the confirmand's workplace, to a neo-natal unit and to a cemetery. Sharing faith stories is central — for example, a police officer mentor talks with confirmands about "Thou shalt not steal." The mentor is part of the confirmation service along with

the baptismal sponsor.

• Ask confirmands to make a confirmation stole, with three symbols of faith on one side and three symbols of activities in daily life on the other.

New members

- Conduct interviews with all new members to discern their gifts, leading to specific "callings" to areas of ministry where they want to grow.
- Offer "Discipleship education" for all new members, after which trained consultants sit down with graduates to discuss how and when they want to serve.
- Introduce new members to the congregation along with the location of their ministries in daily life.
- Set explicit expectations for new members, including ministry in daily life.

Worship

- Use material from workplace visits for examples in sermons.
- Have as a regular part of worship a "Mission Minute," a presentation (perhaps by video) of someone's ministry in daily life.
- Select a "minister of the week" who talks about his or her ministry during worship, and then that person's ministry is prayed for during the week. Include children as

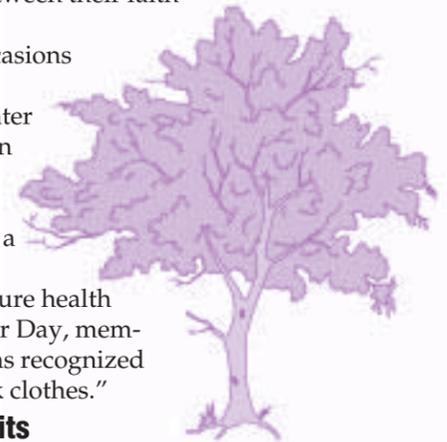
well as seniors.

• During Lenten services have members give talks about a connection between a beatitude and daily life or between a scriptural practice and daily life. This compels lay members to reflect on the intersections between their faith and daily life.

• On certain occasions during the year worship can center on an occupation which is recognized and affirmed, such as a Festival of St. Luke might feature health care, or on Labor Day, members' occupations recognized as "love in work clothes."

Workplace visits

• Have the pastor do regular workplace visits to affirm laity and link Sunday to the workplace. Some pastors who do workplace visits regularly say about them: "People listen more intently because they know I care." "As you get to know the people, you find out how important their work is, so it is natural to visit them at work."



Church 'insider or outsider'?

In her new book, *Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider?: A Different View of Congregations*, church consultant Judy Dickhart helps readers delight in a new possibility: that they can become strong when they organize their structures and activities on equipping members for their daily ministries. (In this way, "inside" becomes "outside" and vice versa!)

More than a plea to "move from maintenance to mission," *Insider or Outsider* provides readers with concrete examples of how this kind of congregation would behave. To order a copy of this 156-page book, contact the ELCA Division for Ministry, 800/638-3522, ext. 2874, for an order form. Single copies of the book cost \$14 (includes postage and handling).

Kerygma Bible study series

In partnership with Augsburg Fortress and regional synod leaders, the Kerygma Program is offering one-day training workshops across the country this spring. Kerygma is a Bible study program that over 1200 ELCA churches have used to date, with very positive results. The training events will give the what, why and how of Kerygma studies. Participants will review the 24 studies, practice lesson preparation and discuss planning and promoting Kerygma Bible study in local settings. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch and materials. For workshop locations, go to the Kerygma Web site at www.kerygma.com

Resource for stewardship

"Rejoice" is an inspirational resource series for congregations designed to build stewardship awareness and understanding based on a "journey" theme. Congregation members come to understand that stewardship is more than money—it's a way of life. The series concentrates on the four "R's of stewardship: Receive God's gifts; Reflect on God's gifts; Rejoice

in God's gifts; and Respond to God's gifts. The resource packet consists of four Bible studies, bulletin inserts, temple talks, a poster and a bookmark that can be copied. The "Rejoice" packet is \$24.95. To learn more, contact



Lutheran Laity Movement for Stewardship (LLM) at 800/638-3522 ext. 2780. Also from LLM, *Faith in Action* is a quarterly periodical that promotes stewardship inspiration, education and outreach. Each issue centers around a stewardship theme based on "whole life" topics such as time, talents, health, the environment and more. To subscribe, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2780.

Books to help leaders

There are four new titles from the Congregational Leader Series, published by Augsburg Fortress. These new books can help lay leaders and pastors enrich their particular ministries in their congregations. The books are intended to provide practical guidance to those who are striving to grow as congregational leaders.

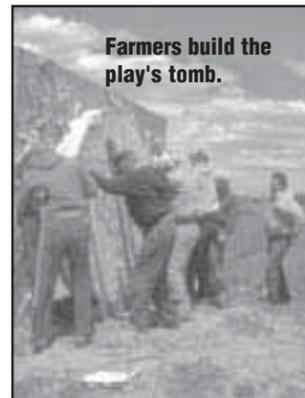
- *Our Context* helps leaders learn how to understand their congregation's context and carry out its mission. It includes examples that help identify potential problems and highlight new opportunities within the congregation. (ISBN 0-8066-4404-4)
- *Our Stewardship* looks at the specific gifts of congregations, and shows leaders how to use them well. (ISBN 0-8066-4406-0)
- *Our Mission* outlines four strategic planning steps to help congregations fulfill their mission. The process is centered on aligning the mission of the congregation with the word and will of God through prayer and discernment. (ISBN 0-8066-4405-2)
- *Our Structure* focuses on effective congregational leadership by identifying and carrying out a vision. It shows various ways that a congregation can be organized to best fulfill the vision. It also outlines ways to organize a hospitality ministry, recruit volunteers, delegate tasks, and

build teams. (ISBN 0-8066-4407-9)

Each book includes reproducible tools that can be downloaded and customized from a Web site. The books are \$14.99 each (plus shipping and handling). To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648, or visit their on-line store at www.augsburgfortress.org

See video on family farms

"Zenith" is a one-hour video documentary featuring a small town – Zenith, Kansas, pop.30 – that is struggling with the plight of the family farmer and the dying agricultural economy. It centers on the town's annual Passion Play



Farmers build the play's tomb.

and the struggling farmers who act in the play. The locals who act in the play describe how their involvement in the Great Plains Passion Play has kept the town united

and inspired. The film has a study guide that would be a discussion starter for an adult forum. The video is \$19.95 (plus \$5 for shipping and handling). You can order it from Zenith tapes, Prairie Fire Films, 7971 Waring Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046, or go to www.zeniththemovie.com

Help visitors feel welcome

Want to help newcomers feel at home in your church? *Welcome Aboard* is designed to help congregations build a hospitality ministry that works. Using tactics and resources tried and proven at Community Church of Joy, this manual emphasizes the importance of making visitors feel welcomed and assimilating new members. It also helps congregations identify the particular gifts that newcomers bring to a congregation's life. To order call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4492-3, \$12.99 plus shipping and handling).

Come to the Women of the ELCA Gathering

Join Lutheran women in worshiping, celebrating, learning, sharing and doing at Women of the ELCA's Triennial Gathering 2002, July 8 through 14 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia.

The "Gathering Week" begins with "Way-making Women – a Way to Unity." Women of all ethnic backgrounds are welcome to this multicultural celebration, which is scheduled from July 8 to July 10.

On July 10, five all-day seminars provide networking and learning opportunities: Witness of Women; Leadership Training; Perspectives of the Differently Abled; Global Education and Advocacy Network; and Organization Self-assessment (OSA).

On July 11, 12 and 13 there is a Mass Gathering with Bible study, worship and celebration. Begin each day with thousands of Lutheran women in prayer, praise and preparation. End each day celebrating and

lifting up the ministry of Women of the ELCA in local units, synodical organizations and churchwide programs through song, witness, storytelling and testimonials. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will preach at the Thursday service; Bishop Margarita Martinez at Saturday's service.

Workshops are offered in three tracks:

- *Hear God's Call* with Bible studies, spiritual retreat presentations, prayer workshops and a labyrinth.
- *Respond to God's Call* with featured organizations that provide opportunities to offer our heads, hands and hearts to further God's work.
- *Recognize Your Gifts and Enhance Your Skills* as individuals and ministry partners.

There are also 'Convention Without Walls' opportunities to witness the ways people and organizations hear and live God's call, and Unity Village, a hands-on interactive exhibit area.

For the first time there will be a Young Women

Seeing Visions program planned by young women for young women. Youth group leaders can call 800/638-3522, ext. 2020, for special group rates.

Also during the Gathering is the Fifth Triennial Convention where voting members will elect churchwide officers and board members, as well as approve the 2002 budget, constitutional changes, and new ministry directions for 2002 through 2005. The convention is Women of the ELCA's highest legislative authority.

To obtain Triennial Gathering registration information, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2020, or visit www.elca.org/wo/events/tg/



History of U.S. Lutherans

Want members of your congregation to learn the fascinating history of Lutherans in the United States? Get the Spring 2002 issue of MOSAIC, the video-magazine of the ELCA. In 2001, MOSAIC told the story of Martin Luther and the 16th-century Reformation. In the Spring issue MOSAIC picks up the story on the shores of North America. From Swedes to Danes to Germans and Norwegians, this program will recount dramatic tales of Lutheran migration to America. Designed for adult forums, new member and confirmation classes, this 30-minute video comes with a study guide that offers discussion questions. To order "Lutheran Roots in America" call toll-free 800/638-3522, ext. 6009, or e-mail mosaic@elca.org or go to the Web site at www.elca.org/mosaic. Cost is \$19.95, which includes shipping.

Meet spiritual classics

These Words Upon Your Heart is a new book of daily reflections on spiritual classics edited by Paul Ofstedal. Introduce your congregation members to some of the giants of Christian tradition, including St. Augustine, Julian of Norwich, St. Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, John Bunyan, Soren Kierkegaard and Thomas Merton. Each chapter provides a brief biography of the spiritual writer, 10 selections from their classic writings and a reflection by a contemporary Christian. Although the book is arranged for daily reading, it would also be appropriate for group devotions, retreats, to open a Bible study or in other small-group settings. To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4421-4) \$13.99 plus shipping and handling.

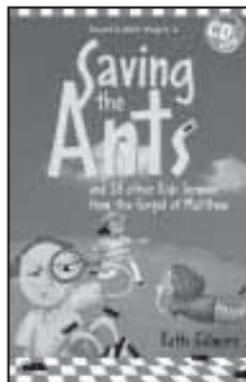
Conference in Norway

Looking for unusual continuing education? The fifth Memory and Mission Conference will be held in Frekhaug (near Bergen) Norway, June 25-July 2. The theme for this conference is "The Spirit: Source of

Memory and Energy for Mission." The faculty includes Lee Snook, professor emeritus at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, and Tormod Engelsen, professor of missiology at the Lutheran School of Theology, Oslo. The conference includes worship, lectures, time for sightseeing, a boat ride on the fjords, and a piano concert in the concert hall near Grieg's home. This continuing education opportunity is open to both clergy and laypeople. Cost is \$775 (double occupancy) which covers everything except air transportation. For more info., see www.unidial.com/~palmquist or contact Pastor Paul Almquist at 952/474-3539 or palmquist@unidial.com.

Sermons for children

Saving the Ants, the latest book in the popular series by Ruth Gilmore, provides a year's worth of Lectionary-based sermons with "kid-appeal." The Gospel of Matthew comes alive in these delightful sermons for children 4-10 years old. Each of the 59 sermons includes suggestions for simple props, effective settings and lively delivery.



To help customize the sermons, a CD-ROM is included. Other books in this series of children's sermons include *Barefoot in the Snow* and *Scolding the Snakes*. Order from Augsburg Fortress 800/328-4648; ISBN 0-8066-4080-4; \$13.99 plus shipping and handling.

Discuss issues of science

Looking for resources related to contemporary questions about genetic development? Consider the following from the ELCA:

- *Genetics! Where Do We Stand as Christians?* which is accessible to adult study groups or individual reading.
- *Human Cloning: Papers and Reflections from a Church Consulta-*

tion, which contains the thinking of a group of theologians, scientists, ethicists, doctors, pastors and counselors on the morality and social impact of cloning.

While neither is a policy document of the ELCA, both will foster conversation and help Christians think through their convictions. For a single, complimentary copy call the Division for Church in Society at 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. Multiple copies may be ordered from the ELCA Distribution Service (800/328-4648) at a minimal cost.

Health care hearings set

Hearings on "Health, Healing and Health Care," the first draft of an ELCA social statement are scheduled for 2002. The purpose of the hearings is to gather responses about the draft that will aid in its revision in preparation for the Churchwide Assembly in 2003. A list of remaining hearings is on the Division for Church in Society's Web page at www.elca.org/dcs/healthcare.html. Or you may call your synod office for updates. The statement is at www.elca.org/dcs/healthcare_statement.html. A single, free copy of the draft is available by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. Multiple copies are available for 25 cents each, plus shipping and handling, (ISBN 6-0001-6275-8) by calling Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.

Check out Alban Web site

The Alban Institute and the Indianapolis Center for Congregations have created an online Congregational Resource Guide to help congregational leaders connect with resources they need to gain insight into problems and encourage transformation in their communities of faith. Check out www.congregationalresources.org to find articles, resources and links to sites on topics such as leadership, congregational vitality, specialized ministry, spirituality, building issues and church administration. While the site has materials that are specific to Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations, their focus is on resources for congregations of mainline Protestant denominations.

Build stewardship from 'Where Your Heart Is'

Everything you need for your congregation's stewardship program is on this CD-Rom! Where Your Heart Is helps your congregation build its stewardship program on the firm foundation of worship. Help your members understand that every activity they engage in church shapes their identity as stewards of their congregation. You'll find everything you need to help build stewardship awareness in all age groups, from customized and preprinted commitment forms to bulletin covers, to bookmarks in the CD-Rom. A User Guide and component sheet to assist you in your planning are included.

- Where Your Heart Is CD-Rom, ISBN 0-8066-4482-6, \$49.95.
- Bookmarks, ISBN 0-8066-4483-4, \$6.95 package of 50: Insert these in bulletins, hymnals, mailings and other materials you

distribute to your members to keep the Where Your Heart Is theme fresh.

- Bulletin Inserts, ISBN 0-8066-4484-2, \$6.50 package of 50: Includes full-color art at the top of one side, with ample room to imprint your message underneath the art, or on both sides. Perfect for Sunday bulletins, monthly newsletters and special mailings!
- Printed Commitment Form, ISBN 0-8066-4488-5, \$5.50 package of 50: Collect your members' pledges with this unified plan card that is pre-printed for your convenience.

- Customized Commitment Form, ISBN 0-8066-4487-7, \$5.50 pkg/50: This form includes the Where Your Heart Is artwork to keep the theme alive, but allows you to

customize the form with your own particular message.

- Letterhead, ISBN 0-8066-4490-7, \$5.95 pkg/50: Send an introductory letter to members when you begin your program. Also useful for a follow-up letter, or for other correspondence throughout the year.
- Postcards, ISBN 0-8066-4491-5, \$7.95 pkg/50: Each includes full-color art on one side, blank reverse side. Useful for invitations to events and gatherings, reminder messages and thank-you notes.
- Leaflet, ISBN 0-8066-4489-3, \$8.95 pkg/50: This full-color leaflet can be distributed to members of your congregation as a memento and informative literature – a good reminder for the desktop!

To order these products, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 or go to www.augsburgfortress.com. Note that as usual, there is a shipping and handling cost on all of these products.



What's new and exciting on the World Wide Web

In this issue of our regular Web column, we'll take a look at a boatload of resources on the Augsburg Fortress Web site. You'll want to check out many of these pages.

Augsburg Fortress outlet store

Augsburg Fortress has opened an online outlet store. Selected books, curriculum, music, church supplies, and other products will be available through the outlet store at prices discounted by 40 to 80 percent off the suggested retail price. The store features overstocked products as well as seasonal and other clearance items. The product selection will change frequently and will be available for a limited time. As with other online orders, outlet store customers will receive free shipping for online orders over \$75. The store is located at www.augsburgfortress.org/store/outlet

Idea Booklet for Special Giving

Augsburg Fortress often receives calls from individual donors, memorial committees and finance committees inquiring about that perfect gift in memory of a loved one, in celebration of an anniversary or for help in disbursing the remainder of a memorial fund. They have prepared a helpful online resource for congregations to use to create their own customized "Idea Booklet for Special Giving." And it's free! The information outlined on this site

details a simple process to help you create this booklet to give guidance to donors who seek to make special gifts for ministries. By customizing an "Idea Booklet for Special Giving," you can provide information to potential donors in your congregation. Go to www.augsburgfortress.org/specialgiving/

ReadyClickGrow

Augsburg Fortress has worked with Community Church of Joy, a Lutheran church in Glendale, Ariz., to create a new online resource called ReadyClickGrow. After several rounds of testing and multiple focus groups, ReadyClickGrow is ready to "go live" and let congregational leaders discover the wealth of material built into the resource, which is accessed on a subscription basis. All church leaders have to do is log on to www.readyclickgrow.com and start reading and clicking. They get a free preview of the contents before ordering.

One advantage to subscribing to ReadyClickGrow is that it gives members access to hundreds of fun and faith-growing activities for families anywhere they have an Internet connection. Leaders can receive online training and communicate regularly with their peers in a Leader



Forum. New material is introduced on a weekly and monthly basis.

ReadyClickGrow is purchased by congregations as an annual subscription based on the congregation's average weekly worship attendance. To

learn more about ReadyClickGrow go to www.readyclickgrow.com

Virtual Church Store

Another online resource available to congregations from Augsburg is the Virtual Church Store, which equips churches themselves to offer a variety of faith-enhancing products to members. Over 1,500 churches have been set up with their own "virtual stores" in the past nine months. The Virtual Church Store is set up at no cost for a church and can be easily linked to the congregation's own Web site. Convenience in purchasing is one advantage, but more important for many congregations is the way in which their Virtual Church Store can be integrated into the life of the church. Congregations can select the items they want to feature in their Store according to their needs. And with every purchase in their Virtual Church Store, 10 percent goes back to the congregation. To learn more, go to the site at www.virtualchurchstore.org

Wanted: Lawyers

Are there lawyers in your congregation who might be interested in talking with other lawyers about their Christian faith and vocation? If so, let them know about an upcoming gathering of ELCA members called "Faith and the Practice of Law." The event, organized by the Division for Ministry and the Division for Church in Society, will be held May 31 to June 2 at the Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Its purpose is to encourage participants to create local groups for theological and ethical reflection on the challenges and dilemmas lawyers face in their work, and to provide them with tools to respond. A team of lawyers and law professors is planning the event. An AAL/LB grant will offset a portion of the expense to participants. For more information, contact either Sally Simmel (773/380-2874, e-mail ssimmel@elca.org), or John Stumme (773/380-2704 e-mail stumme@elca.org).

School's out. Is your church open?

Is your congregation interested in starting an after-school program?

An ELCA training conference on developing before- and after-school programs in congregational settings will be held June 21-23, 2002, in Los Angeles, Calif.

This training conference is designed for pastors, congregation members, day-school staff and others who are interested in developing or enhancing before- and after-school programs in their congregations.

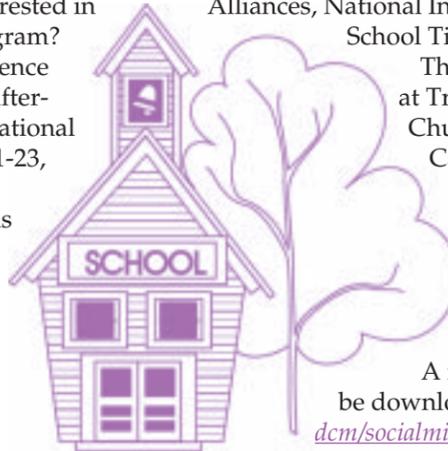
The conference will include practical information about before- and after-school program development, planning, funding sources, volunteer recruitment, and the opportunity to meet with practitioners, service providers and resource people. Some workshops will be available in Spanish.

Presenters include staff from the U.S. Department for Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Afterschool

Alliances, National Institute on Out-of-School Time and others.

The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne, Calif. Registration fee for the event is \$150, plus housing (\$50 per night, double occupancy). The registration deadline is May 30.

A registration form can be downloaded at www.elca.org/dcm/socialministry/jun21-23event.html



"School's Out! Is Your Church Open?" is sponsored by the Social Ministries for Congregations Program, in partnership with the Education and Evangelism Team in the ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries, the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools, and the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA.

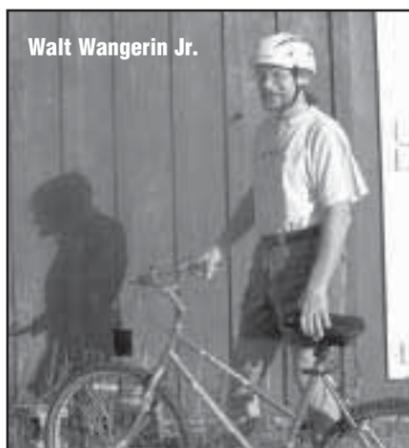
For more information, contact Loretta Horton, director for social ministries for congregations, at 800/638-3522, ext. 2404.

Go to the 'next level' with Lutheran Vespers

Speaker Walter Wangerin Jr. and the staff of Lutheran Vespers are excited to announce "The Next Level," a three-point plan of growth and enrichment for this radio ministry, now in its 55th year of broadcasting. Seeds readers are invited to be a part of this plan. Here are the three points:

- **Enrichment.** In the fall of 2002, Lutheran Vespers will come to many of you. Walt plans to take a bicycle ride through parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa.

There will be mini-rallies – meetings with pastors and local Lutheran Vespers volunteers and key personnel at radio stations. In the spring of 2003, Lutheran Vespers will hold a larger LV Rally, inviting the listening audience, readers of



Walt Wangerin Jr.

The Good Newsletter and the many friends of Lutheran Vespers throughout the country to come for a weekend of worship, praise and music. Walt will preach and tell stories. There'll be workshops too.

- **Endorsement.**

It is by word of mouth that will ensure the growth of Lutheran Vespers. LV is asking listeners, pastors and bishops, to speak a word on behalf of this ministry. Encourage your friends, neighbors and co-workers to listen. Consider it a form of evangelism – another way to spread the Good News.

The LV staff often receives letters from listeners who have not been involved in any church but have heard Vespers on the radio and have been inspired and helped by the program.

- **Endowment.** LV hopes to build an endowment, which would allow Lutheran Vespers to be more pro-active in choosing the places to establish new stations, perhaps begin a Spanish-speaking ministry, and expand the tape and CD ministry.

To learn more

As soon as firm dates and places have been established for the bike trip, mini-rallies and larger LV Rally, Lutheran Vespers will post these events on their Web site at www.elca.org/lv as well as in *The Good Newsletter*.

If your congregation would like to host one of the mini-rallies on Walt's bicycle trip, please contact Brenda Engelby at 800/638-3522, ext. 2967, or by e-mail at bengelby@elca.org.

Missionaries meet profound challenge in Ethiopia

One of the most exciting things about Ethiopia is the tremendous growth of the church, which presently has 3.5 million members. With a growth rate as high as 15 percent in some years, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) is faced with a profound challenge to meet the increasing needs that accompany such change. Within this context, missionaries Philip and Rene Johnson bring their leadership skills to bear as the ELCA accompanies the EECMY in its many ministries.

The Johnsons both teach at Mekane Yesus Seminary, the main training institution for leaders in the EECMY, where Philip also is academic dean. In addition to this, Philip teaches at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology. With the tremendous need for pastors and evangelists to take on the new mission areas, the challenge is to provide appropriate teaching and training materials that fit the context. According to the Johnsons,

bringing such resources into the sphere of leadership development is intended to balance with the reality of a predominantly expatriate teaching staff at the seminary.

Meanwhile, growth in the church has also meant the emergence of grass-root-level leadership. The church has only about 850 pastors and 1,500 evangelists to serve its members. At the same time however, the church has almost 200,000 volunteer leaders that keep the church alive and growing. "It is exciting to see the church appropriating for itself change in the way leadership and administration is structured," says Philip.

Much of this is happening in a country that still struggles with natural disasters such as drought, and human injustices such as poverty. "I hope that people in the



ELCA might get worked up and make a noise about the injustices that govern our world and which keep poor and rich apart," comments Rene. "But, I also hope that ELCA members might get excited about the work that their financial contributions accomplish globally," she says.

The Johnsons see what Ethiopia and the world have to offer the ELCA and they encourage people to learn about the world. "Our understanding of God and church may change," says Rene.

The Johnsons are featured on April 16 in the Prayer Ventures daily prayer guide. Please pray for Philip and Rene, their work in leadership development within the church in Ethiopia, and for the ongoing mission of the church that reaches out with the good news of Christ to all people.

Check out these resources from Global Mission

Have you seen these resources and events from the ELCA Division for Global Mission? These are a great way to learn about mission and connect with the world.

The Missionaire Game

Who wants to be a missionary? Inspired by a popular television game show, the Missionaire Game challenges contestants to deepen their knowledge of the ELCA's global mission. At the 2000

ELCA Youth Gathering, where the game made its debut, youth found it entertaining and educational. Use it to create an interactive "global game show" sermon or to open a youth group meeting.

How can you get a copy of the Missionaire Game? Look in your 2001 Global Mission Tool Kit. Shipped in two packages to congregations in October 2001, the Tool Kit contains a wealth of resources that connect your congregation and the world. You'll find

easy ways to incorporate global music into your liturgy ... interactive children's stories about Senegal and Palestine ... materials to help recruit new missionaries ... and much more. Most elements of the Tool Kit can be downloaded from www.elca.org/dgm/resources. Additional Tool Kits may be ordered from Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-3381-2. \$15 plus shipping and handling.

Global Contact newsletter

Global Contact, the newsletter of the Division for Global Mission, is back in print. If you're interested in connecting your congregation to the world, this useful publication offers information about current issues, resources, and events. The Winter 2002 issue features Palestine and Islam, the 2002 Global Mission Events, upcoming study trips from Lutheran World Relief, a unique weekend retreat on ELCA mission in Senegal, and more.

To receive a copy, call Mia Cortez at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642 or e-mail her at mariec@elca.org.

Cook your way around the world

One of the most popular destinations in the global mission section of the ELCA

Web site is the country packets. Now, in addition to basic information about countries and churches around the world, recipes from the various parts of the globe are featured. See www.elca.org/dgm/ and click "countries"; choose a region and country, and enjoy the food!

Global Mission Events 2002

Dare to Live God's Promise at a GME this summer! Performers from Papua New Guinea, craftspeople from Palestine and Tanzania, mission personnel, pastors and musicians from around the world - meet them all at "Dare to Live God's Promise," the 2002 Global Mission Event. This year's events are July 18-21 at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C., and July 25-28 at Minneapolis Convention Center and Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

Through a lively mix of worship, music, art, workshops, meals and fellowship, you'll explore how God's promise of life brings us into a community where everyone has a place at the table. For more information or to register contact the Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, extension 2642 or 2645 or visit www.elca.org/dgm/gme2002



Granting Hope in the United States

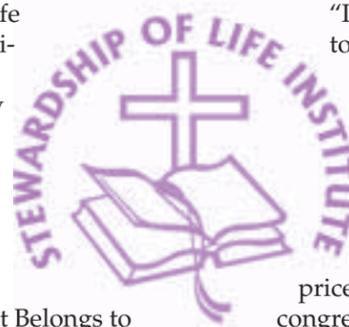
Do you know how your World Hunger dollars support people who are hungry in the U.S.? *Granting Hope*, the 2001-2002 catalogue of the ELCA domestic hunger grants program, tells the stories of the 244 grant recipients of 2001. Most recipients are congregations and organizations that minister to people living in poverty through relief, development, and community-organizing programs. Also included are a summary of how grant applications are reviewed, online hunger grants resources, and ways you can support the grants program by giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

To order a single free copy, call the ELCA Division for Church in Society's resource request line at 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. For multiple copies, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6329-0, pay for shipping and handling only). You can also access this catalogue online at www.elca.org/dcs/GH2002/index.html and other hunger resources at www.elca.org/hunger

Learn about new stewardship for life course

The Stewardship of Life Institute announces publication of a new resource for Lutheran churches by the Rev. Foster R. McCurley, nationally known motivational speaker, author and preacher.

A 12-session course, "I've Got Something That Belongs to You" helps Christian adults discover how they can best use the gifts God has given them, a concept referred to as "stewardship of life." Specifically, in this view, stewardship is "the management of our selves, the Gospel, our daily work, our resources, and our relationships with our neighbors," according to the course materials. Each session is designed to be conducted comfortably within a one-hour period, but ample material is provided for those desiring to expand the sessions. Ideally, a pastor and a layperson will team-teach the course, emphasizing both the theological and experiential elements of stewardship. Camera-ready originals suitable for overhead transparencies are included, as are additional originals designed to be photocopied for participants' use.



"I've Got Something That Belongs to You" was developed and funded by the Stewardship of Life Institute (SOLI), a non-profit corporation that exists to promote stewardship education in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Although the regular price of the materials is \$39.95, ELCA congregations and related groups may purchase the materials for a discounted price of \$20, including shipping and handling. To order, visit the SOLI Web site, www.elca.org/dcm/stwdlife or call the institute at 717/334-6286.

Headquartered at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., the Stewardship of Life Institute was established with a major gift from the late Arthur L. Larson, a long-time member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilmington, Del. Upon Larson's death in 2000, SOLI received a final bequest to carry on his lifelong commitment to helping Christians see themselves as caretakers, rather than possessors, of what belongs to God. While primarily funded by Larson's generosity, SOLI also has received grants from Lutheran Brotherhood and the Lutheran Laity Movement.

Managing the media's influence on families

**"Whoever tells the story, defines the culture."
—Dr. David Walsh, President of the National Institute on Media and the Family**

One in an ongoing series on nurturing faith in different life situations.

Since television was first introduced to the public at the World's Fair in 1939, it has grown to become one of the most influential factors in shaping the values, norms and attitudes in our society. Most of the entertainment, marketing and news/information in our country is communicated through some version of this medium.

Some 99 percent of American households have a TV – in fact, the average home has 2.6 sets and they are "on" an average of seven hours a day. Related products, such as videos and video games, have increased the amount of home-time and activity children spend around the tube to an average of 32 hours per week, plus or minus the amount of time a child devotes to the Internet and other computer activities. Recent studies indicate that 92 percent of children age 2-17 play video games. American children and youth spend more time watching TV than any other activity in their waking lives. The question is: What kinds of messages are they getting and how do they relate to our faith and values?

The media and especially the entertainment industry have affected our lifestyles, priorities and perspectives – including the relationships within families, work and community. Many aspects of this medium are positive and we are grateful for it. But other facets of the TV culture are raising concern and prompting parents, schools, churches and other organizations to raise awareness and recommend ways to monitor and manage its impact, especially in the areas of sex and violence.

Television content and program schedules have also affected the level of commitment and time that people have for other activities, including church involvement.

What your congregation can do

Here are some ways to build an awareness and understanding of the role TV and related media play in our attitudes, choices, values and daily lifestyles.

- In sermons, forums and Bible studies, address the role of advertising in shaping the attitudes and behavior of children, youth and adults with regard to such things as violence, sex, food, body image and material consumption.
- Refer to specific TV programs and characters to interpret similar biblical

characters and lessons.

- Help people of all ages discern the media's content and impact. You can find ideas about this in "Faith Lens," a resource for youth that connects the lectionary with current events. It's on the ELCA Web site at www.elca.org/dcm/youth

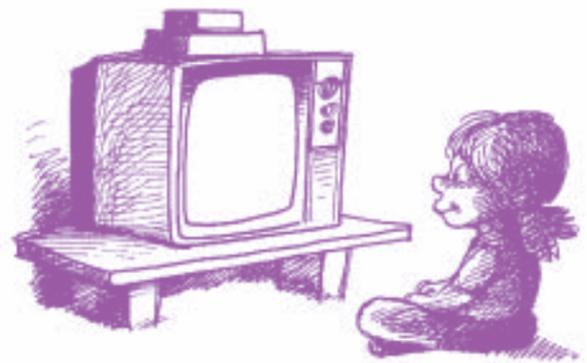
- Use specific TV programs as entry points for nurturing other forms of education, recreation and entertainment – for example, plan an indoor/outdoor intergenerational tag-football game before or after the Super Bowl, along with a soup-and-sandwich meal to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. You might also use the Oprah Winfrey show as a format for a women's event or tailor the MTV style to create a youth forum on media.

- Promote national TV Turn-Off week, April 22-28. Contact the TV Turn-off Network at 202/518-5556, or check out www.tvturnoff.org for information, along with a variety of other resources.

- Plan and promote ongoing opportunities for children, youth, adults, families and intergenerational groups to engage in community-building activities and other forms of recreation. Consider sponsoring or establishing after-school programs for children and youth with opportunities for recreational reading, homework help and athletic and volunteer activities.

- Provide resources for parents to address and assess media-related activities in their homes. The National Institute on Media and the Family has a variety of print, video and electronic resources to assist you. For instance, on their "Free Family Resources" page, you'll find links to articles such as "12 tips for taming the tube," their "annual video game report card," "Safety tips for surfing the Net" and "TotSmart" – tips about television, reading and preschool children. Contact them at 888/672-5437 or go to www.mediafamily.org

- Through Christian education and adult forums, help people ask critical questions about the messages they receive through TV and movies, especially about violence, women, people of color, sexuality, success and materialism. A good resource and discussion starter is the book *Watching What We Watch: Prime Time Television through the Lens of Faith* (from Geneva



Press, www.genevapress.com \$19.95; 800/227-2872).

- Watch for news about possible future regional workshops across the ELCA to train congregational "MediaWise" program leaders. When more information is available about this proposed training project, we'll let you know details here in Seeds.

- Engage congregation members of all ages in prayer, conversation and discernment regarding issues of faith and values in the choices we make every day – in the activities we choose, how we spend our time and how we live out our relationships with family, community and God.

– Miriam Campbell is associate director for Christian education in the ELCA's Children and Family ministries.

Get free estate planning tools

Does your congregation receive bequests on a regular basis? Do you actively encourage people to practice stewardship beyond their lifetime by making a will? The ELCA Foundation can help your congregation in encouraging giving through bequests and in establishing Mission Endowment Funds to receive and distribute those gifts. Your ELCA Regional Gift Planner can assist with congregational presentations on estate planning.

The Foundation also provides a number of free helpful tools for estate planning, including the brochure *Why Do I Need a Will?* and *Take the Test: What Will Your Legacy Be?* They also have workbooks: *Notes for My Friends and Family* and *Will & Trust Workbook*. And for your will, *A Christian Preamble* that can be included as a statement of faith. For more information, contact the ELCA Foundation at 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit www.elca.org/fo for the ELCA Regional Gift Planner nearest you.

THE
ELCA
FOUNDATION

**Together.
Even Better!**

Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood have joined to create the largest fraternal benefit society in the nation. Together, we will have the resources to serve Lutherans—their families, communities and churches—better than ever before.

We are proud of our Lutheran tradition and our Christian values—the same tradition and values that are at the foundation of our new, combined organization. Together, we will be able to serve more people and meet more needs. Together, we're even better.

AID ASSOCIATION FOR LUTHERANS
LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

www.aal.org www.luthbro.com
Aid Association for Lutherans, Appleton, WI 54919-0001
and Minneapolis, MN 55415-1624 © 2002

Did you see the Action Packet?

The contents of the March-April Action Packet include:

- Lutheran College Fairs schedule
- *Pericope Partners*
- 2001 Index to *The Lutheran*
- Prayer Network brochure
- *Great Commission Congregations*
- Imagine the World brochure
- Prayer Ventures
- *Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation*
- *Plant the Seeds of Justice and Mercy* flyer
- *ACTS News*
- *Procession* newsletter