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From the Sunday worship service at the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Indianapolis (photo courtesy of Michael D. Watson)

In response to the invitation to “deepen our worship life,” the ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries, in partnership with Augsburg Fortress Publishers, has begun a five-year process called *Renewing Worship* that will lead to the next generation of worship resources. The process and the resources that grow out of it will shape worship across the ELCA in the years to come. Over the next three years, eight to 10 trial-use resources will be published as part of the *Renewing Worship* project. Evaluations received from congregations, individuals and other reviewers will help shape the project and help determine what will be proposed for the new resource.

What’s happened so far

In February 2001 four consultations made up of clergy, theologians, musicians, and laypersons from across the United States met to begin working to develop a set of principles for preaching, language, music, and space/environment as they relate to worship. The result of their work,

strates strategies for renewing hymnody. Most of the hymns can be viewed or downloaded for inclusion in worship folders. Go to “View and download files” pages under “Congregational Song” at www.renewingworship.org

The group working on rites for baptism, affirmation of baptism, catechumenate, and confession/forgiveness completed its work on a volume called *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*. This volume is scheduled to be published in June 2002.

A second editorial group has begun its work on rites related to marriage, healing and funerals. This set of trial-use resources will be published in Fall 2002 under the title *Life Passages*.

In January 2002 the *New Hymnody* editorial team met to develop guidelines for evaluating new hymn texts and tunes.

Two editorial teams are also working on *Liturgical Music* and *Primary Worship Services* to develop trial-use materials for Spring 2004.

Principles for Worship, will be available in June 2002. One copy of *Principles for Worship* will be mailed to each congregation. *Principles for Worship* is available for preview on the *Renewing Worship* Web site at www.renewingworship.org.

Last July, the first volume of trial-use resources was published. *Congregational Song: Proposals for Renewal* demon-

What’s coming up

Right now, meeting and publication schedules for the remaining editorial teams are being developed covering daily prayer, psalms and canticles; propers and seasonal rites; and occasional services.

Regional and synodical workshops are planned for 2003. These workshops will facilitate congregational education and conversation regarding worship. They will also provide feedback and suggestions for future development. Information on workshops will be posted on the Web site (www.renewingworship.org) and in *Procession* newsletter in the Action Packet.

How to keep in touch

Visit the *Renewing Worship* Web site at www.renewingworship.org for:

- ongoing updates on the overall project
- lists of those on the editorial teams
- downloadable files for trial-use resources as they become available

Call for hymn submissions

The *Renewing Worship* new hymnody working group is interested in submissions of individual hymns and songs, whether published or unpublished, that exemplify the criteria identified in *Principles for Worship*, especially the sections “Language and the Christian Assembly” and “Music and the Christian Assembly.” Find examples of these criteria and the text of *Principles for Worship* at the Web site at www.renewingworship.org.

Text, music or both may be submitted. Submitted tunes should include an accompaniment that encourages singing and is appropriate to the style (unless the music is intended for unaccompanied singing).

The working group is already researching materials from denominational resources, including the ELCA’s published resources (such as *Lutheran Book of Worship*, *With One Voice*, *Libro de Liturgia y Cántico*, *This Far by Faith*, and *Worship & Praise*). Submissions from these resources are not necessary.

Place contact information of the person submitting the material in the upper right corner of each item submitted (including address, telephone, and e-mail). If the material is copyrighted, include copyright information on the first page of each submission. **The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2002.**

Send all submissions to Cheryl Dieter, *Renewing Worship* Coordinator, ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631.

Remember Davey and Goliath?

Ever wonder what happened to Davey and Goliath, the beloved characters from the old TV show? Well, they’re making a comeback!

Davey and Goliath was a children’s stop-motion animation television program produced by the United Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church in America in the 1960s and 1970s. The ELCA owns the copyright to these images.

Last year the ELCA began efforts to raise the nearly \$4 million needed to produce new *Davey and Goliath* children’s programming. The first such effort resulted in a contract with PepsiCo which allowed the company to use Davey and Goliath images for a Mountain Dew commercial. The commercial is now airing on television nationwide and has generated a lot of media attention, including articles in

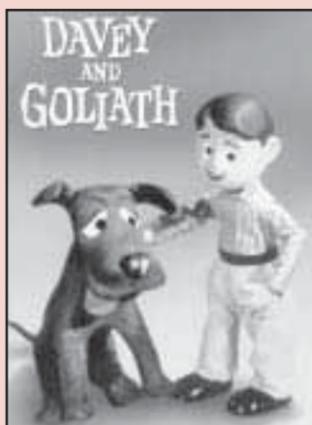
TV Guide and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Another funding source for new episodes will be through sales of Davey and Goliath products such as stuffed and bendable characters, lunch boxes, bobble head dolls, buttons and magnets. Watch the official Davey Web site at www.daveyandgoliath.org for information and announcements about product availability.

Old *Davey and Goliath* programs are already available on video and DVD. Sales of these old episodes also help us raise funds for new programs.

To order old Davey and Goliath episodes or to learn more about these beloved characters go to www.daveyandgoliath.org. There you’ll find the history of the show, photo gallery, video clips and links to news stories.

And while you’re there, check out the “star interview” that was prepared for the “Entertainment Tonight,” show but never actually aired.



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Consider This looks at special Sundays

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 experience of liturgy for 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/dcml/worship/sacpracst.html. For further information, contact Scott Weidler, associate director for worship and music, via e-mail at sweidler@elca.org.

Late spring is often the time when congregations celebrate "Youth Sunday" and/or "Church Music Sunday." This month's column offers some ideas to think about when considering these special days.

Youth Sunday

As Lutherans we believe that baptized young people are fully a part of the church. Worship, the fundamental activity of a congregation, should engage all people as worshipers and in roles of worship leadership, based on their gifts rather than age.

In an honest attempt to keep youth involved and active, many congregations hold an annual Youth Sunday that features young people planning and leading the entire service for the congregation.

However, an annual Youth Sunday may isolate the young people from the regular worship life of the congregation. Because it is unusual, it says in an indirect way that young people are not yet fully a part of the community.

For this reason, it may be better for a congregation to find ways to include young people in leadership roles at all worship services throughout the year, rather than isolating them in one particular instance.

Consider these possibilities.

Encourage young people with particular skills and talents to . . .

- sing, play instruments, and lead congregational singing of all types of music.
- serve as lector.
- serve at the altar during the Communion



ion liturgy as assisting minister or assist with the distribution for Holy Communion.

- serve as ministers of hospitality, such as ushers or greeters, serve refreshments, tend the childcare room, or direct visitors in the parking lot and in the hallways.

- serve on the altar guild, write prayers, or help plan worship.
- offer assistance in preparing the printed worship folders. Others could copy, fold and staple materials.

The possibilities are endless! For a more thorough discussion of this topic, including things to think about if you do decide to celebrate a Youth Sunday, see www.elca.org/dcml/worship/lq/youth.html

Church Music Sunday

For centuries the Introit (a small portion of a psalm text chanted at the beginning of the liturgy) for the Fourth Sunday of Easter was from Psalm 98, "Sing to the Lord a new song" ("Cantate Domino"). This day was often known as "Cantate Sunday" and, in some traditions, became a day to celebrate music in the church.

The Introit no longer exists in today's worship. However, in current lectionaries, Psalm 98 is appointed to be sung between the first and second reading on the Sixth Sunday of Easter during Year B. For that reason, since the publication of *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978, that Sunday has often been known as "Church Music Sunday." (See page 585 in *Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*.)

Since this Sunday often falls near the end of the choir season, some congregations use this opportunity to thank publicly all who make music in their congregation. This usually takes the form of festive music and specific prayers. A luncheon or party may follow the liturgy.

Although the connection to a particular Sunday in the church year is no longer strong, the idea of publicly recognizing ministries in the church is an excellent idea. This can be done on any appropriate Sunday or festival as long as it does not detract from the central focus of the day.

New resources to help worship planners

Looking for new prayer and worship materials for students, or a way to train lectors in the important job of reading Scripture during worship? Here are some new resources that can help. Also, if you went to the Worship 2000 Jubilee in Chicago the summer of 2000, you'll remember what an exciting and uplifting event that was. Now the proceedings from the plenaries are available in a book. And, after numerous requests, the past *Seeds* "Consider This" columns are now on the Web in a printer-friendly format. Read on.

Prayer and worship resource for students

Oremus 3+ A Book of Worship for Corporate and Private Prayer has been updated and reprinted by Lutheran Student Movement-USA.

First published in 1962, *Oremus* is a wonderful hip-pocket size resource for students, larger community worship, or private devotions.

The resource includes hymns, songs, texts, prayers and liturgical insights structured around a lectionary for the academic year. Copies are \$2.50 each plus shipping and handling. *Oremus 3+* can be ordered via e-mail at

ismusa@elca.org or from Lutheran Student Movement-USA, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631.



Multicultural music festival

Learn how to incorporate the music of many cultures into your congregational worship in three full days of educational experiences, fun and worship.

The ELCA Multi-cultural Music Festival, "One Voice, Many Cultures," will be held June 27-30 at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minn.

The festival will feature two culture-specific worship services each day, including African American, African, Latino, American Indian,



Arab and Asian services. Closing worship will lift up traditions of all cultures.

The festival will help you:

- learn new songs from various ethnic communities.
- learn how to

strengthen your congregational music ministry through multicultural music.

- faithfully proclaim the Gospel in a multicultural context.

The festival includes concerts and workshops; programs for children, youth and adults; talent shows and puppet shows; exhibits; and ethnic food. There is housing available on campus. For registration costs and more information, go to www.elca.org/cmmlfestival or call 800/638-3522 ext. 2027.

Worship Jubilee event resource

Lifting Up Jesus Christ—Yesterday, Today and Forever is a printed resource from the plenaries and forum presentations from the Worship 2000 Jubilee event held in Chicago two summers ago. The presenters included Gordon Lathrop, Susan Briehl, Samuel Torvend, Gail Ramshaw and others.

Topics include the future of the liturgical assembly, honesty in preaching, proclamation through the arts, Christian formation and the ritual nature of worship. To order call 800/328-4648; ISBN 6-0001-1985-2 (\$10 plus shipping and handling).

Training Resource for lectors

Turning Ink Into Blood is a training resource for those who read Scripture in worship. Dr. Thomas Rogers is the main presenter and Walt Wangerin Jr. also speaks on how the lector invokes God's presence of God in the reading of Scripture. This two-and-a-half-hour, in-depth video workshop has an extensive resource manual and is available from Seraphim Communications on their Web site at www.seracomm.com Cost is \$149.95.

Past "Consider This" columns

Past issues of *Seeds* "Consider This" column on the liturgy are now compiled into one PDF file for easy printing. Go to: www.elca.org/co/seeds/considerthis.pdf Note that you'll need Acrobat Reader 4.0 or later to read this file. If you'd like a single printed copy, call the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522.

Seeds for the Parish

www.elca.org/co/seeds

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How can the ELCA be a 'faithful yet changing church'?

The ELCA is embarking on an important planning process. Over the next 18 months, leaders from across this church will be considering the future direction for the ELCA, with a report with recommendations coming before the 2003 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson said, "There are four significant issues before the ELCA: mission, leadership, ecumenical and global relationships, and human sexuality. It is very important that we address each one and see their interrelatedness." To achieve this interrelatedness in the ELCA, "a faithful yet changing church," Bishop Hanson has begun this planning process. "What can God do through 5.1 million ELCA members in almost 11,000 congregations when we are joined together in Christ's name? My hope is that when members of this church hear 'ELCA' they will think first not of the issues that divide us, but of God's mission which unites us and for which the Holy Spirit empowers us."

This spring, synod assemblies will spend time discussing two questions:

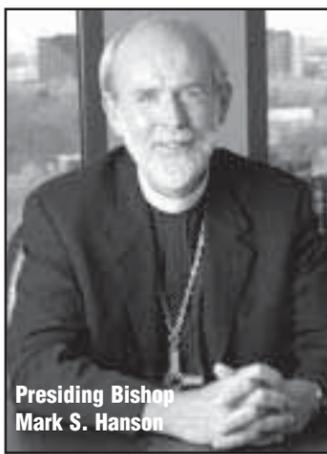
1) What are the three most important factors in the larger society in the last three decades that continue to have the greatest impact on the mission and ministry of the ELCA as a whole – including congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and related institutions and agencies?

2) In the context of these factors, what three most essential things do we need to do as the ELCA as a whole to move effectively into the future?

How to connect

There are several ways you, as congregational leaders, can connect to this process and participate.

- Attend your synod assembly and take part in the discussions of the two questions noted above.
- Go to the ELCA Web site at www.elca.org/planning to follow the planning process and view a summary of



Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

these synod assembly discussions.

- Plan to participate in a live Webcast with Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson on Sunday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time). Join the Webcast at www.elca.org/planning
- In preparation for this Webcast, go to www.elca.org/planning and submit your concerns about the ELCA's future for possible discussion by Bishop Hanson during the Webcast. While the bishop cannot respond to all questions or comments during the Webcast, every suggestion will be reviewed by the planning committee.
- And, as Bishop Hanson has said often, "Please continue to pray for the ELCA, our faithful yet changing church."

Following the Webcast, a first draft of possible ELCA future directions will be posted on the planning Web site for review. At 2003 synod assemblies, voting members will be invited to react to the proposed priorities before they are sent to the August Churchwide Assembly for review and possible approval.

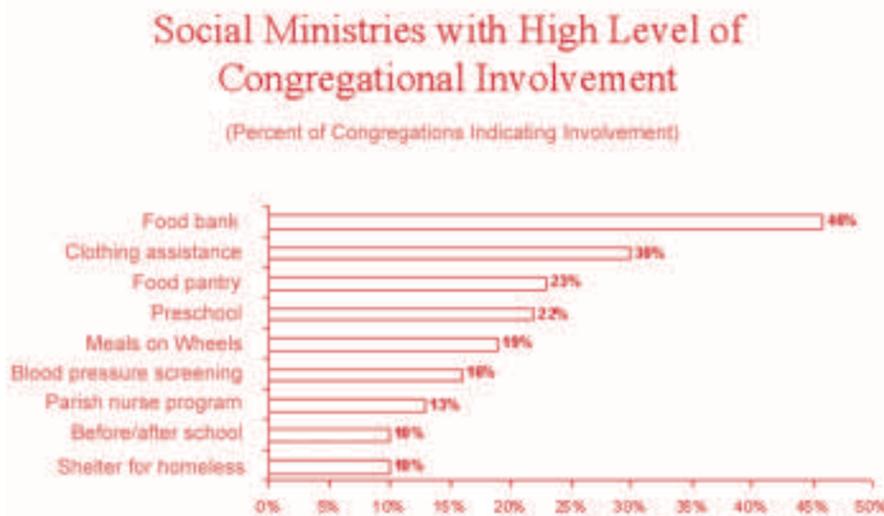
Learn about congregational social ministries

A three-year study of 400 ELCA congregations' social ministry reveals that up to one-third of ELCA congregations devote a significant amount of their time and budget to local social ministry activities but are restrained from doing more by limited budgets and volunteer staff. ELCA congregations spend an estimated \$30 million annually in local social ministry activity. The vast majority of these congregations are engaged in collecting and distributing food and clothing. The study is titled "Lutheran Congregational Social Ministries in the Era of Welfare Reform."

Other interesting findings are that:

- ELCA congregations with various hunger ministry programs fed 4.3 million people in 1998—and probably at least that many in the non-survey years.
- approximately 16 percent of ELCA congregations provide blood pressure screening out of concern for members' health
- 11 percent of ELCA congregations make beds and shelter available for homeless people, and 40 percent financially support community organizations that help the homeless.
- 22 percent of congregations participate in a preschool program.

The study is especially relevant in the



light of President George W. Bush's Faith Based and Community Initiative, as well as decisions related to people in poverty that will come before the Congress in 2002. It includes recommendations to both the public sector and the ELCA for improving congregational social ministry. Among the study's conclusions is that it is "unlikely that ELCA congregations, on their own, could provide a significant increase in services for persons in need."

The study was carried out by a project

team composed of staff from the ELCA Divisions for Church in Society and Congregational Ministries and the Department for Research and Evaluation. Project director was Professor Susan Kosche Vallem of Wartburg College. It was supported by a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans.

Copies of the report are available free of charge by calling the Division for Church in Society's resource request line: 800/638-3522, ext. 2996.

Check out new resources for stewardship

Giving: Growing Joyful Stewards in Your Congregation was mailed free to all ELCA congregations in February.

This magazine is published annually by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. The 2002 issue features:

- Conversation with Tony Campolo
- A look at cultivating generosity in youth
- Worship resources
- Meditation from the prophet Haggai
- Stirring call to freedom from Sondra Wheeler
- "Clergy and Money" column on stewardship mentors
- "To the Castle: A

Musical for Stewards"

- Book reviews by Lita Johnson, director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and Michael Meier, ELCA director for steward-

ship leadership development.

Giving also contains a pull-out section, "Remember: Year-Long Stewardship Emphasis." This financial response method celebrates membership anniversaries. Your stewardship committee may find these step-by-step instructions useful.

Accompanying materials for this response method are available through Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648: Bookmarks (6-0001-6345-2) \$4/pkg of 50; Bulletin Inserts (6-0001-6347-9) \$3.50/pkg of 50; Business Envelopes (6-0001-6348-7) \$5/pkg of 50; Commitment Cards (6-0001-6349-5) \$3/pkg of 50; Letterhead (6-0001-6350-9) \$3.50/pkg of 50; Posters (6-0001-6351-7) 95 cents each

For one additional free copy of *Giving* magazine, call the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522.

Vision for Mission resources

Resources to help your congregation celebrate the ELCA Annual Churchwide

Offering are on their way. May 19 is the suggested date for the offering, but material is appropriate throughout the year. A packet of resources, including special prayers and hymn suggestions, poster, newsletter announcements and 100 copies of a new bulletin insert (with offering envelope) was sent to all ELCA congregations. Why take part in the ELCA's Annual Churchwide Offering? Because at least once a year it is important to give members the opportunity to give directly to those ministries we do best together.

Gifts to the ELCA Vision for Mission Annual Churchwide Offering provide the support that makes ELCA ministries possible. For more free bulletin inserts, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 and request ISBN 6-0001-6454-8. For information about Vision for Mission, contact Kathie Hetland, ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries, at 800/638-3522, ext. 2563; or e-mail khetland@elca.org.



Resource for college bound

Orientation 2002 is a 48-page annual magazine that speaks to important issues facing students and their parents at the start of a new school year. This ecumenical resource is intended for graduating high-school seniors and first-year college students. *Orientation* helps students with the transition from high school to college and with adjusting to campus life.



Full of practical tips about campus life, how to locate the campus ministry or chaplain, and how to ask for help, *Orientation* offers a warm spiritual welcome for students entering college for the first time. Information about loans and scholarships, prayers especially for students, and a study guide for group use or individual reflection also are included.

Local church groups and individuals might buy copies to give as gifts for graduating seniors. Send *Orientation* in a care package during the first week of school or along with the first fall issue of the parish newsletter.

One to 10 copies are available at \$3 each; 11-50 at \$2.50 each, 51-100 at \$2 each, 101-200 at \$1.50 each, and 201 or more at \$1.25 each. Postage and handling charges also apply. To request an order form for *Orientation 2002*, call the Campus Ministry Section of the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry at 615/340-7404.

Looking for a resource?

Go to www.elca.org/resources.html and click on the ELCA ResourceFinder magnifying glass. This feature can quickly search the the items in the ELCA resource database.



Book about ministry

Not Trying Too Hard: New Basics for Sustainable Congregations by Bob Sitze offers a provocative, yet comforting look at the best of modern thought (including brain theory and asset-based planning), combined with Scripture, theology and humor to help congregational leaders see their task as an opportunity for grace-filled and joyful ministry. This book is a refreshing change from the how-to's that increase anxiety over what is not happening. It reveals new ways to see possibilities and open windows on the future for spiritually lively congregations. An engaging tool that can be used by clergy and congregational leaders to gain new insight into the what's and why's of ministry in the new century.

Available from Alban Institute (www.alban.org) or by calling 800/486-1318. ISBN 1-56699-253-2; \$25.

New audio magazine

A new audio magazine addresses issues that are especially important to persons across the church who are blind or visually impaired. The magazine's editor is the Rev. Duane Steele, consultant to the ELCA Braille and Tape Ministry, and pastor of Gladesboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsville, Va. Steele, who is blind, hopes this audio magazine will assist people who are visually impaired in finding Bibles and Bible studies and other Scripture-based materials in large print, braille, audio, and even computer formats. The audio magazine will also offer guidance for integrating blind and visually impaired persons into congregations, including information to encourage production of worship bulletins, parish newsletters and other literature in large print, braille or on cassette.

The first issue is slated for release to current subscribers to the ELCA Braille and Tape ministry later this spring. For more information, or to learn where to find materials both in and beyond the ELCA, call Pastor Steele at 800/638-3522, ext. 2287. To order materials from ELCA Braille and Tape Ministry, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/426-0115, ext. 502, to reach Karen Hoppe.

Fund scholars to visit

Congregations can now hear the personal testimony of ELCA seminary students through personal visits. Many of the Fund for Leaders in Mission scholarship recipients are available, as their schedule permits, to come to congregations in their area and talk about their call to ministry, their study and preparation and the importance of their Fund scholarship. To invite a Fund for Leaders in Mission scholarship recipient to visit your congregation, please contact Naomi Hawkins at 800/638-3522, ext. 6553 or e-mail NHawkins@elca.org.

Come to men's gathering

Men of all ages will come together to discover God's blueprint – God's plan – for their lives and ministry at the 2002 Blueprints for Living Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio July 26-28.

Dynamic speakers and inspirational musicians will be the centerpiece of a program that will draw men of all ages from across the country and other parts of the world. The event will take place at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel along the world-famous San



Antonio Riverwalk, with hundreds of restaurants, museums and other attractions just a short walk or boat ride away. Event leaders are planning to provide a wellness component that will include exercise and health screening. Speakers at the event include Tony Campolo, Millard Fuller, Dick Hardel, Dennis Mims, Steve Sonderman, Rick Barnes and Bishop Margarita Martinez. Musicians include Richard Webb, Tony Melendez and Peter Mayer. Call Kimberley Moseley at 800/638-3522, ext. 2595 or send e-mail to Kimberley_Moseley-Johnson@elca.org for a free promotional video and information.

Meditations on marriage tapes

This updated series of six meditations by Walt Wangerin Jr. on cassette tape and with a printed transcript comes packaged in a cassette album – a perfect gift for a wedding or an anniversary. It is also a resource for pre-marital classes or for an adult education class. Each session is 30 minutes. Topics include "When Does Marriage Begin," "Now We Are One," "Forgiveness: The Marital Ideal," "Forgiveness: Repentance," "Forgiveness: Six Steps for Forgiving," and "Gifting: Grace in Marriage." This resource is available from Lutheran Vespers 800/638-3522 ext. 2967, or bengelby@elca.org. The suggested donation is \$25.

Church library conference

The Twin Cities Area Chapter of the Lutheran Church Library Association will host the 2002 National Lutheran Church Library Association Conference Nov. 7-9 in Minneapolis. "Energizing Church Libraries! - Minneapolis 2002" will inspire, educate and energize your church library ministry. Workshops and speakers will introduce new ideas and topics for church librarians to explore, including computer applications, reaching teens, music, health resources and world religions. There will be an exhibit area with the latest ideas, products, services and resources to bring back to your library and congregation. For more information, visit www.LCLAHQ.org or call 612/870-3623.

Journaling book updated

Want to help members of your congregation discover how journaling can help their spiritual life? *How to Keep a Spiritual Journal* by Ron Klug has been newly updated to expand this helpful resource. In addition to the basic how-to of journaling, this 140-page edition adds a chapter on writing for healing, exercises to help determine a spiritual legacy, new resources for journaling – including the Internet – and "A Guide for Forming a Journal Group." Order from Augsburg Fortress by calling 800/328-4648; ISBN 0-8066-4357-9; \$13.99 plus shipping and handling.

Health draft in Spanish

"Salud, Sanación y Cuidado de la Salud," the Spanish translation of the first draft of a new ELCA social statement on health and health care, is now ready for study by ELCA members and congregations. Single complimentary copies can be ordered by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2996, or go to the ELCA Web site at:

www.elca.org/dcs/salud.pdf or www.elca.org/dcs/salud.html The document may be photocopied free for groups provided that the copyright notice is included on all copies; bulk quantities of the draft are not available.

The ELCA Task Force on Health and Health Care requests responses to the first draft by Sept. 1, 2002. These responses will help the task force prepare the final draft of the social statement for action at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly. People may respond in writing at the address given in the document either by letter or by using the response form in the draft. Or respond online at www.elca.org/dcs/respuesta.html

Women, youth at Wittenberg

A number of programs, including learning opportunities for women and youth, are being presented this year by the ELCA Wittenberg Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

"Women of Reformation: Then and Now" will be offered from Nov. 23 to Dec. 7. "Camp'n'talk" will be jointly offered with the Luther Zentrum Aug. 16-18 and will bring Islamic and Christian youth together to discuss Islamic-Christian relations. A noted Reformation scholar, Dr. Eric Gritsch, will lead a travel seminar, "A Living Experience of Lutheranism," Sept. 8-20.

For more information on these programs, contact Marlene DeWulf at 800/638-3522, ext. 6551, or go to www.elca.org/ewbc

World Hunger Packet

Looking for some new and innovative ways to keep your congregation's members involved in your world hunger ministry? Share this idea with members: When an ELCA member in Austin, Texas, uses a coupon at the grocery store, she considers the money saved a gift that she sets aside to be given later to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. "Small amounts saved weekly or monthly can add up to a gift of significance for the feeding of the hungry," she says.

You can find more ideas like this to use and adapt in your congregation in the Spring 2002



ELCA World Hunger Resources Packet, which is being mailed free to all congregations in early May. Besides suggested activities, the packet contains many new print resources for 2002, including a new poster, samples of two new full-color bulletin inserts, stories of real people in real places whose lives have been changed by the World Hunger Program, and ways congregations can be involved in Stand With Africa, a campaign of the ELCA World Hunger Program, LCMS World Relief and Lutheran World Relief.

The packet has the essential resources for your congregation's hunger emphasis whether spring, summer or monthly. To order another packet, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648; ISBN 6-0001-6400-9.

Family ministry conference

The Youth and Family Institute of Augsburg College will host a Summer Leadership Conference, August 5-9, 2002, on the campus of Augsburg College in Minneapolis. The theme of the conference, "Discipleship and the Church Outside the Walls," will emphasize ways of recognizing that the church is much more than a building. Youth ministry, community justice, peer ministry, marriage ministry, cultural diversity and more will be addressed during five days of keynotes and workshops. Dr. Barbara Varenhorst, the pioneer and developer of Peer Ministry, speaker and author, will head the slate of keynote speakers.

The Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College trains volunteers and professionals in children's and youth and family ministry, offers new models for ministry in the home and congregation, and provides consultation, resources and research analysis. Augsburg College is one of the colleges affiliated with the ELCA.

For Summer Leadership Conference registration information, call 612/330-1624 or visit the Institute's Web site at www.youthfamilyinstitute.com

Accessibility award contest

The annual ELCA Accessibility Award Contest is under way and congregations are encouraged to consider entering. The contest takes place every year from April 1 to May 31. It is open to any ELCA congregation that has been doing work with people who are differently abled. Entries will be evaluated in three areas: 1) the physical accessibility of the church building (ramps, restrooms, braille materials, etc.); 2) the way in which the congregation has been reaching out to people with disabilities in the community; 3) the way in which people who are differently abled are being included in the worship and daily life of the congregation. The congregation that has shown the greatest effort in disability ministry will receive \$1000 from the National Organization on Disability and Aetna Healthcare, and a plaque from the

ELCA Division for Church in Society. Second and third place winners will receive \$100 CDs from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. For an application, go to www.elca.org/dcs/Accessibility.html or call Pastor Lisa Thogmartin-Cleaver at 800/638-3522, ext. 2692; e-mail lcleaver@elca.org

Study of Black Lutherans

A new study resource: *Confession for the Third Millennium: Black Lutheran Experiences—A Study of the 38 Theses*. This six-session study by Professor Nelson Strobert of Gettysburg Seminary intends to help African Americans and others to look closely at and discuss the 38 Theses that came out of the Conference of International Black



Lutherans in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1999. The guides include background information on the conference and the theses, input from African American heritage and Lutheran tradition, and helps for discussion. Useful for small groups of adults and youth. Participant Guide ISBN 6-0001-6335-5 (\$3 plus shipping and handling) Leader Guide ISBN 6-0001-6334-7 (\$6 plus shipping and handling). Call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.

New resources on Islam

• **Video from The ELCA Division for Global Mission.**

A two-part video, "A Glimpse of the Spirit of Islam" by Pastor Doug Cox, ELCA missionary to Madagascar, is now available. The first segment, "A Glimpse at the Spirit of Islam," explains why Christians should learn about Islam and reviews Islamic practices and history. Part two, "A Glimpse at a Tapestry of Beliefs," introduces the fundamental articles of belief in Islam and explores similarities and differences with Christian teachings. Copies of the video may be borrowed from ELCA Resource Centers or from the Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642.

• **Book from Friendship Press.**

Christians wanting to know what their Muslim neighbors believe will find clear answers in *God is One: The Way of Islam*, now available from the National Council of Churches' Friendship Press. This post-September 11 second edition of the Friendship Press bestseller responds to such questions as: Who was Muhammad and what inspired him? What is the Qur'an and what does it say? What do Muslims believe about Christ? How can Christians and Muslims talk? To order call Friendship Press at 800/889-5733, or e-mail nancyj@fuse.net (\$9.95 plus shipping; ISBN 0-377-00196-1A).



Learn about Web site service providers—and more

Looking for a place to host your congregation's Web site? Want to start an online ministry? These groups can help.

Lutherans Online

Sponsored by Aid Association for Lutherans / Lutheran Brotherhood, Lutherans Online offers a wealth of information in one centralized location, and a Web hosting service that features templates or free-form pages, clip art, calendars, bulletin boards/chat, support for multiple editors, and the ability to create private sites and services available only to congregation members. It's free and you can find out more by going to www.lutheransonline.org

ForMinistry.com

This site is an Internet ministry of the American Bible Society. It offers free church Web sites featuring unlimited pages, templates and page layouts, e-mail lists, and content management system that includes scheduling automatic site updates. It is an ad-free, ecumenical collection of ministry resources and has a directory of Christian churches. To learn more, go to www.forministry.com

Luther95

This is a service of TechnoLutherans, Ltd. They provide 5M of space, 10 Luther95

e-mail addresses and Microsoft FrontPage support for free. They also offer additional space, custom domain and other features for \$200/year. Assistance in Web design and maintenance is available for an hourly fee. To learn more, go to www.luther95.org

FaithAndValues.com

This interfaith Web site has a new Web publishing service called Web Medley. For \$29.95 per month, it features 30M of space, 5 e-mail accounts, a wordprocessor-like page editing tool, creative themes, calendar, guest book and graphics library. A setup fee includes the cost of domain registration. Other packages and options like video/audio streaming are available. Check out www.FaithandValues.com

Even if you're not looking for Web services, these sites have interesting and helpful information. Lutherans Online has classified ads, recipes and a genealogy exchange. ForMinistry has resources on a monthly theme ("big issues" facing 21st-century ministry), Scripture materials for congregations and families, and resources



following the liturgical calendar. FaithandValues offers resources on facing life's challenges, growing in faith, nurturing spirit and other topics, as well as a news feature. In the month of May, the ELCA will get increased exposure on FaithandValues with some special content to

highlight on a special page devoted to our church. Visit www.faithandvalues.com/channels/elca.asp

And be sure to visit the ELCA's Guide to Developing Your Own Church Web site at www.elca.org/colcongwebs.html and connect with other congregational Web stewards at <http://webboard.elca.org:8080/~Webstewards>

Sexuality resources

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2001 mandated that the church engage in studies on homosexuality and sexuality.

The process for these studies and dialogues is called "Journey Together Faithfully." To find information and resources to begin this work, and to learn about the process, go to www.elca.org/faithfuljourney

Resource Centers 'Q&A' looks at young adult studies

This is the first in a series of "Q and A" columns put together by the ELCA Resource Centers. Thanks to Catherine Fink, director of the Heilig Resource Center in the North Carolina Synod, for coordinating this column.

ELCA Resource Centers across the country are flooded with questions every day. Congregational leaders have questions and resource centers are the places to find the answers! Resource centers have all types of resources including video, software, curriculum, books, Web sites, etc.

Resource center staff share their ideas with each other across the miles on LutherLink. Join the ELCA RESOURCE CENTERS open meeting (go to www.ecunet.org to sign up). To find the ELCA resource center in your area, go to www.elca.org/colcenters.html Here is the question for our May-June column—and some great answers.

Q What would you recommend for our young adult small-group study?

A Connect with the central act of Christians: worship. Invite them to study the lectionary. Help them see these weekly texts as "the fire around which the whole church gathers." Encourage them to mull over the *images* in the texts and to do this in conversation with each other and with the person who will be preaching—to see beyond the words. To do this, use the adult studies: *Life Together* curriculum (Augsburg Fortress, 800/328-4648, www.augsburgfortress.org/lifetogether/); *Sundays and Seasons* liturgical planning guide (also Augsburg Fortress); *Seasons of the Spirit* (Logos, 800/328-0200,

www.spiritseasons.com); *The Word and You* (*The Inviting Word*) curriculum (United Church Press, 800/537-3394, www.ucpress.com); *Living the Good News* curriculum (Morehouse, 800/824-1813 www.morehousegroup.com/litgn.htm)

—Julie Aageson, Eastern North Dakota Resource Center, Fargo

A Small groups in this age range might enjoy reading books together. *Practicing Our Faith*, edited by Dorothy Bass, (www.josseybass.com) looks at 12 traditional Christian practices including hospitality, healing, forgiveness and keeping Sabbath. A discussion guide is available. *A Graceful Life: Lutheran Spirituality for Today* by Bradley Hanson (Augsburg Fortress) has suggestions for reflection and practice at the end of each chapter. *Basic Questions* curriculum (Augsburg Fortress)—which includes titles like *Who Is God?*, *Who Is Jesus?* and *Who Is the Holy Spirit?*—allows participants to question and grow. And finally, I recommend *Healing Miracles in the Gospel According to Mark* (American Bible Society, www.americanbible.org).

—Sara Johnson, Resource Service Center, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, Redwood Falls

A 20/30 Bible Study for Young Adults curriculum offers several topics including *Love: Opening Your Heart to God and Others* and *Abundance: Living Responsibly with God's Gifts* from Abingdon Press (www.abingdon.org). Or try one of the Crossings curriculum offerings, such as *Doing What Comes Naturally: Jobs, Career and Vocation* and *Surviving the Search: Sexuality, Spirituality and Love* (Morehouse,

www.morehousegroup.com). Also, introduce young adults to Charis—a Web site for them! www.charislutheran.org

—Catherine Fink, Heilig Resource Center, North Carolina Synod, Salisbury

A There is a video curriculum called "Our Journey" from TotalTV Network. The target audience is 20- to 30-year-olds. It has four videos, workbooks and leader's guide. (Would be just as fitting for high school or adult groups.) Video titles include: *Discovering Our Purpose*, *Establishing Our Priorities*, *Deepening Our Personal Faith*, *Igniting Our Passion*. The series takes participants around the world in eight weeks—trekking through the outback of Australia, the mountains of India and the suburbs of Paris. Twelve young adults confront their deepest struggles. "What do I really want to do with my life?" "What is my purpose for being here?" "Does God really care about me?" You can find it all at www.totaltv.com or phone 888-total-tv.

—Karen Harthan, Lutheran Resource Center, Clear Lake, Iowa

A I wanted to offer to all of you my favorite: www.hollywoodjesus.com which has movies, videos and TV shows from a spiritual point of view. Also the Faith Lens resource on the ELCA Web site is excellent and can be used for young adults. Go to www.elca.org/dcm/youth/resource/biblestudy/faithcontents.html

—Irene Flynn, Florida-Bahamas Synod Resource Center, Tampa

For more ideas about young adult ministry, go to the ELCA Web site at www.elca.org/youngadults.html

Why you should know about the Special Needs Retirement Fund

Members of the former St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Chicago understand the importance of serving those who serve. The church, which closed its doors late last year, recently donated \$120,000 to the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund. "This is a tangible way to say that you're not forgotten and we love you," said Robert

Lamont, treasurer of St. Stephen. "It's like passing the peace."

The peace that was passed by St. Stephen to the Special Needs Retirement Fund will

help provide additional income for retired pastors and rostered layworkers and their spouses living with great financial need. The Special Needs Retirement Fund was established in 1993 to address growing concern about the financial well-being of those who served this church.

Managed by the ELCA Foundation and administered by the Board of Pensions, the goal is to grow the fund to \$6 million, relax the eligibility requirements, and meet the needs of more people living on low retirement incomes. Last year, 52 people received \$100,000 in financial assistance.

There's a new brochure about the Special Needs Retirement Fund, which you can order by calling 800/328-4648, ISBN 6-0001-6408-4.

To learn about the fund's eligibility requirements and request an application, please contact Polly Bergerson at the Board of Pensions at 800/352-2876 or pbergerson@elcabop.org. To learn about contributing to the Special Needs Retirement Fund, call the ELCA Foundation at 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or go to www.elca.org/fo for the name of the regional gift planner nearest you.



Celebrating congregation-missionary partnership

When ELCA missionaries Doug and Monica Cox left for Madagascar in March, they were surrounded by the prayers and support of Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley, Minn.

While in the Twin Cities to prepare for their second son's arrival, they attended Calvary, where Monica was once a member. During their weeks at Calvary they told members about their work with Project Shalom, which focuses on improving understanding between Christian and Muslim Malagasy. After Sept. 11, Doug led forums on Islam.

"Doug and Monica just plain won Calvary's heart with their faith and faithfulness, their humility, their gifts, and their courage," says Pastor Lynn Peterson. "So it was no surprise that the congregation voted to become their mission sponsors."

Calvary's long list of local and global mission partnerships already included ministries on every continent. To celebrate its new partnership, Calvary's annual four-week Global Mission Festival made Madagascar its centerpiece. A team built the Madagascar Mission Center, a 10' by 10' Malagasy toby—a place of spiritual and physical healing. Inside the toby, retired missionaries to Madagascar shared their own experiences, and explained the Coxes' ministry to worshippers. Visitors could also purchase Doug's new video, "A Glimpse of the Spirit of Islam," designed to help ELCA congregations get to know their Muslim neighbors. (See "Islam resources"

in "Ripe for the Picking," page 5.)

The festival culminated in Global Mission Sunday, when Calvary commissioned the Coxes as their ministry partners in Madagascar. Friends and retired missionaries laid hands on them, and members were invited to raise a hand of blessing. "We could feel the people reaching, leaning toward this young family in prayer and care," said Pastor Peterson.

"We at Calvary want to pledge our support to you as you go out," Pastor Steve Dornbusch told the Coxes. "To become mission partners with you is to covenant to provide financial and prayer support, and to learn from you as you serve in Madagascar, so that the Gospel is shared in new places and in new ways."

Hugs and applause followed. A special collection raised \$17,800 for the Coxes' ministry. The partnership will become part of Calvary's ongoing annual missionary support budget, and letters from the Coxes will be included in newsletters.

Missionary sponsorship—open to all ELCA congregations

About 1700 ELCA congregations sponsor missionaries through the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship program. "Like Calvary, participating congregations develop a strong relationship with their missionary, and list him or her as staff in newsletters and bulletins," says Pastor David Lerseth, who directs the program. "When congregations consider missionar-



The Cox family in front of their toby at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minn.

ies an extension of their congregation's ministry, they feel they are directly involved with God's global mission."

The ELCA Division for Global Mission works with congregations to select a missionary or missionary family to sponsor. Partial or full sponsorships are available, ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 a year. After signing a covenant, congregations receive a photograph, address and information about the missionary, who sends four newsletters a year and visits during home leave.

For more information on how you can become a missionary sponsor, contact the Rev. David Lerseth at 800/638-3522, ext. 2641 or e-mail dlerseth@elca.org.

Global Mission Events 'dare to live God's promise'

"How did you end up in Hong Kong?" It's a question people often ask Carrie Grev—a rural Minnesotan who never imagined she would make her home in urban Hong Kong as a long-term ELCA missionary! Carrie is among the ELCA missionaries who will share their experiences at the 2002 Global Mission Events, coming July 18-21 at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C., and July 25-28 at the Minneapolis Convention Center and Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

GME speakers and presenters will address a wide range of domestic and global issues that relate to the theme, "Dare to Live God's Promise," drawn from Isaiah 55:1-11. Many will lead Global University Sessions that address mission concerns like relations between Christians and Muslims, finding God in the global marketplace, and

renewing and recharging declining congregations in the United States.

Sunday worship will be led by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Bishop Stephen Bouman of the Metro New York Synod will talk about global diversity in his synod's congregations and the role of the church in times of terror. The Rev. John McCollough, executive director of Church World Service, will bring news of ecumenical work in Afghanistan. Dr. Mark Ellis, an American Jew, will join a panel discussion with Palestinian church leaders. Women evangelists from Tanzania will share how their work ignites church growth even as Tanzanians struggle with HIV/AIDS.

Programming for children and youth

Global Mission Events are open to all ages, especially children and youth attending with their families or congregations.

Childcare is provided for children through age two. Through crafts, singing, recreation and encounters with missionaries and international guests, kids 3 to 10 discover how they can be missionaries in their own land. In small groups led by international mentors, youth 11 to 18 will grapple with global issues as they relate to their faith journey. Special performances and activities let adolescents encounter new people and cultures.

Lively worship, devotions and presentations—and great food and fellowship—make GMEs great for congregations, confirmation classes, families, singles and youth! Registration closes June 21. For more information or to register contact the Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642, or visit www.elca.org/dgmlgme2002



Prayers requested

Some missionaries spend a lifetime in service, others for short periods only. All commit their lives to walk the journey of God's mission in the world, but sooner or later each brings their service to a close.

Karen and Daniel Bloomquist are retiring from missionary service after 15 years. He has helped raise up leaders for the church, teaching at the seminary level in Singapore. She has reached out to many women, many of them expatriates, who seek a sense of community through Bible study and fellowship. Together they have shared the love of God far beyond Singapore, a city nation that brings together people from various parts of the world.

You are invited to pray for the Bloomquists on May 7 as part of the Prayer Ventures mission prayer guide. Give thanks for the years of global mission service and pray for those who follow in their footsteps of witness.

Ministry in daily life ideas from congregations

In the last issue of *Seeds* we ran a list of ideas about ways congregations can nurture ministry in daily life, as reported in a survey conducted by the ELCA Division for Ministry. In this issue we complete the list. Some 35 congregations were polled — urban and rural, large and small, geographically and demographically diverse. For more information contact Sally Simmel, ELCA Division for Ministry by e-mail at ssimmel@elca.org, or phone 800/638-3522, ext. 2874.

Vision, Mission, Logos (consciousness raising)

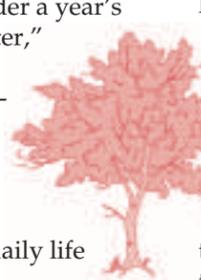
- Vision statements and stewardship emphases can be vehicles for focus on ministry in daily life. Consider a year's theme of "Everyone a Minister," with banners, T-shirts, etc.
- Have a map of the community with pins showing where members spend their time, such as "Where in the world is St. Paul's Church?"
- Make a slide show of the daily life ministries of members.
- "Duck Award" — a toy duck head on a

plunger is given monthly to someone who sticks his or her neck out in faith in some activity in the world.

- Begin meetings with "What exciting thing happened in your ministry this week?"
- Use "SPLASH" materials and "Connections: Faith and Life" (Augsburg-Fortress, www.augsburgfortress.org/store/) with the congregation.

Structure

- Reflect ministry in daily life in the congregation's mission statement; for example, "The Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry in daily life."
- If possible, have a director of member Ministries who helps people identify their gifts, visits workplaces and works with staff to emphasize ministry in daily life in all the congregation members' work.
- Start a shared ministries committee to include all members in some area of extended ministry.
- Job descriptions of church staff and their evaluations should include focus on their support of members' ministries in the world.



How your congregation can support grandparents

By 2005 there will be approximately 80 million grandparents and nearly half of them will be Boomers.

As we place our own handprints on the role of grandparent, there are dozens of ongoing factors that shape it. Peter Morrison, a demographer, believes that there is almost a “recasting of obligations among the generations” as mobility-proximity, health, employment, family transitions or configurations and more viable opportunities for retirement affect a grandparent’s level of support and involvement in a child’s life.

Divorce and remarriage among parents and grandparents seem to add layers of opportunity, challenge and uncertainty as occasions for step-grandparenting, legally defined visitation and custodial grandparenting arise. Even so, the old phrase, “If Mom says ‘no,’ ask Grandma!” still finds credence in the unique role a grandparent can play whether near or faraway.

How your congregation can help

Here are a few ways your congregation might uphold and support—and celebrate—this stage of life.

- Provide a special time annually during a worship service for recognizing and blessing grandparents and the unique roles they play. Even consider providing a commissioning service for those just entering into this stage of life.
- Designate times for grandparents without Internet access to utilize a church computer to communicate with their grandchildren on a weekly or monthly basis. Establish mentoring relationships with junior- and senior-high students to help them send and receive e-mail.
- Make age-appropriate Bibles available for loan or purchase through your church

library. You might also provide resources for grandparents to read and record Bible stories to share with their grandchildren. Invite them to include personal comments about the stories they choose.

- When a child is baptized, suggest making a faith chest to hold faith-nurturing resources and faith-milestone mementos. The Youth and Family Institute of Augsburg College has blueprints for making a faith chest, along with a variety of resources for passing on the faith. For a free copy of the *FaithLife in the Home Resource Guide*, call 877/239-2492 or go to www.youthfamilyinstitute.com
- Recognize the births or adoptions of grandchildren in your bulletin or newsletter. Include the child and the grandparents in your prayers during worship.
- Provide birthday and baptismal birthday postcards for grandparents and others to purchase and encourage them to send notes of their ongoing prayers on special occasions—or any other day. Augsburg Fortress provides postcards and other gifts and resources. Scan through the Augsburg Fortress online store at www.augsburgfortress.org/store/
- Encourage grandparents to plan opportunities for their grandchildren to share a special book, meal, event or adventure, along with conversations about faith and life. Planning annual age-appropriate vacations, without parents, also enhances the relationship and the memories they share. One particularly helpful book is *That Reminds Me*, by Jean Brown Eitrem, a grandmother, it has easy, practical story-starters to help grandparents pass on their

faith. (ISBN 0-8066-3623-8; \$10.99 plus shipping and handling; to order call 800/328-4648).

- Plan an annual grandparent-grandkid retreat for a day or weekend at a nearby park, Bible camp or retreat center, or plan opportunities for children, youth and older adults to share events and “Now-n-Then” stories together, such as an annual fishing opener, bread-making, cookie baking events or quilting “bees,” sponsored by men’s or women’s groups.
- Provide opportunities for grandparents with families far away to develop relationships with parents of young children nearby. Encourage them to provide child care for “date” night. You might even consider an adopt-a-grandkid or -grandparent program to encourage fellowship and creative prayer partnerships.
- Plan an occasion for children, youth and adults to make homemade “hugs” to send to people they love. (Cut long strips of cloth and attach individual handprints to each end.) Encourage them to place it around their shoulders as they say prayers of thanks for God’s great love and the gift of relationships with friends and family.

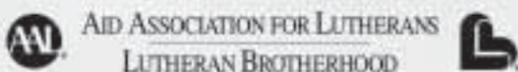
—Mim Campbell, associate director for Christian education, ELCA Children and Family Ministries, in consultation with Marilyn Sharpe, chief administrative officer of Youth & Family Institute of Augsburg College and a Certified Family Life Educator.



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.



www.aal.org www.luthbro.com
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Looking for rostered leaders with disabilities

ELCA Disability Ministries in the Division for Church in Society is preparing a new disability resource for seminaries, synodical candidacy committees, and congregational call committees. It will provide information on ways to work with rostered leaders and those preparing for rostered positions who have any type of disability. To complete this resource, your help is needed! The Disability Ministries program needs the names of any rostered leader (or person preparing to be rostered) who has some type of disability. In addition to sharing this resource with them, the program wants to form a network of church workers and people preparing for rostered status to share information and support. To learn more, contact Pastor Lisa Thogmartin-Cleaver at 800/638-3522, ext. 2692, e-mail lcleaver@elca.org

Did you see the Action Packet?

The contents of the May-June Action Packet include:

- *Prayer Ventures*
- *Pericope Partners*
- Lutheran World Relief annual report
- Fund for Leaders in Mission flyer
- Mission Investment flyer
- Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering reminder
- *Evangelism Connections* brochure
- *Procession* newsletter