



Meet the world at LWF Assembly, visitation program

Augsburg Fortress Publishers
Seeds for the Parish
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This summer's LWF Assembly is the first in North America since 1957, when 100,000 people helped celebrate the Third Assembly in Minneapolis (above).

The Lutheran world is coming to North America this summer. Delegates and guests from 76 countries will gather in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, for the Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation from July 21 through 31.

Every six years the 136 LWF member churches gather to worship, witness and dialogue on matters common to the whole church. Together they celebrate our unity as part of the one, universal, new community in Christ.

Visitors and volunteers are welcome at the assembly. To learn more about the assembly and how to attend, visit www.lwf-assembly.org. To find out how

to volunteer, look for information, expectations, and an application form at the Web site of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, www.elcic.ca/lwfl/index.html

Daily Bible studies for the Assembly are included in the Tenth Assembly Study Book, which can be downloaded from www.lwf-assembly.org

As the assembly approaches, please pray for our global Lutheran family. Pray for the planning process, for all who are preparing presentations, for those who will travel, for those who have agreed to be nominated for the LWF Council, and For the "Healing of the World," the

Assembly's theme.

For further information, call Kathy J. Magnus in the LWF North America office at 800/638-3522, ext. 2636, or e-mail her at kmagnus@elca.org.

Post-Assembly Visitation Program is '03 "Global Mission Events"

For many people, summer just isn't summer without a visit to an ELCA Global Mission Event.

This summer will be different. Instead of holding two large Global Mission Events, ELCA synods and ministries will be hosting 36 smaller events as part of the Lutheran World Federation Post-Assembly Visitation Program. Delegates and visitors from Argentina to Zimbabwe are now registering for the program. ELCA members are also welcome to attend in order to encounter global ministries, learn about other contexts and cultures, and deepen relationships.

Plan to celebrate the richness of the worldwide Lutheran communion at one of



47 ministry sites—11 in Canada and 36 in the United States—are waiting to welcome you and LWF delegates this summer.

the Visitation sites!

Three- to seven-day programs will take place between August 1 and 10 and will cover diverse U.S. ministries like Lutheran-Mormon relations in Utah; rural ministries in central Kansas and Iowa; the Navajo Lutheran Ministries in Rock Point, Ariz.; and Appalachian culture and ministries in Virginia.

In addition, regional Global Mission Events will take place in California, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

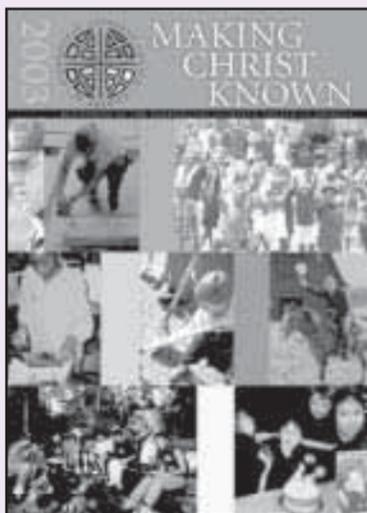
For more information on the sites or to register, contact the ELCA Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2651, or visit www.elca.org/dgml/wf

In the summer of 2004, when the LWF Assembly is just a memory, there will be two Global Mission Events. Watch for dates and locations in *Seeds*.

Ways to use *Making Christ Known*

"Making Christ Known 2003" offers 20 colorful pages of new stories that seek to explain who we are as the ELCA, what we do in ministry together, and how we fund it.

Melanie Rishel, secretary at Messiah Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, Kansas, says, "'Making Christ Known' has been a great resource for me. It has helped me put interesting facts in our weekly bulletins. I scan pictures with articles for our monthly newsletter."



More ideas for using the new "Making Christ Known"

- Scatter the photos and stories on your congregation's bulletin boards.
- Use as a "thank you" to members for their generous financial contributions that make these ministries possible.
- Select stories for a temple talk and call

it "You go with your offerings."

- Highlight a ministry topic, such as global mission, new congregations or education, and use as a display at a mission fair.
- Distribute at the annual congregation meeting, congregation council meetings, budget meetings, and stewardship committee meetings.
- Share with new members and confirmation students to introduce them to the work of the wider church.
- Discuss in adult education class, asking, "Where do you find yourself in these stories?" and "Which stories might be especially valuable for our congregation?" and "How is this story like your own story?"

Print the pages you need (pdf format) or download the articles into your own format. Visit www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship/resources/

Order enough free copies of "Making Christ Known 2003" for each family in your congregation. Call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 and request ISBN 6-0001-6786-5; pay only postage.

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Consider This looks at the end of Lent and Holy Week

Consider This is a regular column in *Seeds* that lifts up ideas and suggestions for worship planners. The column is currently covering practices for various days and seasons of the church year.

As the 40 days of Lent draw to a close, themes of repentance and renewal deepen and intensify, as does the preparation of those to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter. Even if there are no candidates for baptism, themes of baptismal renewal should be clear to the entire congregation.

The solemnity of confessional themes, juxtaposed with the anticipation of baptismal joy can be a challenge to keep in balance. However, a healthy tension exists in many areas of worship planning, especially during the days of Holy Week, Triduum (the "three days" of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) and Easter.

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

On the Sunday of the Passion (commonly known as Palm Sunday), the liturgy begins with a momentary glimpse of joy and festivity, as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is recalled. This is an appropriate occasion for high drama, perhaps with extra musical resources supporting the hymn, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" (*Lutheran Book of Worship* #108) and a lengthy parade (procession) ideally with the entire congregation waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna."

Immediately and rather abruptly, the liturgy is overshadowed by a transition into a focus on the passion of Christ. In conjunction with the Prayer of the Day, the hymn "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (*LBW* #115) or other appropriate music to signal the shift may be played or sung. A change in visual art, such as veiling a cross during the singing, could heighten the effect.

Maundy Thursday

The liturgy of Maundy Thursday juxtaposes the institution of the Lord's

Supper with the most important theme of servanthood and ultimate love as exemplified by Jesus washing the disciples' feet. If your congregation has not including the washing of feet in this liturgy, consider implementing this beautiful and very meaningful ceremony. To see your pastor stooping down to wash your feet and you, in turn, humbling yourself to wash another's feet, is a powerful and moving experience.

Yet another element is juxtaposed with this example of love: the altar is stripped bare in preparation for Good Friday, just as Jesus was stripped of his garments in preparation to be led to the cross.

Good Friday

The liturgy for Good Friday focuses not only on the crucifixion of Jesus, but also on the glorious redemption gained once and for all for us on that cross. Through Scripture (especially the Passion of Christ according to Saint John), lengthy prayers, a profound procession of a rough cross with adoration of Christ, the Crucified, the music and mood of the liturgy might reflect restraint and be described as solemnly victorious. This liturgy should not be understood as a funeral for Jesus. Requiem masses are not appropriate musical offerings on this day.

Vigil of Easter

The Vigil of Easter draws us from the darkness of Good Friday into the bright light of the resurrection. This liturgy of Holy Saturday evening, in anticipation of Easter Day, is the primary service of the entire church year, and has for centuries been understood as the principal time for making new Christians through Holy Baptism. The renewed understanding of the connection between Easter and Baptism



has begun to be discovered by many congregations over the past few decades. If your congregation has not experienced this rich and deeply moving service, you are encouraged to begin learning about it, perhaps by visiting another congregation that offers this experience.

Resources

These liturgies are in *Lutheran Book of Worship Minister's Edition*, pages 134-153.

For assistance in planning and enlivening any of these liturgies, consider consulting *Sundays and Seasons 2003* from Augsburg Fortress; to order, call 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4284-X, \$35 plus shipping).

The January 1997 issue of *Worship '97* is dedicated to resources for planning these liturgies. It can be downloaded from www.elca.org/dcm/worship/publications/worship/pdf/1997/worship_january_1997.pdf

Other helpful Web links:

- Lenten Worship Resources page: www.elca.org/dcm/worship/church_year/lent.html
- How Do We Use a Paschal Candle? www.elca.org/dcm/worship/faq/display.asp?article=worship_space/paschal_candle.html

The ELCA's official statement on the practice of Word and Sacrament, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, is the foundation for conversation about worship in the ELCA, along with the *Principles for Worship* from the Renewing Worship project. To learn more about these documents or to lift them up for study in your congregation, go to www.renewingworship.org

Plan to attend the Liturgical Institute

For 54 years Lutheran worship leaders, musicians, pastors and artists have continued to gather the second week after

Easter each year for the Institute for Liturgical Studies held at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind. This year's institute runs from April 27 through May 1. Internationally known musicians and worship leaders provide congregations with stimulating updates for liturgical directions.

On Monday, pre-event master classes will provide a small-group setting in which to gain intensive practical experience, followed by an evening of special music.

Workshops at the institute will cover music, worship, practice, preaching and art. Plenary sessions, opportunities for

luncheon discussion and uplifting worship in Valpo's magnificent chapel stimulate cross-fertilization for lay worship teams, clergy and musicians, many who attend yearly after coming the first time.

This year the Institute celebrates two significant anniversaries—the 25th of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and the 40th of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council.

The plenary sessions will be led by Fr. Anscar Chupungco, a renowned liturgical expert. He will focus on the past and the future generation of liturgical renewal, which is the theme for this year's continuing education event. Frank Senn and Lorraine Brugh will develop the significance of liturgical enculturation in worship planning and music.

For more information, go to the Web site at www.valpo.edu/theology/ilsl/

Use new certificates to mark faith events

Augsburg Fortress is introducing a new line of printed certificates for parish use. In response to theological and liturgical trends, these new "Community" certificates make explicit the increasing role of the worshiping community in passages in the life of faith. No longer a "diploma," these certificates serve as a permanent reminder of the faith community that surrounds and supports us through life.

The new certificates also feature multi-color artwork designed specifically for the Community line, incorporating a variety of lectionary and liturgical symbols into each design. Affirmation of Baptism, Child



Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage will be the first certificates, available in mid-March, with Adult Baptism, First Communion, Membership, and Baptismal Sponsorship to follow later in 2003. Also available mid-March is a matching Confirmation Invitation Card.

The certificates are 11" x 8 1/2", include envelopes, and are available in packages of 12 for \$12. Confirmation Invitation Cards are also 12 for \$12 (includes envelopes).

All are available from Augsburg Fortress by calling 800/328-4648, or go to www.augsburgfortress.org

Seeds for the Parish

www.elca.org/co/seeds

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Mission Investment Fund can help congregations

As Emmaus Lutheran Church, Eugene, Ore., began to consider a renovation of its facilities, the scope of the project expanded dramatically.

"One of the goals of a ministry study that we conducted was to address our worship space, which was very dark," said Pastor Steve Carlson. "But our project broadened when we decided to look at how the entire facility could more effectively support mission."

"We needed to arrange for a construction loan before a lender would give us a commitment for a mortgage," Pastor Carlson said. "We arranged for the construction loan through the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. The Fund's church building consultant who serves our synod, Phil Roe, helped us to realize how much debt we could handle."

Construction began in October 2001 and on September 15, 2002, the newly renovated church was dedicated. The construction loan with the Mission Investment Fund was paid in full and the congregation has established a mortgage with another lender. "One of our members told me that he had envisioned a sanctuary that was not showy, but that when visitors saw it, they'd say 'Wow,'" Pastor Carlson said.

"We have achieved that goal. We now have an exciting bold facility to which the community is responding favorably. The inside is filled with light and we added some mass to the exterior. The community now notices our facility."

The primary role of the Mission Investment Fund is to make low-interest loans to new ELCA mission congregations for purchases of land and construction of buildings. The Fund also makes loans to established ELCA congregations for renovation, expansion and relocation projects, and for purchases of land.

The Fund recently announced new terms for loans to new mission congregations, including a zero percent interest rate for the first two years, and a 2 percent interest rate for the next five years for purchases of vacant sites for future church



The renovated sanctuary at Emmaus Lutheran in Eugene, Ore.

buildings.

The Fund also changed the term for loans to new mission congregations for construction of initial church buildings. These loans now have a 3 percent interest rate for

seven years, with an amortization schedule of no more than 15 years.

In addition, the term for loans to established ELCA congregations for capital projects has increased to 20 years from five years. Instead of having a "balloon payment" due after five years, congregations will have interest-rate reviews at five, 10 and 15 years.

For information about loans and investment opportunities offered by the Mission Investment Fund, contact the Fund at 800/638-3522, ext. 2943, or via e-mail at mif@elca.org. Information is also available at www.elca.org/ot/mif

Evangelism survey shows 'what works' for growth

Congregations that work at "living, serving and being" God's presence in a community attract people. Whether to lapsed members or unchurched people, these dynamic congregations communicate a living God through worship, youth and children's ministries, Christian education and community service.

During the summer of 2002, 150 dynamic ELCA congregations were nominated by 34 synod bishops and members of the ELCA evangelism team to answer a seven-question survey. Of the 80 churches responding, both laypeople and clergy gave answers that can be helpful to congregations across the ELCA. The three most vital ministries identified by members and pastors of the ELCA were:

- worship that connects,
- youth and children's ministries that engage young people in developing a faith,
- Christian education that involves adults, youth and children.

These ELCA congregations, young and old, small and large, all put Bible study, prayer, servant projects and variety in

worship as the essential aspects of a dynamic congregation.

Members want relationships with other Christians as they share their lives through small groups, fellowship opportunities or servant events. Fellowship, joy and fun are part of a Christian's life as lay people stressed the need for more chances to interact with others.

Pastors are lifted up by members for their leadership in evangelism. Members expect their pastors to cast a vision and develop a mission statement, along with a plan to get there. Pastors said they look to the Bible, books and colleagues for their source of motivation. God's grace in Christ through Word and Sacrament is seen as the pastor's answer to how God opens a congregation to grow. Pastors believe people need to feel and know in their hearts that God loves them and all people.

Members of these evangelistic-centered congregations know that God's mission is for everyone to "make disciples." Both lay leaders and pastors realize that the decisions they make are based on those people

who are not in the pews. Laypeople know and use their spiritual gifts in their roles as leaders of congregations. They ask for Bible study, prayer seminars and opportunities to learn more about inviting their friends to church.

It was clear by the responses that worship is essential in attracting new and lapsed members to their church. Both members and pastors stressed the need for a variety of worship styles to meet the needs of the 21st-century Christian. Many think more upbeat music filled with praise to be a necessary addition. Variety in musical instruments is recommended as God's people lift their hearts and voices to our God.

The 160 responses were used by the Best Practices Sub-Team of the Evangelism Strategy to inform the proposal that will be acted upon in Milwaukee at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly.

You can access the entire survey results along with the Evangelism Strategy first draft by going to the Web site at www.elca.org/visionevangelism/

Looking for new books for the church library?

There are some new books from Augsburg Fortress that could be worthy additions to your congregation's or pastor's library. To order any of these, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.

Comforting those who lose a pet

The death of a pet is like no other loss that we will experience. In *Grieving the Death of a Pet*, author Betty Carmack draws on the wisdom of Ecclesiastes and her experiences as a pet loss counselor to guide readers through the initial loss to new hope and reassurance. *Grieving the Death of a Pet* is helpful for pastors and lay leaders to share with those who are dealing with pet loss. (ISBN 0-8066-4348-X; \$12.99 plus shipping)

Learning to listen better

The Gift to Listen, the Courage to Hear by Cari Jackson, interweaves listening techniques with spiritual principles that emphasize the importance of listening and that provide a framework for more effective

listening. Cari Jackson explores common causes of communication breakdowns and strategies for moving toward breakthroughs.

The Gift to Listen, the Courage to Hear is a helpful resource for all leaders involved in organizing meetings and communicating information to others. (ISBN 0-8066-4552-0; \$11.99 plus shipping)

Helping people understand forgiveness

A Forgiving Heart: Prayers for Blessing and Reconciliation, edited by Lyn Klug, is a collection of profound writings on the subject of forgiveness by historic and contemporary writers. Through their words, Klug leads us to contemplate forgiveness as it relates to ourselves, our

friends and family, our congregation and community, and the world. *A Forgiving Heart* would be a good asset for the church library, and would supplement any adult forum or worship service focusing on forgiveness. (ISBN 0-8066-3997-0; \$15.99 plus shipping)

Looking at church-state relations

Government funding for faith-based organizations, vouchers for church-related schools, prayer in public schools—these controversial topics remind us of a few of the issues surrounding "church and state" in our pluralistic society.

A new Fortress Press book, *Church and State: Lutheran Perspectives*, invites readers to consider basic themes in church and state relationships for the sake of the church's witness in contemporary United States. This book looks at the issues from theological, historical, constitutional and practical angles.

The book will be of interest to pastors and members who are concerned about enduring and new issues in church and state relationships. (ISBN 0-8006-3604-X; \$20 plus shipping)



Conference for secretaries

The 12th Biennial National Ecumenical Conference for Church Secretaries and Office Staff will be held at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., June 16-18. Sponsored by the CHARIS Ecumenical Center at Concordia College, this conference is designed for and by church secretaries and office staff. Workshops will be offered on topics such as wedding coordination, working with digital images and newsletters, working with funeral professionals, church records (identifying what to keep), creating an efficient office, office ergonomics, compensation packages for church secretaries, church management software and professional boundary issues. The cost is \$220, which includes the program, two nights housing (double occupancy), meals, banquet and materials. For information, contact Emily Wheeler at the CHARIS Ecumenical Center, 218/299-3438, or e-mail her at wheeler@cord.edu

Workbook for girls' retreats

Daughters Arise! A Christian Retreat Resource for Girls Approaching Womanhood hands women tools for creating their own retreats and coming-of-age ceremonies for girls.



The resource is based on five years of summer retreats that authors Donna Humphreys, Gloria Koll and Sally Windecker hosted on Whidbey Island, Wash. The retreats—designed for girls entering womanhood

and their mothers or mentors—use drama, music, art, movement, ceremony and story to nourish the girls. The workbook has a section on “how to do it” and leader helps as well as practical materials such as publicity samples and menus, and copies of stories, ceremonies, dramas, music and crafts.

Rooted in Christianity (one of the authors is a Lutheran lay worker), *Daughters Arise!* expands tradition, using inclusive language for humanity and for God. It looks at Scripture and nature through the eyes of women. *Daughters Arise!* and an accompanying journal for girls are available from Pilgrim Press by calling 800/537-3394 or at www.pilgrimpress.com (Workbook: ISBN 0-8298-1469-8; \$25; journal is separate)

Find out about college fairs

A series of Lutheran College Fairs will be hosted this spring by the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA). Visit www.lutherancolleges.org for details regarding these events, along with a list of participating colleges and universities. New for

2002-2003—all families attending a Lutheran College Fair event will receive an application fee waiver (up to a \$40 value) applicable for one Lutheran college/university listed on the fee waiver.

There are also bulletin inserts for each event that you can print out for your congregation. Go to www.lutherancolleges.org/collegefairs/default.htm

At the fairs, admissions representatives from Lutheran colleges and universities will be available to answer questions regarding admission, academic programs, student life, housing, and financial aid. Students, parents, pastors, and youth leaders are invited to attend college fairs and seminars.

Differently-abled resource

Different Gifts, One Spirit is a new resource designed to support current and future rostered leaders and seminarians who are differently abled. This booklet is also a guide for effective communications between congregations and synods, and rostered leaders and seminarians who are differently abled, as the latter individuals go through the candidacy and call processes. With only approximately 40 pastors who are differently abled in the ELCA, the Disability Ministries Program in the Division for Church in Society hopes that this resource will answer some of the questions that congregations and synods have when working with seminarians and rostered leaders who are differently abled so that the gifts of all people may be received equally. To order a free copy of *Different Gifts, One Spirit*, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2996.

Learn about climate change

Chronic critical situations, such as erosion and drought that are often linked to global warming are taking their toll on vulnerable populations. When sea levels rise, when storms increase, and when rainfall patterns change, those who are living in poverty are the least able to adapt to the rapid changes that are taking place. The World Council of Churches has published online reflections on ways to respond to these threats at www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpclimatechange.pdf The Environmental Education and Advocacy Program in the Division for Church in Society recommends this document as a good primer for church leaders and others interested in global climate change for thinking through possible responses to people who become victims of climate change.

Bible study software

Logos Research Systems, Inc., has released an all-new version of its best-selling Bible software. Logos Bible Software Series X harnesses the power of your computer to reduce the time-consuming look-up and prepara-

tion tasks associated with Bible study. It is built on the Libronix Digital Library System in which books from multiple publishers are automatically integrated into a single digital library on the user's system.

Logos Bible Software Series X Scholar's Library contains more than 230 Bibles and Bible reference titles. Users can purchase additional titles and add-in collections to expand their digital library. Currently the core engine can read over 3,000 titles from more than 100 publishers, with more texts being added all the time. The Series X is compatible with all the latest Windows operating systems, including Win98/ME/XP/NT/2000.

To learn more about these products, go to www.logos.com/products/ldls/ Logos Research Systems, Inc., a privately held corporation located in Bellingham, Wash., is the worldwide leader in multilingual tools and resources for electronic Bible study.

Statement on health care

The 2003 Churchwide Assembly will act upon a proposed social statement on health and health care. To read the proposed social statement before the assembly takes action on it, you can find it online after March 1. Look for “Caring for Health: A Shared Endeavor” at www.elca.org/dcs/healthcare_statement.html

It should be noted that the online version is not an official ELCA social statement and is for information only.

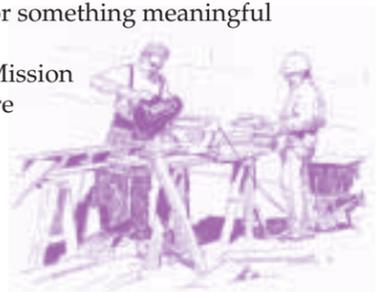
ELCA needs builders

Are you retired? Or do you have significant vacation breaks? Looking for something meaningful to do?

ELCA Mission Builders are dedicated Christians who put their faith into action by helping congregations and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America build their facilities. Mission Builders come from all walks of life. They may be retired teachers, accountants, police officers, pastors, farmers, or anyone with a can-do attitude who wants to offer experience, energy and time to build up a congregation.

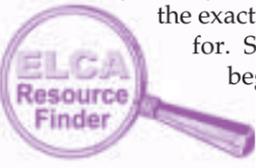
The Mission Builders program has been a blessing to many people, both those in the host congregations and those on the crews. Since 1986 Mission Builders have helped build nearly 100 churches in over 25 states.

For copies of a new brochure that describes Mission Builders, call 800/328-4648 and ask for ISBN 6-0001-6797-0. The brochure comes in bundles of 25. To learn how you or your members and friends can become a part of this vital organization, visit www.elca.org/dcm/missionbuilders or call 800/643-5295.



Looking for a resource?

Looking for resource ideas? There's a treasure trove of resources on the ELCA Web site, but you may need help in finding the exact ones you're looking for. So where do you begin? Go to



www.elca.org/resources.html and click on the

ELCA ResourceFinder magnifying glass. This feature can quickly search the items in the ELCA resource database and get you what you need.

Resources on cloning

Need help with discussing cloning? The ELCA has two resources on this topic. The latest is a new chapter added to the study *Genetics! Where do we stand as Christians?* dealing with reproductive cloning, available April 1 for free download at: www.elca.org/dcs/genetics.study.html. It is designed for group study.

The most in-depth resource on cloning is *Human Cloning: Papers and Reflections from a Church Consultation on Human Cloning*. In October 2000, the Division for Church in Society (DCS) gathered a group of theologians, scientists, ethicists, doctors, pastors and counselors to address the challenges posed by human cloning. This record of their thoughtful interaction does not speak for the church, but speaks to the church in order to spark wider reflection.

A complimentary copy is available from the DCS Resource Request Line at 800/638-3522, ext. 2996, or it may be downloaded at www.elca.org/dcs/humancloning.html. Multiple copies may be ordered from Augsburg Fortress by calling 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-3165-8; \$5 plus shipping).

Leaders in Mission fund

Now in its fourth year, the Fund for Leaders in Mission is providing full-tuition scholarships to 40 ELCA seminary students.

New materials are available free of charge to help you and your congregation learn more about the fund, a churchwide endowed scholarship resource, created to insure that faithful and promising men and women can accept the call to ministry and provide leadership for the ELCA.

These materials can be used by congregations or synods as a way of promoting the Fund for Leaders in Mission and also can be used to highlight the importance of raising up a new generation of leaders for the ELCA.

Perfect for congregational gatherings, mission events, or for display in your church narthex or fellowship center, fund resources include:

- Bulletin inserts
- Offering envelopes
- Small informational brochure
- Speakers, including fund scholar-

ship recipients as their schedule permits.

To order materials or schedule a speaker, call Naomi Hawkins at 800/638-3522, ext. 6553, or send an e-mail to nhawkins@elca.org.

Bethel Bible Series

Some 2,400 ELCA congregations are enrolled in the Bethel Bible Series. Is your congregation one of them? If so, you can renew your commitment to the teaching of Scripture by offering it to your members and recruiting an Intensive Discipleship Class. If you're not sure whether your congregation is enrolled, you can call them at 800/462-2335 and they'll be able to tell you.

The Bethel Bible Series is a long-term in-depth study of Scripture that equips disciples for service and mission. To learn more about the program, go to the Web site at www.bethelseries.com

Journal of Lutheran Ethics

What would you say? Is stem cell research that could save lives ethical? What is an ethical response to an act of terrorism? How should pastors respond to the complex ethical questions facing their parishioners?

In "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" (www.elca.org/jle), produced online by the Division for Church in Society, pastors can find brief reflections by some of our best scholars that highlight the pressing ethical questions facing us today.

Visit "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" at www.elca.org/jle and find articles to guide discussion in adult education or provoke thought in your confirmation class. From just war theory to peacemaking, human cloning to globalization, "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" will be your source for ethical reflection.

Click on www.elca.org/jle and find articles on:

- Just war theory and U.S. foreign policy
- Human cloning
- School vouchers
- Israel and Palestine
- Social issues around the world

Get news about refugees

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is currently facing significant challenges, including reduced refugee arrivals, new needs in immigrant communities arising from the events of September 11, and a potential financial deficit. To that end, LIRS is eliminating staff positions, freezing salaries, and engaging in enhanced strategic planning.

Keep up with what is happening to this important partner ministry of the ELCA and to the resettling of refugees by subscribing to the online newsletter "FYI" by e-mailing fyi@lirs.org with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Also include the ministry of LIRS in your congregation's prayers.

Newsletter on social issues

Love Indeed! is the semi-annual newsletter of the Division for Church in Society that describes ongoing work in advocacy, on social issues, by social ministry organizations, through the ELCA World Hunger Program, and in support of care of creation, disability ministry, older adult ministry, and more.

To receive a free subscription to this newsletter, contact the editor, the Rev. Les Weber at 800/638-3522, ext. 2561, or by e-mail at lweber@elca.org

Dial Bishop Hanson topics

You can hear a three- to four-minute recorded message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson by calling 773/380-2930. These messages are updated twice a month.

Read the texts of the presiding bishop's messages by going to www.elca.org/bishop/dial.html or joining the LutherLink meeting called "Bishop Hanson Messages."

You can publish these in your congregation's newsletter or Web site. Upcoming topics include:

- **March 1** Lenten Reflections
- **March 15** Our Powerful Work in Social Ministry
- **April 1** Ecumenical Journey Reflections
- **April 15** Easter Message
- **May 1** ELCA Churchwide Assembly Preview
- **May 15** Ascension and Pentecost: "Forgotten" Holidays
- **June 1** Stewardship of the Environment
- **June 15** It's Church Camp Time

Materials for Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22 this year. Many congregations will designate the Sunday following as their day to focus on awareness of creation and the environment. Will your congregation mark it in some way?

This year's theme for Earth Day Sunday is

"Waters of Life: Enough for All."

Through Earth Day Sunday 2003 materials

(prepared by the National

Council of Churches Eco-Justice working group), learn how your congregation can be a part of good water management so that all people will have access to fresh, safe water. Sermon starters, a call to worship, and background information are available online so that you can take action to protect the waters of life and help provide enough for all.

You can get the 2003 Earth Day materials by going to the Division for Church in Society's Environmental Education Web site at www.elca.org/dcs/Environmental/hunger.html. For printed copies of the Earth Day resources, contact Danielle Welliever at 800/638-3522, ext 2281.



What's new and helpful on the ELCA's Web pages

'Money Leadership' curriculum for pastors and lay leaders

Do you wonder why it is so difficult to fund ministry? Have you tried different methods and used various resources only to discover the results are the same? This seven-lesson curriculum offers a new starting point, suggesting that neither method nor resource will make a difference until you begin with your own relationship and beliefs about money, connecting money with faith. Found only on the Web at www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship/smart/money.html the curriculum expands to include congregational economics, connecting the congregation's mission, vision and goals with funding. It provides sound principles for congregational money management.

Rural ministry

Thousands of rostered people serve in various ministry settings throughout the United States, some for short periods of

time, more often for many years, sometimes for life-long ministries.

As others discern their call to ministry, it would be helpful to hear why people serve in Rural America. What is life-giving for you in rural ministry? How did you hear God's call to rural service? What sustains you in your ministry?

Share your thoughts about your rural ministry call with other Web users by visiting the Division for Outreach's new Web page, "I Serve in Rural America Because..." at www.elca.org/dolserve

Ministry planning resources

When your congregation is in the process of planning—looking at the future of the whole of your ministry—and discerning how to lead in that direction,



you can find great support in the Ministry Planning Web pages on the ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries Web site.

Go to www.elca.org/dcm/ministry_planning/ to locate online and other resources, an idea bank, an interactive online discussion group and other tools to help your parish move confidently into the future.

Briefly noted

Check out the new online store at www.daveyandgoliath.org. There you'll find Davey and Goliath lunchboxes, bobble-head figures, lanyards and other fun stuff, as well as the latest news about the new *Davey and Goliath* TV show.

Want to learn about the 2003 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee? Go to www.elca.org/assembly03 to find out about matters that will come up for a vote, the host city of Milwaukee, the election of a new vice president, and more.

Churchwide Assembly to elect a new vice president

Election of a new vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the items on the agenda of the ELCA's Eighth Churchwide Assembly, to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., August 11-17 (go to www.elca.org/assembly03 to learn more).

Dr. Addie J. Butler, who was elected vice president in 1997, has announced that she will not be available for a second six-year term. The position of vice president is a volunteer one. The vice president's primary duty is to chair meetings of the Church Council, which is the board of directors of the ELCA churchwide organization. The vice president also chairs meetings of the council's Executive Committee and presents the council's report to the Churchwide Assembly.

As time permits, the vice president may accept some speaking invitations, attend some synod assemblies, and participate in



Outgoing ELCA Vice President
Dr. Addie Butler

other meetings.

At the assembly, the first ballot serves as a nominating ballot. On that ballot the name of any lay member of the ELCA may be submitted. Experiences gained from service on a synodical council and in being chair of meetings are valuable preparation for the role of vice president. Knowledge of the churchwide organization also is important.

Three vice presidents have served throughout the 15-year history of the ELCA. Christine H. Grumm was the first vice president of the ELCA, serving from 1987 to 1991. She was succeeded by Kathy J. Magnus, who served until 1997 when Dr. Butler was elected.

The theme of the Eighth Churchwide Assembly will be, "Making Christ Known: For the Healing of the World." The theme echoes the theme of the Tenth Assembly of

the Lutheran World Federation, to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 21-31, 2003. That will mark the first time in nearly half a century that an LWF assembly takes place on North American soil (see page 1 of this issue).

"The global perspective of the LWF assembly will be reflected in many aspects of the ELCA assembly as participants ponder the renewing power of the Gospel for the healing of the world," the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, ELCA secretary, said.

In addition to the election of the vice president, members of the Church Council, and unit boards, the ELCA assembly will act on a report on an evangelism strategy, the text of a proposed social statement on health care, a summary of the churchwide strategic planning process, and memorials from synod assemblies, as well as other matters.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invites members throughout the ELCA to pray in preparation for the assembly. As participants gather in Milwaukee, petitions will be expressed for the guidance of God's Spirit in all the deliberations, he said.

Resource Centers 'Q&A' looks at farming issues

In every issue of *Seeds*, ELCA Resource Center staff pull together a "Question and Answer" column on topics they discuss in their meeting on LutherLink.

To find the resource center near you, go to www.elca.org/colcenters.html

Q Our congregation is looking for ways to support and affirm farmers. Can you offer suggestions on educating children and families in the congregation about where food comes from and all that goes into putting food on our tables?

A Our Ohio Farm Bureau has some excellent lesson plans developed to educate children as to where food comes from, etc. A contact with your local Farm Bureau might prove quite fruitful. Check out the American Farm Bureau Web site (www.fb.com) for local contact information, program details and more.

—Karen Kaufman, director, NE Ohio Synod Resource Center, Cuyahoga Falls

A Check out our resource center's "letter" titled Resources for Rural Ministry (www.eandsynod.org/resourceclruralmin.htm). Some of it is specific to the Midwest, but there are many resources that would be helpful to any rural group. I especially like "Seven Days of Farming," which features seven liturgies

for celebrating the cycle of growing food.

Be sure to look at these Web sites, too: Center for Theology and Land at Wartburg Seminary (www.ruralministry.com), National Catholic Rural Life Conference (www.ncrlc.com), and Lutheran Rural Response (www.lrrnd.org).

—Julie Aageson, director, Eastern North Dakota Resource Center, Fargo

A Try your local 4-H clubs (www.4-h.org) and the Future Farmers of America (www.ffa.org). They're youth themselves, and are quite likely to give you resources that are much more amenable to your ministry group than the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

—H. R. Stockert, pastor, Granville, N.Y.

A Sarah Hausken is the coordinator for Common Ground (www.mpls.synod.org/youth/commonground.html), a rural immersion and hosting program for metro and rural youth; she's also the youth coordinator for our synod. Contact her to learn more!

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

A I recommend the "Delafield" section on the Independent Television Service Web site (www.itvs.com/delafield). They have stories about rural communities and the

effect of the changing economy on their lives. Many ELCA resource centers have this program on video in VHS format.

—Karen Harthan, Lutheran Resource Center, Clear Lake, Iowa, serving Iowa and Illinois Synods

A Our synod's Rural Ministry Task Force is putting together a video resource highlighting great stories from congregations doing ministry in rural areas. Also, the task force is assembling a packet highlighting rural ministry issues for pastors new to our synod. Neither project is finished yet, but when done, we'd certainly be willing to share!

—Greg Kaufman, director, NW Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center, Eau Claire

A *Mosaic*, the video magazine of the ELCA, did a segment looking at the issues that farm families face in its Winter 1999 issue. Learn more by going to www.elca.org/colmosaic/winter99.html

Also, *The Lutheran* magazine has done a number of articles on the situation facing farmers. Check out "What's up down on the farm?" at www.thelutheran.org/9909/page38.html. See links to other articles.

And the ELCA Division for Outreach has a rural ministry desk. See their Web site at www.elca.org/dolruralministry.html

—Mim Woolbert, associate director for Interactive Media and Networks, ELCA Department for Communication

Missionaries teach high school students in Slovakia

After 40 years of teaching on four continents, ELCA missionaries Brenda and Sieghard Krueger know that teaching has the same rewards and frustrations everywhere. The Kruegers serve at the Gymnazium J.A. Komenskeho, a bilingual high school in Kosice, Slovakia, sponsored by the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession (ECACS) and other Protestant churches. Like many church institutions it was shuttered from 1948 until the early 1990s.

A very vital part of the church's ministry is educating young people for service and leadership roles in the church and the nation. The Kruegers and others who teach in ECACS schools play a key role in achieving that goal. They also serve as a vital Christian witness in a society whose Christians were restricted under communism. "We use the literature and culture of the English-speaking world as a springboard to discuss ideas, values, and lifestyles with our students, especially how

our Christian faith and values affect how we act and think," Sieg explains.

Their students and colleagues are impressed by their dedication. One day when Sieg was grading papers, a teacher said she considered him an inspiration because she knew he was past retirement age. "You don't have to be here; you could be in Florida," she said, "but instead you are here trying to help our students."

Both Brenda, a former elementary school teacher, and Sieg, a retired communications professor at Dana College, see their profession as a call. Besides Nebraska, the couple has also taught in India, Korea, and Nigeria.

In their free time, they enjoy exploring the beautiful central area of Kosice and the nearby countryside. "Slovakia is a beautiful country with a small alpine mountain



Brenda and Sieghard Krueger

range, two rare ice caves, castles, old churches and lovely quaint villages," says Sieg, "so checking out the sights is nearly a full-time job."

Since the early 1990s, when the church began to rebuild after communism, more than 100 ELCA members have taught English, religion and other subjects at

Slovak high schools. Between 10 and 15 ELCA teachers serve there every year. If you are interested teaching in Slovakia, contact the ELCA Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2648, or e-mail dgmSERVE@elca.org, or visit www.elca.org/dgm

Please include the Kruegers and other missionaries in Slovakia in your prayers on April 5 as you use Prayer Ventures in your daily devotions.

Learn about global mission and world hunger

Use these engaging resources from the Division for Global Mission to get people of all ages excited about global mission. All are available for free by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2642.

Children's resources

DGM resources for younger children whet their natural curiosity about the world. What do people in Madagascar have for dinner? When does a farm family in China get up in the morning? Colorful pop-up *Global Stewardship Stories* answer these questions as they introduce children involved in ELCA-supported ministries in six countries: Brazil, China, Latvia, Madagascar, Palestine and Senegal. Global folk tales, easy-to-learn songs and hands-on activities are the centerpiece of *Walking Together into the Next Century*, a four- to six-session curriculum for kids in first through sixth grades. Teachers who want to add short global mission activities to an existing curriculum will find ideas in *Mission Moments*.

Resources for teens and youth

Two global games and a Web scavenger site can add a global flavor to confirmation and other teen classes. Pass out the *Global*



Global Mission Pocket Pyramids

Mission Web Scavenger Hunt and challenge teens to find the special prize page on the Division for Global Mission Web site. On their way, they'll learn about the Companion Synod program, Lutherans in Brazil and sponsoring missionaries.

Remember the old paper fortune-telling toys? The *Global Mission Pocket Pyramids* use that time-tested format to absorb young teens in interesting facts like the number of Bibles printed in "atheist" China since 1980.

Or recruit a host, some contestants, and set up a lively quiz show using *The Missionaire Game*. Inspired by a popular television game show, the game's questions and answers offer important facts in a humorous—and sometimes irreverent—format that children like. It was a hit at the last ELCA Youth Gathering!

World Hunger packet will arrive soon

Want to tell members about the work of the ELCA in ending world hunger, but don't have much time to get information together?

The World Hunger Appeal has many

ready-to-go resources, from bulletin inserts to videos, to make it easy for you teach about this worldwide ministry.

The Spring 2003 ELCA World Hunger Resources Packet will be mailed free to all congregations in April. As a tool kit for planning your congregation's world hunger ministry, it contains samples of new resources. Some of the pieces in the packet are ready to use with nothing more to order, and others can be ordered in any quantity from Augsburg Fortress for free—you don't even pay for postage and handling.

Here's what's included in the Spring World Hunger Packet:

- A new poster for 2003 to hang in a high-traffic area
- Real-life, real-people stories of how World Hunger funds are being used around the world, which you can use in your newsletter or worship bulletin
- A guide with fund-raising ideas and ways to incorporate hunger themes in worship.
- New full-color bulletin inserts on Haiti and the Stand With Africa campaign.

To order another packet, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6855-1).

Check out these new resources in Spanish

• *Iglesia Nueva, Iglesia Joven: Evangelizando y Discipulando a la Juventud (New Church, Young Church: Evangelizing and Discipling our Youth)* This is a collection of articles, written by ELCA congregational leaders, that describe the challenges and opportunities youth face. This resource offers a variety of evangelism ministry models from a various of contexts. Cost is \$5.95 plus shipping (ISBN 6-0001-6627-3).

• *Dejando Brillar mi Luz (Letting my Light Shine)* This is a new prayer evangelism resource for congregational use. This handy little tool in leaflet form, will be a constant reminder of those persons for whom you and your congregation have committed to pray. Available only in packages of 50. Free, pay shipping and handling only (ISBN 6-0001-6749-0).



Soto, Division for Congregational Ministries at 800/638-3522, ext. 2575.

• *Dones de Gracia (new Latino ministry 'field guide')*

Now available for congregations engaged in Latino ministry, *Dones de Gracia*, is a "field guide," which helps congregational leaders carry out their work in a positive and practical fashion. The booklet also supports "Dones en Acción," a leadership development program tailored for Latino congregations that is available across the ELCA. Each Latino ministry congregation in the ELCA has received a complimentary copy. Additional copies can be ordered through Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN6-0001-6748-2; \$4.50 plus shipping). To learn about "Dones en Acción" contact Evelyn Soto in the Division for Congregational Ministry at 800/638-3522, ext. 2575.

Looking for stories about Latino asset-based ministries

If your congregation is approaching its life and work in a deliberately planned approach based on assets, we'd love to hear or read your story. Call Evelyn Soto at 800/638-3522, ext. 2575, or send e-mail to esoto@elca.org.

How to help 'Million-Dollar Youth Challenge'

The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) is inviting youth across the ELCA to gather at least 4 million quarters. Their goal—to raise \$1 million for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and help people throughout the world escape the cycle of poverty and hunger. Youth from Alaska to Florida will either bring their quarters to the Youth Gathering in Atlanta this summer, give them to others to carry, or send a check to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal earmarked "Youth Challenge" in the notation line. The total collected will be reported online in September.

A four-page, four-color resource, which includes questions and answers on the challenge, ideas for collecting quarters, and a list of print and video resources describing how the money will be used, was mailed to youth leaders in ELCA congregations in November 2002. Additional copies, plus stickers and quarter rolls, are available by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2764.

Ways to help people deal with unemployment

The rate of unemployment in the United States is now at 6 percent.
—Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dec. 2002

Employment characterizes so many aspects of a person's daily life that it almost sends the idealism of that childhood question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" out the window!

Even before the traumatic consequences of September 11, the overwhelming realities of unemployment have affected the lives of many in this country. They transcend profession, education, socio-economic class and marital status.

Current statistics show that some 6 percent of our employable population is unemployed. "Not bad," we might say, until we realize this represents millions of people's lives. Consider for a moment the number of things in our lives that are affected by the income generated by our employment.

Among the many challenges in our lives, job layoffs and terminations often hold a stigma that causes people to withdraw from the very communities where they once thrived. It can be the source of conflict and anxiety within family life.

In these times it becomes the church's privilege to reassure those who are affected by the difficulties of unemployment or job transition. Refer to Hebrews 13:5 and Romans 8:35, 37-39 to remind your congregation's members that God's grace is not limited by life circumstances.

How you can help

Here are ways that congregations can uphold and support those who are unemployed or in the midst of job transition.

- Join with other congregations to invite local experts to speak to members about life or career transitions at a community forum or short-term support group. Check with social service agencies for ideas.
- Partner with a counselor or community organization to sponsor and facilitate small group support.
- Offer the option of pledging time and talent as an alternative to monetary giving. You may want to value each task with a monetary comparison for those who might appreciate this affirmation.
- Promote the availability of resources such as food shelf and emergency assistance to people in temporary as well as chronic need.
- Provide scholarships for all activities and events. You might even offer them as work scholarships, inviting parents to chaperone an event or youth to assist leaders in special preparations. This serves to uphold the integrity and sensitivity of those who are in a bind financially.
- Be mindful that some causes for unemployment are health-related and may not be covered by workers' or unemployment compensation. Be prepared to reach out

with love and appropriate support and referrals.

- In preaching and teaching, refer to unemployment and job transitions, along with the many other challenges in life, as vulnerable realities of human existence, rather than surprising exceptions that set us apart.
- Offer formal and ongoing prayers for those who are seeking employment and experiencing the realities of job transition and unemployment.
- Check out this book from Augsburg Fortress: *When You Lose Your Job* by Donna Bennett (ISBN 0-8066-4362-5; \$4.99 plus shipping). It's part of their "Difficult Times" series and can be ordered by calling 800/328-4648.
- Inspire an attitude of gratitude for our temporal securities and a sense of ongoing thanksgiving for our God's gracious gifts of life and salvation. Nurture a sense of compassion for those who are uncertain about one or both.

—Miriam Campbell is the ELCA associate director for Christian Education, children and family ministries.



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Learn about will planning

People of all ages need a will or living trust to plan for the protection of their families and to distribute their assets according to their wishes.

The ELCA Foundation Web site (www.elca.org/fo/resources) contains "news items" in downloadable files that you can use in your bulletins or newsletters to encourage members to remember your congregation and ministries of the church in their estate plans.

The Foundation also can provide a number of helpful tools that members of your congregation can use in making their estate plans, such as...

- *Your Will & Trust Workbook*
- *Notes for My Friends and Family*, a workbook to record important information and the location of documents pertaining to the estate
- Brochures, including *Why Do I Need a Will?* and *Take the Test: What Will Your Legacy Be?*
- A Christian Preamble that can be included in a will or living trust as a statement of faith.

For more information, call the ELCA Foundation at 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit the Web site at www.elca.org/fo



Did you see the Action Packet?

www.elca.org/colactionpacket

The contents of the March-April Action Packet included:

- *Prayer Ventures*
- *Pericope Partners*
- Board of Pensions information on flexible spending accounts
- 2002 Index to *The Lutheran*
- *Lutheran Vespers* brochure
- Bread for the World "offering of letters" brochure
- Mission Builders flyer
- "Imagine the World" brochure
- *Procession* worship newsletter