



## And Grace makes four—congregations sharing ministry

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It was the first Sunday in Advent. The 30 or so of us who had gathered began to sing a not-so-stirring rendition of "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" when something remarkable happened: Emanuel came! The doors of the church opened wide and a whole congregation of Taiwanese sisters and brothers marched in to join us; and thus began a new chapter in the histories of four congregations.

Already home to a Korean Presbyterian congregation and a Hispanic Assemblies of God group as well as the founding congregation, Grace Lutheran, Anaheim, California (1909), the addition of Grace Lutheran/Taiwanese has brought to four the number of distinct fellowships united with a passion for Gospel proclamation—creating a multi-cultural "mecca" in the heart of a city where over 60 native languages are spoken in our schools. In this corner of Southern California, economic realities have compelled many mainline congregations to rent space to other, often immigrant-based, fellowships. Some are frustrated and angry at these circumstances, but God has begun to show us all a "more excellent way." Growing together in faith and love of Jesus Christ we are one in the Spirit of Truth.

It's hard work. Our culture and languages are varied. Our language of togetherness is deliberate. We make a sincere effort to be together in mission, ministry, worship and fellowship.

Often it's a scheduling nightmare! Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that we are not in competition with one another—this is God's property. When we told our Korean friends that Grace Taiwanese Lutheran would make *four*, it wasn't a look of "fear and wonder" on their faces—only fear. How could this work? But we all realized that God would make a way and would transform our challenges into even more opportunities to share the Good News in an ever-widening circle. Someday the 60 languages spoken in our schools will be spoken in our church too. And so the dream grows on...

Grace Lutheran (English-speaking), Grace Lutheran (Mandarin-speaking), Korean-American Trinity Presbyterian and The Rock Christian Fellowship (Spanish-speaking) share facilities at 700 W. South Street in the city of Anaheim, Calif., proclaiming the Kingdom of God just a half-mile from Walt Disney's Magic

Kingdom, the "Happiest Place on Earth." (We like to think things are pretty happy on South Street too! Visit us on the Web at [www.gracelutherananaheim.com](http://www.gracelutherananaheim.com)).

### Some seeds for starting multicultural ministry

Here are a few tips to help you build bridges with other ethnic and cultural faith communities:

- Remember it's a relationship. Consider that you are in a partnership of ministry, and that being together affords opportunities that may not have existed if you didn't have this blessing from God.
- Walk the walk: Find ways to worship together, sing together, pray together, eat together: This is where real understanding begins. Sprinkle other languages into your worship, even when it's "just you." This will help everyone to think beyond their own small circles.
- Talk the talk: Throw out "landlord/tenant" language. Remember that God is the true owner and act accordingly! And even if you aren't a great linguist, make an honest effort to learn the others' language and let them teach you. Think how impressed folks will be that you show a sincere interest in their culture and ministry and aren't in the relationship simply for financial reasons.
- Lead by example: Remember, togetherness will begin with your leadership. Let your friendship be known to all those in the community. This will create an environment of permission for all to become more welcoming!
- Smile a lot: Stop in and say "hello." Ignoring people sends the message that you don't care. Let your caring presence be known to all the ministries that share in property and space.
- Celebrate: Rejoice in the work of the Gospel! Focus on your common mission. Celebrate each other's ministry "successes" and support one another in setbacks.



Sign for Grace Lutheran in Anaheim; (above) the congregations' members celebrate Chinese New Year.



Remember the words of Jesus: "They will know you are my disciples by the way you love one another."

### Resources to help you on your way

- The ELCA Commission for Multicultural Ministries offers a wide range of resources to help you begin a new relationship or deepen an existing one. Go to [www.elca.org/cmm](http://www.elca.org/cmm)
- The ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries' Culture-Specific Ministries Web site at [www.elca.org/dcm/culture\\_specific/](http://www.elca.org/dcm/culture_specific/) provides resources to help meet the spiritual needs of diverse cultural/language communities. This Web site provides print resources, people resources and other links that will be helpful to you in your ministry.
- *Beyond Our Comfort Zone: Social Ministry in a Multicultural Setting* by Miguel de Jesús is a book that provides practical advice and skills training for congregations that want to build partnerships with their neighborhoods. (ISBN 0-8066-3876-1: \$11.99 plus shipping). To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.
- *God's People Building Bridges*: This leader's guide lays out a framework for conducting basic cultural awareness workshops. Designed to provide facilitators with information, exercises, experiences, and process points that will help participants in dealing with people and situations that are different from their ethnic, racial, and cultural group experiences. Order in multiples of 3 through Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0000-2780-X; \$2.95 plus shipping).
- [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) and [www.ecusa.anglican.org](http://www.ecusa.anglican.org) Our ecumenical partners have wonderful resources for doing multicultural/multi-ethnic ministry.

—The Rev. Stephen M. Fiechter is pastor/redeveloper at Grace Lutheran in Anaheim and Christ Lutheran in Orange, Calif.

### Get video on 'disappearing 20-somethings'

Why is it so hard for congregations to attract young adults? Why do some children grow up in the church only to drift away after high school? How many of those young adults are returning to the church in their 30s? And what about those young adults who never left the church? Are congregations meeting their needs?

This MOSAIC video explores these questions by talking with young adults from across the country. Also included

are interviews with experts in the field of young adult ministry and profiles of some exciting ministries that are reaching young adults where they live.

You can use this video as a discussion starter in your next congregation council or evangelism meeting, adult forum or young adult gathering. MOSAIC comes with a handy user's guide that

makes this resource even more helpful. Available in both DVD and VHS formats for \$19.95. Go to [www.elca.org/mosaic](http://www.elca.org/mosaic) or call 800/638-3522, ext. 6009.



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# Resources to help you plan worship in your congregation

There are a number of new resources to help you plan and enrich worship in your setting. Check out:

## Preaching to the Choir

This small book by Wayne Wold provides church musicians with a reminder of what we are really all about and why we do what we do. It is partly "how-to," but primarily "why-to," including planning for worship, choosing music, leading rehearsals, teaching, and caring for the spiritual lives of both choir members and directors. This book is easily accessible, often humorous and ultimately profound. To order call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4675-6; \$10.99 plus shipping).



## Prepare A Road! Preaching Vocation, Community Voice, Marketplace Vision

This book by Kim L. Beckmann, a Lutheran pastor, presents a challenging new method for engaging Scripture in the preparation of sermons. Utilizing the preacher's own sense of vocation, the community's voice, and the collective vision for the Gospel in the marketplace, Beckmann teaches us how to read Scripture with fresh eyes, and to see the coming Kingdom of God in "ordinary" encounters and events. Cowley Publications ([www.cowleypublications.org](http://www.cowleypublications.org)) ISBN 1-56101-206-8; \$15.95 plus shipping.

## Agape: Songs of Hope and Reconciliation

This is the newly published songbook from the Lutheran World Federation,

prepared for its Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, this past July. The collection of songs contains music from around the world. It is available from the Lutheran World Federation at [liesch@lutheranworld.org](mailto:liesch@lutheranworld.org).

## Renewing Worship materials

And consider using Renewing Worship resources this autumn. Find out more at [www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org)

- Purchase the *Renewing Worship Songbook* and begin exploring the possibilities with your congregation or choir. (Remember: the complete accompaniments are in *New Hymns and Songs*).
- The Day of St. Luke (October 18) or a Sunday near that date is when many congregations hold a service of healing. Consider trying out the provisional texts and rites for healing from *Life Passages: Marriage, Funeral, Healing*.
- The *Principles for Worship* (music, language, worship space, preaching) make for excellent study and conversation in congregational educational opportunities.
- All Saints Day is an excellent time to celebrate Baptism and renewal of baptism for the entire congregation. Consider using the provisional texts and rites from *Holy Baptism and Related Rites*.
- *Holy Baptism and Related Rites* includes many new texts for confession and forgiveness. Consider exploring some of the new possibilities with your congregation during the coming seasons.

## Renewing Worship events

Speaking of Renewing Worship, it's not

too late to register for the upcoming Renewing Worship events:

- Trinity Lutheran Seminary, **Columbus, Ohio**, Saturday, Sept. 6,
- First Lutheran Church, **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**, Saturday, Sept. 13
- Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, **St. Paul, Minn.**, Sunday, Sept. 14
- Zion Lutheran Church, **Geneva, N.Y.**, Saturday, Sept. 20
- Reformation Lutheran Church, **Wichita, Kan.**, Saturday, Sept. 27
- Zion Lutheran Church, **Ferguson, Mo.**, Sunday, Sept. 28
- Zion Lutheran Church, **Grand Rapids, Minn.**, Saturday, Oct. 4
- Rejoice! Lutheran Church, **Omaha, Neb.**, Saturday, Oct. 4
- Ascension Lutheran Church, **Brookings, S.D.**, Sunday, Oct. 5
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, **Bismarck, N.D.**, Saturday, Oct. 11
- Christ Lutheran Church, **Jeffersonton, Ky.**, Saturday, Oct. 11
- First Lutheran Church, **Greensburg, Pa.**, Sunday, Oct. 12
- Hope Lutheran Church, **Fargo, N.D.**, Saturday, Oct. 25
- St. John Lutheran Church, **Summit, N.J.**, Saturday, Nov. 1
- Atonement Lutheran Church, **Missoula, Mont.**, Saturday, Nov. 1

For a complete listing of Renewing Worship Days or to register for any event, see [www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org)



## Major film on Luther opening in theaters

"Luther," a major motion picture about the life and times of Martin Luther, will be released nationwide in theaters on Sept. 26. The film stars an international ensemble cast led by Joseph Fiennes ("Shakespeare in Love"), Alfred Molina ("Frida") and two-time Oscar-winner



From left to right: Joseph Fiennes (as Martin Luther) and Claire Cox (as Katharina von Bora) in Eric Till's "Luther." Here, Luther explains the story of the Prodigal Son to children.

PHOTO CREDIT: Rolf von der Heydt.

Peter Ustinov ("Spartacus"). Minneapolis-based Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Neue Filmproduktion of Berlin, Germany, co-produced the movie, which will open on more than 300 screens in 45 major

markets in the United States. The movie was shot on locations throughout Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic, and is directed by Eric Till ("Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace"). Learn more at [www.lutherthemovie.com](http://www.lutherthemovie.com)

If you want to take a group to view and discuss the movie, Augsburg Fortress has a companion book by James

Nestigen, *Martin Luther: A Life* (ISBN 0-8066-4573-3; \$9.99 plus shipping, 800/328-4648) or go to [www.faithink.com/luthermovie/](http://www.faithink.com/luthermovie/) to find free online study guides.

## All-Lutheran Candlelighting for Mental Illness

Mental illnesses are complex biological brain disorders with psychological, social, and spiritual aspects to them. They are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease, or arthritis. In fact, one out of every four families is affected by mental illness.

Mental illnesses include major depression, bi-polar disorders, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, and attention deficit disorder.

Contrary to what many people believe, mental illness is not the result of personal weakness, lack of character, or poor upbringing. People cannot "just get over it." However, they are treatable through medication, psychotherapy, and rehabilitation programs.

The Lutheran Network for Mental Illness, a joint ELCA and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod effort, is a network of people that creates resources to assist faith communities toward more effective



responses to the situations of people with mental illness or brain disorders and their families.

Every year the Lutheran Network for Mental Illness sponsors the All-Lutheran Candlelighting for Mental Illness. On any Sunday during the month of October, which is mental illness awareness month, congregations can use a prepared litany and prayers during their worship.

If you would like a reprintable copy of the 8th annual All-Lutheran Candlelighting for Mental Illness bulletin insert, you may request one by calling the Division for Church in Society Resource Request Line at 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. The bulletin insert is also available for downloading at [www.elca.org/dcs/candlelighting.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/candlelighting.html)

For further information about the Disability Ministries program in the ELCA Division for Church in Society, contact Pastor Lisa T. Cleaver at 800/638-3522, ext. 2692 or e-mail [lcleaver@elca.org](mailto:lcleaver@elca.org).

## Seeds for the Parish

[www.elca.org/co/seeds](http://www.elca.org/co/seeds)

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# Your congregation can encourage healthy leaders

Healthy leaders enhance lives. A simple statement, yet how many of us have stopped to consider how our well-being affects our lives and the lives of others?

Think about a council meeting that went awry because one or more participants were unable to focus due to ill health or a troubled heart. Now consider that same meeting, but with energized people who are able to focus on the tasks at hand — they take breaks to enjoy fresh fruit, good fellowship and mutual support.

Multiply that one meeting by the thousands of ELCA church leaders, pastors, rostered laypeople and other church workers, and you begin to see how our leaders' health and wellness affects our ultimate goal of making Christ known and proclaiming the Good News.

So how can the ELCA ensure we have healthy leaders? The ELCA Division for Ministry and Board of Pensions have joined forces to provide resources specifically for pastors, rostered laypeople, and other church employees. The healthy leaders initiative includes inviting Mayo Clinic to provide important health information, both in print and online.

• *Mayo Clinic HealthQuest* will be mailed to ELCA pastors and other employees monthly and will provide easy-to-read and practical information on a variety of

important health topics. *HealthQuest* will also include important news on ELCA health benefits and programs each month.

• Resources going online—

[www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org) brings the news, information, interactive tools and support needed for ELCA leaders to take charge of their health. Whether it's wellness and nutrition, parenting issues or disease-specific information, leaders will find information they need from a trusted health-care brand, Mayo Clinic.

What else is the ELCA doing? In the November-December 2002 issue of *Seeds for the Parish*, Dr. Gwen Halaas, director, Ministerial Health and Wellness, described the results of an ELCA study on ministerial health and wellness. The findings: Many ELCA pastors and rostered lay leaders are experiencing stress, are overweight, are physically inactive, and have high blood pressure or high cholesterol, all of which can lead to heart disease.

The article introduced you to the concept of the "Wholeness Wheel," at the hub of which is the individual who



Healthy Leaders  
Enhance Lives

through Baptism is a new creation in Christ. The wheel displays six components of a balanced, healthy life: spiritual, physical, emotional, social/interpersonal,

vocational and intellectual well-being. To focus on the special needs of our Christian community identified in Dr. Halaas' article, the Division for Ministry publishes key information and links on ministerial health and wellness at [www.elca.org/dm/health/index.html](http://www.elca.org/dm/health/index.html)

The Board of Pensions and Division for Ministry are excited about providing resources to help congregational leaders and their families live healthier lives and make better-informed health decisions. Pastors and church workers will find these resources helpful for their lives and, by sharing with others, for the vitality of their congregations. Find ways to discuss how your congregation can bring all aspects of health and wellness into your shared life. In the coming months you'll be learning more about the ELCA's efforts to encourage health and wellness. After all, healthy leaders enhance lives.

# Learn about new World Hunger resources for Fall

As you gear up for fall, a season when many congregations emphasize world hunger and when education programs start again, here are some new resources from the ELCA World Hunger Program to help you in planning and implementing your programs.

## New children's video on life in Haiti

Looking for a fun, new resource to educate children about world hunger issues and to show them how to respond? A new video, "Crick! Crack! Let's go to Haiti," is part of Open a World of Possibility: God's Global Table, the World Hunger project for children for 2003-2004.

This 11-minute video features the work in Haiti that is taught in the project's print materials. Through profiles of two real-life families, children are told in easy-to-understand terms about economic development work that uses pig raising and coffee growing to help improve the lives of poor people.

You can borrow the video from your synod resource center, or call the ELCA World Hunger Appeal office at 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, to borrow or buy a copy.

The basic packet of print materials for the project was mailed to all congregations in July. The project has a global theme and features ELCA World Hunger-supported work among poor people in Haiti as an example of our church's work in improving people's lives. The project helps children "sit" at the global table to see how all the different parts of God's creation work together, and helps children share God's good gifts so that no one needs to be hungry.

To order another copy of the packet, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328.4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6955-8).

## Fall 2003 World Hunger Packet

This second packet of resources for congregations in 2003 follows the Spring 2003 World Hunger Resources Packet, which was sent in May. The Fall packet contains a variety of resources for congregations to use in the fall, winter, Advent and Christmas seasons, as well as

Epiphany. Resources include:

- A new Alternative Giving Ideas Catalog with many fun ideas of World Hunger projects to which you can give in honor of someone; great for use during Advent/Christmas, for congregational gift fairs, and gift-giving in families
- A new version of the popular 40-day World Hunger calendar, great for children to use with their families at home
- Fall 2003 Hunger Guide for Congregations with more new congregation-tested ideas and activities, and lectionary-based

ideas for worship and congregational life

- Fall 2003 Stand With Africa Guide for Congregations with new ideas and activities, and lectionary-based ideas for worship and congregational life that congregations can use as part of their participation in this special campaign

The Fall packet was mailed free to all congregations in August. To order another copy, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6901-9). To learn more about ELCA World Hunger work, go to [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger)



## BUILD THE CHURCH WHILE YOU EARN INTEREST



When you invest in the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, your financial resources earn interest while you help to build ELCA congregations. Select from these investment opportunities: **MissionFirst**, a new savings investment plan available July 1; **MissionPlus**, with checkbook availability; **MissionTermSelect**, with adjustable and fixed interest rates; **MissionFuture**, for children from birth to age 16; and **MissionTermAdvantage** investments that

may be held as Individual Retirement Accounts or Coverdell Education Savings Accounts. Call today for our current interest rates!

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## Global mission for youth

Looking for a way to introduce your junior and senior high youth to global mission? Consider the 2003-2004 Global Mission Villages.

Held in Bemidji, Minn., Global Mission Villages immerse youth in the food, language, culture, and Christian mission of a different country each year. Peru is the focus of the 2003-04 Village, which has previously highlighted Senegal, Russia, and China. The ELCA is present in Peru through Huch 'uy Runa, a ministry that provides food, health care, and education to 250 street children in the Cusco area.

Each three-day Village experience is a collaboration between Concordia College (Moorhead, Minn.), Concordia Language Villages, the ELCA Division for Global Mission, Division for Higher Education and Schools, and Division for Congregational Ministries, with a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Sessions are scheduled for Nov. 7-9, 2003, and Jan. 23-24, Feb. 27-29, and March 19-21, 2004. Two events are also being planned for other sites. Scholarships are available.

For more information, call the Rev. David Lerseth, ELCA Division for Global Mission, at 800/638-3522, ext. 2641, or see the Web site at [www.cord.edu/dept/clv](http://www.cord.edu/dept/clv)

## Spanish video and guide

*La Iglesia Luterana en Mision: Historia y Comunidad* is a new video and leader guide in Spanish for congregations reaching out to Hispanic/Latino audiences and for educating present members.



This resource affirms the history and identity of Hispanic/Latino Lutherans in the United States

and the Caribbean. Latino Lutherans bring cultural gifts of music, language, family values, and history, as well as theological understandings and vibrant worship styles to the ELCA.

The video and guide is a teaching tool that can be utilized in a variety of learning settings with distinct audiences, such as adult and youth Sunday school classes, confirmation classes, ecumenical groups, and inter-generational groups.

Available from Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6841-1. Cost for video and user guide is \$9.95, plus shipping).

## Journal looks at creation

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the ELCA's social statement on the environment, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice." Join the online "Journal of Lutheran Ethics"

([www.elca.org/jlel](http://www.elca.org/jlel)) in celebrating this document of our care for God's creation. Members of the task force responsible for writing "Caring for Creation" will reflect on the 10 years since the statement, and "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" will explore variations on environmental themes throughout this fall and winter. JLE's reflection pieces are a perfect length for discussion in adult education, and present many opportunities for discerning faith and ethical issues in the world around us.

Visit the journal today at [www.elca.org/jlel](http://www.elca.org/jlel). The "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" is produced by the ELCA Division for Church in Society.

## New help for fundraising

Is your youth group looking for money for a field trip? Are your church's parents looking a little worn? Looking for ways to expand your church library?

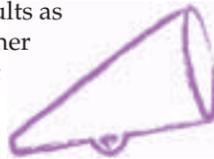
Augsburg Fortress will work with you to help raise funds for your congregation or youth group with a new fundraising program: congregations sell books to their members and communities and keep 40 percent of the proceeds of the sales. In addition, you will receive a free copy of each book included in the program to donate to your church library.

For more information about this new partnership program, go to the Web site [www.augsburgfortress.org/fundraising](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/fundraising) or call 800/426-0115, ext. 687.

## The Young Lutheran

The Lutheran magazine has relaunched its companion Web site for youth, The Young Lutheran, at [www.theyounglutheran.org](http://www.theyounglutheran.org). The site is intended for youth college-age or younger.

It will be updated monthly and offers the "Hot Seat" (a Bible quiz that shows those who take it their results as compared to other quiz-takers that month), a bulletin-board-type feature that offers a new topic each month that users can "Shout Out" about, a discussion board where youth can connect with one another, and a guest column from a different young person each month.



## American Indian ministry

*A Vision of Partnership and Unity* is a guide to ministry with American Indian and Alaska Native people. Produced in partnership with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ and the ELCA, this resource will provide information on current issues and concerns, and a glimpse of American Indian and Alaska Native history. It is a story of Indigenous People of this land as they continue to struggle for freedom and justice, remaining

faithful to the One who created us all. The handbook includes a bibliography for adults and children and Web sites. This is a valuable resource for those doing or wanting to do ministry among and with American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Order by calling Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-7400-4; \$10 plus shipping).

## Free LIRS map poster

The work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has been significantly challenged since Sept. 11, 2001, but this pan-Lutheran organization is not retreating from its mission statement: "In response to God's love in Christ, we welcome the stranger, bringing new hope and new life through ministries of service and justice."



LIRS has designed its 2002 annual report into an attractive 17"x22" map that depicts where it resettled 5,000 refugees, served over 46,000 immigrants, awarded grants to 19 Lutheran congregations, reunited 150 Americans with their families, and helped 14 refugee children find new homes.

The poster is suitable for bulletin boards or as a basis for discussion by congregational global mission or social ministry committees. For a free copy, send a request with your return address to: Everett Johnson, LIRS, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 or e-mail [lirs@lirs.org](mailto:lirs@lirs.org).

## Web site on science, faith

Over 2,000 scientists, pastors and lay leaders are engaged in a conversation about the relationships between science and technology and the faith and life of Christians at the ELCA's Web site on faith and science at [www.elca.org/faithandscience](http://www.elca.org/faithandscience)

Join them on this site to share your opinions, and discover new resources and worship helps such as a new commemoration and recognition of Christians in science, technology and medicine. Print out notes to lead an adult forum on these issues.

## 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](http://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 help you get what you need.

## Prepare youth for college

Teens in your congregation are getting ready for college and careers. You want to help them grow spiritually and serve their communities. That's exactly what North America's Lutheran colleges want, too. Beyond providing superb academic programs and excellent career preparation, their professors are committed to helping students find mentors, grow in their faith, develop personal values and ethics, and enter adulthood with a sense of their purpose in life. The Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA) has developed communication tools and resources for students, parents and youth ministers. At [www.lutherancolleges.org](http://www.lutherancolleges.org) you'll find:

- college planning presentations
- details on college fairs
- list of Lutheran colleges
- college planning brochures

Bring your youth to a Lutheran College Fair this fall. Visit [www.lutherancolleges.org/collegefairs](http://www.lutherancolleges.org/collegefairs) for a listing of event locations.

## Reformed-ELCA anniversary

This year marks the fifth anniversary of A Formula of Agreement—the full communion agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ.

To help congregations celebrate this anniversary, the Department for Ecumenical Affairs is offering an informational brochure called "Let's Celebrate!" It includes a few brief glimpses of cooperation between the participating bodies and resources for worship ([www.elca.org/dcm/worship](http://www.elca.org/dcm/worship)) and study ([www.elca.org/lea/relationships/reformed/5th\\_anniversary\\_of\\_the\\_foa](http://www.elca.org/lea/relationships/reformed/5th_anniversary_of_the_foa)). Single copies of the brochure will be included in the September-October Action Packet for each congregation. For more information, please contact the Department for Ecumenical Affairs at 800/638-3522, ext. 2610, or [eainfo@elca.org](mailto:eainfo@elca.org), or visit the Web site at [www.elca.org/lea](http://www.elca.org/lea)

## New E-zine for young women

CAFÉ, a new, free online magazine, is being unveiled this fall. The magazine, delivered by e-mail, emphasizes community, advocacy, faith, and enlightenment, and is created especially for women ages 20 to 35. Each issue includes a themed article, questions and discussion starters related to the theme, Web links and suggestions for getting involved, and a place for reader feedback.

Designed specifically for individuals who wish to examine today's topics from a faith perspec-



tive and then continue these discussions in their community, CAFÉ can also be used for devotional or young adult education classes. CAFÉ is a resource for young women seeking information about faith-centered advocacy and the chance to make a positive impact in their world.

Funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and by Women of the ELCA, CAFÉ is scheduled to deliver five times yearly. For information or to subscribe, call 773/380-2743, e-mail [cafe@elca.org](mailto:cafe@elca.org), or access CAFÉ at the Women of the ELCA Web site at [www.elca.org/wol](http://www.elca.org/wol)

## Youth servant events, camps

*Journeys 2004* is a catalog of servant events, high adventure camps and volunteer opportunities



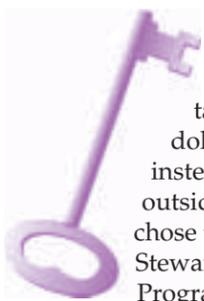
for junior-high and senior-high students and young adults. Learn about programs for community service, social ministry,

hunger and justice education, and adventure in the outdoors.

These experiences encourage lifelong learning, commitment to service, faith development, and a stronger sense of community.

To find out more, go to [www.elca.org/dcm/camps/journey.asp](http://www.elca.org/dcm/camps/journey.asp) or request a printed catalog by calling the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522. To get multiple copies of *Journeys 2004* call 800/638-3522, ext. 2593.

## Stewardship fund program



When it was time for Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, Minn., to tackle a quarter-million dollar building project, instead of turning to an outside fundraiser, the leaders chose to work with the ELCA's Stewardship Key Leader Program.

As a result of this consultant-led program, Pastor Jon Olson said, "We learned what it means to be good stewards and were united as a church family toward a common vision."

Olson noted several strengths of this five-week program: it involved all the members, it was positive and upbeat, and provided a strong stewardship education component.

"Our key leader was well organized, productive, impressive, personal, relaxed, friendly and professional," Olson said. The specially trained Key Leader consultant directs the program on-site for two weekends within the five-week program and is available during the entire program.

Bottom line: Hope members pledged \$240,000.

"We would highly recommend the Key Leader program to others," Olson added.

For more information about this low-cost ELCA fundraising service for building funds or debt reduction, call the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522 for a free brochure or visit [www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship/raisingfunds.html](http://www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship/raisingfunds.html)

## Read about art and spirituality

In *Image and Spirit: Finding Meaning in Visual Art*, author Karen Stone provides a theological and aesthetic background for a view of art as visible Word—as embodiment of the transcendent.

Geared to the non-specialist, the book develops the reader's ability to interpret and appreciate artworks of any style and from any period from a spiritual perspective. In addition, *Image and Spirit* explores the communal aspect of art as a prophetic word that challenges and sensitizes the Christian community, and as a pastoral word that enriches the spiritual and aesthetic journey of a community of faith.

*Image and Spirit* could be used as a resource in adult Christian education and would be a good addition to a church library. To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4550-4; \$16.99 plus shipping).

## Parish nurse preparation

The Parish Nurse Center at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., will offer a basic preparation for parish nurses in the Fall of this year and in Spring of 2004. The topics include the role of the parish nurse, integration of faith and health, and program development.

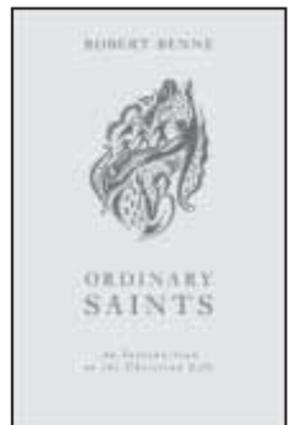
The dates and locations are Nov. 3-7, 2003, at Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minn., and March 1-5, 2004, at Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

To learn more, call 218/299-3893 or send e-mail to [parish-nurse@cord.edu](mailto:parish-nurse@cord.edu).

## Book on the Christian life

In *Ordinary Saints: An Introduction to the Christian Life* (2nd Edition) theologian and ethicist Robert Benne addresses the religious and moral dimensions of life in the 21st century. He discusses Christian identity, the call of God, moral development, marriage and family life, work relationships, and religion in public life with clarity and authority.

*Ordinary Saints* includes discussion questions and reading suggestions that make it appropriate for adult education or reading groups. To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-3626-0; \$17 plus shipping).



# See what's new and helpful on the World Wide Web

## New stewardship Web site

Imagine a Web site that answers the questions before you ask them. The new ELCA stewardship site at [www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship](http://www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship) is organized around questions such as "How do I get financial commitments from our members?" "What is available for stewardship education?" and "How do I do year-round stewardship?" In addition to a comprehensive list of resources that help answer these questions, the site provides ample content you may copy and use immediately. Another new feature is an online newsletter called "Stewardship Now," with new articles posted bi-monthly. Stewardship Sermon starters are weekly comments on the appointed texts to weave a stewardship message.

## Legal help for wills

When it comes to a will, getting professional legal help is the way to go. Nothing is more important for surviving families than having the peace of mind that their loved one's final intentions will stand up to the legal scrutiny of the estate process. The ELCA Foundation Web site has the legal language you can share with your lawyer to make a bequest to any ELCA congrega-

tion, institution, organization or churchwide ministry. Check it out at [www.elca.org/fo/bequestlanguage.html](http://www.elca.org/fo/bequestlanguage.html)

## Find ELCA schools, colleges, and campus ministry positions postings

Might an ELCA educational setting offer an ideal location to live out your vocation? The ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools offers three places to help match your gifts, skills, and talents with available positions in ELCA schools and early childhood centers, colleges and universities, and campus ministry. Go to [www.elca.org/dhes/jobs](http://www.elca.org/dhes/jobs) to find links to all three: Teacher Clearinghouse, ELCA College and University Vocational Opportunities, and Campus Ministry Service.

The **Teacher Clearinghouse** allows you to check out the positions available at ELCA schools and centers (early childhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade). In addition, click on Teacher Clearinghouse to learn about the opportunity for certain private-school teachers to defer or cancel their student



loans for their teaching service.

**ELCA College and University Vocational Opportunities** is the place to go to search faculty, staff and administration position openings in the 28 ELCA colleges and universities. This is also the place to "subscribe position alerts," i.e., sign up to be notified when a new position is posted.

At the **Campus Ministry Service** site you can learn of current openings in ELCA Campus Ministry. A link on the site allows you to download a printable application form. Visit the Division for Higher Education and Schools site ([www.elca.org/dhes](http://www.elca.org/dhes)) to learn more about ELCA schools and centers, colleges and universities, and campus ministry.

## Manual for starting an arts program

Want to integrate arts into worship and ministry? The *Arts Anew Manual* can now be downloaded from [www.good-shep.org](http://www.good-shep.org). It will help congregations form an arts program and gives examples of worship renewal ideas and art education activities. The manual is the result of an intense two-year arts program at Church of the Good Shepherd, Prospect Heights, Ill., a mid-sized ELCA congregation.

# Know your church's Employer Identification Number

Every church should have an Employer Identification Number (EIN). A business or employer uses this number in the same way an individual uses his or her Social Security number. This number is used on tax reporting forms such as the W-2 and Form 941 to identify the church. Banks require this number when opening a checking account for a business. Like a Social Security number, this number is issued once, and usually the business doesn't need to do anything after that—usually.

With the increasing use of electronic filing of tax returns, problems with Social Security numbers and Employer Identifica-

tion Numbers are starting to crop up. It happened to my son. When we filed his tax return electronically for the first time, we found out that the Social Security Administration had his last name misspelled.

Every year tax returns are rejected because the Social Security Administration has the wrong spelling or the wrong date of birth for an individual. As an individual, you may want to check that the information which is on record with the Social Security Administration is correct, especially if you have never filed your tax return electronically.

Churches also need to check on their

EIN number. This year, I know of pastors from two churches whose tax returns were rejected from electronic filing because of the Employer Identification Number. In both cases, the EIN number which had been issued to the church a number of years ago was no longer being recognized. The IRS had neither the number nor the name of the church on file!

A simple phone call can make sure everything is OK or correct this situation. The IRS business help line number is 800/829-0115.

—Richard H. Goodlin is pastor at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Baltimore and a tax preparer for Jackson-Hewitt.

# Resource centers look at adult education materials

In every issue of *Seeds*, ELCA resource center staff pull together a "Q&A" on topics that they discuss in their meeting on LutherLink. To find the resource center near you, go to [www.elca.org/co/centers.html](http://www.elca.org/co/centers.html)

## Q We need help with resources for adult education. What resources would you recommend?

**A** Augsburg Fortress (800/328-4648, [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)) has some wonderful studies for adults. The biblical and topical studies in the *Intersections* series are easy to lead and offer great opportunity for discussion. *Sing the Faith* studies highlight the connection of hymns to our faith. *Kerygma* Bible studies (also available through Augsburg Fortress) provide in-depth studies on a variety of topics such as *Discovering the Bible* and *Into the World: Acts of the Apostles*.  
—Catherine Fink, director, Heilig Resource Center, Salisbury, N.C.

**A** Serendipity (800/525-9563, [www.serendipityhouse.com](http://www.serendipityhouse.com)) has some good studies for small groups. You might want to consider using videos for adult education. Philip Yancey's studies titled *What's So Amazing about Grace* and *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Zondervan, 800/727-3480, [www.zondervanchurchsource.com](http://www.zondervanchurchsource.com)) are both very popular. *Wrestling with Angels* features well-known Christian authors engaging viewers in tough questions of faith (EcuFilm, 800/251-4091, [www.ecufilm.org](http://www.ecufilm.org)).  
—Darlene Kalfahs, director, East Central Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center, Appleton

**A** Don't forget about the discipleship Bible study in the *Living Faith: an ELCA-wide Call to Discipleship*

*Congregational Planning Guide*. Find it online at [www.elca.org/init/teachthefaith/biblestudy](http://www.elca.org/init/teachthefaith/biblestudy)

In addition, the first five (of seven) small-group adult Bible studies on faith practices are available. *Invite* and *Pray* were published last year, and can be downloaded at [www.elca.org/eteam/2002CEProgramPlanner/](http://www.elca.org/eteam/2002CEProgramPlanner/). Included in the 2003-04 Christian Education packet are *Study*, *Worship*, and *Serve*. The packet was mailed to congregations and are available at [www.elca.org/DCM/Christian\\_Education/Resources/2003CEProgramPlanner/](http://www.elca.org/DCM/Christian_Education/Resources/2003CEProgramPlanner/).  
—Paul Lutz, associate director for Adult Education and Digital Learning, churchwide office, Chicago

**A** How about having a college or seminary professor engaging your adult classes? There are many video options that can make this happen! *Dusting Off Theology* features Jim Nestingen (available through Augsburg Fortress), Terrence Fretheim's *Fretheim Explores Genesis* ([www.seracomm.com](http://www.seracomm.com)) is an excellent Old Testament study. Kenneth Bailey teaches about *Today's Truths from Ancient Corinth* ([www.shenango.org](http://www.shenango.org)) or join Doug Cox as he offers *A Glimpse at the Spirit of Islam*.  
—Sara Johnson, Resource Service Center, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, Redwood Falls

**A** We like videos from Paraclete Press (800/451-5006, [www.paracletepress.com](http://www.paracletepress.com)), such as *Warning Signs: How to Help Someone Who Is*

*Suicidal, When Your Parent Needs You*, or Walt Wangerin's *Growing Together*, focusing on marriage enrichment. All are superb resources and offer practical advice for people living out their faith. We also recommend Amy Jill Levine's excellent biblical series called *What's God Up To?* (EcuFilm, see above). There are six sessions on both Old and New Testament stories. Levine is a really engaging teacher. And don't forget to check out MOSAIC, the videomagazine of the ELCA, at [www.elca.org/mosaic](http://www.elca.org/mosaic) for ideas and topics that can be used in adult education.

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

**A** Several video resources are available from Augsburg Fortress ([www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)) that you might want to consider: *Spirituality: Invitation to a Closer Relationship with God* is an eight-session, multimedia course that challenges adults and college students to stretch and grow in their relationship with God. *Roots of Christian Belief* is a nine-session multimedia course that takes participants back into the first three centuries of the Christian church where they can listen to first-person accounts of early church leaders and martyrs. *Why Christian? for those on the edge of faith* is a video resource featuring theologian Douglas John Hall questioned by a college student about whether Christianity has anything to offer young people today.

—Connie Leean Seraphine, Division for Ministry, churchwide office, Chicago

# How to help members 'take their faith to work'

Almost everyone has noticed the "spirituality of work" movement. The concept has turned up in publications ranging from *USA Today* to *Fortune* magazine. And workplaces have been radically changed since the tragedy of September 11, which created more hunger for a climate of spiritual expression in the workplace.

How do I take my faith to work? How do I see that the work I do contributes to God's world? What values and beliefs do I bring to work and life? These are no longer private questions. They have become important to communities of faith that are thinking differently about how their members influence the world — especially in the workplace where they spend most of their week.

*Working: Making a Difference in God's World* is an ELCA congregational resource aimed at the ministries of people who are employed. A high percentage of ELCA members are engaged in paid occupations, full- or part-time, through which God's

world is changed. Many of these same members find in that employment a sense of self-identity and a sense of accomplishment or meaning. Others experience their daily work as problematic, difficult, dull, or even dangerous.

But these worker-members can all find new meaning and value in their work when their congregations value them as workers. And they can see their congregations in a newly important role in their lives as places where they are equipped for ministry in daily life.

*Working* is a set of practical resources aimed at the exciting prospect that your congregation can add value to the lives of people who see their work as part of God's mission to the world.

It includes a sourcebook of hundreds of



pages in a two-inch binder, helpful items, including programs, quick ideas, reproducible pages, activities, and large-scale program models. The sourcebook includes

an audio cassette featuring 14 engaging Christians who talk honestly about their sense of calling in their daily work. Bulletin inserts and a sourcebook supplement are also available.

Order from Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 or [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) The *Working Sourcebook*—binder, hundreds of pages, with audiocassette (ISBN 6-0000-3005-3 ; \$45 plus shipping); *Working* audiocassette only with user guide (ISBN 6-0000-3003-7; \$11 plus shipping).

To sample *Working*, go to [www.elca.org/dm/midl](http://www.elca.org/dm/midl). Click on Ministry in Daily Life Resources and then on *Working*.

# Help your congregation hear 'Lutheran voices'

Augsburg Fortress has just completed the first 12 books in their new Lutheran Voices book series. The goal of the series is to provide quality, accessible books by Lutheran authors that inform, teach, inspire, and renew. Grounded in Lutheran theology and practice, the books cover a wide range of subjects and themes of interest to ELCA members. Each book includes questions for reflection so that the voices of individual writers can inspire a chorus of discussion in the church.

To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 or go to [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org). Each book is \$9.99 plus shipping.

## Titles in the series

*Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core* by Kelly A. Fryer (ISBN 0-8066-4596-2; \$9.99)

*Listen! God Is Calling! Martin Luther Speaks on Vocation, Faith, and Work* by Michael Bennethum (ISBN 0-8066-4991-7)

*On a Wing and a Prayer: Faithful Leadership in the 21st Century* by Michael Cooper-White (ISBN 0-8066-4992-5)

*Let the Servant Church Arise!* by Barbara DeGrote-Sorensen & David Sorensen (ISBN 0-8066-4995-X)

*Our Lives Are not Our Own: Saying 'Yes' to God* by Harold Eppley & Rochelle Melander (ISBN 0-8066-4999-2)

*Water from the Rock: Lutheran Voices from Palestine* by Ann Hafften (ISBN 0-8066-4989-5)

*Who Do You Say I Am? 21st Century Preaching* by Susan Hedahl (ISBN 0-8066-4990-9)

*Signs of Belonging: Luther's Marks of the Church and the Christian Life* by Mary Hinkle (ISBN 0-8066-4997-6)

*Speaking of Trust: Conversing with Luther on the Sermon on the Mount* by Martin Marty (ISBN 0-8066-4994-1)

*Will I Sing Again? Listening for the Melody of Grace in the Silence of Illness and Loss* by John McCullough Bade (ISBN 0-8066-4998-4)

*Connecting with God in a Disconnected World: A Guide for Spiritual Growth and Renewal* by Carolyn Coon Mowchan & Damian Vraniak (ISBN 0-8066-4996-8)

*Give Us This Day: A Lutheran Proposal for Ending World Hunger* by Craig L. Nesson (ISBN 0-8066-4993-3)

## Invite the author to your book study

LutherLink, part of the Ecunet online community for people of faith, is offering month-long online book discussions with many authors from the Lutheran Voices series. This is a unique opportunity to have a conversation with the author to ask questions, get additional background information and examples, or delve deeper into a particular aspect of the topic at hand.

You may participate in book discussions via your regular e-mail address or on the Web.

These online discussions can help your adult Christian education program or book groups in several ways:

- Participate as an individual in the online discussion. All you need to do is sign up at [www.lutherlink.org/books](http://www.lutherlink.org/books) to join in. Encourage other members of your congregation to sign up too by advertising the discussion in newsletters and Sunday bulletins.
- Convene your local book discussion group during the same month as the online discussion with the author. Ask members of your group to sign up for the online discussion, or designate a member of the group to bring print-outs from the online discussion to your group meeting.

To find out the current schedule for Authors Online book discussions, point your Web browser to [www.lutherlink.org/books](http://www.lutherlink.org/books). If you have questions about how to use this online discussion series as part of your adult education offerings in your congregation, write to [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org).



## Prayers requested

Living and witnessing to the love of God in a predominantly Muslim country is a challenge. In the midst of this, Rosie and Daniel Kameo serve as ELCA missionaries at Satya Wacana Christian University in Central Java, Indonesia. On Sept. 3, you are invited to pray for them as part of the Prayer Ventures daily prayer guide.

As a premiere Christian university in Indonesia, Satya Wacana provides higher education in broad fields of study to students of every faith background.

Rosie teaches English at the university and Daniel is the newly elected head of the economics department.

Give thanks for their continued witness and pray for other Christian universities in Indonesia that have historic ties to the ELCA: Duta Wacana Christian University, Artha Wacana Christian University, and Nommensen [Lutheran] University.

# Don't miss men's event Webcast

*I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2:17, NIV)*

Men of all ages will come together to realize their God-given dreams and visions through a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and each other at the "Building Bridges: Dreamers and Visionaries" event at Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka, Minn., on Saturday, October 25. The event will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m.

The program will be based on the extensive research with young men being done by Lutheran Men in Mission. Rollie Martinson, Sean Forde and Peter Mayer will be featured, along with other workshop leaders. Martinson is professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at



Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. A popular speaker, he is also the director of the Young Men's Ministry Research Project being conducted by Lutheran Men in

Mission. Forde is currently a shared staff person between Lutheran Men in Mission and Zion Lutheran Church. An experienced men's ministry leader, he is currently developing resources and programs for congregations. Mayer is the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett and a popular artist in his own right.

Registration for one man is \$45 through Sept. 30, \$55 after Sept. 30. Registration

for two or more men is \$35/per man through Sept. 30, \$45/per man after Sept. 30. Register online at [www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm) or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2595.

A portion of the event will be Webcast from 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. Central Time. To register for the Webcast, go to [www.elca.org/lmm](http://www.elca.org/lmm)

# Protecting young people from sexual exploitation

Between 200,000 and 300,000 juveniles are engaged in prostitution in the U.S. every year, according to a University of Pennsylvania study done in Sept. 2001.

Remember when even just the thought of the word s-e-x would send us blushing into embarrassment?

Well, thanks to constant and overwhelming media influence, sexual images and explicit word references have become increasingly common among groups that are younger by the year.

Already the so-called "sex industry" in America has given us its own spin on the conversation. They've built a thriving business on the rationale that it's just about "entertainment," "servicing needs," "gentlemen's clubs," "legitimate business," "escort services," "massage parlors," "glamorous Web sites."

Unfortunately, most Americans have come to accept this situation as commonplace. Many of America's youth have gone beyond intrigue to become active participants, strippers, and candidates for prostitution as patrons and providers.

Even pastors and otherwise respectable adults have become discreet targets for this manipulation through Internet pornography. Some 6 million children in the United States are being involuntarily exposed to unwanted sexual materials through the Internet (according to a study from the University of Pennsylvania, September 2001).

As your congregation strives to feed and

tend the sheep in its care, here are a few things you might consider.

## What congregations can do

- Be proactive about equipping youth and their parents with insights regarding sexual identity and development. Help children be aware of media influence, as well as potentially manipulative adults and organizations.

- Highlight information and Web sites in your congregation newsletter for exploring specific topics of interest. [www.adults-savingkids.org](http://www.adults-savingkids.org) provides insight on current realities and helps for adult leaders who are eager to consider this a ministry opportunity. One resource, "Wise As Serpents," is designed to engage youth in considering the influence of the sex industry and some faith-based responses to it.

- Engage youth and adults in youth-friendly conversations about current realities and faithful reactions to them. Youth resources related to sex, sexuality and gender are available at [www.elca.org/dcm/youth/links.html](http://www.elca.org/dcm/youth/links.html)

- The ELCA is engaged in defining its perspectives on issues related to human sexuality. Read the ELCA's "Message on Sexuality: Some Common Concerns." Consider using the study guide titled "Journey Together Faithfully" as you

nurture your congregation's awareness and concern.

These and other resources are at [www.elca.org/dcs](http://www.elca.org/dcs)

- Check out the ELCA's "Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation." Call the ELCA Division for Church in Society's Resource Request Line: 800/638-3552, ext.

2996, for a single free copy. Multiple copies may be ordered for 10 cents each plus shipping through Augsburg Fortress by calling 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-6286-3). Or go to

[www.elca.org/dcs/commercial\\_sexual\\_exploitation.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/commercial_sexual_exploitation.html)

To research and study the issue, the online "Journal of Lutheran Ethics" offers places to find insights and contacts at

[www.elca.org/jle/bibliographies/commercial\\_sexual\\_exploitation\\_resources.html](http://www.elca.org/jle/bibliographies/commercial_sexual_exploitation_resources.html)

- Give youth opportunities to build their own self esteem as they address real issues and experience support and affirmation for articulating their insights and concerns.

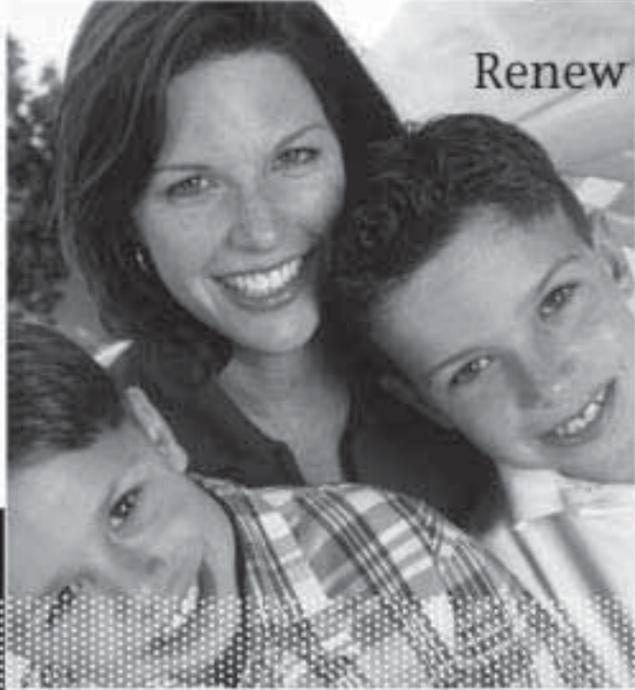
- Nurture parenting skills, integrity, boundary-setting and healthy discernment through easy-entry adult Bible studies and conversations.

- Make it a priority in your congregation to address issues of health and safety for young people. Implement a policy on safety that includes volunteer screening.

- Pray for children, youth and their families in your congregation.

—Al Erickson, for *Adults Saving Kids*





**Renew Your Financial Confidence**

"It's very comforting, because even though Dan's not here, I feel as though he's still supporting us ... he's still taking care of us."

Lynn Hebert  
Roseville, CA  
Thrivent Financial Member  
Since 1998

In 2000, Lynn's husband, Dan, died from a rare form of leukemia. Luckily for Lynn and her two sons, the Heberts had met with Michael Glantz, their Thrivent Financial associate, and had purchased life insurance for Dan.

"I think in the back of Dan's mind, he had great comfort in knowing that if the worst was to happen, the boys and I would be OK financially," said Lynn.

"I can't imagine not having the life insurance and Mike's guidance. Life insurance has allowed me to stay home with the boys and help them with the grief process. We were able to stay in our home, near our friends and support system."

With the appropriate life insurance in place as part of a financial program, you, like the Heberts, can feel confident knowing that your family will be taken care of financially, no matter what life has in store.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a Fortune 500 financial services organization. Nearly 3 million members strong.

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The testimonial statement may not be representative of the experiences of all clients.

## Help for sexual compulsivity

Do you know someone who is struggling with issues of sexual compulsion or addiction, or is using Internet pornography? There are resources to help such individuals.

- There's a Christian Web site dedicated to fighting cybersex and helping young people who are addicted to Internet pornography.

The site [www.xxxchurch.com](http://www.xxxchurch.com) states that its mission is to make people aware of all the issues about cybersex and give hope to those who feel like there is no way out and are drowning in pornography.

- Go to the Hazelden Web site to find books that can help:

[www.hazeldenbookplace.org/store/books.all.asp?sub\\_subject\\_id=18](http://www.hazeldenbookplace.org/store/books.all.asp?sub_subject_id=18)

- Recommend local 12-Step programs modeled after Alcoholics Anonymous. Go to [www.sexaa.org/index.htm](http://www.sexaa.org/index.htm) to find information and meetings in your area.

## Did you see the Action Packet?

[www.elca.org/colactionpacket](http://www.elca.org/colactionpacket)

The contents of the September-October Action Packet included:

- *Prayer Ventures*
- *Pericope Partners*
- Mission Investment Fund investment brochure
- Mission Investment Fund flyer on loans to congregations
- *Procession* newsletter
- Lutheran-Reformed Agreement Fifth Anniversary brochure
- Lutheran College Fairs schedule
- NEW-National Evangelism Workshop 2003 brochure
- Stewardship Resource Guide