



How one congregation reaches out through worship

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Does your congregation have a dream for its worship life? Do you have the vision, the plan, the people, but lack the financial resources? Then you are not very different from Pilgrim Lutheran Church in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul, Minn. In 2000-2001, our "Second Service Task Force" dreamed about what a new worship service would look like, if we could add one. The task force decided that it would be an evening service, designed to reach out to those in our community who are "de-churched"—those who have some experience of the Christian tradition, who have spiritual longings, but no faith community currently. Since Pilgrim's mission statement is "to be a home for hungry minds and souls," it was a fitting understanding of mission for a church located in the middle of three colleges.

Our goal to develop both contemplative and global worship was put on hold when this growing congregation's budget was stretched to meet other priorities. Then we learned about the Worship Renewal Grants of the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, which is supported through Lilly Endowment Inc. We went to work, crafted the details of our worship vision, wrote the grant proposal, and in December 2001 we learned that we were one of two congregations in Minnesota to receive a Worship Renewal Grant. The Calvin Institute's Worship Renewal Grants aim to foster worship renewal in congregations of a variety of denominations.

With almost \$15,000 in grant money we developed a rhythm of Sunday night worship, twice each month, at 6:51 pm (the year of the death of St. Aidan of Lindisfarne). Our Celtic contemplative Communion service is titled "A Celtic Journey into the Mysteries." We also developed three kinds of global services, and we offered a worship conference. A Celtic service seemed like an appropriately "indigenous" way to reach our community, given the Irish roots of St. Paul and the Scottish and Irish roots and Celtic interests of our nearby colleges.

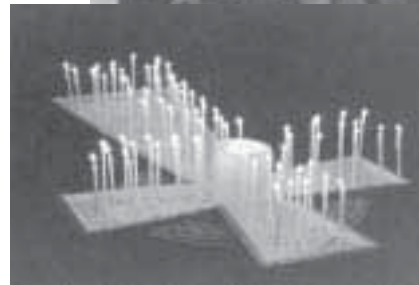
In collaborating with our musical friend

and composer-in-residence Dick Hensold (who is the leader in our area with Northumbrian smallpipes, medieval greatpipes, and several other Celtic instruments), we aimed to develop a service that was both ancient and new, pairing ancient and contemporary Celtic texts with new music. The service is led by a trio of musicians, including cello and percussion. The service is a mass, divided into Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending sections. Worshipers are invited to light a candle when they arrive and place it in a sand-filled Celtic cross. Glowing with light, that cross creates the circle around which we gather for communion later in the service. Some of the liturgical music settings are short pieces, learned without printed notes, and sung a number of times, inviting us to let go of the printed page. The Word portion of the service consists of poetic readings—scriptural, Celtic, and/or contemporary—read in a *lectio divina*-inspired style by several readers, intermingled with music, followed by a generous portion of silence. As we have been fostering the age-old opportunity to close the Sabbath day with prayer, we are also fostering fellowship, with each service followed by dessert and, of course, coffee!

The Celtic service, as well as our global services, grew out of our congregational approach to worship, which is to deepen classic liturgical traditions, while widening the range of our worship styles. Our worship conference, which took place in



Two young participants in Pilgrim Lutheran's Celtic worship service light candles in the shape of a cross.



April 2003, was titled "Pushing the Envelope from the Inside: How Can Our Liturgy Bring the Gospel to the Dis-Churched?" It featured the Rev. Richard Fabian from St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, a congregation that is also committed to recognizing our liturgical traditions as resources for outreach.

In our attempt to reach out to the de-churched with these evening services, we have placed ads in newspapers and have been listed in events calendars in various publications. We have posted fliers throughout the Twin Cities, and a few publications have featured articles about the services. Over the months, however, we are discovering that word of mouth is our most powerful tool of outreach!

How has our Sunday night worship gone? As of November 2003, attendance at our monthly Celtic service has exceeded 100; usually, over half of them are visitors. (Sunday morning worship is often 175-200.) And we hope to publish the Celtic service next year. Our global services are being incorporated into Sunday morning worship, and we are developing a new Sunday night contemplative service.

The Calvin Institute continues their Worship Renewal Grants. Pilgrim was delighted to receive another Worship Renewal Grant for 2003-2004 that is enabling us to focus on communications and outreach regarding our Sunday night worship, as well as to develop another contemplative service.

Find out about grants

The deadline for the Calvin Worship Renewal Grants application is Feb. 1, 2004. You can find more information at www.calvin.edu/worship/wrpgl/index.html

—The Rev. Carol Tomer is the lead pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn.

Get resources to support evangelism strategy

There are several new resources to help congregations implement the ELCA Evangelism Strategy. Check out: "Sharing Faith in a New Century: Inspiration for Witnessing" booklet

This 24-page booklet is based on the ELCA Evangelism Strategy. It includes a variety of resources designed to inspire and awaken faithful witnesses to Jesus. Resources include four Bible studies related to the strategy's four objectives, suggestions for the seasons of Epiphany & Lent, bulletin inserts and clip art. The resource "Inspiration for Witnessing" was in the Jan-Feb 2004 Action Packet and is available at www.elca.org/dcm/evangelism

"Shining Witnesses" video

This brief supplemental video combines visual images and music to stimulate and inspire reflective conver-

sations about witnessing.

The key questions: Why is it so difficult for us to tell the old, old story? How do we witness in our unique contexts? How can we become more effective witnesses?

The video "Shining Witnesses" can be ordered at no cost in VHS (ISBN 6-0001-7750-X), DVD (ISBN 6-0001-7749-6) or CD-ROM (ISBN 6-0001-7748-8) formats by calling 800/328-4648. You pay only for shipping. A discussion guide for the video is found in the "Inspiration for Witnessing" booklet (ISBN 6-0001-7747-X), on the CD-ROM, and on the Web site.

Web site: "You Shall be my Witnesses"

For the latest in evangelism information and resources, go to the updated Web site at www.elca.org/dcm/evangelism



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News you can use about worship and music

Renewing Worship Days

Renewing Worship will result in a new worship book and hymnal for the ELCA, but it's about much more. Renewing Worship is about deepening our understanding of and corporate experience in worship. Conversations around central things are at the heart of renewal. Renewing Worship Days are offered as a means of bringing your congregation into the churchwide conversation.

To date, nearly 2,800 people have attended one of the 21 Renewing Worship Days that have already happened. It's not too late to register for the remaining events in places like Raleigh, N.C.; Columbia, S.C.; the Phoenix area; Los Angeles area; Orlando area, Denver area; Dallas area; Sacramento, Calif.; Houston; and Seattle, Wash. See www.renewingworship.org for complete registration information.

New Hymns and Songs in spiral edition

Due to popular demand, the provisional collection, *New Hymns and Songs*, is now also available with a spiral binding, especially for use at the piano or organ. This volume includes complete accompaniments, Renewing Worship information, and evaluation materials. *Renewing Worship Songbook*, available since last summer, is a congregational version of this resource. *New Hymns and Songs: Spiral Edition* can be ordered by calling 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-7015-0; \$20 plus shipping).

Renewing Worship Songbook ".tif" files now available

All songs from *Renewing Worship Songbook*, for which copyright holders have granted permission or if they are in the public domain, are also available on the Renewing Worship Web site for download. Over 50 hymns, some melody-line only and some with singable harmony, are available at www.renewingworship.org

New Downloadable Music Service

Augsburg Fortress has entered into an exciting new era of music publishing. They now offer printed music as a Web download from www.augsburgfortress.org. There are currently 328 titles online and the list keeps growing. From choral anthems and organ preludes to hymn accompaniments for piano and organ, the number and variety of music continues to increase.

In addition to giving customers an easy and immediate way to receive music publications, this new system will preserve the status of titles that otherwise might be out of print. For a complete list of downloadable music, visit www.augsburgfortress.org

Other online worship resources

Don't forget the wealth of information and resources available on the ELCA worship page (www.elca.org/dcml/worship), especially the Frequently Asked Questions. Lately, the following topics have been of particular interest:

- Employment Guidelines for Church Musicians at www.elca.org/dcml/worship/music/employment.html
- Copyright Information at www.elca.org/dcml/worship/music/copyright.html
- Postmodern Worship at www.elca.org/dcml/worship/worship/postmodernism.html

Winter Music Clinics

Experience the latest music for Lent, Easter, and Spring at the Augsburg Fortress Winter Music Clinics this January. What better way to start planning for Lent and Easter than with the advice of some of the nation's leaders in worship music? Plus, you'll get a sneak peek at the newest music from Augsburg Fortress. Sessions include two choral and one organ/piano reading session. These events are free. For more information call 800/426-0115 or visit www.augsburgfortress.org

BAPTISM, REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Blessed Be God, Who Chose You in Christ



Text: *Welcome to Christ: Lutheran Rites for the Catechumenate, Holy Baptism and Related Rites*, Renewing Worship, Vol. 3
Music: Anne Krenz Organ
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress
Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

Permission is granted for congregations to reproduce this acclamation between October 1, 2003 and December 31, 2005, provided copies are for local, non-sale use only and the following copyright notice appears: From *Renewing Worship*, © 2002, 2003, admin, Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission.

Acclamations and refrains available as free downloads (see above)

Several volumes of Renewing Worship provisional worship materials allow for the possibility of sung acclamations or refrains within the rites, especially in the services of baptism, healing, confession and forgiveness, marriage, and burial. However, the printed volumes *Holy Baptism and Related Rites* and *Life Passages: Marriage, Healing, Funeral* (also available as downloads at www.renewingworship.org) do not include actual music.

Numerous musical examples, in a variety of styles by different composers, are now available as .tif files at www.renewingworship.org for free download. Both melody line (for use in worship folders) and accompaniment versions are available. The accompaniment for the baptismal acclamation (printed above) and other acclamations and refrains are available at: www.renewingworship.org/resources/acclamations/

"Traveling on Holy Ground" Lenten devotions

Noted Lutheran preacher and writer Barbara Lundblad offers devotions on the ministry of Jesus and the Christian life from the perspective of biblical followers as well as people of our own time. A new revision by the author of a resource that has been out of print, *Traveling on Holy Ground*, provides a reflection tied to the lectionary for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. To order, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 0-8066-4827-9; for one to 12 copies, \$1.50 each; for 12-99, \$1.25 each; for 100-plus, \$0.99 each, plus shipping).

"Saying and Doing the Gospel Today"

The Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University will gather Monday, April 19, to Wednesday, April 21, 2004, beginning a three-year cycle of programs, "Saying and Doing the Gospel Today."

This trio of institute sessions aims to take a look at the church's worship and ministry to see the essential connection between the gathered assembly and the mission of the community. In 2004 the institute will look at the center of the church's life as its gathering for the Sunday assembly around Word and Sacrament.

Speakers for the 2004 institute include Bishop Robert Rimbo (Southeast Michigan Synod) addressing the theme, the Rev. Richard Fabian (St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco) on the life and work of the assembly, and Eileen Crowley (Union Theological Seminary) on art and media in worship.

The institute program is complete with diverse liturgical celebrations, musical events, and workshop opportunities. For more information, go to www.valpo.edu/theology/ils/ or contact the institute office at 219/464-5055, or send e-mail to ils@valpo.edu.

Presiding in the assembly

How does worship presiding look and work in these times? In many congregations, a more easy-going leadership style has become the norm. Other worshipping assemblies prefer the beauty of a more formal manner. With all the diversity of styles, can useful perspectives still be brought forward that will be helpful to all?

Pastor and seminary professor Craig Satterlee offers just such a resource in the latest offering in the Worship Handbook series. *Presiding in the Assembly* presents important background information on the ministry of the presider (and preacher) within the worshipping assembly, and then goes on to provide detailed helps for each part of the liturgy.

To order *Presiding in the Assembly*, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN: 0-8066-4299-8; \$10 plus shipping).

Seeds for the Parish

www.elca.org/co/seeds

Seeds for the Parish (ISSN 0897-5663) is published six times a year, bimonthly. It is distributed without charge to the professional staff and lay leaders of the congregations, synods and regions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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Note: Not all the resources and program ideas listed in *Seeds for the Parish* have received official ELCA review or endorsement.

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Learn about great stewardship resources, new and old

Stewardship favorite updated

An all-time stewardship favorite has been updated with practical help for congregations planning their financial response programs. "How to Improve Financial Stewardship" outlines the seven most popular financial response methods used by ELCA congregations: commitment at worship, relay, fellowship meal, small groups, mission festival, special event and personal visit.

Each method includes a timeline, brief job descriptions for leaders, and other tips.

To order "How to Improve Financial Stewardship" call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-7457-8; \$4.95 plus shipping).

This updated resource is also available in Spanish: "Como Mejorar la Administracion de Recursos." Call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-7742-9; \$4.95 plus shipping).

Five stewardship methods in one set

Ready to try a fresh approach to receiving member financial commitments each year? When your stewardship committee is considering the response method, provide a variety from which to choose.

Since its introduction five years ago, the annual stewardship magazine, *Giving*, has become a popular resource for its innovative and easy-to-follow financial response method inside each issue.

A collection of the stewardship re-



sponse methods from the center of each of the first five issues of *Giving Magazine* is now available.

The "Giving Magazine Response Method Set" contains these five stewardship resources, each with detailed planning guides: "Dessert First: Celebrating God's Blessings," "Share the Gift," "All God's Children Need

to Give," "Let God Lead As You Gather and Give: A Guide for Discernment," and "Remember: Year-Long Stewardship Emphasis."

To order all five stewardship response methods, shrink-wrapped as one set, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-7668-6; \$4 plus shipping).

Get stewardship ideas on the Web

Preachers and stewardship leaders looking for the latest thinking on congregational stewardship will want to check out the new online version of the ELCA's "Stewardship Now" newsletter.

Use this monthly Web newsletter to inspire your congregation's leadership and stewardship committee. Share your favorite sections as part of your meeting's opening devotions. Reprint portions of it in your congregation's newsletter. Incorporate the ideas into your sermons.

Author Tuck Aaker is a retired businessperson and former ELCA synod

stewardship specialist. Each month's issue features three articles, and previous issues are archived. Topics include stewardship with people on fixed incomes, turning members into leaders, understanding one's mission, the importance of embracing change, and focusing on priorities and attitudes.

Visit www.elca.org/dcml/stewardship and click on the online newsletter at the far left. No sign-up is required. Articles change the first of every month.

Stewardship Institute e-newsletter

The Stewardship of Life Institute at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg has begun a new weekly electronic newsletter, SOLI/Update.

SOLI/Update will give subscribers links to all the Web site's latest materials, which are added weekly, as well as a message exclusively available to subscribers.

On www.stewardshipoflife.org pastors and laypeople will find a wide variety of practical and inspirational resources to promote stewardship as a faithful response of gratitude to God's abundant generosity. SOLI/Update is available for free subscription by clicking on the link posted on the Web site or sending a blank e-mail message to solilist-subscribe@listserve.com.

The Stewardship of Life Institute is an ELCA-affiliated nonprofit organization devoted to teaching, inspiring and equipping Christians to live out stewardship as more than just financial support of the church.

ELCA Disaster Response is there to help – can you be there?

Here is a listing of places where ELCA Domestic Disaster Response needs volunteers. Do you know someone in your congregation who can help?

NORTH CAROLINA: Hurricane Isabel

Volunteers are needed for clean-up and rebuilding. Contact: Ron Rau 919/861-2833, ronrau@lfscarolinas.org or George Strunk at LDRCEC@webtv.net

VIRGINIA: Hurricane Isabel

Volunteers are needed for clean-up and repairs. Contact Tom Litchford at 757/623-0155

WASHINGTON: Flooding

Northwestern Washington experienced devastating floods in eight counties. Local volunteers are responding to the first needs for clean-up and debris removal. There will be a long-term need for volunteers to rebuild. Many areas are in remote mountain and rural communities. Projects will be designed for volunteer groups and individuals. Contact Norene Goplen, Lutheran Disaster Response Northwest at 503/502-6211 or e-mail ngoplen@lcsnw.org

MISSOURI: Tornadoes & Storms

Skilled and unskilled volunteers are welcome for recovery work from last May's tornadoes and storms. These storms claimed 20 lives and caused an estimated \$500 million in damages. Some 74 counties were declared eligible for federal aid. Needs range from home repairs to complete home and farm rebuilds, and debris removal. Contact Bryan Crousore at Missouri Interfaith Disaster Response Organization, 573/657-1240

TEXAS: Flooding

Volunteers of all skill levels needed for construction. Contact Jean Peercy at: 361/767-7608, e-mail ldrpeerc@bellsouth.net

TENNESSEE

Volunteers of all skill levels needed for home repair.

Eastern: Flooding

For the southeast Tennessee and Chattanooga area contact John Sims, Lutheran Services in Tennessee, at 423/

870-4764. For Madison and Jackson counties, contact Disaster Recovery Services at 731/664-8480 or 800/908-8621

Central: Tornadoes

For west Tennessee (Morgan, Henderson, and Dyer counties) contact Disaster Recovery Services at 731/664-8480. For the Memphis area, contact Craig E. Schmidle at 901/260-5734, or craigs@gbconline.net

To learn more

For additional information about specific regions, contact the individuals listed. To learn more about Lutheran Disaster Response, visit www.ldr.org. If you are unable to volunteer, and would still like to help, send your contributions to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.

BUILD THE CHURCH WHILE YOU EARN INTEREST



When you invest in the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, your financial resources earn interest as you help to build ELCA congregations. Select from these investment opportunities: **MissionFirst**, a savings investment plan; **MissionPlus**, with checkbook availability; **MissionTermSelect**, with adjustable and fixed interest rates; **MissionFuture4KIDZ**, for children from birth to age 16; and **MissionAdvantage**, investments that may be held as Individual Retirement Accounts or Coverdell Education Savings Accounts. **Call today** for our current interest rates and an information packet.

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Christian ed network

Do you work in Christian education, either professionally or as a volunteer? Then consider joining the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE). LACE is a national organization for ELCA educators, both professional and volunteer, in congregations. This network can help facilitate communication, offer ways to share ideas and support, provide resources and educational opportunities, sponsor events, and create regional chapters to deal with local concerns. In the March-April Action Packet, you'll find a brochure that tells more about LACE. Or go to www.elca.org/lace

Assess health risks, free book

ELCA pastors, rostered lay-people and lay employees are encouraged to complete a personal health risk assessment available from the Mayo Clinic Jan. 6 through Feb. 25, on the ELCA's health and wellness Web site, www.elcaforwellness.org. The health risk assessment will help identify health risks and develop personal wellness plans. Users will receive an instant personal health report that outlines their health status, risks, and readiness to change. Reports can be printed and used for consultations with health-care providers and personal goal setting. Included in the report are topic-specific links within the Mayo Clinic Web site, customized for rostered leaders and church-workers.



Healthy Leaders
Enhance Lives

Those who complete the assessment will receive a free copy of Mayo Clinic's *Guide to Self-Care* book.

To take the health risk assessment, log on to www.elcaforwellness.org between Jan. 6 and Feb. 25. First-time users will need to register to access Mayo Clinic's Web site that brings you the news, information, interactive tools, and support you need to take charge of your health.

Resources in Spanish

There are several Spanish language resources you should know about:

2004-2005 Spanish Resource Catalog. This new bilingual catalog lists all the Spanish-language resources available from the ELCA, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. To request a single copy of the catalog, call ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522. The catalog is also available online at www.elca.org/lespanol.html

Renovando la Adoración – Principios para la Adoración. Based upon *The Use of the Means of Grace*, this volume now available in Spanish will provide foundational principles in the areas of language, music, preaching, and worship space, for study and response

throughout the church. To order copies, call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648 or visit

www.augsburgfortress.org (ISBN 0-8066-7023-1; \$15 plus shipping)

New Spanish Certificates.

Augsburg Fortress has designed three new certificates for use to commemorate Holy Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage. The new certificates are 11" x 8 1/2", (includes envelopes) and are available in packages of 12 for \$12, plus shipping.

• **Santo Bautismo** (Holy Baptism) (ISBN 0-8066-4661-6; \$12/per package of 12)

• **Confirmación** (Confirmation) (ISBN 0-8066-4662-4; \$12/per package of 12)

• **Matrimonio** (Marriage) (ISBN 0-8066-4663-2; \$12/package of 12)

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

Advocacy event for peace

Send someone from your congregation to learn about the ways we can work effectively with our elected officials to influence U.S. government policy both here and abroad. The Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, March 5–8, in Washington, D.C., will include tracks on Africa, Asia (Korea), Latin America, the Middle East (Israel and Palestine, Iraq), Jubilee and Economic Justice (debt relief), and Nuclear Disarmament.

On Saturday, March 6, there will be two events for Lutherans that will bring together ELCA advocates from synods, congregations and the churchwide offices. These events will be hosted by congregations and will be open to the public.

For more information, contact Christoph Schneider-Yattara at 800/638-3522, ext. 2635, or go to www.advocacydays.org or go to www.loga.org

Children's video on Chile

This special Mosaic video for children documents the travels of 14-year-old Charlie Wellert, a



Chilean-born member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula, Mont. Come along with Charlie as he goes to Chile to learn about his faith and the

land of his birth through its geography, people, and culture. Charlie also learns about his church and the work it is doing in Chile through ELCA global mission and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Use this Mosaic in your Sunday school as a great way to teach about global issues. Mosaic comes with a handy user's guide that makes this resource even more helpful. Single issues are \$19.95 each or \$50 for a one-year subscription of four issues. To order, call 800/638-3522 ext. 6009, or go to www.elca.org/mosaic

'Form B' gets a make-over

Pastors and staff members throughout this church are probably familiar with the annual task of updating "Form B" to provide information on congregational leadership to the churchwide organization. A primary use of this information is to create the mailing list for "Seeds for the Parish." In addition, the form also provides information on service areas in the congregation, such as the congregation council, Christian education director, director for music, parish nurse, visitation minister, and the like. This information makes it possible for staff of the churchwide organization to send specific resources to appropriate congregational leaders.

Responding to the frustration expressed by those given the task of completing this form in years past, "Form B" has been completely redesigned for 2004. Beginning this year, a blank form will be provided to each congregational leader for completion. Completed forms then will be returned to the Office of the Secretary in churchwide organization for processing. The most significant change from the past is that the new form can be "read" by a high-speed scanner, improving data accuracy and providing considerable financial savings.

You can also complete "Form B" on the Internet (www.elca.org/FormB.html). This online option permits congregations to update their leader information throughout the year as changes occur.

If you currently receive "Seed for the Parish" but do not receive a copy of "Form B" please be sure to request a form from your pastor, or access the form online, by Feb. 15. Questions about the form may be directed to 800/638-3522.

Meet Fund for Leaders folks

In the fourth year of its scholarship program, the Fund for Leaders in Mission is providing full tuition support for 56 seminary students, with a goal to support full tuition for every qualified student who is studying full-time at an ELCA seminary. Many of these students would be happy to visit congregations in their synods during holiday breaks and in summer, and they are available to speak at churches near their seminaries during the school year. These women and men can share their experiences related to vocational discernment and their vision for church leadership.

New materials are available free of charge to help you and your congregation learn more about participating in the \$1 Million Thrivent Foundation Challenge to the Fund. During the Challenge, every \$2 given to the Fund will be matched with \$1 from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. To learn more about how your congregation can participate in the Thrivent Foundation Challenge or to schedule a speaker, call the Fund for Leaders in Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2119.

Statement on education

A task force of the ELCA Division for Church in Society has begun work on a social statement on education. It is anticipated that the proposed social statement will be considered by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. A new Web page provides information on the development of this social statement. It is the place to go to learn how you can participate in the process. You will find the topics with which the social statement will deal and the timeline for its development. You will also learn the names of task force members and have access to related resources. The Web page will be updated on a regular basis to keep you informed of developments in the task force's work. The Web site can be found at www.elca.org/dcs/studies/education

New women's weekend events

In 2004 Women of the ELCA is introducing new opportunities for further response to their triennium theme, "Listen, God Is Calling!"

Coming to a city near you: A weekend opportunity for women to be uplifted and challenged as they continue responding to God's call. Look for...

- Empowering presentations and conversations
- Inspiring, wonder-filled music and worship
- Transformational opportunities for new connections, friendships

Cities and dates

Chicago, March 26-28

Baltimore, April 30-May 2

Minneapolis, July 9-11

Miami, October 1-3

Denver, November 5-7

Los Angeles, January 7-9, 2005

The program begins at 7 p.m. Friday evening and finishes by noon on Sunday. Why not organize a group from your congregation to attend together?

Registration fee includes materials, lunch on Saturday, and break-time refreshments. Special hotel rates have been negotiated (participants will arrange their own hotel accommodations and transportation). Call 800/638-3522, ext. 2450, or go to www.elca.org/wo for more information.

Global mission Tool Kit

The 2004 International Personnel Directory is the centerpiece of the 2004 Global Mission Tool Kit, which will be mailed to all ELCA congregations in January. This colorful and informative guide articulates the goals and vision of the global mission of the ELCA and introduces the mission personnel, the companion churches, and the projects that make that mission happen. A special four-page

section explains how the role of missionaries has changed as responsibility for mission has shifted from North American and European mission agencies to local, independent Lutheran churches.

Inside the Tool Kit, you'll also find a poster and complete registration materials for the 2004 Global Mission Events, scheduled next July in Montana and Wisconsin. A helpful guide to current ELCA resources on global mission rounds out the Tool Kit.

For additional copies of the 2004 International Personnel Directory or the 2004 Global Mission Tool Kit, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2642.

Care of Creation anniversary

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson recently released a letter to celebrate and emphasize the importance of the ELCA social statement, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice" adopted 10 years ago.

Since the social statement's adoption, synods, congregations, individual members, and church institutions have taken to heart the commitments made in this statement, integrating the stewardship of creation into the lives of their worshiping communities. Projects have been diverse. Some have saved energy by installing energy efficient lighting. Others have purchased power from renewable energy sources, educated members about environmental issues, developed community gardens, and more.

In this time for sharing and celebrating, a time to look forward as well as to look back, ELCA staff are gathering stories of what congregations and synods have done to bring creation care more fully into the lives of their communities. E-mail your contribution to Danielle_Welliever@elca.org or send it via regular mail to Danielle Welliever, Division for Church in Society, ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631.

A discussion guide for this social statement is now available online in PDF format at www.elca.org/dcs/eprenvironment. For the text of Presiding Bishop Hanson's letter, see www.elca.org/dcs/eprenvironment/events/caringcreationnow.html

Health care statement

Copies of "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor," a new ELCA social statement, are now available for study and use by congregations and members. For a single free copy, call the ELCA Division for Church in Society: 800/638-3522, ext. 2996. Multiple copies are available for 25 cents each (plus shipping) by calling 800/328-4648 (ISBN 6-0001-7736-4).

A reproducible bulletin insert introducing the statement was included in the January-February Action Packet. The insert has a litany, hymn, suggestions for using the statement in congregations, and other information. The insert is also found online through www.elca.org/dcs/socialstatement/healthcare.html

New book on communication

Getting the Word Out: The Alban Guide to Church Communications by the Rev. Frederick H. Gonnerman (retired public relations director at Luther Seminary) is a new book on effective congregational communication. *Getting the Word Out* provides the tools congregations need to create informative and inspiring communications, whether they are newsletters, bulletins, Web sites, or "other."

The book shows readers how to: assess their audience and the competition for the audience's attention; identify a publication's purpose; and create useful, readable, and attractive publications—whether print or online—for the congregation or a broader community. One chapter deals with the role of publications in the celebration of special events. There are sections on lay-out and design, copyright issues, photographs, and dealing with public media.

Getting the Word Out will teach you how to produce the most effective and highest quality publications possible.

Available from Alban Institute, 800/486-1318 or at www.alban.org (ISBN 1-56699-283-4; \$20 plus shipping).

Free Lutheran Vespers poster

A new poster is available to help you promote Lutheran Vespers, the audio ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The full-color 11" x 17" poster has room at the bottom for you to add the call letters and radio frequency of your Lutheran Vespers station, and the day and time the program airs.

The poster is suitable for display in your congregation, your radio station, local bookstores, grocery stores, or for placement in your local newspaper. The poster will be mailed to you flat.

To get a free poster or to learn more about Lutheran Vespers, contact them at www.elca.org/lv or call 800/638-3522, ext. 2967.



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 help you get what you need.



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

Faith and Wisdom: Life-long learning opportunities for people of faith

Faith and Wisdom is a searchable online database of events and programs offered by some of the most distinguished organizations in North America and worldwide. These organizations have proven themselves trustworthy sources of lifelong learning for clergy, other church professionals, and for all who wish to pursue education as Christians.

Faith and Wisdom is a cooperative project of seven North American Christian denominations. Its purpose is to serve leaders in church and society by assembling information about the best learning opportunities available. Seminaries, colleges, life-long learning centers, retreat centers, and para-church organizations offer these learning opportunities. Go to www.faithandwisdom.org

Hidden treasures on seminary sites

Bible study materials, stewardship resources, study guides on the Lutheran confessions, prayer, Baptism and the Christian life, preaching preparation helps,

catalogs of speakers available for congregational and synodical events, materials on addressing church conflict, resources for developing a sense of vocation in youth—all this and more is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at the Web sites of the eight ELCA seminaries. While a few premium resources require purchase or subscription, most are free.

To sample the possibilities, go to www.elca.org/dml/tel/seminaries.html where you can click on the address of any of the seminary Web sites. Once there, look for headings like Resources, Congregations, and Life-long Learning. Also be sure to check out links to faculty-developed Web sites where many more treasures are available.

ForMinistry.com

www.forministry.com is a member-supported ministry of the American Bible



Society. It recently released its latest Web-building tool kit for churches.

The new system features improved ease-of-use, 3,000 new style options, Bible Search and Daily Bible Readings, custom forms, quick polls, an upgraded e-mail list manager, and support for users of Mac OS X. Tax-deductible contributions from participating congregations enable

ForMinistry to serve congregations who otherwise could not afford to be on the Web, here and around the world.

Health and reproductive cloning

Explaining and exploring key issues, "Genetics! Where Do We Stand as Christians?" has been designed for use in adult study groups and also as an entry point on genetics for individuals. Its eighth chapter, focused on reproductive cloning, is available exclusively online at www.elca.org/dcs/studies/science/genetics.html

The chapter probes questions such as why anyone would want to clone, what our Lutheran tradition says about this controversy, and more.

Notice about Prayer Ventures

Beginning with the September/October 2004 issues, Prayer Ventures will be offered only online at www.elca.org/dgml/resource/prayer/. It will no longer be mailed in the Action Packet. Prayer Ventures will still be in several formats: the traditional layout, in print-ready pdf format; and in Word, WordPerfect, and plain text formats, allowing for incorporation into other uses, such as newsletters or bulletins. For those without Internet access, the ELCA Division for Global Mission staff will print copies and mail them out. If you wish to receive printed copies on a regular basis, please contact Mia Cortez at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642.

Get Youth Hunger resources for Lent

Did you see a new resource packet for youth leaders that was mailed to all congregations in December? In it were several important resources.

- A resource for Lent and Easter that uses *candy* as a way to help youth connect with the traditions of Lent: *fasting*—giving up candy for Lent; prayer, Bible study and reflection (Micah 6:8) and *giving*—sharing the equivalent of what would be spent on candy with the World Hunger Appeal. At Easter comes the feast—but with a chocolate-y "sweet justice" twist! Easter candy is bought through the "fair trade" network, in which the people who grow the cocoa beans in developing countries get a fair price for what they grow—and are thus enabled to provide for their

families.

- A four-page booklet announcing *Youth Challenge*², a continuation of the first Youth Challenge in which young people carried to the Atlanta Youth Gathering 17 tons of quarters for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal—over \$720,000.
- Also enclosed in this packet were the ELCA World Hunger Appeal's *Alternative Giving Catalogue*, Bread for the World's 2004 *Offering of Letters* brochure, information about Lutheran

World Relief's Chocolate Project, and a poster about the *Souper Bowl of Caring* (www.souperbowl.org) in January.

If you didn't receive a packet and need one, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2764, or go online to www.elca.org/lhunger



Resource centers look at resources for Lent programs

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

Q What is a special way for our congregation to observe Lent?

A Leader Resources (www.leaderresources.org 800/941-2218) has several options for Lenten programming. *Lent Kit I* and *Lent Kit II* each contain multiple programs as well as worship services and children's activities. Also, *Aslan Is On the Move* (based on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*) or *Wizards and Wonders* (based on *Harry Potter*) would be programs that would engage kids and adults during the Lenten season.

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

A Consider a rotation—or sharing—with nearby congregations. One year, pastors did a round-robin to each of the parishes, doing the same sermon at each place. The "sermon" was to tell biblical characters' stories from a first-person perspective. It was fun! Or, try the rotation with youth doing skits. It's a way for parishes to have visiting pastors and to experience an ecumenical flavor.

—Pastor Kay S. Richter, Calvary Lutheran Church, Two Rivers, Wis.

A Visuals in the worship space can enhance the Lenten experience. Arrange a "Lenten garden" that surrounds the baptismal font and pulpit. Clay and pottery pots are filled with dried thistle, wheat and other bare branches.

The garden is a visual reminder of how our souls and faith can become "dry" and we need the Living Water and Word of Christ to keep them full of life. Dried wheat and branches on the window-sill are placed to remind people that this is the season of fasting and solitude.

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

A I like the series of dramas written by Curt Joseph (Trunk-In-The-Attic Resources, www.bible-dramas.com). *Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Down* contains six dramas from the Old Testament with a brief commentary following each. *Crossroads* contains six dramas of persons involved with Jesus' trial and death including a litany and order of worship for each. *The Passion According to Luke*, *The State vs. the King of the Jews*, and *At the Summit* are other good dramas for Lent. The classic book, *Before and After Easter* by Debbie Trafton O'Neal (Augsburg Fortress, 800/328-4648; www.augsburgfortress.org) contains activities and ideas for crafts, activities, recipes and worship for kids and adults from Lent through Pentecost.

—Irene Flynn, director, Florida-Bahamas Synod Resource Center, Tampa, Fla.

A The Lenten videos, *Lent: A Time of Renewal* and *Lent-Easter*, are both appropriate and thoughtful for all ages in this kind of mid-week setting. The first is seven reflections on themes (like Baptism,

"light of the world," "living water", etc.) that include stories, drama, music, and visual meditations. It is available from St. Anthony Messenger Press (<http://catalog.americancatholic.org/default.asp> 800/488-0488). The second is a collection of short meditations on the woman at the well, the seven last words, history of the cross, and more. Unfortunately, it is no longer available for purchase, but can be borrowed from a resource center near you!

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

A I like *Where's Noah?* (CSS Publishing, www.csspub.com 800/537-1030). It is an inter-generational Lenten program of services and activities that celebrates the spiritual gifts of all people. We are called, like Noah, to be builders of Arks and Altars. *Can these Bones Live?* is a great collection of dramas available from Augsburg Fortress (www.augsburgfortress.org 800/328-4648). They coordinate with the lectionary and can be used during worship, during a mid-week inter-generational gathering, during Sunday school, etc. Be creative! *The Early Christian Meal: A Good Friday Experience* (Educational Ministries Incorporated, 800/221-0910) is a great tool for creating an experiential meal that is guaranteed to be a meaningful time of learning for all.

—Darlene Kalfahs, director, East Central Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center, Appleton

How the ELCA Foundation can help your congregation

The ELCA Foundation helps congregations develop resources to use for the work of the whole church, including your specific congregation, synod, social ministry organizations, colleges and seminaries, worldwide mission, and numerous other domestic and global ministries.

The ELCA Foundation operates as a pass-through organization, meaning that all gifts received and managed by the Foundation are ultimately distributed, directly or through endowment, to the ministries designated by the donor. Through the foundation, your congregation can help strengthen the church's ministries in a variety of ways.

Resources for congregations

- **Mission Endowment Funds.** The ELCA Foundation assists congregations in establishing and growing mission endowment funds, with an emphasis on supporting and enhancing all the ministries of the church.

Foundation staff are available to meet with congregations to assist them. In

addition, the Foundation provides a free guidebook, *How to Create a Mission Endowment Fund*, and additional ideas to promote mission endowment funds. Both are available by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or by visiting www.elca.org/fo

- **Educating members about charitable gift planning.** The Foundation provides educational information through seminars on wills, estate and charitable gift planning. Individuals can name their congregation, synod, or a churchwide or other ELCA-affiliated ministry to receive a bequest through their will. Making a bequest to an ELCA ministry or your congregation requires a legal will and should be done with the help of a qualified legal representative. Bequests can take the form of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the estate's residual value, or a specific asset. For more information, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit www.elca.org/fo for the name of the regional gift planner nearest you.

- **Facilitating non-cash gifts.** The Founda-

tion helps congregations receive and liquidate gifts of stock at a lower cost than most congregations can achieve on their own. In addition, the Foundation can provide steps and forms to follow to help congregations fulfill their due diligence obligations with gifts of non-marketable assets such as real estate. For more information, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit www.elca.org/fo

- **Investment Management Services.** The Foundation, through the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust, manages investments for congregations, synods and ministry organizations that have their own endowment funds. Assets in the Pooled Trust are managed and invested by professional investment managers, with the ELCA Board of Pensions acting as investment advisor. For more information, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2970, or visit www.elca.org/fo



Check out Global Mission Events, Lenten devotions

2004 Global Mission Events

"Claimed by God's Grace" is the theme of the 2004 Global Mission Events, coming this summer to the Rocky Mountains and the Midwest.

The first GME—jointly sponsored by the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (ELCIC)—will take place July 15-18 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. A second will be held July 29-Aug. 1 at Midwest Airlines Center in Milwaukee, Wis.

As always, a lively mix of worship, music, art, workshops, food and fellowship will bring to life God's mission around the



Global Mission Events are multigenerational and multinational, and invite people of all ages to participate in God's global mission.

world. ELCA and ELCIC mission personnel and international guests will share stories of ministry in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe and the Middle East.

Dozens of Global University sessions will also address global and domestic concerns. Art, music, and encour-

agement for children through age two.

For more information or to register, contact the Division for Global Mission at 800/638-3522, ext. 2642 or 2645 or visit www.elca.org/gme

Global Lenten Series

Looking for ideas for Lenten Sunday or midweek services? A new downloadable Lenten series offers everything you need to create a six-week series focused on global mission: worship outlines, sermons from ELCA missionaries, even menus for global Lenten suppers!

The theme of the six-week series is "Claimed by God's Grace...for Mission Together." Each week's sermon includes stories from missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, or the Middle East. The series also offers stories for children and suggestions for global videos.

All elements can be downloaded from the ELCA Division for Global Mission Web site at www.elca.org/dgm

Prayers requested

During January, the Prayer Ventures daily prayer guide invites you to pray for a number of young people serving around the world. Renee Banas and Rebecca Hylander, for example, teach at Ramses College for Girls in Egypt. Others in the Young Adults in Global Mission program featured during the month are Robert Nelson, also serving in Egypt; Jennifer Amos, Alana Hansen, Anne Jolivette, and Margaret Price, working in Argentina and Uruguay; and Gretchen Gall in Costa Rica.

The Young Adults in Global Mission program allows young people to serve for a year in church or church-related settings in the United Kingdom, Germany, Kenya, Bangladesh, Argentina, Thailand, and Ukraine. This year, 32 people from the ELCA are serving in this rapidly growing program.

Pray for these young people on Jan. 13, 21, and 27, who have devoted one year of their time to serve God in places far from home. Pray also for those considering this opportunity this coming year, and give encouragement to young adults you know to consider serving in this way.

Youth learn to make faith-based videos

"I had one of the best times of my life," said Daniel Larson from Eugene, Ore. "Great! I couldn't have had a better experience, not only producing, but also working as a team," exclaimed Tara Ashleman from Shoreline, Wash. These are just a few of the comments from the young people who graduated from Evergreen Youth Television's (EYTV) 2003 Video Camp.

This summer your congregation's youth can be a part of EYTV Camp VIBE (Video Instruction and Basic Education) and use their communication gifts (writing, acting, technical skills) to produce videos from a faith and values perspective.

Each summer, high-school students from across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico gather in Seattle to learn how to make videos from conception to completion. EYTV also runs camps and workshops around the country for congregations, community centers, and non-profit organizations. Contact Henry Jenkins, at henry@evergreentv.com if your group or organization is interested in a camp or workshop at your facility.

EYTV teaches more than just video production. EYTV teaches leadership, relationship building, and life skills, to help develop a well-rounded young person who is able to handle the pressures of working in this industry or any other.



VIBE participant Ricky Featheringill sets up a shot.

Many past participants are now working for FOX News, CBS, and Pan Vision in roles such as camera operators, editors, producers, engineers, and writers.

Do you know someone who wants to experience a life-changing event by attending a 12-day summer intensive video camp? The next camp is July 21-Aug. 1 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. This camp is open to all youth entering grades 10-12 in the fall of 2004. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$600, which includes room, board, and tuition. Scholarships are available. Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the participant. Applications are due by March 31, and notification of acceptance will occur in mid-April.

Do you know a congregation, school district, community center or non-profit organization that would like training in professional video production from conception to completion or that is interested in having a video produced from a faith and values perspective? Contact Vide-Oh! Productions, EYTV's award-winning production division, at videoh@evergreentv.org or call 800/878-7280.

Welcoming and supporting those with allergies, asthma

“...it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble.” (Romans 14:21)

Congregations across the ELCA are implementing innovative ways to create a climate that is welcoming and inclusive. Unfortunately, the church lags behind other institutions in an increasing consciousness about environmental health, especially as it affects those with allergies and asthma. We expect safe, health-wise schools, workplaces, smoke-free restaurants, and we are intentional about ensuring our homes provide a healthy environment. How is it that we often overlook the church’s responsibility for our physical well-being?

More than 50 million Americans live with allergic disease and nearly 18 million have asthma. Indoor air pollution is cited as one of the top five human health hazards in our country. For those who suffer with allergies and asthma, exposure to triggers can cause adverse responses such as sneezing, coughing, breathing difficulties, nausea, headaches and even life-threatening anaphylaxis reactions. For some, coming to church is a health hazard.

Approximately 15 percent of the population is affected by multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), an adverse reaction to fragrances and other toxic chemicals in the environment at levels that have been generally accepted as non-toxic. In addition to the above symptoms, people with

MCS may experience short- or long-term memory loss, exhaustion, depression, learning disabilities (in children), skin irritations, and a host of other reactions.

Common triggers

Foods: eight foods are responsible for up to 90 percent of all food allergies: milk, eggs, peanuts, soy, wheat, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish.

Chemicals: found in fragrances, cleaning materials, disinfectants, paints, latex and office supplies.

Airborne contaminants: mold, dust, and pollen are the most common culprits.

Animals and Insects: pets, bees, wasps, fire ants and cockroach allergens.

It is difficult to fully understand the complex nature of allergies, asthma, and the varied ways they are manifested in each person, but through education and awareness-building, and with intentional changes to practices and procedures, the church can take steps to reduce barriers that prevent members and visitors from full participation in the life of the church.

How you can help

- Urge parents and leaders to provide snacks without nuts and nut oils (such as almond extract) or to mark baked goods containing these items.
- Make it known that non-wheat or gluten-

free bread is also available for communion.

- Use the bulletin or newsletter to invite worshipers to avoid the use of perfume or after-shave.

Consider adopting a “scent-free” policy.

- If incense or scented candles are to be used, give advance notice.
- Liability issues are prompting many congregations to remove medications and epi-pens from first aid kits. Instead, train leaders to recognize symptoms and warning signs of asthma attacks or allergic reactions. A call to 911 is the preferred response.
- Invite a parish nurse or health care professional to meet with committees and other leaders to address a holistic approach to maintaining a healthy environment at church. Include leaders for worship, Christian education, the early-childhood center, office personnel, building maintenance staff and volunteers.
- May is National Allergy / Asthma awareness month. Use this opportunity to inform, educate, and adopt new practices.
- Building maintenance is critical in combating mold. Keep the roof leak-free, control humidity, and seal areas prone to moisture.
- Be aware that ceiling fans wreak havoc as dust and carpet fibers are stirred up.
- Schedule heavy maintenance such as painting, carpet cleaning or wax-stripping at a time when a significant “airing-out” period is afforded.

Resources


- *Ministry to the Environmentally Ill: The Cindy Duehring Story.* A video available from the Eastern Resource Center, e-mail julie.aageson@ecunet.org
- The spring issue of the *TALK* resource (www.augsburgfortress.org/store) includes a letter from a parent regarding a peanut allergy.
- See “Colognes, Chemicals, Compassion and the Church” at www.ucg.org/unl/un0201/cologne.html
- The Food Allergy Network (www.foodallergy.org 703/691-3179) is an excellent source of information for food allergies.
- See worship suggestions at www.the Lutheran.org/0201/page10b.html
- Articles, recipes and helpful suggestions www.livingwithout.com
- Common chemicals and their effects www.ourlittleplace.com/chemicals.html or www.healthyfamiliesnow.org

—Diane Monroe is associate director for youth education and confirmation and Christian education in the ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries.



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Did you see the Action Packet?

www.elca.org/colactionpacket

The contents of the January-February Action Packet included:

- *Prayer Ventures*
- *Pericope Partners*
- Women of the ELCA “Saying Yes” regional events bulletin
- *Sharing Faith in a New Century* evangelism workbook
- Bread for the World’s 2004 *Offering of Letters* brochure
- *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor* social statement
- *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor* bulletin insert