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# Seeds for the Parish

RESOURCE PAPER FOR LEADERS OF ELCA CONGREGATIONS

## Select Offers Online Courses

Select, a leadership development program of the ELCA, has a new name, Select Multimedia Resources: Lutheran Voices for Leadership Formation.

For more than 20 years, Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, has housed the Select program, which produces multi-media programs for theological education. Although the main business of Select Multimedia Resources will continue at Trinity under the direction of Skip Cornett, the seminary's director of continuing education and lifelong learning, the order fulfillment operation has shifted to the facilities of Seraphim Communications, St. Paul, Minn.

With these structural changes also come technological advances. A brand new Web site ([www.elca.org/select](http://www.elca.org/select)) has been developed and customers can now place orders online.

While it formerly relied on videotapes as the primary media for its educational programs, Select has moved into the digital age, and all new programs and replacements for older programs will be produced mostly in DVD format. To facilitate this change from VHS to DVD, the Thrivent Foundation provided Select Multimedia Resources with a grant in the amount of \$300,000. The grant will underwrite a five-year conversion plan to new formats and improve production values significantly.

A portion of the grant also will finance development of online courses for associate in ministry (AIM) candidates. Jodi Hanson, director of Faith Builders, Lay Education and Leadership Development Program, works from South Dakota as the director of Online Courses for Select.

These new online courses, along with locally sponsored traditional courses, meet a number of different needs, including continuing education for rostered leaders or lay persons and a means of education for Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAM).

The South Dakota Synod successfully

piloted the new online program for two-and-one-half years. Jodi had met a number of people interested in AIM candidacy who did not have access to college or seminary courses and who were reluctant to use Select courses without peers and



facilitation. But when Jodi spoke with Gloria Doherty, director of Fisher's Net, Hanson realized that Select courses could be conducted online with a theologian as class facilitator. In the fall of 2003, the first Select online courses began. In February 2006, courses were offered nationally for the first time. Now it's possible to view video productions, study educational materials, and work together online, irrespective of separation by distance.

These are some of the responses of participants:

*"Of all the coursework I did in preparation for my AIM, the online Select courses were my absolute favorite! I could do the reading, watch the video, and post my essays whenever it fit into my schedule each week... but the Tuesday night chat was the highlight! That's where*

*the real learning happened for me!"*

*Pat Eidsness  
Director of Youth and  
Family Ministry  
South Dakota Synod*

*"The classes that I took 'online' gave me the opportunity to have the best of two worlds. I could take the class in my own home, but yet had to 'work' at the subject with writing the weekly papers and being a vital part of a class."*

*Suzanne Hansen,  
Youth and Family Minister  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Beresford, S.Dak.*

*"The Select Program has truly been a lifeline for me. I am so grateful for the opportunity to pursue something that I thought I might have to back-burner and hope that the Select Program is able to offer even more quality courses in the future. I will be applying to my synod in the AIM program soon and I know that I would not have been able to do that without your program."*

*Sherry Martin  
Christian Education Coordinator  
St Mark's Lutheran, Aurora, Ill.*

In September, 2006, Select will be hosting a number of courses that qualify for AIM candidacy and can be used in many other venues:

- *Interpreting the New Testament*
- *From Jesus to Luther*
- *Systematic Theology*
- *Augsburg Confessions*
- *Rediscovering the Catechisms*

For more information about Select Multimedia Resources in the new era, visit [www.elca.org/select/](http://www.elca.org/select/) or [www.selectlearning.org/](http://www.selectlearning.org/) or contact either Skip Cornett, at 614/235-4136, [wcornett@trinitylutheranseminary.edu](mailto:wcornett@trinitylutheranseminary.edu) or Jodi Hanson at 605/274-4031, [jodi.hanson@augie.edu](mailto:jodi.hanson@augie.edu)

## Resources for Sharing the ELCA Story

Describing the mission of the ELCA can be a rather daunting task. Luckily, there are many resources produced annually that can assist you in sharing the churchwide story.



**Vision for Mission**  
The Vision for Mission annual offering supports the global and domestic ministries of our church and raises awareness of the

work performed in the 65 synods and the churchwide organization. This offering engages congregations by designating the third Sunday in May (or another Sunday during the year) to share material and to invite gifts. Since its inception, the Vision for Mission has provided over \$14 million for mission and ministry. This year's resources were sent to congregations the first week in April. These include:

- reproducible materials – including descriptions of how your gifts support ministry
- bulletin inserts with offering envelopes
- hymns and prayer petitions for worship
- a poster

If your congregation has not received these materials, please don't hesitate to contact the ELCA Foundation at 800/638-3522, ext. 2970 or [kathleen.hetland@elca.org](mailto:kathleen.hetland@elca.org)

**Making Christ Known**  
Over the years, the *Making Christ Known* magazine (ISBN 6-0002-1547-9) has proven to be a very powerful tool for interpreting the work of the church. This 20-page resource features stories about our church's commitment to global mission, evangelical outreach, leadership, service,

supporting of congregations, and hunger and disaster relief. The information has also been made available on DVD or CD-ROM.

To obtain copies of the magazine (free except for shipping charges), please contact Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648. For a free DVD or CD-ROM, please contact the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522.

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# Church Musicians Association Hosts Summer Conferences

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is a professional organization dedicated to strengthening the ministry of music in the Lutheran church. Among its activities, ALCM sponsors summer music conferences. This summer there are four conferences from which to choose:

## Region 1

Co-sponsored with the Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM)

*Bring Many Names: ALCM/LPM Columbus 2006*  
July 11-15, 2006

Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Capital University, and Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, Ohio

Daily worship using a variety of Lutheran and Episcopal liturgies will be a central focus of the conference. Sixty-four workshops of eight sessions each will explore topics of interest for clergy and musicians. LPM coordinator training and re-certification are available during this conference for an additional fee. A recital will be given by Marilyn Keiser on the new Schantz organ in Mees Hall at Capital University.

## Region 2

*Empowered for the Work of Ministry*

June 25-28, 2006

Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, N.C.

Plenary sessions will examine the roots of liturgy and explore its relevance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Two conference choirs will provide a variety of choral and vocal opportunities for

conference participants. Workshops also will be offered on a number of musical topics that relate to performance, philosophy, and pedagogy. Faculty will include Marguerite Brooks, director of the Choral Conducting Program at Yale University, Dr. Robin Leaver, professor of Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College at Rider University, the Rev. Jeffery Rowthorn, retired Anglican Bishop, and Florence Jowers, director of the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus.

## Region 3

*The Future is Now – The Church's Young People in Worship and Music*

July 9-12, 2006

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Workshops will include structuring choral rehearsals, liturgical and devotional score studies, incorporation of various musical instruments in worship, and discussion sessions on a number of music-related issues. Guest speakers and leaders will include Jim Rindelaub, executive director of Choirsters Guild, Dallas; Todd Carrico, director of music, Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn, Ill; the Rev. Craig Mueller, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago; Lee Afdahl, director of music, First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, Minn.

## Region 4

*An Epiphany in the Emerald City*

July 7-10, 2006

Seattle University, Seattle, Wash.

This conference for clergy and church musicians



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will focus on Epiphany, Lectionary Cycle C. Plenary presenters will be Susan Briehl, Paul Hoffman, and Samuel Torvend. Janet Satre Ahrend, David Dahl, and C. Michael Hawn will be featured musicians. In addition to studying Evening and Morning Prayer, the conference will feature a hymnfest on Whidbey Island at St. Augustine in the Woods and a musical celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord on the beach. This will be preceded by a crabfeast at Deception Pass State Park. The conference also includes practical music workshops, Sunday evening Compline at St. Mark's Cathedral, and late-night receptions. Clergy/musician teams and non-ALCM members are welcome to register.

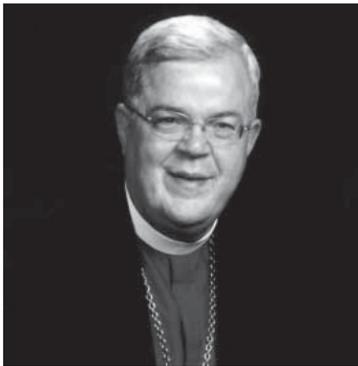
Information on ALCM membership and the conferences is available at [www.alcm.org](http://www.alcm.org)

## The Lutheran Adds New Feature on Liturgy

Do you enjoy worship but wish to have a better understanding of the liturgy? You're not alone.

Because many ELCA members have questions about worship, *The Lutheran* created a new column for 2006 called "Worship whys," by Robert A. Rimbo, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New York City and former bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod. The column explores questions about worship, including the place of lament and confession, and the meaning of the liturgy.

Look for this column in your next issue or subscribe to *The Lutheran* for \$15.95 at [www.thelutheran.org](http://www.thelutheran.org)



Rev. Robert A. Rimbo

## Free Lectionary Bible Studies

Congregations may obtain free lectionary Bible studies and other resources at a Web site sponsored by Lutheran Bible Ministries (LBM).



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### Light on the Lessons

These studies, based on the three lessons of the lectionary, invite users to explore the meaning of the Scripture. There is very little narrative in the lessons, perhaps the only ones that utilize the historical-critical, mainline approach to Bible study. Each lesson offers "warm-up" questions, study questions, and application-to-life questions. A final

note offers prayer and spiritual growth ideas for use during the week. There are two pages of material for participants and two for leaders.

### CEV Readings

The easy-to-understand *Contemporary English Version*, developed by the American Bible Society, can be both heard and read. Permission was obtained to use this translation to prepare lessons following the Lutheran lectionary. These can be modified to fit different bulletin formats.

The executive director of LBM, Pastor John Kerr, develops the Bible studies. He was senior editor for Youth and Leadership Resources in the Division for Parish Services of the former Lutheran Church in America.

LBM is also finishing work on a four-part interactive video study based on key themes from Isaiah. Pastor Jane O'Hara Shields, now ELCA mission director in the New England Synod, is the presenter. The video version will be available in VHS and DVD formats and a print version will be offered on CD.

Free lectionary Bible studies and other resources may be downloaded at [www.bibleministries.org](http://www.bibleministries.org)

## Pre-order Worship Resources

Your congregation may pre-order the first volumes of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* resources from Augsburg Fortress at [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) The following editions will be available in early October 2006:

- *Pew Edition*, October 3
- *Leaders Ritual Edition*, October 3
- *Leaders Desk Edition*, October 1
- *Accompaniment Edition: Liturgies*, October 1
- *Accompaniment Edition: Hymns*, October 1
- *Liturgies* CD-ROM, October 1

## Seeds for the Parish

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

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# MIF Consultants Help Congregations Plan for the Future

A building project can generate many questions for a congregation. These might include:

- How will the project support the congregation's mission?
- How many worshipers should a new sanctuary accommodate?
- Does the design of the building convey a welcoming environment?

Knowing the right questions to ask early in the process will lead to effective answers, and the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) has experts who can help.

According to Rev. Mark Ziemer, pastor of Grace Lutheran in Tomahawk, Wis., his congregation benefited from MIF's input early in the planning process. "Pat [MIF building consultant Patricia Dever] quickly helped us see who we are, where we are going as a congregation and our thinking in terms of long-term impact on our community. Pat provided good advice from her experience that we couldn't duplicate."

Celebration Lutheran in East Wenatchee, Wash., is finishing its first building. Pastor David Haven says that MIF staff architect Peter Norgren put Celebration's project on a sound footing by noting the expressed needs of the congregation and providing initial schematic drawings that reflected the congregation's wishes, while MIF building consultant Phil Roe guided Celebration through the financing process.

Congregations benefit optimally if MIF is consulted in the early planning stages of a building project. Analyzing fundraising and financing potential early in a building project ensures that



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the final design will be within the congregation's financial means. While MIF building consultants will help secure financing, they can also help congregations ensure that their building projects support their mission and ministry.

Collectively, the consultants have worked with thousands of ELCA congregations, synods, and

ELCA-related organizations, saving them time, money, and headaches. The building consultants' services are available free of charge. To contact the MIF building consultant who serves your synod, call the Fund at 877/886-3522 or visit [www.elca.org/mif/buildconsultants.html](http://www.elca.org/mif/buildconsultants.html)

## Relocation is a Real Trip



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Relocation to answer a "new call" is a common and necessary step for many members of the ELCA community. Establishing a new home has many components, but the move process is a skill unto itself.

You may wish to take advantage of the experience of Graebel

Van Lines, who has handled thousands of moves for the ELCA since 1987, and has been a vendor-partner in the ELCA Advantage Program since its inception in 1993.

Bishop Franklin Heglund (retired), who has moved six times, recently provided some tips for a successful move:

- Plan ahead, allowing time to obtain estimates and to make decisions about what to take.
- Reduce the number of books to be moved; consider donating some of them to the church library.
- Obtain used boxes from your friendly mover.

First, obtain an estimate. A moving company is happy to provide an in-home survey of your goods even before you are certain of your move dates or of what will be moved. Ideally, you should get the estimate four-to-six weeks prior to the move.

Summer months, especially from the last week of May through August, mark the peak season for moving companies, so it is advisable to schedule around these dates. If you must move during these peak periods, have a flexible schedule.

Try to maintain your sense of humor during relocation. This can help you get through the stress of moving. Moving is challenging, but it can also be an exciting time full of special moments and new beginnings.

## Hearings on Draft Social Statement

Hearings on a new draft social statement, *Our Calling in Education: First Draft of a Social Statement*, are being held through October 15, 2006. ELCA members and those involved in Lutheran schools, colleges, and campus ministries are encouraged to attend a hearing and respond to the draft statement.

A representative of the task force working on the social statement will be present at each hearing. The hearings are important for the task force as it develops the proposed social statement to be considered by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Print copies of the draft statement, currently only available in English, are available in bulk from Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648. Callers should use the title *Statement on Education Draft* and give the product code number as ISBN: 6-0002-0890-1. Copies are \$0.25 each, plus shipping.

Single, complimentary copies of the draft statement in English and Spanish, and a listing of hearings, are available at [www.elca.org/socialstatements/education/](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/education/)

For those who do not use the computer, call the Church in Society resource request line at 800/638-3522, ext. 2996.



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We help build your portfolio. That's what makes us a premier investment fund. We also help build the Lutheran church. That's what makes us the Mission Investment Fund – the only investment fund for individuals that's a ministry of the ELCA. Because the money you invest not only helps save for goals such as retirement or college education, it also helps fund loans to build new congregations and renovate existing ones. So you can feel good knowing your money is working hard to build a future for you – and your church. To find out how you can invest, call 877.886.3522 or visit us at [www.elca.org/mif](http://www.elca.org/mif).

877.886.3522



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

# Ripe for Picking

## HIV/AIDS Resource

A new teaching resource on HIV/AIDS developed especially for youth was launched in February. Produced by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and co-sponsored by UNAIDS, the World AIDS Campaign, and the World Health Organization, it can be used in schools and churches, and by community and faith-based organizations. Its production marks the United Nations' review of its Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which will take place from May 31 to June 2, 2006. For more information visit [www.e-alliance.ch/hiv\\_curriculum.jsp](http://www.e-alliance.ch/hiv_curriculum.jsp)

## Lutheran Older Adults

The Association for Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA) is a national inter-Lutheran organization dedicated to providing a variety of services to older adults: publications, resources, service awards, advocacy activities, pilgrimages, senior-fests, and Lutherhostels.

2006 summer events include: June 19-23, Indiana Lutherhostel, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.; June 19-23, Minnesota Lutherhostel at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. (in cooperation with Lutheran

Summer Music).

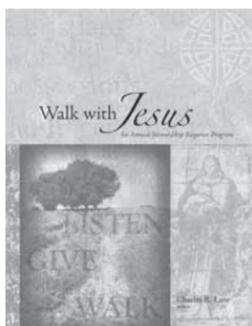
For complete information about ALOA, its services and events, visit [www.aloaserves.org](http://www.aloaserves.org) Phone: 800/930-2562; e-mail: [aloa-4u@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aloa-4u@sbcglobal.net)

## Walk with Jesus

*Walk with Jesus* is a new stewardship response program written specifically for small and mid-size congregations. The four-week program contains everything needed to conduct a biblically-based effective stewardship program in your congregation. *Walk with Jesus* is well-organized, straight-forward, and easy to use.

Materials are provided in a booklet and on CD. Included are bulletin inserts, letters, and worship talk guides for three consecutive weeks. Each week's materials are focused on a specific stewardship theme. Commitment Sunday materials are also provided. The CD contains Microsoft Word® files that can be customized for a congregation's specific needs.

*Walk with Jesus* is published by the Stewardship Team of the ELCA and is available for \$20 from Augsburg Fortress. Order by calling 800/328-4648 or visit [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)

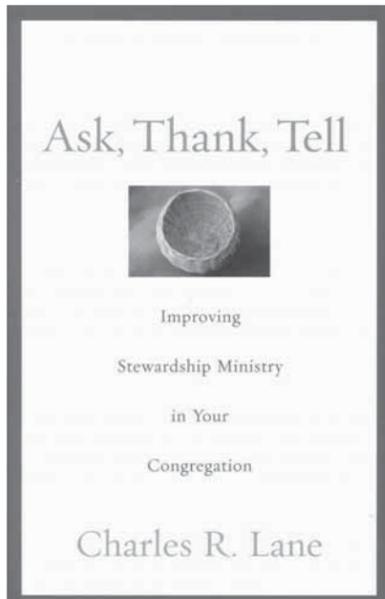


## New LWF PowerPoint®

This PowerPoint® resource gives an overview of the Lutheran World Federation and its work around the world. It runs about 25 minutes and is a great easy-to-use resource for adult forums, congregation council meetings, global mission committees, women's groups, men's groups, and youth groups. 66 million Lutherans do make a difference!

The new resource is available on the Web at [www.elca.org/lwf](http://www.elca.org/lwf) In addition to the PowerPoint®, there are worship suggestions, stories, prayers, news releases, and other resources on the Web site. Come! Take a look! Learn!

## Improve Stewardship in Your Congregation



Charles "Chick" Lane, long time stewardship educator and current director of the Stewardship Key Leader ELCA fundraising program, has written a new guidebook for stewardship ministry, *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation* (Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2006, ISBN 0-8066-5263-2). His thesis is that the goal of stewardship ministry is not merely to raise enough money to pay the bills. Instead, he asserts that, "the goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talents and finances God has entrusted to them."

The author speaks at length about the importance of growing disciples and offers practical guidance for that effort. There is an excellent section about God's ownership of all we have. Lane also discusses congregational leadership, the dangers of wealth and the responsibilities of the wealthy, annual response methods, ways to expand giving opportunities, thanking the givers, telling the mission story, and key characteristics or values of the steward.

This book combines theological depth with practical wisdom. It is accessible, but not simplistic, and has a refreshing and conversational tone. To order, please call Augsburg Fortress at 800/328-4648.

## Bonhoeffer Gift Book Now Available

Marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Augsburg Fortress has released *Wondrously Sheltered*, a beautiful four-color gift book that features intimate theological reflections by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Themes that concern all of us, such as love, happiness, freedom, friendship, and peace are addressed in *Wondrously Sheltered* with selected, easily accessible texts by the great thinker, pastor, and resister. Accompanying photographs evoke inspiration and reflection.

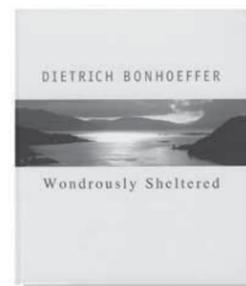
*Wondrously Sheltered* makes a great gift, perfect for introducing people to Bonhoeffer's thoughts on faith and life. This is the first English translation of the original edition published by Gütersloher Verlagshaus.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45)** played a central role in the Confessing Church during the Nazi period and became one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century. He studied in Berlin and at Union Theological

Seminary in New York City and wrote several books read widely in German and English. His theology and personal witness continue to challenge Christians of all denominations.

A member of the German resistance movement, Bonhoeffer traveled extensively while working for the counterintelligence organization known as the Abwehr. He took an active role in the ill-fated plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler and was hanged by the Gestapo on April 9, 1945.

To order *Wondrously Sheltered* call Augsburg Books at 800/328-4648 or visit [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)



## LSS/NY Links Community Ministries

Lutheran Social Services of New York, Inc. (LSS/NY) is conscientiously and carefully partnering with congregations with far-reaching benefits accruing to all parties. The social ministry organization benefits from its ability to serve a greater number of people more efficiently.

The congregation experiences heightened awareness of community needs and resources, enabling it to enhance the service it provides to its members and families in the community. This often results in the growth in the diversity of congregation membership, which in turn leads to increased congregation resources and talents.

This outreach by LSS/NY has resulted in a variety of creative programs and projects:

- LSS/NY currently leases space at 11 congregations and operates food programs at an additional 17.
- Other services available from these locations include clothing, childcare, educational resources, employment training and assistance, health services, legal assistance, and linkage to other community resources.
- LSS/NY and its partner congregations offer help to individuals and partner with other public and private agencies.

- LSS/NY now plans to renovate two vacant Lutheran schools to serve middle school-aged youth with severe emotional disabilities.

LSS/NY, a social ministry organization affiliated with the ELCA through the Church in Society program unit, has an impressive track record in helping the disadvantaged. For example, in 1995, a hotel was acquired and renovated by LSS/NY using tax credits and grant funding. The former hotel structure is now home to 200 formerly homeless individuals with various mental illnesses. The residents receive specialized assistance from case managers who help them to improve health and life skills as

they build stronger ties with family, friends, and neighbors. Ongoing services are paid by a complex funding matrix that includes modest rents from residents, contracts with various local and federal government entities, and private pay-for-service arrangements, all of which flow through LSS/NY.

To learn more, contact Ron Drews, president and CEO of LSS/NY, at 212/870-1111 or [rdrews@lssny.org](mailto:rdrews@lssny.org)



# Ripe for Picking

## Volunteer Needs Change as Recovery Continues

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is grateful for the continuous outpouring of volunteer support to the areas affected by the 2005 hurricanes. In the first five months following Hurricane Katrina, LDR volunteers logged more than 300,000 hours of service, equal to \$5.25 million of paid labor.

LDR, along with its many partners in voluntary disaster response, is committed to being on the Gulf Coast for the long-term. Thus, the need for unskilled and semi-skilled work crews will persist for quite some time. If you are interested in serving, please visit their Web site at [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org)

Skilled workers, however, are also greatly needed, especially those willing to volunteer for a month or more. A limited number of paid positions are also available.

As the efforts in the affected areas move from short-term relief to long-term recovery, as much as half of the work force should consist of skilled workers. Assessing the number of homes in need of construction and the daily management of work crews requires technical knowledge and experience. With skilled workers to help and guide them, a team of unskilled volunteers becomes much more productive.



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### How to sign up

If you are a skilled worker interested in volunteering, or if you own or manage a construction company and would like to volunteer a team, even for a short period of time, please visit [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org) and fill out the sign-up form, marking yourself or your group as "Skilled" and listing your dates of availability.

For the limited paid Construction Coordinator positions available through LDR affiliate agencies, please send your resume, references, and availability to: Tom Minor, Lutheran Social Services of the South ([tminor@lss.org](mailto:tminor@lss.org)), or Nick Roberts, Lutheran Episcopal Services of Mississippi ([nbrobertsjr@bellsouth.net](mailto:nbrobertsjr@bellsouth.net)).

For further information about the ministry of LDR, contact Michael Nevergall at [michael.nevergall@elca.org](mailto:michael.nevergall@elca.org) or 800/638-3522, ext. 2863.

## New DVD Focuses on World Hunger

The theme of the new ELCA World Hunger DVD is stated in its introduction: "Rock stars, representatives, youth groups and seniors, faith-groups and community coalitions—all seem poised to end hunger now."

Use "*For such a time as this*," a 10-minute animated and narrated slide-show, to introduce and to increase participation in ELCA World Hunger. The DVD presentation offers a brief history of ELCA World Hunger, shows "where the giving goes," introduces key partners, highlights the eight Millennium Development Goals and e-advocacy, describes Stand With Africa and ELCA Disaster Response, and reviews ways to give to ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response.

The short-hand name for the presentation is *The Basics Show*, because it pairs with the ELCA World Hunger bulletin insert called *The Basics* (ISBN 6-0002-0710-7; 1 pkg. = 50 inserts, free). For an adult forum or Sunday school presentation, leaders can show "*For such a time as this*," distribute *The Basics* bulletin insert, and tell one or more of the stories found at [www.elca.org/hunger/stories/index.html](http://www.elca.org/hunger/stories/index.html)

On a regular DVD player the video defaults to the main presentation. With a computer

DVD player you'll see the full table of contents, including the bonus features on the disk. (If the table of contents does not appear when you place the DVD in your computer, call 800/638-3522 or e-mail [ris@elca.org](mailto:ris@elca.org) for the CD version.) Among the bonus features find:

- *Take a Breath*, the spoken word piece by A Bunch of Guys, from the New England Synod ([www.takeabreath.org](http://www.takeabreath.org)). This group has cut two CDs with all proceeds contributed to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, over \$135,000 to date. In *Take a Breath*, we learn that a person dies of hunger-related causes every 3.6 seconds (the time needed to take a deep breath). On the DVD, the audio accompanies photos from East Africa.
- The ELCA World Hunger Guidelines and the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly memorial on World Hunger.
- World Hunger and Disaster Response graphics
- Links to helpful Web sites.

Request the "*For such a time as this*," DVD (ISBN 6-0002-0877-4; free, one DVD per congregation, please), from Augsburg Fortress (800/328-4648, [www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger)).

## Cultural Immersion

Awaken your mind, body, and soul at the third annual Cross-Cultural Immersion Experience for Women hosted by Women of the ELCA. The four-day retreat, part of *Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality*, can be attended August 9-13, 2006, in the Appalachian Mountains or September 13-17, 2006, at the Rocky Boy Chippewa Cree Reservation in Montana.

Retreat features include: learning how to express anti-racist and anti-sexist principles, a cultural exchange in experiences and exercises, and acknowledging God's presence in women's daily life.

The cost, \$275 per retreat, covers most meals and all lodging. Participants' transportation and incidental expenses are not included.

Space is limited, so register early! Visit [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) or contact Ana Zamora at 800/638-3522, ext. 2735 or Inez Torres Davis at 800/638-3522, ext. 2428.

## ELCA-UMC Resource



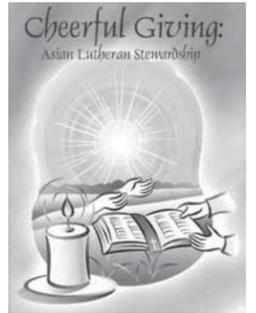
*Confessing Our Faith Together: A Discussion and Study Guide* is designed so ELCA and UMC congregations will meet and trace the journey of discovery that is at the heart of seeking Full Communion between our churches. Your congregation is encouraged to participate in the study and evaluate

a possible Full Communion Agreement. For inquiries, please contact 800/638-3522, ext. 2611. You may download the study guide at [www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/index.html](http://www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/index.html)

Subscribe today to the ELCA online E-Newsletter, *Ecumenical Life* by visiting the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Web site at [www.elca.org/ecumenical](http://www.elca.org/ecumenical)

## Asian Stewardship

A new resource, *Cheerful Giving: Asian Lutheran Stewardship*, was written from an Asian context and perspective, focusing on Asian Lutheran stewardship theology, cultural constructs, and practical realities. Offered in six languages; English, Thai, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and Vietnamese.



Topics covered include: What is Stewardship? Biblical Foundations: Studying the Teachings and Promises of God; Keys to Understanding and Practicing Asian Stewardship; Giving is a Healthy Sign; A New Version of Tithing; Learning About Giving; Stewardship and Ministry; and Practical Ways to Grow in Stewardship.

To order please call 800/328-4648.

## Spanish Resources

Announcing the availability of the *2006-2007 Spanish Resource Catalog*. This catalog contains a bilingual listing of Spanish or bilingual resources produced by the ELCA, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. New items, published by Augsburg Fortress, include *Sendero de oración* (the Spanish version of *Grounded in Prayer*) and *Conozca su Biblia* (a new Bible commentary series). Single copies are available by calling 800/638-3522.



Two of the eight new ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response reproducible stories, complete with related logos and graphics, are offered in Spanish and English. You may find the reproducible stories in the Summer 2006 ELCA World Hunger Resource Packet or online at [www.elca.org/hunger/stories](http://www.elca.org/hunger/stories) Request a free copy from Augsburg Fortress by phone, 800/326-4648 or online [www.augsburgfortress.org/elca\\_hunger](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/elca_hunger)

## Be the Best

Be the best—that is, the best-informed reader of *The Lutheran*. When you sign up for *The Lutheran's* free weekly e-newsletter, you will receive a feature article, breaking news story, or book excerpt. You also get connected to the latest staff blog and—here's a real plus—you will have the opportunity to shape *The Lutheran's* articles by sending "tell us!" responses and participating in surveys.

To sign up for the e-newsletter, visit [www.thelutheran.org](http://www.thelutheran.org) today.

## Gift Ideas

Gift ideas abound in *Good Gifts: the Gift Giving Catalog of the ELCA*. It is the perfect resource for those who are thinking about a gift for a special graduate or confirmand. *Good Gifts* makes it easy and fun to honor a special person and support vital ministry at the same time. This 32-page catalog helps support the efforts of World Hunger, global mission, leadership development, and more. Call 800/638-3522 for your free copy or visit [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

# What's New on the World Wide Web

## The Global Mission Event

Register online for the Global Mission Event (GME) to be held July 27-30 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. Registration takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and the deadline is June 20, 2006.

While online, review the speakers/guests list, event highlights, program tracks and the schedule. You can also download promotional materials including bulletin inserts, PowerPoint® presentations, publicity articles, and graphics. The promotional material, of course, encourages attendance at the GME.

The FAQ page provides information on visitor accommodations and much more.

This year's theme for the GME is *Sent by God's Grace for the Sake of the World*. As in years past, the GME is a premiere family-oriented event.

If you are interested in attending the GME or just want to find out more about Global Mission Events, visit [www.elca.org/gme](http://www.elca.org/gme)

## Outdoor Ministries

The ELCA Outdoor Ministries has a new Internet address, [www.elca.org/camps/](http://www.elca.org/camps/) Visit this site to

plan your outdoor adventure and to find out more about curricula and resources for leaders.

At this Web site you are able to search "Journeys for Youth and Young Adults" for available programs for servant learning events, volunteer community service, social ministry, hunger and justice education, and high adventure in the outdoors.

The online *Journeys 2006* directory contains information on the event or program best suited for your outdoor ministry experience. Through an interactive map, you can ascertain what programs are offered in a particular region.

Learn more here about the purpose of and planning for ELCA servant learning events. You can also find resources for leaders, including an archive of Outdoor Ministries newsletters, a calendar of outdoor ministry leadership events, board resources, an *Environmental Education Nature Games Handbook* and a link to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

Each summer, outdoor ministries provide experiences for people of all ages through youth camps, adult and family camps, trip and adventure camps, day camps, servant events, and more.



Through worship, study, games and activities, participants work and live together in a Christian community.

Note that ELCA Outdoor Ministries aren't confined to the summer months and numerous outdoor programs for weekend retreats, outdoor schools, or older adults are described on the site. In short, Outdoor Ministries has a place for you at any time, in any terrain or climate.

# Preserve and Share Your Congregation's History

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City, Minn., the congregation published a 516-page volume relating their history. While conducting their research, congregation members contacted the Archives of the ELCA, which was able to supply digital images of former pastors, biographical information on them, and information on the congregation's relationship with the Augustana Synod.

Congregational histories take many forms, from Web sites to bulletin inserts to bound volumes. For those struggling to compile the names and dates that mark their history, the ELCA Archives may be able to help.

The Archives holds biographical files on

pastors, missionaries, and deaconesses from the ELCA and many of its predecessor church bodies. Photographs of many of these individuals are also available. The Archives may also be able to



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provide copies of parochial reports or information on membership.

While working on their congregation's history, many congregations find that their own archives are in need of organization. The ELCA Archives has a *Brief Guide for Archives of Congregations*

available in print or online at [www.elca.org/archives/guide.html](http://www.elca.org/archives/guide.html)

The Fisher's Net ([www.fishersnet.net](http://www.fishersnet.net)) is of-

fering a free online course designed to guide those who want to preserve and share the story of their congregation and its place in their community and in the history of the Lutheran church in the United States. The course is one module in the *Congregation Administration Series*.

The ELCA Archives also own microfilmed records of more than 4,000 congregations. This microfilm from congregations with ancestry in The American Lutheran Church and the Augustana Synod, serves as a backup for a congregation's records in case of disaster or loss. It is also a useful tool for genealogical research.

Records of local interest may be found within the ELCA's system of synodical/regional archives. These archives collect material from synods and congregations within their assigned territory, while several also hold records from predecessor church bodies of the ELCA.

You are invited to contact the ELCA Archives at 321 Bonnie Lane, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, by e-mail at [archives@elca.org](mailto:archives@elca.org) or by phone at 847/690-9410 or 800/638-3522, ext. 2818.



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/communication/resourcecenters.htm](http://www.elca.org/communication/resourcecenters.htm)

**Q** Can you recommend resources for involving and instructing children in worship?

**A** Thank you for asking this question. Worship is a real passion of mine! And whatever we do in the instruction of children, I would hope it can be less about activities and games and more about the shape of our worship, our liturgy, and how children are part of that. There is a lovely little book, *The Divine Liturgy for Children: An Interactive Guide for Participation in the Divine Liturgy* (Orthodox Christian Education Commission; [www.orthodoxed.org](http://www.orthodoxed.org)), which includes a parent's guide for gospel readings, feast days, special services. Orthodox churches keep these in their pews. A real gem!

—Julie Aageson, director  
Eastern North Dakota Resource Center  
Fargo

**A** *Exploring Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)) for older elementary students, is a four-session

course that helps 5th and 6th grade students see the connections between the liturgy and the scriptures.

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

**A** One of the best resources I know for incorporating children into Sunday worship is the *Let the Children Come* section in *Sundays and Seasons* (Augsburg Fortress, [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)). It consistently reminds us that children have a place and part in the church's weekly gathering in the same way as adults.

—Bonnie Weber, director  
NW Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center  
Eau Claire

**A** Some of our Reformed congregations use the book *A Children's Guide to Worship* (Geneva Press, [www.ppcbooks.com](http://www.ppcbooks.com)) in their pews. The follow-up book, *Come Worship with Me*, is also excellent. Note that it is hardcover and more expensive. It's a nice home

and library purchase. Westminster John Knox Press recently followed these two with *Mouse Tales: Things Hoped For—Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany* ([www.ppcbooks.com](http://www.ppcbooks.com)) I also frequently refer people to:

- *A Child Shall Lead: Children in Worship, A Sourcebook for Christian Educators, Musicians, and Clergy* (Choristers Guild and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; [www.calvin.edu](http://www.calvin.edu))
- *Get Ready! Get Set! Worship!* (Geneva Press, [www.ppcbooks.com](http://www.ppcbooks.com))
- *Children Worship!* (Discipleship Resources, [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org))
- *45 Ways to Involve Children in Worship* (Presbyterian Church in Canada, [www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom](http://www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom))
- *Including Children in Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org))
- *The Forbid Them Not series* (Abingdon Press, [www.abingdonpress.com](http://www.abingdonpress.com))
- *Sunday Morning* (Liturgy Training Publications, [www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org))

—Jane Schuyler  
Congregational support specialist  
Reformed Church in America

# Sponsoring Congregations Support New Long-Term Missionaries

While Ron and Karen McCallum's peers are playing golf and visiting grandchildren, and Dirk and Sarah Stadlander's peers are buying homes and tending their toddlers, these two couples are facing the challenges endured by long-term ELCA missionaries in Senegal.

Four years of service with at least one year of language study is a commitment that scares some people away, but the McCallums and the Stadlanders accepted the commitment gladly.

"After working in three multi-cultural congregations, the call to Senegal was a dream come true for both of us," say the McCallums. To Dirk Stadlander, serving as a pastor in an environment where Christianity is a minority religion, is very appealing. "I know that my understanding of ministry will be enriched by the experience," he says.

All four are now in Burkina Faso learning the languages of Senegal: French, Wolof, and Pulaar. In letters to their sponsoring ELCA congregations in the U.S., they share their experiences in a country that is half Christian, half Muslim. During Ramadan, they discovered, Christians give sugar to Muslim friends as a salute to the season. On Christmas, which the Burkinabé celebrate by visiting one another's homes, Muslims have food and drinks out to welcome Christian friends.

The sponsoring congregations, in turn, are praying for the McCallums and the Stadlanders as they begin their new lives, while supporting their missionary work financially.

More than 2000 congregations and individuals participate in the Missionary Sponsorship program, which pairs participants with a missionary or missionary family. Regular newsletters and occasional personal visits help build relationships between missionaries and their sponsoring congregations, who are directly involved with God's global mission.

There's room for you and your congregation in the program! There are three ways to participate:

1. Missionary Covenant and Missionary-for-a-Day programs support an individual missionary through a covenant sponsorship of \$1,000 to \$50,000 annually, or contribute a smaller sum to support a missionary or missionary family for a day, a week, or longer.
2. You can also help develop leaders in companion churches by funding ELCA scholarships for international pastors, teachers, and medical personnel. Since 1988, about 600 students have received degrees through these scholarships.
3. Rev. Joseph Andriamihanta, who serves a French-speaking African congregation in Moscow, is a missionary of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Your gifts to the South-South Mission Personnel Sponsorship program will help support more missionaries like Pastor Joseph.



To prepare for long-term service in Senegal, Sarah and Rev. Dirk Stadlander and Rev. Ron and Karen McCallum (L to R) are in language study in Ougadugu, Burkina Faso.

For more information on how you can become a Missionary Sponsor, contact Rev. David Lerseth at 800/638-3522, extension 2641 or [David.Lerseth@elca.org](mailto:David.Lerseth@elca.org)

## Get Equipped for Global Ministry at the 2006 Global Mission Event

Are you active in a companion synod committee or planning an international mission trip for congregational youth or exploring the possibility of international service?

The 2006 ELCA Global Mission Event (GME) can help equip you for global ministry! Included with this year's stimulating Global University Sessions are one-day "tracks" designed to provide an in-depth understanding of global ministry skills and the means to share them with others. Four sessions are planned:

- Cross-Cultural Relations. Understand how to interact with people from different backgrounds, and how to build authentic, cross-cultural relationships.
- Sustainable Development. Learn how to discern whether a particular project is self-sustaining and beneficial to a community, or will merely create harmful dependency.
- Asset Mapping. This session will help us grasp who we are and what we have to offer.
- Hunger Connections. Through role-play

simulation of what happens when globalization impacts the lives of real people, learn to connect your passion for helping others to the elimination of hunger and injustice.

These practical learning tracks are scheduled for Friday, leaving you plenty of time to enjoy the GME on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

"As members of the committee for mission and social concerns, the GMEs make us more informed," said one of last year's attendees. "GMEs have made me the 'go to' person for my congregation regarding global mission," said another.

### Activities Make GME a Family Affair

The Global Mission Event makes for a great family vacation! Both parents and children can explore global mission through activities appropriate for their particular age group.

Children ages 3-10 enjoy a "pint-sized" GME with fun lessons, activities, and encounters with missionaries and international guests. Said one parent, "My child met more people than I did!"

Childcare is available.

Young people ages 11-14 can participate in a number of cultural immersion experiences (including the language, food, church, and ministries of Senegal) co-facilitated by the Global Language Villages of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn.

Senior high youth will be enabled to form a cohesive community that interacts with GME activities around the theme of culture.

"I am so glad I came to this GME with my grandma and cousin," said an 18-year-old who attended a Global Mission Event for the first time last year. "We had a great time growing in our faith and learning about global events and how we can help. The sessions, general sessions, food, lodging and people were all wonderful! Thank you so much!"

For more information about the tracks and the overall Global Mission Event, visit [www.elca.org/gme](http://www.elca.org/gme)

## Pray for Global Volunteers



Rev. Schmalenberger and students from Southeast Asia

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmalenberger set a new record last summer; he's now the ELCA's "most frequent volunteer" for international short-term assignments. Since 1998, he has served 12 such assignments in Germany, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. And before that he was engaged for several teaching stints in Liberia and Latin America!

Schmalenberger's interest in multicultural education started at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he served as president. As he recalls, relationships with international students "opened up a wonderful global perspective I still delight in being called to."

By teaching two to six months at global seminaries, Schmalenberger helps develop and support pastoral leadership for emerging churches. "My work affirms their teaching, preaching, leadership methods, and pastoral care skills and moves them beyond the sometimes local parochial mentality and paradigms of doing their ministries."

At the Theological Seminary of the HKBP Church in Sumatra, Indonesia, Schmalenberger teaches practical theology. Rev. Dr. Jamilin Sirait, the Seminary's principal, calls Schmalenberger "father and *ompung* (grandfather) for many people in North Sumatra."

At the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, Schmalenberger and students from many countries in Southeast Asia often discuss theological questions over breakfast. In the photo above, they are tackling the question, "How does one explain the Trinity to a Buddhist?"

On May 31, *Prayer Ventures* invites you to pray for Rev. Schmalenberger and three other frequent global mission volunteers, Jim and Lorrie Bergquist and Gary Winters.

*Prayer Ventures* may be obtained from [www.elca.org/prayerventures](http://www.elca.org/prayerventures) A print version may be requested by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2642.

## Volunteers Wanted

Since 1979, more than 1,500 men and women have each committed a year of their lives to working for the common good while exploring spirituality through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC). LVC recruits, places, and supports full-time volunteers for a year of spiritual growth and service at more than 80 non-profit agencies in ten cities from coast to coast.

Lutheran Volunteers provide service for advocacy and public policy centers, AIDS/HIV hospices, community organizations, schools, clinics, legal aid programs, shelters, and many other non-profit agencies.

### LVC Resources

- Lutheran Volunteers are available to speak to congregations across the country about their experience. They provide excellent programming for adult forums, Bible studies, youth groups, and many other venues. To schedule a church visit, contact Lauren Cummings at 202/387-3222 or at [lauren@lutheranvolunteercorps.org](mailto:lauren@lutheranvolunteercorps.org)
- LVC also has a powerful video that gives an overall view of the organization. It is available in DVD or VHS, and is free of charge.
- Please visit [www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org](http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org) for more information.

# A Disciple's Approach to Alzheimer's Disease

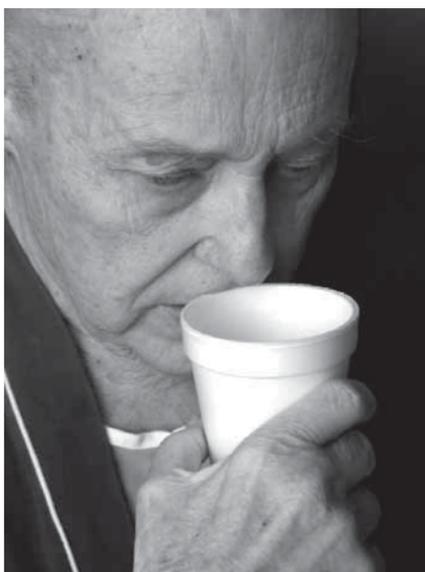
*Alzheimer's disease progressively damages nerve cells (neurons) in parts of the brain involved in memory, learning, language, and reasoning. Deterioration over time becomes severe enough to interfere with a person's daily functioning.*

Are you a "presence practitioner?" As Christians, we know that God's presence works in and through God's people. We are called to a lifestyle of discipleship that imitates the way Jesus granted love, compassion, and dignity to all people, regardless of condition.

More than 70 percent of Alzheimer's victims live at home, where family and friends provide almost 75 percent of their care. It is also estimated that half of all nursing home patients suffer from Alzheimer's. Congregations have the privilege and the responsibility to offer a Christian presence to those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Families may be reluctant to ask for help while some individuals are hesitant to offer help for fear they may say or do something wrong.

Congregations may want to consider creating a "Care Team," specifically trained to respond to the needs of these people and their families. Alternatively, volunteers or small groups may offer a few hours to give regular caregivers a much needed break. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Caregiving is a full-time commitment, but a few hours of time to recreate is necessary to refresh the caregivers' well-being.
- Each individual and situation is unique and becomes more complex as the disease progresses. Speak with the family or caregivers to know what to expect and what



will be especially helpful. Be willing to do what is needed, even if the experience takes you beyond your comfort level.

- Pray that God will keep you strong and that you will learn from this situation. As the disease progresses, be sensitive to what God wants you to know about the child of God you care for. Recognize the joy that exists, despite the situation.
- Your primary job is to "come and be present." Speak with even the most cognitively disabled, calling them by name. Do not be surprised if you elicit a response that comes despite months or years of no communication

- Be prepared to answer the same question repeatedly. Consider this an opportunity to relate to them.
- Respect the dignity of those you care for. Keep them as informed as possible. For example, you may need to re-introduce yourself and say why you are there every time you enter the patient's room.
- Divert, do not correct. If someone who has not worked for twenty years insists it's time to catch the bus for work, ask the person what they like best about work.
- Listen and learn if they relate some wonderful stories of their past.
- Those with Alzheimer's have not forgotten who they are. They have lost the "keys" to re-connect the reality of who they are. Family and other caregivers will be able to tell you what items or activities had the most meaning in a person's early life. The things they have known the longest will be first to be connected. Engage the person with something that might trigger sensory stimulation including singing Christmas carols and old hymns, listening to "big band" music, tending house plants, reciting poems or nursery rhymes, reading Bible stories, baking cookies, looking at photo albums, and saying the Lord's Prayer and other simple prayers out loud.

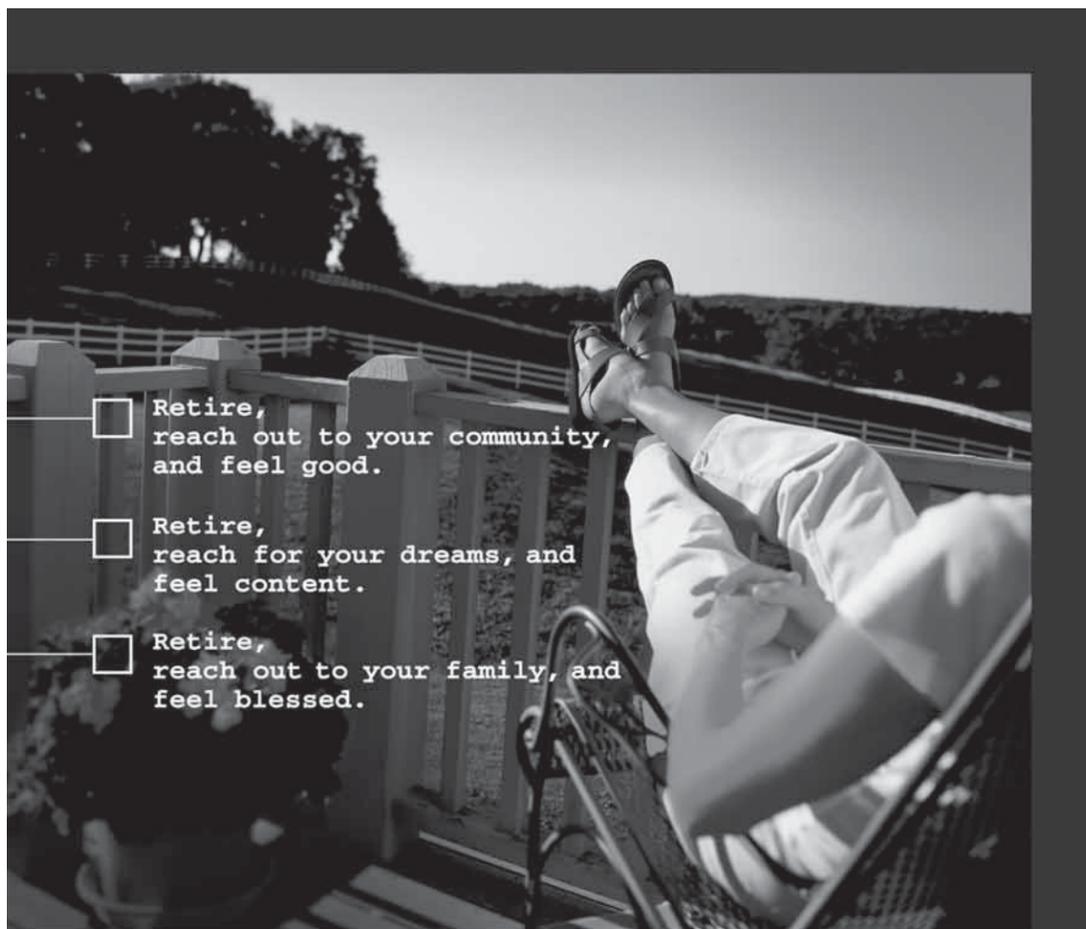
For more information refer to *The Compassionate Congregation: A Handbook for People Who Care* by Karen Mulder and Ginger Jurries, Faith Alive Christian Resources or visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

## Designating Gifts for Your Ministry

Are your members looking for a way to support both your local congregation and churchwide ministries? With a gift of \$10,000 or more, members can establish a Donor Advised Fund through the ELCA Foundation.

This fund allows you to advise which ministries will receive distributions from the interest as long as the balance does not go under the minimum requirement of \$10,000. The fund's assets grow tax-free and the initial gift to establish the fund enables individuals to take a charitable deduction from their income tax. They can also advise whether the fund should be fully distributed or rolled-over into an endowment upon their death.

For more information or free brochures on establishing Donor Advised Funds, please call the ELCA Foundation at 800/638-3522 ext. 2970 or visit [www.elca.org/fo](http://www.elca.org/fo)



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