

# MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

March 2010—Number 211



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## From the Bishop

As I think of our life together these days, I think of Peter and the women.

They did get Peter's attention, the women that is. Luke says the apostles thought the words of the women an idle tale, talk that could be easily dismissed as nonsense. But something got through to Peter.

The women had gone to the tomb prepared for death, taking spices early that first Easter morning. They misread the first sign in the early dawn, the stone was rolled away. And they missed another one, two men in clothing totally wrong for the occasion. But death and denial does that, as well as doubt in earlier words spoken.

The women were terrified at these intruders in the tomb, and then amazed at hearing their words: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again (24:5-7)."

Luke says the women then remembered Jesus' words. Which words, I wonder. Most likely they remembered him saying "...the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised (9:21)."

But I imagine a whole flood of words and images came rushing upon them, memories from the early days of his ministry as well as words from his dying hour. From his stunning synagogue announcement, "today this Scripture has been fulfilled" to words from his final moments on the cross, "into your hands I commend my Spirit." They recalled parables like the waiting father and prodigal son as well as the blessings and woes of the sermon on the plain. They remembered his teaching about prayer and his assurance of God's mercy and care. They recalled how he calmed a storm, raised the dead, and announced God's forgiveness.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women left the tomb and went to the disciples. These women knew Jesus as the friend of sinners who used words to provoke and calm, to expose and make whole. They recalled him praying in his final hour, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (23:34)." They told the apostles what they had seen and heard at the tomb. But the men dismissed the witness of the women as foolishness.

But something got through to Peter. The days were difficult, Peter's heart burdened both with the guilt of betrayal and the loss of a loved one. Despair was in his soul. But what seemed an idle tale to others got through to Peter, who jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb and saw for himself. What was thought to be an idle tale was in true, God raised Jesus from the dead.

As we journey these 40 days to Holy Week and the Easter season, I pray we will be stunned once again by the Good News of God's Easter victory, our life and salvation.



Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt

## We Remember in Prayer



Pr. Melba Smith (Prairie Valley Parish, KS, [mesmith@bluevalley.net](mailto:mesmith@bluevalley.net)) as she deals with hurdles in recovering from leg surgery and is in need of healing;

The daughter of Pr. Tim Carey (Emanuel, Hutchinson KS, [tcarey@emanuel-hutchinson.org](mailto:tcarey@emanuel-hutchinson.org)), Janelle Carey Neuschafer and her husband Dustin. Janelle is at 25 weeks of pregnancy and is hospitalized for the rest of her pregnancy with preeclampsia;

The father of Pr. Russ Saltzman (Ruskin Heights, Ruskin Heights KS, [rus-sell.e.saltzman@gmail.com](mailto:rus-sell.e.saltzman@gmail.com)) who is hospitalized for a bleeding ulcer;

Pr. Rebecca Boardman ([pastor.rebeccab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastor.rebeccab@sbcglobal.net)) and Lutheran Campus Ministry-St. Louis as a group of 14 students travels March 5-14 to Guatemala (based in San Mateo Milpas Altos) for Spring Break to build houses, meet host families and experience the diversity of the country;

*Lord, in your mercy ...*

The people of Good Shepherd in Hazelwood MO as they grieve the death of Ray Woods, husband of Good Shepherd's long standing Music Director Shirley Woods, and an enormous asset to the ministry of the congregation;

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine on them ...*

Pr. Tim Rahn ([gtrahn@hotmail.com](mailto:gtrahn@hotmail.com)) and the people of Lutheran Parish of Western Kansas following his installation, March 7;

*For God's good and amazing grace, we lift our prayers of thanksgiving ...*

To receive prayers throughout the month by email and/or be added to the prayer list, please email Janice Kibler at [jkibler@css-elca.org](mailto:jkibler@css-elca.org).

## Synod Assembly Video Contest

Tell us how God is at work in your congregation or ministry setting by entering the first Central States Synod Video contest!

How do you see God at work through the hands of the people in your life? Maybe it's a ministry your congregation does or something you've been doing on your own. Think small as well as big: God's work happens in those little interactions between friends or strangers as well as in recovery efforts after a natural disaster. What are the hands of God's people doing in service to the world? Look around and let us know! We welcome your funny stories too; after all, humor was God's idea! The possibilities to show God's work in the world through our hands are endless. Use your creativity to share a story that inspires you!

The contest will begin March 15 and close May 1. The winner will be announced at the Synod Assembly banquet, June 4 in Wichita, Kan. The winner will receive a Flip Video Camcorder and a FlipShare TV.

The video should be no longer than 90 seconds and no shorter than 30 seconds. The contest theme is "God's work. Our hands." Check the synod web site for the rules: [www.css-elca.org/assembly2010.html](http://www.css-elca.org/assembly2010.html). Questions? Contact Rev. Cynthia Schnaath at [cschnaath@css-elca.org](mailto:cschnaath@css-elca.org).

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### Making Christ Known

A publication of the Central States Synod

Published monthly by the Central States Synod, ELCA. Deadline for submission of materials is the 15th of the month for the subsequent issue. News may be directed to Dan Glamann, Central States Synod, 21 N. 12th St., Ste. 210, Kansas City, KS 66102.

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Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by CIGNA. Go to [www.cignabehavioral.com](http://www.cignabehavioral.com) for more information.



BY MS JILL HEGGEN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

## Bethany Students Receive Youth and Family Ministry Certifications

This January, six Bethany College students attended a conference in Vero Beach, Fla., to earn their Youth and Family Ministry Certifications. The representatives from Bethany included Larkin Jaynes, senior, Parkville, Mo.; Joe Jedrzejewski, freshman, Longmont, Colo.; Sam Reeves, senior, Wray, Colo.; Jenifer Schwandt, junior, Liberty, Mo.; Elissa Stein, sophomore, Gypsum, Kan.; and Anna Telthorst, freshman, Auburn, Kan.

Hosted by Vibrant Faith Ministries from Minneapolis, Minn., the seminar hosted twelve other students from across the country. Additionally, it provided a setting for each attendee to learn and share faith formation skills, which they can then use in a professional youth or family ministry capacity. A grant from Vibrant Faith Ministries alleviated a portion of the cost.

March 28  
**Handel's Messiah**  
 3 p.m., Presser Hall  
 Tickets required – call (785)  
 227-3311, ext. 8132

## Fundraising for new chapel continues

Bethany College has received \$100,000 for the Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center.

Bethany alumnus and current board member Sid Stolz '83 has pledged \$50,000 to the new chapel. Also pledging \$50,000 to the Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center are descendants of the Peter Nelson and Ed Sahlin fami-



Students who participated in the Youth & Family Ministry Certification School  
 (not pictured: Anna Telthorst)

lies, Swedish immigrants who passed on to their children and grandchildren a commitment to faith, service and learning.

These two gifts will support the new building to be located at the heart of campus. The Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center will be a hospitable place for all who worship, visit, learn and work in the Bethany Community.

“These gifts symbolize the importance of the new chapel and welcome center to friends and alumni of Bethany College. We are pleased that Sid and the families of Peter Nelson and Ed Sahlin have chosen to support this project that is so central to the mission and values of Bethany College,” said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III.

Bethany has raised more than \$940,000 towards the Pearson Challenge, a \$1 million challenge grant from the late Gerald “Bud” Pearson, to be met by June 2010. The total project cost is \$3.5 million.

For more information and news about this project, visit the campaign committee’s blog at <http://pearsonchapelandwelcomecenter.blogspot.com>.

## The Green Team continues to grow

The Bethany College Green Team continues its efforts toward creating a sustainable campus. In January, permanent bins were placed in all buildings. The team is also currently competing, for the first time in school history, in RecycleMania, a national intercollegiate recycling competition. For ten weeks, the Green Team will report recycling and trash data in the benchmark category. With each week’s reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools.

On March 27 at 8:30 p.m., Bethany’s Green Team will participate in Earth Hour, a global event organized by World Wildlife Fund. Earth Hour is a global call to action – turn off your lights for one hour to celebrate the one thing we all have in common – our planet.



## Wartburg Theological Seminary Announces New Distance Education Program

DUBUQUE, IA – February 17, 2010 - Wartburg Theological Seminary will launch a Distance Education/Residential Program in the fall of 2010. The program includes online and on campus intensive courses taken over a two year timeframe to fulfill the first year of degree program curriculum requirements. The Distance Education/Residential Program meets the needs of students who may not be able to relocate to the seminary at this time but expect to do so after completing two years of distance coursework.

Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean at Wartburg Theological Seminary, said, “This new initiative allows students to maintain a measure of continuity in their work and family situations, while beginning the adventure of theological education at the Masters level. The format of on-campus intensives and online courses connects the students to the Wartburg community and initiates them into the residential learning community.”

Students enrolling in the Distance Education/Residential Program can typically expect to take 6 credits of online classes in both the fall and spring semesters as well as come to campus for one or two week intensive classes in September, January, and June.

The Distance Education/Residential Program is available for the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry. For more information about these degree programs visit <http://www.wartburgseminary.edu>.

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## The Robert B. Gronlund Annual Stewardship Lecture Series Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa April 16-17, 2010

Church leaders need information and experiential training in sound stewardship understanding and principles for themselves and tools to re-create this with their parishioners. Too often we try and avoid the subject of stewardship and money. This annual lecture series will provide practical and contextual in-depth learning opportunities in an interactive format, exploring a number of stewardship-themed topics and issues with one of the top professionals in the field, Dr. Mark Allan Powell. For more information, contact Janelle Koepke, Vice President for Mission Support at 563-589-0712 or visit [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu).

## ‘Dreamwalking with God’

April 8-9, 2010  
2 p.m. Thurs. to 2 p.m. Fri.  
Rickman Center, Jefferson City

When is the last time you gave yourself 24 hours to dream a pray in a beautiful outdoor setting? Are you missing that in your busy life? If so, you are invited to seek a time of renewal and inspiration at the Dream Walking Retreat. During the retreat, you will learn a five step spiritual exercise that can help to multiply your dreams and guide you to an increased awareness of God's desires. You will have the option to dive into scripture, experience time alone in silence, hike, reflect with others on the retreat, worship, enjoy music, receive spiritual direction, share meals together or fast and savor the gifts of insight dreaming has for you.

Facilitator: **Donna Rose-Heim** is an ordained Disciple minister, currently serving as Interim Minister of First Christian Church, North Kansas City. She is author of *Dream Walking*, which she published in 2007. She has led numerous retreats about the spiritual life.

Cost: \$140 (lodging & meals); \$110  
Commuter (meals only)

To register online visit: <http://msr-crm.org/courseevents/continuing-ed/dreamwalking-with-god/>

## Information and Invitation to participate in the Partnership for the Missional Church (PMC) process

BY REV. LEN DALE, DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL MISSION

Have you heard of the Partnership for the Missional Church, but are unclear about the details of how a congregation becomes involved? Or, are you unsure how congregations commit to a three to five year process and what the outcome is? Are you asking “What’s in this for my church?” A new cluster is forming in Kansas, so bring a group to one of these special meetings: March 16 – 7:00 pm at St. Mark, Emporia; March 18 – 7:00 pm at Concordia, Concordia; March 22 – 7:00 pm at Reformation, Wichita.

For more information contact Len Dale, [Ldale@css-elca.org](mailto:Ldale@css-elca.org) or visit [www.css-elca.org/pmc.html](http://www.css-elca.org/pmc.html)

## Changed by Love, Sent in Love to Serve: Shaping the Church for God's Mission

**Synod Assembly  
June 3-6, 2010  
Wichita, Kan.**

Presenter: Nathan Dungan, from Share Save Spend; Bible Study Leader: Professor Diane Jacobson, Luther Seminary and Book of Faith director; Musician: Jonathan Rundman.

Pre-Assembly materials and registration information is posted at [www.css-elca.org/assembly2010.html](http://www.css-elca.org/assembly2010.html).

## 'Toward Financial Sanity'

**April 24-25, 2010**

**Trinity Lutheran, Lawrence**

An exciting educational process will be offered in Central States Synod this spring. *Toward Financial Sanity* is a year-round stewardship effort with a goal of instilling faith based values, which will be at the forefront of individual, family and congregational financial thinking. There is no limit on the number of congregations participating or the number of participants from a congregation. Large and small, rural, urban and suburban congregations across the synod are encouraged to come, to learn, to share.

The Trainer is Nathan Dungan, an author, speaker and national expert on family finances and the effects of mass marketing on young people. He is founder of [Share-Save-Spend](http://Share-Save-Spend.com), LLC. Download flyer: [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) or go to [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) and click "Workshops/Seminars" under the Quick Links at the right.

## Sabbath Retreat for Rostered Leaders and Professional Staff — Save the Dates

### Purpose

To engage in Sabbath Rereat that is shaped by an intentional "letting go" of the everyday activity and "tending to" our relationships with God and the gathered community. Ms. Sonja Sandquist, who is a Associate in Ministry and Spiritual Director will be leading us during the retreat.

### Time

Begins on first day at noon with lunch and ends the second day before lunch.

### Dates and locations

- March 2-3, Heartland Center, Parkville, Mo.
- March 23-24, Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, Kan.
- April 14-15, Mercy Center, St. Louis, Mo.
- April 27-28, Heartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend, KS

### Cost

\$100.00 includes single room, 3 meals, and materials

### Contact

If you have questions feel free to contact Rev. Cynthia Schnaath by e-mail [cschnaath@css-elca.org](mailto:cschnaath@css-elca.org) or by calling the synod office 913-948-9701 or 866-915-3548 (toll-free). To register online or to download a registration form go to [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) and follow the Quick Link to "Workshops/Seminars."

## Grace Place offers two health and wellness retreat offerings

GRACE PLACE FOR LUTHERAN PASTORS AND TEACHERS at Heartwood, July 26-30, 2010: Heartwood is Thrivent's spectacular wilderness lodge and retreat facility in northwestern Wisconsin. This retreat will be led by John D. Eckrich, M.D., Internist & Executive Director of Grace Place, and Rev. Dr. David and Kathy Ludwig, noted psychologist, pastoral counselor, professor at Lenore Rhyne, and humorist. All inclusive cost is \$225 per couple if Thrivent member; \$175 if single.



GRACE PLACE FOR SINGLE LUTHERAN CLERGY AND EDUCATORS at St. Benedict's Monastery Retreat House, Snowmass, Colorado, Sept 1-5, 2010. This retreat, focused on widowed, divorced or never married singles in Lutheran ministry, will be led by Dr. Eckrich and Rev. Dr. Mel and Dr. Mary Jacob of Orlando, Florida, both in the ELCA. St. Benedict's is in an incredible high mountain valley just west of Aspen, Colorado and the home of contemplatives like Fr. Thomas Keating. All inclusive cost is \$360 per person.

To learn more about Grace Place, these retreat offerings, and to register: [www.graceplaceretreats.org](http://www.graceplaceretreats.org) or call 314-842-3077.



The PMA Convocation is held each year to provide an opportunity for Parish Ministry Associates to gather, to learn, and to pray. By coming together PMAs experience the breadth and diversity of this program, and they can appreciate more deeply the significance of these forms of ministry for the future of the church.

This year the Convo will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kan. For more information and to register, go to: <http://css-elca.org/PMAconvo2010.html>.

## Join LDR in Iowa for ‘Ecumenical Rebuild’

This spring, Lutheran Disaster Response joins nine other denominations in the second-ever Church World Service "Ecumenical Rebuild" project. This year's project will take place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from April 12 through May 21.

In the interest of having a mix of volunteers from each participating church, we are limited to a certain number of volunteers per week, and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have a group from your congregation interested in participating, be sure to contact Pastor Mike Stadie at 563-322-7419 or [michael.stadie@LSIowa.org](mailto:michael.stadie@LSIowa.org), with Lutheran Services in Iowa, as soon as possible.

I would like Lutherans to be well-represented at this year's project, and I hope you will strongly consider putting together a team of volunteers to participate. [To download a promotional flyer, visit [www.css-elca.org/disaster.html](http://www.css-elca.org/disaster.html)]

Thank you for your ongoing support of this important ministry of our church!

Mike Nevergall  
Assistant Director, Lutheran Disaster Response



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
*Bringing Help and Hope...*  
Phone: 773-380-2748  
Fax: 773-380-2493  
Visit us on the Web at [LDR.org](http://LDR.org)  
Are you on Facebook? [Join the cause.](#)

## ELCA Youth Return to New Orleans in ‘12

ELCA NEWS SERVICE—FEB.7, 2010

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will return to New Orleans in 2012. Returning to a host city consecutively is unprecedented in the history of ELCA Youth Gatherings, according to Heidi Hagstrom, director for youth gatherings, ELCA Vocation and Education. The gathering will take place July 18-22, 2012.

Recognized as the largest event organized by the 4.6 million-member denomination, the ELCA Youth Gathering is a triennial event that brings together tens of thousands of high-school-age Lutherans from across the country and overseas for leadership development, faith formation, service opportunities and more.

In the summer of 2009 about 37,000 Lutheran teenagers, adult leaders and others gathered in New Orleans not only to paint and make home repairs but to learn about and experience the faith of people who live there. Residents of New Orleans and others along the U.S. Gulf Coast continue to recover more than four years after Hurricane Katrina.

Read more at [www.elca.org/news](http://www.elca.org/news). Information about the ELCA Youth Gathering is at [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering).



## Camp Tomah Shinga

### SUMMER CAMP 2010!

Now is the time to register for 2010 summer camp at Tomah Shinga. Early bird registrations before April 1 reduces the camp fees by \$25. The schedule and registration can be found at [www.tomahshinga.com](http://www.tomahshinga.com).

### CAMP WORK DAY

Saturday, May 29

Come help get Camp Tomah Shinga cleaned up and ready for summer camp! Help is needed for cabin cleaning, weed eating trails, and many other projects. Please RSVP to Harlan and Jean Teske at 785-256-3188. Or, you can bring a group for a different day. Just contact the Teskes.

### RETREAT GROUPS

Camp Tomah Shinga is a great place to bring your youth groups, family events, and leadership groups. Comfortable facilities are available. You may even want to try out the high ropes course! Call Tammie at 888-656-6254 to reserve your dates.

### CAMP SUNDAYS

If your congregation is interested in hosting a Camp Sunday, please contact Harlan and Jean Teske at 785-256-3188.

## Healthy leaders take the health assessment

It's time to take the 2010 health assessment! For those with ELCA-primary coverage, taking it earns you a \$150 personal wellness account credit, is required before you can earn an additional \$300 personal credit, and helps your employer come closer to earning a 2% health discount on health contributions if you take the health assessment by April 30. For those with ELCA Medicare-primary coverage, the health assessment helps you take stock of your health and lifestyle habits annually. To learn more and take the assessment, visit: [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org)

## What's UP with Campus Ministry?

THIS MONTH BY PR. KEVIN CLARK, LCM AT KSU, MANHATTAN



Lutheran Campus Ministry is much bigger than just the four staffed sites in our Synod. Many of you have sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters or other relatives going to a school that is NOT Bethany, K-State, KU, St. Louis University, or Washington University in St. Louis! In recent months, we have shared with you our Synod LCM Team's efforts to support and grow Campus Ministry at other schools in our Synod through the work of local congregations. But Lutheran Campus Ministry does not stop at the borders of our Synod.

Later today, I am driving to Kearney, Nebraska to help conduct a Quadrennial (every 4 years) review of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNK. The review involves a Campus Ministry Peer (like myself), Synod Staff, Regional Staff, as well as the local Campus Pastor/Minister, local Board, students, faculty, staff, and colleagues at UNK. Our St. Louis and KU sites went through similar reviews in the last two months, and K-State LCM will have a Quadrennial Review next year. The purpose of the review is to help grow and improve LCM to be more effective in "inviting people in academic settings more deeply into Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples," to quote the LCM Mission Statement.

Lutheran Campus Ministries all across the country are reaching out to students with the good news of Jesus Christ, and working to improve our effectiveness in doing so. If you know a student who is attending college outside of our synod, there is still a good likelihood that there is a Lutheran Campus Ministry site, or a local Lutheran congregation working with students there. Log in to [www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry) to find out more, or contact one of your Synod Campus Pastors.

Please pray for the powerful and effective witness of Lutheran Campus Ministries all across our country!

## Summer Seminary Sampler

Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio invites high school youth who have completed sophomore, junior, or senior year to come to the seminary for three weeks in June or July to explore vocations, think theologically, participate in service projects, shadow mentors, and make friends with Jesus-loving youth from around the country. If you or someone you know would be interested in this unique experience, check out the [www.summersampler.com](http://www.summersampler.com) website and watch a short video about the program. You'll be glad you did! For more information, contact Pastor Ruth Fortis, Director at [rfortis@trinitylutheranseminary.edu](mailto:rfortis@trinitylutheranseminary.edu)

This Summer's Dates: June 13 – July 3, 2010 and July 11-31, 2010

Summer Seminary Sampler, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43209

## Helping the needs of the world

BY JOHN SCHROEPEL, AREA 5 ADVOCATE FOR THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

It seems like the needs of the world keep growing in spite of a sagging economy but hopefully improving. Haiti has now become the focus of the world as nine million people try to hold their lives together with the necessities of life. We Lutherans try to do our share or more. Thrivent has vowed to match \$1 for every \$2 up to three million total until the end of March. Members needed to give online through Thrivent at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) to do so and I believe that they may already have completed their match. Most Lutherans have probably given through their congregations to [Lutheran World Relief](#) or [ELCA Disaster Response](#). We also work with other churches in our disaster relief to coordinate efforts. From what I read and hear about Darfur it seems just about as bad as Haiti and kind of forgotten with all the media attention on Haiti.

Most of us have a heavy heart hearing about such basic needs of so many people but also have burdens to carry ourselves and at times can barely do that and sometimes can't. We look to our government to help but they have a huge deficit also and that can't go on. It comes back to us as Christians to ask ourselves how much we care about others and how much we are able to help. Ultimately it comes down to a matter of stewardship for the whole world. What things are absolutely essential and what can we sacrifice to share more with others.

I think back to my ten years in Canada and have much praise for the Canadians. It's a huge country land wise with a population of only 33 million most of whom live within 90 miles of the American border.

The Canadians I came to know in Manitoba and Saskatchewan lived simply but well. Just about all of them had a big garden, town or country.

Their tomatoes never ripened on the vine because the season was too short. They had to wrap them in paper and put them in the basement to get red tomatoes. With more global warming perhaps they will ripen on the vine. They were good stewards of all they had.

I don't remember any homeless or hungry where I lived. When winter came in Canada you had to be ready for it. The first Canadian town I lived in was much like my hometown where everybody belonged to a church and most people went on Sunday. The people were frugal. During this recession not one Canadian bank failed while hundreds failed in the U.S. Economists say that Canada came through the recession better than any other country in the world. It takes a world working together to solve the world's problems. We can learn from them and with the caring hearts we share make a difference in this world.

## Bethany Home Receives Zero Deficiency Survey

BY PATRICIA RORABAC, BETHANY HOME

The residents, families and staff of Bethany Home completed a Quality Indicator Survey by Kansas Department on Aging. The facility received zero deficiencies from this, their first QIS survey. Nursing facilities in the state are surveyed every 12 – 18 months or sooner, if concerns are noted, to ensure regulatory compliance. Facilities in the state are rated with a 1-5 star rating system, according to their survey performance history. A 1 star rating indicates a poorer performing facility and a 5 star rating indicates a superior performing facility. Bethany Home has enjoyed zero deficiency outcomes in 4 out of the past 5 years, earning a five-star rating in the state.

The QIS survey is designed to reduce subjectivity in the survey process and to level the playing field for all facilities, regardless of location within the state or survey team members. One phase of the survey requires that surveyors interview residents and families to determine satisfaction level with the facility and nursing care, and to interview staff to determine knowledge and understanding of policies and procedures. The second phase of the process involves observation of the physical plant and staff skills to determine if the interview responses are supported by what is actually observed and that observations are congruent with current regulatory and medical requirements. Each surveyor enters data they individually collect during the survey and the computerized QIS program collates the data to determine if the facility has deficient practices.

Bethany Home is appreciative of the residents, families and staff who all were important in this most recent survey process and wishes to congratulate them on this wonderful outcome.

## Does Christianity have a future? Is your congregation frustrated with just hanging on?

April 24, 2010, Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches will be in Kansas to address these issues.

Sponsored by Kansas Ecumenical Ministries, the event will be held at **First United Methodist Church, West** - 867 Hwy 40, Lawrence, Kan. The cost of the event will be \$20 per person, and this includes lunch. Groups registering (must be received at the same time) the cost will be \$20 for the first person, and \$15 for each addition person. Registration blanks are available at [www.kansasecumenical.com](http://www.kansasecumenical.com). For additional information contact Linda Kemp at [LK331@aol.com](mailto:LK331@aol.com) or 785-224-8185

To download a flyer/registration form visit the CSS web site:  
<http://css-elca.org/workshops.html>



Hollis Youth & Family Workday will be held on Sunday, April 18 from noon to 5:00 PM. There will be work for all ages, but youth under the age of 14 need to be supervised by an attending adult/parent. Help Hollis get ready for summer programs and enjoy the community of fellowship. Youth groups from churches and scouting programs are welcome.

Directions to Hollis can be found at: [www.holliscenter.org](http://www.holliscenter.org)

Call the office (913-441-0451) or email [holliscenter@kc.rr.com](mailto:holliscenter@kc.rr.com)



## Central States Women's news

BY IRIS TURNBULL, PRESIDENT



### Attention: Central States Women of the ELCA

**Renew, Respond, Rejoice** is the theme of the 8th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, and nominations for delegates to represent the Central States W of the ELCA are needed by April 23, 2010, as we will be voting on this slate of delegates at our July 23-25, convention in Branson, Mo.

The following information taken from our constitution explains the process of the selection of nominees:

#### Nomination and Election of Delegates to the Triennial Convention

**Item 1.** Nominations for delegates to the Triennial Convention shall be made by the units. Each unit shall submit the name of only one of its participants.

**Item 2.** A unit may submit the name of a nominee even though the synodical president or a churchwide officer (voting member by virtue of her office) is a participant in the unit.

**Item 3.** The Nominating Committee in selecting nominees for delegates to the Triennial Convention shall follow these guidelines:

- a. as nearly as possible, at least 10 percent shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English; and
- b. consideration shall be given to geographic location, variety of ages, and diversity of experience, including living with a disability.

**Item 4.** The Nominating Committee shall present to the synodical women organization convention two names for each delegate position.

**Item 5.** Nominations from the floor for the churchwide women organization convention delegates shall be limited to those names submitted to the Nominating Committee by the units.

**Item 6.** Election shall be by ballot. A rank-order process established by the Churchwide Women Organization Executive Board shall be used.

**Item 7.** In election of delegates to the Triennial Convention, at least one-fourth shall be women attending such a convention as delegates for the first time.

**Item 8.** This synodical women's organization may establish guidelines concerning the number of successive times one woman may be a delegate to a Triennial Convention.

**Item 9.** The president of the synodical women's organization shall be a delegate to the convention by virtue of office.

Dorothy Selland, chair of the nominating committee, may be contacted at [wdsell@carsoncomm.com](mailto:wdsell@carsoncomm.com) or by mail at 1629 3rd Ave., Horton, KS 66439. Phone 785-486-3185. Eight delegates will be elected to attend the business portion of the triennial from July 12-14, 2010. The nominating forms are available on our pages of the Central States Synod website at [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org).

If you have further questions contact me at 785-736-2887 or [clas-sic@bluevalley.net](mailto:clas-sic@bluevalley.net) and join me in Spokane in 2011!

## Around the synod . . .

### Lutheran School of Theology

An Educational Ministry of the Metro St. Louis Coalition of ELCA Congregations

#### Course Offerings for Easter 2010

**“ISRAEL IN EXILE: A CRISIS OF FAITH”** In 587 B.C., life as they knew it was over for Israel: Temple destroyed, Davidic line ended, land taken away. Had God abandoned Israel? Was God in control? How could they be God’s people? This class will explore responses to the Exile found in Jeremiah, Ezekiel and other Old Testament books and will consider parallels with our own circumstances. Rev. Dr. John Bracke, *Professor of Biblical Studies at Eden Seminary.*

Six Thursdays: 7:00-9:30 p.m. — Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6. St. Mark Lutheran, 105 East “D” St., Belleville, Ill. 62220. Tuition: \$81

**“THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF PAUL”** A powerful personality in the earliest Church, Paul wrote letters on which Christian theology is built. We will discuss his life and teachings in the “undisputed” Pauline letters (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon), discuss strategies for reading a Pauline letter and modern perspectives on justification. Dr. James A. Kelhoffer, *Assistant Professor, New Testament and Early Christian Literature at St. Louis University*

Five Mondays: 7:00-9:30 p.m. — Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3. Trinity Lutheran, 14088 Clayton Rd., Chesterfield, Mo. 63017. Tuition: \$68

Recommended Texts: Your study Bible (any modern translation); Calvin Roetzel, *The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context*; David E. Aune, ed., *Reading Paul Together: Protestant and Catholic Perspectives on Justification*

**“SEEING GOD IN THE MOVIES”** Even if God isn’t mentioned, nearly every film contains an implied theology. Teachers Mead and Scholl will help class members learn how to see the theology operating in movies and how to evaluate it. Peter Mead *holds a MA in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and has attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio and is Senior Protestant Writer/Editor at Creative Communications for the Parish, Fenton, Mo.* Travis Scholl *earned his M. Div. at Yale University Divinity School and is Managing Editor of Theological Publications including “Concordia Journal” at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.*

Four Tuesdays: 7:00-9:30 p.m. — Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27. The Arden Mead Center for Youth and Community of Christ Lutheran, 17 Selma Ave, Webster Groves, Mo. Tuition: \$54

Register online: <http://www.lststl.org>. Pay online at paypal.com. Pay to this account: registrar@lststl.org. For more information: LST office phone: 314-725-9710; LST office email: [registrar@lststl.org](mailto:registrar@lststl.org). Penny or Keith Holste, Administrators, 314-962-0918, [pkholste@hotmail.com](mailto:pkholste@hotmail.com)



### Earn a .50% bonus when you open a new fixed-rate Mission Investment Fund IRA by April 15!

All it takes to get started is a minimum \$100 investment to purchase a new MissionTermSelect fixed-rate IRA or \$250,000 for a MissionTermSelectGrand fixed-rate IRA. Choose whichever investment works best for you. But hurry! This rate is only in effect until April 15, 2010.

Along with receiving the limited-time .50% bonus on our already-competitive rate, your investment earnings are tax-deferred until redeemed at retirement. You may also be able to deduct annual IRA contributions on your taxes (consult your tax advisor for details).

Best of all, you’re not just building your retirement portfolio, you’re building the church. The money you invest in Mission Investment Fund is used to make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries to purchase land, expand facilities and begin new building projects that directly benefit their members and surrounding communities.

To open an IRA today with a great bonus rate, call 877-886-3522. Or go to [www.elca.org/mif](http://www.elca.org/mif) to learn more. It’s a rewarding opportunity that will lead to a brighter future for you and your church. Your MIF representative is Paula Kitt, 773.682.2738 or [paula.kitt@elca.org](mailto:paula.kitt@elca.org).

### LBWs Available

Christ Lutheran, Wichita, Kan. has 75-100 copies of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* that they would like to donate to a good home. For information please contact Pr. Mike Clark at 316-744-1242 or by email [office@clc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:office@clc.kscoxmail.com)

## Parishes in the Call Process

- (a) intentional interim/interim
- (b) developing congregational profile
- (c) interview phase
- (d) call pending

### Area Ministry 3

Marquette, Elim (a)

### Area Ministry 5

Derby, Cross of Glory (a)  
Haysville, Resurrection (b)

### Area Ministry 6

Topeka, Our Savior's (a)  
Upper Wolfe, Robinson &  
Zion, Everest (c)

### Area Ministry 7

Lee's Summit, Martin Luther (c)  
Overland Park, Holy Cross—  
associate (c)  
Prairie Village, Faith (c)  
Raytown, Blue Ridge Trinity (c)

### Area Ministry 9

Cole Camp, Brauersville Immanuel  
and Stover, Pyrmont Trinity (a)

### Area Ministry 10

Ferguson, Zion (c)  
Hazelwood, Good Shepherd (c)  
St. Louis, Holy Trinity (b)  
Sullivan, Peace (a)  
Washington, Peace (b)

## We're looking for ...

**A Church Bell** — if anyone has one to sell or donate or knows of one; and

**An Altar** — we're using a simple table and would like to have a more substantial piece.

If you have any leads on either of these items, please contact:

Martina Hahn-Baur  
Hope Lutheran Church  
Rolla, MO 65401  
573-308-0036  
[Martina21@aol.com](mailto:Martina21@aol.com)

## SYNOD CALENDAR

### March

- 2-3 Sabbath Retreat — Parkville (KC), MO
- 6 "Centered Life" Bethany House of Studies — Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg KS
- 12-13 Synod Council Meeting — Synod Office
- 16 PMC Informational Meeting — St. Mark, Emporia KS
- 18 PMC Informational Meeting — Concordia Lutheran, Concordia KS
- 22 PMC Informational Meeting — Reformation, Wichita KS
- 23-24 Sabbath Retreat — Wichita KS
- 25 PMC Judicatory Meeting — St. John, Russell KS
- 26 Staff Retreat — Hollis Renewal Center

### April

- 2 Good Friday — Synod Office Closed
- 9-10 Candidacy Committee — Synod Office
- 14-15 Sabbath Retreat — St. Louis
- 22 Interim Pastors Meeting — Synod Office
- 23-24 PMA Convo — Holy Cross, Overland Park KS
- 24-25 Toward Financial Sanity — Trinity, Lawrence KS
- 27-28 Sabbath Retreat — Great Bend KS
- 30-01 PMC Cluster Meeting — St. Louis

## Upcoming Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) Events

BY SUZANNE BARTLING, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

### MLM Spring Fling

Saturday March 6 from 8 am to 1 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church (9101 Lamar, Overland Park). Carnival like event with all proceeds benefitting the MLM Christmas Store.



### MLM Spring Youth Servant Event

Saturday, March 20 from 9 am to 3 pm. Church youth groups from across the Kansas City area will be performing tasks such as yard clean up and exterior painting (first floor only). There may possibly be some interior painting as needed. MLM plans all of the coordination of the event and MLM Leaders are readily available for questions and such.

### MLM Middle School Dodgeball

Friday, April 23 from 5 pm to 9:30 pm. Church middle school youth groups from across the Kansas City area will be participating in this fun event with non-competitive matches. They will also learn about MLM and its ministries and way they can get involved in MLM.

### MLM "CICSE" Event

Saturday, May 1, 2010 8 am to 4 pm starting at Metro Lutheran Ministry, 3031 Holmes in Kansas City, MO. The "CICSE" (Congregational Inner-City Servant Event) is a multi-congregational Lutheran, Thrivent-sponsored "servant day". Teams from each Lutheran church will work on minor home repair projects for elderly, disadvantaged, individuals.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Suzanne Bartling, MLM Director of Outreach Ministry at 816-931-0027 x240 or [suzannebartling@mlmkc.org](mailto:suzannebartling@mlmkc.org).

# Lutheran Planned Giving

Arkansas-Oklahoma & Central States Synod  
March 2010

## Giving Matters

While not all that common, gifts of personal property (rare coins, artwork, stamp collections), real estate, IRAs and life insurance are ways donors can make a meaningful gift to ministry (congregation and ministry organizations). Donors should consult with the ministry or with ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving to be sure their gifts of personal property comply with IRS rules and to ensure that donors receive optimum tax benefits.

The following Q&A has been developed to provide more information on some of these lesser-known gift vehicles.

### What are ways to make a gift other than cash or securities?

A gift can be made by donating life insurance assets, retirement plan assets or tangible personal property, among other donations. Tangible personal property includes any property other than land or buildings that can be seen or touched.

### What are the advantages of giving life insurance?

The need for life insurance can change throughout a person's lifetime. A policy that provides coverage for a spouse or a child who is now financially independent, or to insure a mortgage now paid, may no longer be needed. A gift of life insurance is a simple way to make a significant gift that might not be possible during your life. You can name ministry as a primary beneficiary to receive all or part of the insurance proceeds, or as a secondary or contingent beneficiary in the event your primary beneficiary dies before you.

### What are the advantages of giving retirement plan assets?

In many cases, a qualified retirement plan can be comprised by tax deferred funds and, consequently, subject to income taxes later in your life and upon your death. If you leave retirement assets to a non-spouse beneficiary, they may be subject to both income and estate taxes. In short, they may be double-taxed. You may prefer to avoid such double taxation by donating assets of an IRA, Keogh plan or 401(k) plan to ministry and receiving a full tax deduction for their value.

### What determines how my gift will be used?

You do. Regardless of the method used to give the gift, you can designate your gift to the area you want to support, such as an endowment fund, scholarship fund, specific program or some other area.

### How can I learn more?

Contact our regional gift planner, Joyce "JP" Palmer, at 1-816-204-5181. Some of these giving vehicles are complex so you may need to consult other professional advisors to complete a gift plan.

## Lutheran Planned Giving Joyce "JP" Palmer

Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner  
9911 N. Hawthorne Ave.  
Kansas City, MO 64157  
Cell: 816-204-5181  
E-mail: [jcpalmer49@aol.com](mailto:jcpalmer49@aol.com)

*ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving is a service to ELCA congregations and individuals to help them plan for themselves, loved ones and the work of the Lord, by providing education and consultation in the area of stewardship of accumulated assets.*

*All services are available without cost or obligation.*

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