

# MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

November 2009—Number 209



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## From the Bishop

The sun rises shortly before 7:00 a.m. these days, but dawn of the day comes much earlier, the first light shortly after 6:00 a.m. I have been to the office early enough in recent days to take in the early morning color of the dawn of a new day. My second story office window faces east, with a wonderful view of downtown Kansas City, Missouri. There are days when the colors of dawn are magnificent, other days when the cloud cover prevents seeing the dawn of a new day.



Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt

*Shaping the Church for God's Mission* was the theme of the Bishop's Convocation the first week of November. The theme was not meant to be an empty slogan or a passing phrase for a three day event. To be shaped by God is to be our prayer, our longing, our work of repentance and renewal. As you will hear in the coming months, *Shaping the Church for God's Mission* will also be the theme of a major stewardship endeavor, a synod wide funding appeal authorized by the synod council, as we seek to order and align all the gifts God has given us for our faithful participation in God's mission in the world. We intend this work to help shape the Church in its congregation, synod and churchwide ministries.

Advent begins November 29 with the prayer *Come, Lord Jesus*. Advent is a season requiring tri-focal eye wear. We look back in time to coming of Christ as the Word made flesh and his ministry among us. We look at this present time and Christ coming to us now in the Word proclaimed, in bread and wine and water, and in the Word made flesh in the witness and service of baptized men and women. We look to the future, the promised future, when Christ will come again and be all in all.

These are challenging days for the Church. We are feeling the effect of the economic downturn. Some are struggling mightily with the decisions made by the churchwide assembly in August. And there are other conflicts and struggles, as well as joys and opportunities and reasons for thanksgiving.

Advent is a time of prayer, of hopefulness when the signs around us may not be hopeful. It is a season of expectation and birthing of the new, when the signs around us may feel like sighs and groans unto death. Advent is the dawning of a new day, a living in the promise that Christ who came is with us today, in the midst of all that is on our plate, in the mess of life. Early morning clouds may keep us from seeing the deep, royal blue of the new day but the new day comes nevertheless.

As we read the texts for Advent and pray the prayers of the season, let us be so stirred in hope and filled with expectation that we are molded and shaped for God's mission today.

*Come, Lord Jesus*

## We Remember in Prayer



Pr. Bruce and Mary Adamson (Trinity, Otis KS, [rabbi@gbta.net](mailto:rabbi@gbta.net)) as Mary recovers from surgery;

Those from our synod who are in the candidacy process, as they study in seminaries and work in congregations to prepare themselves for service as rostered leaders of the ELCA;

*Lord, in your mercy ...*

PMA Jim Germer (Concordia, Concordia KS, [j\\_l.germer@yahoo.com](mailto:j_l.germer@yahoo.com)) at the death of his mother;

PMA Larry Lemke ([lalemke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lalemke@sbcglobal.net)), wife Janet, and all who grieve the death of their son, Craig, from small cell lung cancer;

Pr. Larry Blue (Our Savior, Mulvane KS, [oursaviour@netzero.net](mailto:oursaviour@netzero.net)) at the death of his mother, Gerda;

The Wall family and all who mourn the death of Pr. Earl Wall, November 8. Pr. Wall died following complications from an automobile accident October 26, in which his wife, Ida Mae was killed. He was a beloved and gifted colleague and faithful leader of God's people. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be forwarded when available. Pr. Wall served in the U.S. Navy and was a 1949 Bethany College graduate. He graduated from Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois and was ordained June 14, 1953. His first call was to Colton Lutheran Church in Colton, Oregon, followed by Resurrection Lutheran in Lakewood, Colorado. Pr. Wall returned to the area when he received a call in 1966 to Trinity Lutheran, Hays, Kansas where he served 15 years. He then served Reformation Lutheran, Wichita, Kansas until his retirement in 1988. Since retirement Pr. Wall has served in numerous interim settings in the synod.

Pr. Herman & Janice Frerichs (Retired - [herman\\_frerichs@yahoo.com](mailto:herman_frerichs@yahoo.com)) and family following the death of Janice's sister-in-law, Donna Renander, in Omaha;

The family and friends of Fred Hollich (Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) who died November 8. The funeral service for Fred was held November 14 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park. Memorials can be given to [www.Bethaniakids.org](http://www.Bethaniakids.org). Fred is well known in the area for his many years of fine work with Thrivent and will be greatly missed throughout the community.

Mindy Tillberg (AIM, Immanuel, Salina -- [mindy@immanuelsalina.org](mailto:mindy@immanuelsalina.org)) at the death of her father-in-law, Carl Tillberg, in Salina;

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

Christ Lutheran in Webster Groves MO ([christwg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christwg@sbcglobal.net)) following the dedication of the Arden Mead Center for Youth and Community;

Pr. Dave Whetter ([revdave@kc.rr.com](mailto:revdave@kc.rr.com)) and the people of Salem in Lenexa KS following his installation;

*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).

### In the Synod Office ...

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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 College receives \$50,000 grant for new chapel

Bethany College has received a \$50,000 planning grant from the Kresge Foundation's Green Building Initiative. The grant will be used to fund planning activities related to the new Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center.

Bethany was one of only seven organizations awarded funds among nearly 230 applicants. The Kresge Foundation evaluates grant requests on the basis of how closely an organization's mission, programs and community outcomes align with and advances their values criteria.

Because the design for the Pearson Chapel and Welcome Center utilizes principles of environmentally sustainable design and construction, the Kresge Foundation supported the project without hesitation. According to Jessica Boehland, Program Officer of the Environment Program, "We were excited about Bethany's project because of its own merits and because of the need for green building models in the Plains states." Bethany's grant is the first and only Kansas project funded through Kresge's green building planning grants program.

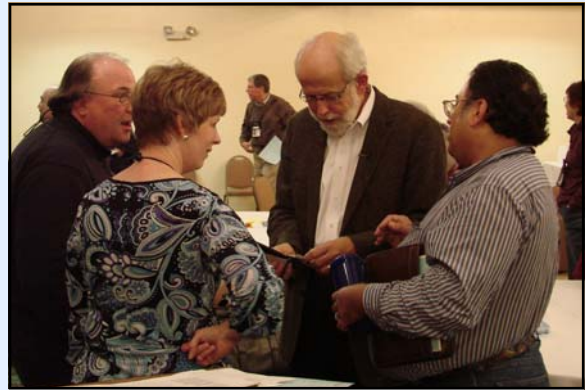
The Kresge Foundation, headquartered in Detroit, is a \$2.8 billion, national foundation. According to its Web site, they seek to "influence the quality of life for future generations through its support of nonprofit organizations in six fields of interest: health, the environment, community development, arts and culture, education and human services."

Bethany has raised over \$760,000 towards the Pearson Challenge, a \$1 million challenge grant from the late

## 200+ registered for Bishop's Convo 2009!

BY REV. CYNTHIA SCHNAATH, ASST. TO THE BISHOP

Many thanks to our three presenters – Bishop Mark Hanson, Nathan Dungan and David Lose, plus to Becky Llewellyn who hosted the Book of Faith display. Also thanks to Janice Kibler for planning our worship services, those who play in the band, worship leaders and our two preachers, Linda Anderson-Little and Delvin Strecker.



ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson visits with Convo participants following a presentation.

Next year we will be changing location to the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Horseshoe Bend Parkway, Lake Ozark, Missouri. The dates are November 9-11, 2010. If you have comments, questions, concerns or suggestions please direct them to Cynthia Schnaath – [cschnaath@css-elca.org](mailto:cschnaath@css-elca.org).

Gerald "Bud" Pearson, to be met by June 2010. The total project cost is \$3.5 million.

## Bethany sees positive trends in overall enrollment

Fall 2009 enrollment statistics released by Bethany College show a large, active freshman class.

Total student enrollment for the semester, representing the college's highest count since 2003, is 592 students. First-time freshmen enrollment of 182 students, up from last year's 178, is the college's largest class since 1997. The college also has the most new students this decade, 249. There are 59 transfer students.

"I am pleased with our report as we continue to increase overall enrollment each year," said Bethany College President Edward F. Leonard III. "Bethany will continue to move forward, or as they say in Swedish framåt, and we will continue to provide a quality education for all who attend."

More than ninety-four percent of freshmen – 171 of 182 students – are

participating in at least one performance area of music, art, theatre or athletics. Of these, 32 are participating in two or more performance areas.

"Bethany allows students to get involved and make a difference on campus benefiting our entire community. Bethany gains an active student body and students learn the life-long skill of successfully multitasking," said Tricia Hawk, dean of marketing and recruitment. "We provide various opportunities and allow the students to choose their own paths."

Bethany students also come from 32 states, with the highest populations coming from Kansas, Colorado, Texas and California. With 49% of the population coming from in-state, more than half of the student body comes from outside of Kansas. Bethany students represent a total of 22 countries. Every continent except for Antarctica is represented.

Overall, the student population is 50% male and 50% female and 23% U.S. ethnic minority. About 17% of students self-identify as Lutheran.

## Thanksgiving and Sharing the Bounty

BY JOHN SCHROEPPPEL, AREA V ADVOCATE FOR THE HUNGRY

Tears came to my eyes the other day as I watched a news report about the long lines of people waiting for food in South Africa. I thought South Africa was one of the more prosperous countries of Africa. The people were coming down from the northern countries where the rains had failed and consequently the crops failed also. The people were unfortunately turning to alcohol, tobacco and drugs to deaden the problem which certainly is not a solution at all

Every year we have a special day of Thanksgiving but we are reminded that our whole year should be filled with thanksgiving. We retell the story of how the Indians helped the pilgrims get established in this country and how they worked together in the beginning to help and share with each other. It's the way people should live, sharing and helping each other to enjoy life together. Poor fertility of the soil was a problem for the pilgrims and the Indians also but the Indians showed them how to raise corn, squash, beans, barley and peas. They sometimes ate boiled acorns also. It's amazing what you can find to eat when there is hunger. The Indians also brought deer and the Pilgrims brought ducks, geese and turkeys that they were able to hunt.

The point of Thanksgiving is thanking God and sharing His blessings so that all can receive them. Some congregations such as Emanuel in Hutchinson have a Thanksgiving meal and invite the whole city if one doesn't have a place to go on Thanksgiving. Sometimes generous individuals will offer money to World Hunger to be matched by the congregation. Some congregations take a special offering in the fall for World Hunger and some congregations have displays on hunger up all year. All of these help to make the problem known and attempt to share the blessings.

I don't have a fertile place to garden so I am going to try fruit trees and have ordered half a dozen for fall planting. Fruit trees can usually produce a lot of good fruit for a lot of people when they mature.

There is yet another important way that Hutchinson, Kan. has benefited from generosity in the past years and again on October 31. St. Andrew Society, a Christian group oversees the potato harvest in our country and finds many potatoes that are not quite good enough for the market but far too good to throw away. They collect and bag these potatoes for shipment to communities that want them and can use them. A semi-truckload of 500,000 potatoes are then shipped to a community.

Praying that all may have a blessed Thanksgiving!



## Buy Christmas Cards and Help End World Hunger

BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Share your passion for helping hungry and poor people this holiday season by sending Bread for the World Christmas cards to your friends and family.

[Our first design](#) is a captivating photograph by Michael Busselle of women carrying water in Jaiselmer, India.

Women and girls in developing countries walk an average of four miles daily to fetch water, significantly reducing the time they have for other work or to attend school.

[The second design](#) features an infant wrapped in an emerald colored cloth.

It was taken in the high Andes of Ecuador by Margaret W. Nea, a professional photographer and longtime Bread member.

[Our third design](#) features a shepherdess in front of a striking mountain landscape in Afghanistan.

It was taken by photographer MNI Chowdhury for Majority World, a group that supports the work of indigenous photographers from developing countries.

The cards can be purchased for [\\$10 for a pack of 10](#).

I hope you will share your vision for a world without hunger this Christmas season. Thank you for your support.



## Paducah NWS Sponsors 3-Day Emergency Kit Campaign

BY PAT SPODEN, NWS, PADUCAH, KY

Last winter many Missouri and Kentucky citizens were without power for several days. The Paducah National Weather Service office did an informal survey on citizen preparedness. Many citizens say they do not have a 3-day emergency kit because the list is too long (don't know what to buy) or too costly to buy all the suggested items. The Paducah NWS office is sponsoring a 3-Day Emergency Kit Campaign, which breaks down **items to be purchased over a three month period**. For a family of **four**, the entire kit costs less than \$100 for each month. Citizens already have some of the suggested items and just need to supplement the rest to make an emergency kit.

**1st month – Basic foods – Items ready-to- eat.** Examples of foods and quantities: tuna (4 cans), chicken (2 cans), chili (2 cans), canned pasta (8 cans), soups (2 cans), vegetables (8 cans), juices (1 six-pack), fruit (3 cans), peanut butter (1 jar), powdered milk (1 box), cereal (1 box), granola bars (1 box), trail mix (1 box), jelly (1 jar), crackers (1 box), sugar, salt/pepper, and water (1 gallon per person per day).

**2nd month – Basic supplies personal hygiene and cooking supplies:** toothbrush (4), toothpaste (1), moist wipes (2 boxes), hand sanitizer (1 bottle), toilet paper (1 package),

*(Continued on page 10)*

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

### Purpose

To engage in Sabbath Retreat that is shaped by an intentional “letting go” of the everyday activity and “tending to” our relationships with God and the gathered community.

### 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

Additional information will be out soon. Please contact Rev. Cynthia Schnaath, [cschnaath@css-elca.org](mailto:cschnaath@css-elca.org) with immediate questions.



FROM KEEPING IN TOUCH...A NEWSLETTER ON AGING FOR LUTHERAN LEADERS

**The Senate Finance Committee approved a health reform bill last week.** Now negotiations are underway to find a compromise bill. **Seniors appear to be least likely to support health reform.** This is partly due to their overall satisfaction with Medicare, but largely due to misinformation that has circulated widely. According to a Kaiser Health poll, 60% of people over age 65 report confusion. Agencies who work with seniors are encouraged to get the facts and to share them with their constituents. A good source for information is [www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck](http://www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck). You can also check facts at <http://factcheck.org>; or, consult Consumer Reports Health Blog: <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/health/2009/08/health-reform-ad-wars>.

**National Memory Screening Day is Nov. 17.** This is an annual initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Professionals and community organizations nationwide will provide free confidential memory screenings and educational materials to the public. To sign up as a screening center, contact [www.nationalmemoryscreening.org](http://www.nationalmemoryscreening.org).

**AARP has launched “Create the Good,” a new Web site to connect older volunteers with ways to serve.** In addition to searching for local volunteer opportunities, visitors can watch how-to videos of simple service projects they can organize on their own, and they can submit their ideas for self-directed projects. For more information, contact [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org).

For more information visit: [ALOserves.org](http://ALOserves.org)

## Aid still needed in Florida

CREW (Community Rebuilding Ecumenical Workforce) in Clewiston needs skilled volunteers. Work remains to be done from Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and Tropical Storm Fay in 2008. Volunteers are needed for roof repair, flooring and to install windows and doors. Renee is the Volunteer Coordinator for CREW. She can be reached at (863) 983-2390



VIND (Volusia Interfaith/Agencies Network in Disaster) is also in need of volunteers. Work remains to be done from the recent flooding and tornadoes. Skilled volunteers in roofing and carpentry preferred. Laurie Hardin is the Volunteer Coordinator. She can be reached at (386) 255-5510. Her email address is [volunteervind@cfl.rr.com](mailto:volunteervind@cfl.rr.com)

LASER (Lake and Sumter Emergency Recovery Inc) is in need of volunteers both skilled and unskilled. Much work remains to be done as a result of Tropical Storm Fay. Leisa is the Volunteer Coordinator —she can be reached at (352) 483-1029 or through email [leisa@laser.fl.com](mailto:leisa@laser.fl.com)

All volunteer groups are coordinated through LSF. We need to do background checks and are in need of completed forms on each person. Thank you.

Danielle Kearney, Director Church and Community Relations; Lutheran Services Florida; 3627A W. Waters Ave., Tampa, FL 33614, 813-676-9513

## Evangelism in Your Local Context

PROFESSOR OF RECORD: DR. BILL TENNY-BRITTIAN

Evangelism in the North American context has "lost its luster" in many respects. Because faith is considered a "private" matter, many in our churches and parishioners have foresworn to simply let it be ... no faith-sharing for them. And yet, this stands in complete contrast to Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples of all nations (people groups). The *Evangelism in Your Local Context* course is not simply a study about evangelism. Rather, it is a training course that will give you the tools to evaluate and articulate your own theology of evangelism and to exegete both your community's and your congregation's culture in order to design and lead effective evangelism efforts.

### Objectives:

By the end of the course, the student will have the ability to:

- ◆ Articulate their personal understanding and motivation for evangelism;
- ◆ Articulate the North American cultural change from Christendom to post-Christendom;
- ◆ Exegete the community's culture and the local church's culture;
- ◆ Develop successful evangelism efforts in the local church;
- ◆ Model and lead successful evangelism efforts in the local church.

**Date:** December 4-5, 2009

**Times:** 7:00 p.m. Friday to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

**Location:** Rickman Center, Jefferson City

**Cost:** \$125.00 (includes lodging and meals) \$100 Commuter (meals only)

### Required Reading Texts: (Must be read before classes begin)

Tenny-Brittian, Bill. *Hitchhiker's Guide to Evangelism* (Chalice Press, 2008).  
Reese, Martha Grace. *Unbinding the Gospel* (Chalice Press, 2007).

**For information:** contact Krystal Jacobs, Office Administrator  
Missouri School of Religion; Phone: 573-635-1187; [krystalmsr@earthlink.net](mailto:krystalmsr@earthlink.net)  
Web: [www.missourischoolofreligion.org](http://www.missourischoolofreligion.org)

## Ideas for choirs — new or beginning

TAKEN FROM AM 5 NEWSLETTER

Choir and ensemble leaders were asked for ideas:

\* If you have even 3-4 people who like to sing, that is enough to begin. Every director says that is fine to "start small."

\* Make it fun and caring. Darla Steiert likes to start rehearsal with time for sharing the week's ups and down, and prayer.

\* Annette Lindal recommends that new leaders find a mentor to help with choices and resources for music and other ideas.

\* Emphasize in invitations that choir takes commitment, and is a gift we give to the church and to God." (Annette).

\* Some choir directors deeply enjoy selecting the music. Others, like Alice Jane Hayes, let the choir help choose music because they do best on music they like and enjoy singing.

\* Communication again and again, handing out schedules of practices and services, email reminders, help people come from the many places of their lives.

\* Set a specific day for practices each week. But maybe not sing every week.

\* For beginning groups, it is all right to sing in unison without parts, and it is all right to repeat favorites throughout the year.

\*For children's groups, encourage and thank parents and children frequently.

\* Let children's groups learn to lead parts of the liturgy - and not expect applause.

\* Gloria Dei had children sing Christmas carols in the church's neighborhood - an old-time tradition that delighted today's families; pizza party afterward.

## Camp Tomah Shinga

Our beautiful ELCA camp near Junction City, Kansas completed another busy summer and fall program. We served 248 summer campers in our eight week program.

Favorite camp activities included the high ropes, swimming, games, crafts, Bible study, worship and making new friends. The church that sent the most campers was Elim Lutheran of Marquette, KS who sent 22 campers.

The camp also hosted six late summer and fall retreats bringing another 160 people to the camp. Three of these retreat groups were from Kansas State University. Emanuel Lutheran Church of Hutchinson brought a family work group to camp over Sept. 25-27 and completed several service projects. Special thanks to Dr. Greg and Pam Nanney for setting up this retreat. On Oct. 24 a birthday party was held at the camp.

Go to [www.tomahshinga.com](http://www.tomahshinga.com) to get information about the 2010 summer programs or to set up a retreat or event at the camp. Contact Harlan Teske, Tomah Shinga Ministry Specialist, for more information (785-256-3188).

## What's UP with Campus Ministry?

THIS MONTH BY REV. KEVIN CLARK, KSU

### Mission Outpost Tools, Part I: ROCKBAND

When I first proposed that Lutheran Campus Ministry invest in a Wii video game system and the ROCKBAND video game, one of our board members asked, "What does this have to do with our faith?" My first response was, "Nothing," but that was not entirely true. Now, one year down the road from that board meeting, I might have a little better answer. While the ROCKBAND video game may have nothing to do with our faith, the relationships that we form and build while playing ROCKBAND have everything to do with our faith!

At each of our Synod's Campus Ministry sites, we have a "multiple entry points" approach to ministry. At K-State LCM, ROCKBAND, Open Microphone, Board Game Night, Free Food, and Frisbee Fridays are each events that on the surface have nothing to do with the Christian faith, but become open doors to the student community at K-State. About half of our students started by coming to one of these events, and would likely not have ever become involved in Lutheran Campus Ministry if our only events were Worship and Bible Study. Nor is it likely that any of those same students would have set foot in a traditional church congregation during their college years and beyond.

As a result of our multiple entry points approach, several of our students who began attending only our "non-religious" events, have now begun to attend Worship and/or Bible Study regularly. While our "non-religious" event attendance has remained steady, our Worship attendance has doubled since last year. In addition, one of our students became a Christian, was baptized this Fall, and is considering Seminary after graduation!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at St. Louis, Lawrence, Manhattan, Bethany College, and wherever individuals and congregations are reaching out to college students, is truly a Missionary Arm of the Central States Synod! Please remember us in your prayers and in your giving as we minister on your behalf at some of the most critical mission fields in our Synod!



## Youth and Family Ministry Certification School

BY PR. NONI STRAND, BETHANY COLLEGE

Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, is partnering with VIBRANT FAITH MINISTRIES (formerly known as The Youth & Family Institute) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, to offer the Youth and Family Ministry Certification School during January, 2010. The Rev. Dr. Paul Hill, author and Executive Director of Vibrant Faith Ministries, and Jim LaDoux, Director of Coaching and Events at Vibrant Faith Ministries, will be the primary instructors.

This course weaves together academic study coupled with adventure experience in a Christian communal context. The class employs a practical theological approach drawing on scripture, early church experience, Luther, and contemporary social and behavioral research and considers a congregation wide model for youth and family ministry. Students assess vocation and explore, through communal and personally transformative, spiritual practices and worship, their gifts and interest in youth, family and congregational ministry. It stimulates and integrates multiple teaching and learning styles.

For more information, please contact Noni Strand, Campus Pastor at Bethany College [strand@bethanylb.edu](mailto:strand@bethanylb.edu) or Paul Hill [phill@tyfi.org](mailto:phill@tyfi.org).

## ABC-TV Stations Air ELCA's 'Ready to Forgive: An African Story of Grace'

ELCA NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- Running October through December, at least 89 ABC Television affiliate stations plan to air "Ready to Forgive: An African Story of Grace" hosted by Immaculée Ilibagiza. Ilibagiza is a survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and author of "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust."

The broadcast is a production of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through the National Council of Churches USA and the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission. It was funded in part by a grant from Odyssey Networks.

The documentary is a story about forgiveness and was shot entirely on location in Uganda. "Through 20 years of war, the Acholi people of Northern Uganda endured rape, torture and child abduction," according to information on the ELCA Web site.

"Thousands died. Many were displaced in squalid camps. Others are still missing. Despite all of this, the Acholi are united in a belief that the only real solution is reconciliation and forgiveness," according to the Web site.

ABC-TV affiliate stations that have agreed so far to air the program represent 55 percent of the network's affiliates, said Ava Odom Martin, director for public media, ELCA Communication Services. Martin is executive producer.

"'Ready to Forgive' is laced with on-location photography and plentiful interviews -- not only with survivors of attacks, but also members of the Lutheran World Federation and others in Uganda who have worked to restore peace to Northern Uganda after more than 20 years of conflict," Vaughn wrote.

The 60-minute documentary was adapted from the MOSAIC Television series, a former ELCA production. The ABC-TV broadcast has been updated with new footage and interviews. Tim Frakes, an independent television producer, Lombard, Ill., is the program's writer and producer.

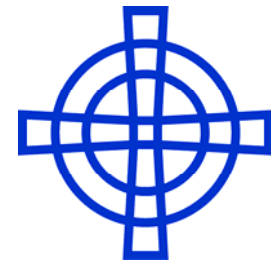
Information about the documentary is at <http://www.ELCA.org/readytoforgive>.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Churches Exploring .....  
The Challenge of Diversity—the  
future of the Faith Community**  
April 24, 2010 — 10 a.m.—3 p.m.  
at First United Methodist Church,  
West, Lawrence, Kan.

Dr Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches will be the event Key-noter. He will make two major presentations: "Current culture and how it impacts our congregations, both urban and rural;" and "Our future, and how do we survive as our culture continues to change."

*This event is sponsored and coordinated by Kansas Ecumenical Ministries. To download a flyer/registration form visit the CSS web site: <http://css-elca.org/workshops.html>*



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When you invest in the Mission Investment Fund, you get more than a great rate. You also help build your church. We use the money you invest to make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for building and renovation projects. Get your IRA today. Call 877.886.3522.

## Pandemic teaches new worship norms

*Churches work to change historic practices as they try to protect congregants*

BY MONICA OLIVAS, FREDERICK, MD

**Usually on Sunday mornings members of the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church in Frederick greet each other with a warm handshake. Now they are being encouraged to just wave “Hello.”**

Officials from the local Episcopal diocese are amongst a number of faith-based organizations that are urging their members to develop a few new habits to avoid spreading germs.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland sent out a newsletter to all of its member churches last spring. The letter provided some new guidelines for the exchanging of peace and communion. These are two very important parts of worship, but they are also times in the service where members touch or share a common cup – two potentially dangerous actions in the middle of a potential flu pandemic.

But, it’s easier said than done. Members have been shaking hands and sharing a cup for years. It’s often hard to remember you should no longer reach out and touch someone.

“We can’t get people to stop shaking people’s hands. That’s the culture; it’s part of the peace. People cannot imagine not doing that,” said Lori Peters, a faith community nurse for All Saints Episcopal Church in Frederick.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is estimating 41 states already have widespread flu reports – very early in the year for the flu. And the H1N1 virus is targeting youths at a disproportional rate with another 43 pediatric deaths reported since Aug. 30.

The swine flu vaccine has taken longer than expected to be distributed, so officials stress that prevention is key.

New Hope Lutheran Church in Columbia, Maryland, is also trying to help

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Central States Women’s news

BY IRIS TURNBULL, PRESIDENT



I am blessed to be President of the Central States Women of the ELCA. My position provides me with opportunities I would not have otherwise. Many times as I attend meetings, the program provides just what I need to hear at that point in time! Such was the case last month, at the fall gathering of Heartland Cluster. Sarah Dunning, Heartland Cluster Coordinator, commented on the hectic pace we all seem to have. She spoke of meditation moments, of not rushing through your daily devotions. This tied in with a skit written by Carolyn Olsen of Zion Lutheran Church, Everest KS, that addressed a woman’s list of all the things that she needed to do within a week’s time. The skit was titled “Amazing Grace” with Grace being an ‘amazing woman’ who found that sometimes you just need to let others step in to help you, keeping you from becoming overwhelmed by those things that you have been doing by yourself for a long, long, time! (My goodness, when someone offers, why is it so hard to accept their help?) This can be one of the hardest things for a person to do, to just let go - to let someone else step in and take charge of something that we have done forever!

I believe many of you can relate to getting caught up in the fast pace of life! When we feel the stress of life crushing in around us, as Christians we can call upon the Lord in prayer! We can reach out for our anchor - “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...” Hebrews 6:19. This bible verse was chosen by your board for our 2010 convention, along with the theme, “Anchored in Hope” . As we head into the holiday season and are pulled first this way and then that way, please take time for those meditation moments and pray that through it all we remain anchored in our faith...anchored in hope.

May you have a Thanksgiving holiday filled with God’s blessings!



Small but mighty! The October 17 gathering of Heartland Cluster had a registration of 17 ladies. From that nucleus, they spoke of an amazing amount of Lutheran World Relief contributions, one group having put together 50 quilts! And their offering for the morning was \$114.00, some of which went to a local food pantry. These ladies are all leaders, but left to right in the front row are Iris Turnbull, Central States Synodical President, Marian Thompson, past cluster coordinator, Sarah Dunning, current cluster coordinator, Dorothy Selland, past Central States synodical board member and past cluster coordinator and Juanita Pederson, past cluster coordinator.

## Around the synod . . .

### You are invited to The Crossings Community, Inc. Third International Conference **GOD'S PROMISE, OUR MISSION: MAKING THE CRUCIAL LINK**

January 25-27, 2010 — St. Louis

Keynote speakers:

**William Burrows** (*Missiologist; Past-President of the American Society of Missiology; Retired Managing Editor of Orbis Books; Research Professor of Missiology at New York Theological Seminary*) Participation in and Transformation by the Promise

**Jerome Burce** (*PNG Missionary, Parish Pastor; Author; Crossings Writer and Board Member*) "Let's Roll!" The Mission of Christ the Insurgent, AD 2010

**Frederick Danker** (*New Testament scholar and Author; Lukan Expert; Lexicographer*) *Not Missing the Mission in Luke*

**Jukka Kaariainen** (*Campus Chaplain; Pastor, Ph.D. Candidate*) *Missio as Promissio: Lutheran Missiology Confronts the Challenge of Religious Pluralism*

Also Featuring: Frederick Niedner, Robert Kolb, Marcus Lohrmann, Carol Braun, Marcus Felde, Lori Cornell, Steven Albertin, Richard Gahl, Marcus Lohrmann, Edward Schroeder

**Pre-Conference Day** (January 25) gives two options:

Workshop I: "Sweeping through Lent: Programming the Pericopes of Six Sundays, Crossings Style." (*Learn the Crossings six-step method*)

Workshop II: "Dusting Off Elert: Reviewing the Valuable Heritage of a Powerfully Promising Professor."

Cost of the pre-conference is \$100. Cost of the conference is \$200. These prices include the conference fee, lodging and all meals.

This conference has been designed for BOTH professional church workers AND lay people. If you are a pastor, please bring your lay leaders. If you are a lay theologian, please register as a lay pastor.

Register now at the Crossings website at <http://www.crossings.org/conference>

(Continued from page 5)

feminine items, brush and comb (1 each), prescription medicines, baby items, charcoal (1 bag), lighter fluid (1 can), manual can opener, paper towels (2 rolls), and one package each of paper plates, paper bowls, plastic cups, plastic ware, zip log bags.

**3rd month – Miscellaneous basic supplies:** radio FM/AM Weather, light source (flashlight, battery operated lamps, oil lanterns, light sticks), batteries, first aid kit, matches (1 box), or butane lighter, whistle (1), trash bags (1 box), bleach (1 gallon jug), disinfectant (1 bottle), aspirin (1 bottle), anti-diarrhea (1 bottle), antacid (1 bottle), pencil and paper, corded phone, several candles, blankets (4), towels (4), basic tools, plastic sheeting, duct tape and clothing items (sturdy shoes, work gloves, hat, rain gear).

[This information is being provided as a follow up from September's "Preparedness Month." For more information on being prepared please visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov), a site sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or Lutheran Disaster Response at [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org).]

(Continued from page 9)

avoid the spread of germs during communion. The church provides hand sanitizer gel to officiants before distributing communion. They are also serving the wine in individual paper cups instead of having the congregation share one chalice.

"So anybody that feels under the weather, can have wine, but not from the common cup," Sharon Punte, Administrative Assistant at New Hope Lutheran Church.

Practices like this allow churches to continue their services while attempting to combat spreading germs during the flu season.

"We haven't changed our practices in worship. We still do communion," said Punte.

As the H1N1 virus continues to spread throughout the U.S. public health officials, as well as community and faith based organization officials are trying to stay organized and keep the public informed on how to stay healthy.

"Vaccine is the best tool to protect the flu, because, not only does it prevent people from becoming severely ill, it also prevents the spread of flu," says Thomas Frieden, director of the CDC.

But for those unable to get the vaccine right away, health officials are encouraging people to take strategic steps to keep themselves and their families healthy. Steps like those taken by local churches in Maryland are aimed at helping their members stay healthy.

## Parishes in the Call Process

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

### Area Ministry 2

Smith Center, American & Athol,  
St. John (b)

### Area Ministry 4

Manhattan, First—associate (c)

### Area Ministry 5

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

### Area Ministry 6

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

### Area Ministry 7

Kansas City, St. James (c)  
Lee's Summit, Martin Luther (b)  
Overland Park, Holy Cross—  
associate (b)  
Prairie Village, Faith (c)  
Raytown, Blue Ridge Trinity (b)

### Area Ministry 9

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

### Area Ministry 10

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



## LBWs Available

We recently purchased the cranberry ELW and would like to give the LBW to any church who can use them. We have about 110 of them.

Blue Ridge Trinity Lutheran  
5757 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Raytown, MO 64133  
816-358-4389  
Doris Merrick, Worship & Music  
Committee

## SYNOD CALENDAR

### November

- 3-5 Bishop's Convocation — Osage Beach MO
- 10 Staff Meeting — Synod Office
- 13-14 Companion Synod Team — Synod Office
- 16-18 Region IV Global Mission/World Hunger Consultation—NE
- 19 Staff Meeting — Synod Office
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday — Synod Office Closed

### December

- 4-5 Candidacy Meeting — Synod Office
- 8 Staff Meeting — Synod Office
- 16 Staff Retreat — Hollis Renewal Center
- 24-24 Christmas Holiday — Synod Office Closed
- 31-1/1 New Year Holiday — Synod Office Closed

## Teach them to give back

**Share, save and spend is the approach Donna Collins Williams of Redwood City, Calif., a nurse researcher at Stanford Cancer Center, teaches her kids when it comes to what to do with their allowance.**

It's an approach she picked up from a lecture by financial guru Nathan Dungan, founder of Share Save Spend, a Minneapolis-based organization that advises young people and adults on finances. Donna started giving daughters Kathryn, 8, and Lauren, 6, an allowance at age 5, paying them \$1 per year of age. Their required chores include putting dirty clothes in a hamper, loading the dishwasher and helping care for their pets. One third of their allowance they can spend on small purchases; one third they save for gifts or place in a savings account. The final third they give to charity. "They choose a charity that they would like to give to," Donna says. "We support the charity by contributing as a lump sum one third of their allowance, which they've usually saved up until Christmas." Websites such as Kiva.org or DonorsChoose.org can help your kids find charities they feel are meaningful.



Nathan Dungan, founder of Share Save Spend

When her daughters each turn 10, Donna plans to introduce the fourth arm of the strategy, which is to invest. "It's time we stop spoiling our kids," says Dungan, author of *Prodigal Sons and Material Girls*. His family-finance website, [ShareSaveSpend.com](http://ShareSaveSpend.com), offers age-appropriate toys, games and lessons that can enrich your child's understanding of money.

[Nathan Dungan was one of the main presenters at the 2009 Bishop's Convocation in October, and will be leading *Toward Financial Sanity* in the Kansas City area April 24-25, 2010. See insert in this newsletter.]

# Lutheran Planned Giving

Arkansas-Oklahoma & Central States Synod  
November 2009

## *Giving Thanks at Year-End*

These past 22 months have been ones of tremendous challenge. Economic conditions have made it necessary for most to make careful choices about how to spend, save and give their resources. For many, the final months of the year are a time to express thanks and share with others.

Now, more than ever, you may find that time spent considering how to make your gifts can help you be a better steward of your charitable dollars. By choosing the best property and giving in the most effective manner, you may discover you can help others in ways you never thought possible. Following are a few ideas that may be beneficial as you consider your charitable plans as the year ends.

### **Enjoy tax savings**

Those who make charitable gifts may wish to structure the amounts and timing of their gifts to make the best use of tax incentives that remain available this year. With proposed changes in federal tax laws, giving this year may never save you more.

### **Deciding what to give**

- **Cash.** Charitable gifts are most frequently made in the form of cash and checks.
- **Securities.** Giving securities also frees up cash for other purposes or to diversify investments.

### **Other ways to give**

In addition to gifts of cash and securities, there are other options you

might wish to consider in today's environment.

- **Gifts from retirement plans.** Retirement plan assets can be a practical source from which to make gifts. Unlike many other types of investment accounts, amounts withdrawn from retirement accounts are taxable to you and eventually to your heirs, if left to them. Some retirement plan giving options may be available only for gifts completed in 2009. Check with your financial advisor for the latest opportunities that apply to your situation, **or** contact our ELCA Regional Gift Planner Joyce "JP" Palmer at 816-204-5181.
- **Gift of life insurance.** If you own life insurance policies with accumulated cash value that are no longer needed for their original purpose, the value of such policies may be used to make a gift that can provide welcome income tax savings today and can result in significant estate tax savings in the future.
- **Gifts that provide income for you or others.** There are also a number of ways to give that can provide you with increased income, current and future tax savings, and other benefits

### **Act today**

As you can see, you can make meaningful and cost-effective charitable gifts by carefully planning their timing and the property used to fund them. Our ELCA Regional Gift Planner Joyce "JP" Palmer of Lutheran Planned Giving will be pleased to provide more information to you and/or your advisors as you act to complete your year-end plans.

## 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.*

ELCA congregations have permission to reproduce this insert for newsletters, bulletins or other congregational use.

# Toward Financial Sanity

April 24-25, 2010 — Kansas City Area

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. A top-performing financial advisor and vice president of marketing for a Fortune 300 financial services company, he founded Share-Save-Spend LLC, an organization which helps people of all ages develop and maintain healthy financial habits. In May 2003, Nathan's first book, *Prodigal Sons & Material Girls: How Not to Be Your Child's ATM*, was released nationwide by John Wiley and Sons.

[www.sharesavespend.com](http://www.sharesavespend.com)

## What others are saying ...

"Nathan's foundation has a focus like none other and his message is critical to our young families and their children. Our churches are perfect for spreading his message of responsible finances to our youth." ... "Our children, and their parents, are bombarded with alarming numbers of material messages. Nathan's solutions are reasonable, easily understood, and include the importance of philanthropic giving in an increasingly secular and materialistic world. His demeanor, message and presentations are refreshingly uncomplicated and appealing."

- Frances C. Caldwell  
Director of Development and Stewardship  
The Diocese of Virginia

## Ready to Share Financial Sanity?

At least 20 congregations with all or most of these characteristics are especially ready and encouraged to attend.

- Understand that this is an educational platform with a long-term adaptive goal of recovering and instilling faith based values which will be at the forefront of individual, family, and congregational financial thinking. And understand that this is not a one-time stewardship program but rather is a year around stewardship effort.
- Congregations with broad cross generational educational strategies will be able to most effectively incorporate this adaptive process fully into congregational life.
- Congregations with congregational leadership, program facilitators, youth leaders, teachers, and others who may serve as models of Christian living in daily life will be able to identify gifted persons to present and nurture this process for youth and adults.
- The participating congregations will support the well-being of congregations across the synod by sharing what they have received through mentoring and training others.
- Pastoral leaders who want to have conversations with members and the congregation regarding financial concerns and stewardship.

## Costs

Through the "Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve: Shaping the Church for God's Mission" fund appeal, the members and congregations of the Central States Synod will partner with these participating congregations to: 1) Support congregations, families and individuals towards faith valued sustainable stewardship conversations and habits; 2) Make bold efforts to bring together church and culture; and 3) Help Individuals to bring communities of faith together with daily life to draw together faith, family and work.

The congregations and individuals of this synod will cover all general costs and those related to the presenter. Congregations will provide for travel, lodging and meal expenses for their pastor and other members who attend. Each congregation will purchase at least one *Financial Sanity Kit* (no more than \$239.99 each).

Time, energy and willingness to share what you receive inside your congregation and with other congregations.

## Interested? Questions?

Please contact Rev. Len Dale ([ldale@css-elca.org](mailto:ldale@css-elca.org)) or Rev. John Kreidler ([jkreidler@css-elca.org](mailto:jkreidler@css-elca.org)). Phone: 913-948-9701 or 866-915-3548 (toll-free).

# What happens to my dollar?

## A SHORT SUMMARY OF HOW YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TRANSLATES INTO MINISTRIES

**53 cents** out of every dollar you send to the Central States Synod goes to support mission and ministry in our country and around the world.

The ELCA ministries that those 53 cents supports include:

- Missionaries and churches in 90 countries
- 8 seminaries
- 27 colleges and universities
- 50 lifelong learning centers
- 296 elementary schools and 14 high schools
- 180 campus ministries
- 145 camp and retreat centers
- The largest non-profit social ministry network in the U.S.

**47 cents** out of every dollar you send to the Central States Synod stays within the states of Missouri and Kansas and goes to support these ministries:

- Lutheran Campus Ministry sites at Kansas State, University of Kansas and St. Louis
- Camp Tomah Shinga and Hollis Renewal Center
- Bethany College

- Seminary partners in our region – Wartburg and LSTC
- Preparation of Candidates for Ministry – pastors, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry and parish ministry associates
- Renewing Congregations — Partnership for Missional Church helps congregations discern God’s purpose in their context; assistance during the call process; intentional interim pastors; administration support services; stewardship education; and congregation council leadership training
- Reaching Others — Lutheran Disaster Response; social ministry partners; development of ethnic ministries; ecumenical partnerships; and our companion synod program with Eastern Russia and Papua New Guinea

None of this can be done by only one congregation.  
It takes all 204 congregations to help accomplish these exciting ministries.

Frankly, there is no place where your one-dollar can make such a difference in the world!

A detailed spending budget for the Central States Synod is on the synod web site (go to [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) and follow the “Quick Link” at the right for Congregational Resources). There are extraordinary examples of ministry at the following web site: <http://archive.elca.org/mosaic/missionsupport/>



**Central States Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

21 N. 12th St., Ste. 210 ✕ Kansas City, KS 66102 ✕ 913-948-9701 or 866-915-3548 (toll-free)  
[www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org)

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