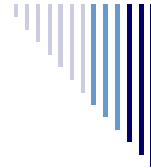




Central States Synod, ELCA

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.



E-NEWS

December 19, 2007
Volume 5, Number 5

WINTER STORM

Ice and snow blanket the central U.S.

Power is slowly coming back on in most places following a major ice storm that swept through the Plains States early last week. Congregations around the synod are coping as best they can - some with generators, some with kerosene heaters -- and emergency "warming stations" and "feeding centers" are available in many areas. Communities that are primarily rural will have a longer wait for power -- areas around Hiawatha, Everest (Zion Lutheran) and Robinson (Upper Wolf Lutheran), Kan. may be **months** without power. Check the synod [Disaster Response](#) page regularly for updates and, as needs are determined, for ways you might help.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

The annual congregation reports (Parochial Reports) have been mailed out to congregations via bulk mail. As you know the ELCA mails them this way because of the huge savings in postage (more than \$10,000). Unfortunately, the Post Offices chooses not to deliver bulk mail in some areas — they are supposed to, but they don't. You may access and complete your report online by going to www.elca.org/ScriptLib/OS/FormAC/facLogin.asp. If you don't receive your mailing from the ELCA or have misplaced your password you can get it from the synod office — email svantuy1@css-elca.org and request the password for your congregation(s).

EPIPHANY — A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS

For the past several years the Synod Assembly has designated the Season of Epiphany **our Season of Global Awareness**, encouraging congregations to study/highlight our global ministries, and specifically, our Companion Synods, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States (ELCROS).

Worship resources and educational materials from prior years are posted on the synod web site along with new resources provided by the Companion Synod Team. These resources may be downloaded from the synod web site [Companion Synod](#) page.

LCM CENTENNIAL YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE

As many of you know, 2007 was the centennial year since the hiring of the first Lutheran Campus Pastor in Wisconsin in 1907 and the LCMs in the Central States Synod, and around the country, celebrated that this year. The positive support—prayers, visits, and monetary—that LCM received from everyone in the Synod have been greatly appreciated.

The 2006 Synod Assembly passed a resolution about keeping the campus ministries in the

The 2008 Synod Assembly passed a resolution about keeping the campus ministries in the prayers and support of the congregations throughout the synod. Exciting things are happening with Lutheran Campus Ministry. To see what is going on and how you can help, check this link: <http://css-elca.org/lcm.html>. Thank you, Annielaurie Seifert, CSS Campus Ministry Team.

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND — DECEMBER

This month, the Mission Investment Fund is offering a special annual percentage yield (APY) of 5.20% on two-year fixed rate MissionTermSelect and MissionAdvantage investments.

You can purchase a two-year MissionTermSelect (which is like a certificate of deposit) with a minimum investment of \$100. A two-year MissionAdvantage investment may be purchased with a minimum investment of \$500 and held as a Traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account or a Coverdell Education Savings Account.

With Christmas approaching, consider opening a MissionFuture4KIDZ savings investment as a gift for a child. The minimum investment is \$50.

For more information contact: Shelly Petersen at 402.916.9174 or shellymif@cox.net or our Chicago Office at 877.866.3522 (toll free). Applications are available on our website at www.MissionInvestmentFund.org.

GIVING THANKS AT YEAR-END

It is still possible to make a charitable gift in 2007. Please see the attached insert and call Joyce "JP" Palmer, your ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving Regional Gift Planner at 816.204.5181 (cell) or the synod office for assistance.

JOURNEY TO WELLNESS

Please remember to check the 2008 PPO Health Benefit Changes

- Learn how to earn \$300
- Help secure the 2% discount in health care costs
- Make your connection to wellness

Visit www.elcaforwellness.org today!

Central States Synod, ELCA

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at dglamann@css-elca.org.
Phone: 816.861.6584 or toll free 866.915.3548
Be sure to visit our web site: www.css-elca.org

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