

Suggested Text for Newsletters/Bulletins

[TEXT MAY BE DOWNLOADED AT www.css-elca.org/sharedmission07.html]

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

You can help ‘Make Christ Known’ in Central States Synod

Prayerfully consider making a contribution to the Shared Mission Challenge

Over 200 congregations across Kansas and Missouri participate in a special synod offering, the *Shared Mission Challenge*. The purpose of this challenge is to make possible the appropriate support of the Synod’s programs so funding for Churchwide, seminaries, new mission starts and similar efforts will meet the challenge to mission. This giving is over and above congregations’ regular mission support.

Please review the Shared Mission materials as you receive them in the Sunday bulletins (or read about it online at www.css-elca.org/sharedmission07.html) and reflect on how you might help carry on the ministries through the Central States Synod. As you will note, a very small percentage of your regular contribution goes to the synod – YOU can make a difference in the mission and ministries right here in Kansas and Missouri.

Our congregation will be observing Shared Mission Sunday on **[INSERT DATE]**. Please complete the special envelope and make checks payable to “CSS Shared Mission.” The envelopes may be placed in the offering on **[INSERT DATE]** or mailed directly to the synod office. This year you may make your contribution by credit card online if you choose. Your donation may be charged to your MasterCard or Visa by going to www.css-elca.org/sharedmission07.html and clicking the “Online Donations” button.

*Thank you for considering a gift to our Shared Mission ... Walking Together we **are** Making Christ Known!*

For more information about the Central States Synod visit www.css-elca.org or call the synod office, 816-861-6584 or toll-free 866-915-3548.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOU can help *Make Christ Known* across the Central States Synod. Prayerfully consider how you might *Share in the Mission*. We will observe SHARED MISSION Sunday on **[INSERT DATE]**. A remittance envelope is available **[INSERT WHERE]**. For immediate information and online giving, visit: www.css-elca.org/sharedmission07.html.

Q: What is the SHARED MISSION CHALLENGE?

A: **Shared Mission** is what we do together as the congregations of the Central States Synod, ELCA. The **Challenge** is to make possible appropriate financial support for synod programs and commitments, such as leadership development, outdoor ministries, new mission starts, campus ministries, Bethany College and many other agencies and institutions. This giving is over and above regular congregational giving

Q: How can I help *Make Christ Known* throughout Kansas and Missouri?

A: Prayerfully consider making a special gift to the SHARED MISSION CHALLENGE. Information and remittance envelopes are available at the church, or visit: www.css-elca.org/sharedmission07.html on the synod web site.

Temple Talk

Shared Mission Challenge 2007

By Rev. Len Dale, Bishop's Associate

Shared Mission Challenge is making the Pie Plate Larger

In a book entitled, "Ask, Thank, Tell" Charles Lane uses the image of a pie plate to talk about giving beyond our congregation. Indeed, one way to think of the Central States Shared Mission Challenge is to think about doing just that. Sometimes a family ends up with a pie on the kitchen counter that has come from the local grocery store. Although these pies don't fall into the "as good as mother use to make" category, some of them are pretty good. What is striking is how small they are. Most of them come in 8-inch pie plates. When a homemade pie finds its way to the counter it is usually in a 9 inch or 10 inch pie plate. There is nothing like a great pie and lots of it.

Can we think of our regular Sunday offering as an 8-inch pie? It is wonderful, but there are larger pie plates out there. Giving beyond our regular weekly offering helps us all move from 8-inch pie plate giving to 10-inch pie plate giving. When there is more of the pie to share, then the ministry of God's church touches more people.

Your gifts help share the love of Christ through our campus ministries, outdoor ministries, new and renewing congregations, social service and disaster relief, companion synods around the world and more. Consider helping to make the pie plate larger.