

Walking Together

November 2007



Companion Synod News for the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA in companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia-German Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCIN-GELK)

Pastor Ernestus Karuyeva Arrives November First

Pastor Ernestus Karuyeva is arriving in the Northeastern Iowa Synod on November 1, 2007 after spending a month in the New Jersey Synod.

Pastor Karuyeva is a pastor of the ELCIN, or Northern Church, in Namibia. He is from the Kavango region and is the Dean of the Rundu Circuit. He serves the Nkurenkuru parish which is near the Angola border and the Kavango River. He is married and has children.

During his time walking with us, he will share news of our companion churches, he will share how Christ is working among Lutherans in Namibia and will proclaim the Word of God to the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

Pastor Karuyeva will be hosted for one week in each of four Northeastern Iowa churches. There will be a reception in Waverly at 5PM on the day of his arrival. He will be at Trinity, Mason City Nov. 1-6. He will be invited to attend the Companion Synod gathering in Chicago Nov 6-7. He will then be at Our Savior, Osage until Nov 15. Immanuel, Independence will be next until about Nov 22. Finally, he will go to First and Vernon, Dows until he leaves to head back to Namibia on Thursday Nov 29.

Donations for travel expenses are welcomed. Donations may be sent

to the Synod Office marked "Travel Expense for Namibian Pastor"

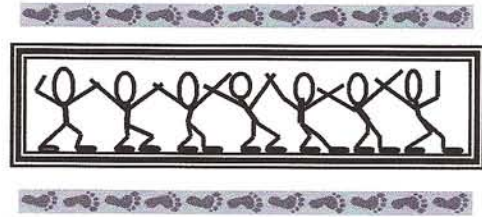
Travel to Namibia

Steve Fritz from Zion, Clear Lake plans to travel to Namibia in Feb or March of 2008. He is willing to bring fellow travelers from the synod. Contact Steve.

Wartburg Seminary is planning a trip during J-term. If there are people in the synod who want to travel to Namibia, let Pastor Nancy Larson or Sharon Magelssen know and we will attempt to link you up with other travelers.

Companion Congregation Projects

Sharon Magelssen, Companion Synod Coordinator is collecting information about projects of our Northeastern Iowa churches with Companion Congregations in Namibia. She will compile this information and share with the UCC-NELC (United Church Council-Namibia Evangelical Lutheran Churches), ELCRN, ELCIN, and ELCIN-GELK. This is in response to a request from the UCC-NELC and to honor our covenant agreement with the Namibian churches for accountability and transparency.



What Can We Do?

- Participate in Companion Synod Sunday Jan 27, 2008. Watch for the insert in the *Star* called *Companion Synod: Walking Together*. It is in printer ready form and has a litany to be used for Companion Synod Sunday on Sunday January 27, 2008.
- Watch for the Northeastern Iowa Synod insert in the *Lutheran* written by Pastor Nancy Larson. It is a great resource in learning about our synod's relationship with Namibia.
- Pray weekly for our Companion Churches and Companion Congregations.
- Read about Namibia and learn about the history, customs and faith of its people.
- Go to the Global Mission web page of the ELCA and read about Companion Synod and Accompaniment. <http://www.elca.org/globalmission/> Click on Your Link.

continued

Companion Synod Basics

The following is an excerpt from the Companion Synod Handbook. You can access this resource by going to the ELCA Global Mission web page <http://www.elca.org/companionsynod/cshandbook/cshandbook-1.pdf> When we receive Namibian guests like Pastor Ernestus Karuyeva we are modeling an essential part of accompaniment. Receiving is a challenging concept for us. We pray that God will open our hearts to receive the gifts of our companions.

Receiving: a key part of accompaniment

In the accompaniment model, "receiving" is as important as "sending." The act of receiving acknowledges the wide variety of gifts and talents present in the global Christian family. Companions who walk together in accompaniment emphasize recognizing and embracing one another's gifts. Being open to and appreciative of the gifts of companions is a hallmark of accompaniment and the Companion Synods Program. Guiding principles Accompaniment is more than an exclusive contract between two or more companion churches. It is walking together in Jesus Christ of two or more churches in companionship and in service in God's mission.

Companions who walk together in accompaniment:

- Honor one another's integrity
- Make decisions mutually
- Value their interdependence
- Respect one another's context, situation, and practical limitations
- Respect one another as interpreters of their own experience
- Are open to new experiences, new information, and in some cases, conflicting values
- Emphasize relationship over resources
- Acknowledge one another's gifts
- Practice transparency in all matters
- Confirm that each church has the primary responsibility for mission in its area

Adhering to these principles in all matters will help build a foundation of trust that is essential to an honest, open relationship. Relational difficulties may occur when there is not a firm commitment to the principles of accompaniment.

Members of Companion Synod Workgroup

Rev. Jason Cooper
Emanuel, Strawberry Point

Rev. Nancy Larson
Northeastern Iowa Synod,
Waverly

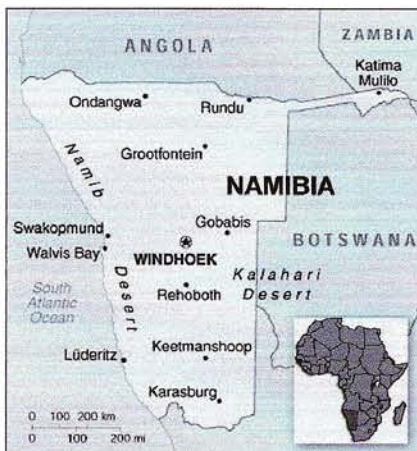
Steve Fritz
Zion, Clear Lake

Sharon Magelssen
Trinity, Mason City

Dale Goodman
EWALU, Strawberry Point

Carolyn Pflibsen, AIM
Trinity, Belmond

Kathryn Koob
Wartburg College & St Paul's
Waverly



Pastor Nancy Larson

Assistant to the Bishop

319-352-1414

and

Sharon Magelssen

Companion Synod

Coordinator

641-422-9326

Are available to answer questions, do presentations or provide additional information.



Nelao Nengola

Nelao Nengola is from Windhoek. She is a 2nd year student at Luther College. She is interested in Health Management.

What Can We Do - continued

- Arrange for someone to come to your congregation and talk about Namibia, the Companion Synod Program and the accompaniment model for mission.
- Read *The Namibian*, an online newspaper published in Namibia. www.namibian.com.na/HTML/Lead.html
- The fall *Making a Difference*, a synod publication, will feature Companion Synod relationships.