



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Ministry in Mission Newsletter

September 2009



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Dear Friends,

During the last few weeks the Board of Ministry in Mission and its work groups have had some excellent meetings. As you read each group's plans below I think you join my excitement and thanksgiving. Please take a close look at the upcoming events and be sure they are publicized in the congregation you are a member of. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Pastor Mark A. Anderson, at andersonm@neiasynod.org or on [facebook](#).



You may print and post this newsletter or you may also forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested.

Care of Creation Work Group

Mission: Work with the congregations in the synod to affirm that Care of Creation is central to the life of God's people through worship, education, and practicing good earth citizenship.

During the last 12 months:

2 newsletters in the synod's STAR
2 synod assembly Workshops & a display
Involvement with Iowa Environmental Council and Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

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[Board of Ministry in Mission website](#)

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Upcoming Events

October 1, 2009

Home Life Work Group
Cresco, IA

October 11, 2009

Jesus Justice Jazz - The Tour, Luther College

November 8, 2009

Global Mission Celebration
Bethlehem, Cedar Falls

November 12, 2009

During the next 12 months

Education for congregations and members

Bulletin Inserts

Newsletters

Assembly workshops/displays

Email Information to congregations

Chairperson: [Donna Rasmussen](#)

Global Mission Work Group

Mission: To design promote and execute opportunities for understanding and participating in the Global Mission of the ELCA

During the last 12 months: Planning a Global Mission Festival for November 8 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls.

During the next 5 years: Develop more ways to understand and participate in the Global Mission of the ELCA

During the next 12 months:
Develop a Global Mission Feature for the STAR
Promote synodical Mission Trip

Chairperson: [Cecil Maureen Johnson](#)

[Home Life Work Group](#)

Family Ministry Swap Meets

The Home Life Work Group's "Christian Formation Network" is offering four "Swap Meets" during this school year. A "Swap Meet" is event where those interested in Christian Formation i.e. Sunday School teachers, Youth and Family Ministers, pastors, and parents can gather to "swap" resources, ideas experiences and crafts, to pass on the faith to the children of their home and congregation.

Nov 12: 6:00pm, First, Cresco - Advent Christmas Epiphany

Jan 14: 6:00pm, St. John, Nashua - Lent and Easter

Swap Meet of Advent/Christmas ideas
First, Cresco

November 15, 2009
Registration Deadline for
Mission Trip to Guatemala

January 14, 2010
Swap Meet of
Lent/Easter ideas
St. John, Nashua

February 20, 2010
Board of Ministry in Mission and Work
Groups meet.

March 19-20, 2010
Mission Trip to Guatemala

April 8, 2010
Swap Meet for
VBS/Pentecost ideas
Bethlehem, Cedar Falls

April 8: 6:00pm, Bethlehem, CF - Pentecost and VBS

August: Rally Day and Fall Curriculum

Contact: [Elayne Werges](#)

Hunger Work Group



Jesus Justice Jazz - The Tour - Decorah

October 11 in the CFL at Luther College [Luther College](#) bands from the tour will perform followed by a "Justice Fair" where youth and adults can learn about opportunities to live out their faith. Earlier in the day there will be a kickball tournament to raise money to fight hunger. For more information please see the [Synod Youth Ministry Web Site](#)

Jesus Justice Jazz - The Tour - Waverly

More than 200 youth and adults arrived in Waverly to participate in service projects before the concert. The concert was attended by 300 people of all ages. For more information and pictures please go to the [Synod Youth Ministry Web page](#)

Tour de Rev Report (please see www.tourderevs.org)

ELCA World Hunger Appeal has already seen new financial giving inspired by the Tour. As of 9/3/2009, the total amount raised for ELCA World Hunger attributed to TdR is \$175,348.33. We are also confident that there were gifts made to ELCA World Hunger because of TdR that did not have any designation and thus were not directly attributable to TdR.

Giving to ELCA World Hunger in June is the highest on record and giving in July was the second highest in the last six years. June giving was nearly \$300,000 higher than the previous six year average for that month and July giving was nearly \$400,000 higher than the six year monthly average. This reverses a six month pattern of reduced giving from previous years.

Chairperson: [Norbert Strasser](#)

[Rural Life Task Force](#)

Mission: That rural areas are insured to have access to the Gospel and servant ministry and to raise awareness of dynamic changes in rural communities.

Vision: 1) To develop good resources on shared ministry; 2) To provide opportunities to learn about and equip others in shared ministry; 3) To participate in community building in rural areas and focusing on hope rather than despair; and 4) To provide information on trends in agriculture

During the last 12 months

3 workshops at synod assembly
Visits about geographic ministry
Planting & Harvest liturgies
Beginning to develop ministry resources

During the next 12 months

Finish the video/packet resources on geographic ministry

Chairperson: [Pr. Dennis Hanson](#)

[Multicultural Ministry Work Group](#)

The Memorial to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly was turned into a Churchwide resolution and passed overwhelmingly. Thanks to Pr. Hahn and Bp. Ullestad who spoke so well in favor of it.

Contact: [Pr. Marshall Hahn](#)

[Work Group on Aging](#)

Mission: The Ministry on Aging work group seeks

to serve in response to God's love in Christ Jesus, acting as a bridge to the congregations of this Synod in advocating dignity and justice for senior adults.

Vision:

Continuing goal is to develop Power Point programs on a number of topics that might be helpful to people as they age, continue our relationship with Wartburg College, and remain open to new research and information that we can make available through the web site and our newsletter insert.

During the last 12 months:

We worked to get our web site up and running, developed a Power Point presentation (our second one) on End of Life considerations, and have been working with Wartburg College through our consultant, Lynn Peters, to provide resources for congregations in the areas of Alzheimer's, caregiving, and helping people find resources for various needs in regard to aging. In addition, we provide a newsletter insert twice a year that highlights the faith of senior adults and points to books and other resources to assist people around a number of issues related to aging.

During the next 12 month:

Our next newsletter insert is in the works, and we're tweaking our latest two Power Point programs to get them loaded onto the website.

Chair: [Pr. Barbara Wills](#)

Here, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might Deut 6:4-5