


 The word "Star" is written in a large, blue, cursive script font. Above the letter 'a' is a stylized blue starburst graphic. The background behind the text is a light blue sky with white clouds.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Synod Plans Events, Identifies Leaders for 'Book of Faith'

By: Karris Golden

The Northeastern Iowa Synod plans a number of events to help congregations become engaged in the ELCA's *Book of Faith* initiative.

While some may believe it's simple to engage Lutherans in the Bible, that hasn't been the case, said Dr. Diane Jacobson, director of *Book of Faith*.

The goal is to help congregations "embark on biblical discovery," said Jacobson, who also serves as professor of Old Testament and associate dean of the MA/MSW programs at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

"I love scripture, and I'm interested in ways we can help others love Scripture," she said. "Getting to help others (love Scripture) is exciting and fun and a wonderful thing for a congregation."

The Rev. Roger McKinstry will serve as the synod's *Book of Faith* advocate. McKinstry serves four small, rural congregations: Peace Lutheran Church in Ryan; Immanuel Lutheran church in Earlville; St. Peter Lutheran Church in Lamont; and St. John Lutheran Church in Dundee.



Rev. Roger McKinstry

The synod staff contact person for *Book of Faith* is Pastor Mark A. Anderson, assistant to the bishop.

approaches to Scripture; and enter fully into a deep, multigenerational, multi-cultural conversation that informs who Lutherans are as people of God.


 The logo features two black speech bubbles at the top. Below them, the words "book of faith" are written in a lowercase, serif font. Underneath that, the tagline "Open Scripture. Join the Conversation." is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light blue rounded rectangular background.

*Book of Faith* is not a directive from synods or churchwide leaders, Jacobson added. Instead, it was developed so individual congregations and synods can shape their experiences with the material.

During the next year, the synod will host introductory informative gatherings for rostered leaders and the laity. This will include a fall gathering, events in each of the 11 conferences and a day of renewal for rostered leaders next spring. *Book of Faith* will also be the emphasis of the June 2009 synod assembly.

Creators of *Book of Faith* hope to focus on helping the whole church "become more fluent in the first language of faith — the language of Scripture — ... that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened and empowered by the Word," according to the vision statement.

Jacobson has identified three goals for those who take part in the *Book of Faith* initiative: to experience more fully the power of the Word; learn together about historically Lutheran

Jacobson describes *Book of Faith* as an "initiative process," because it invites congregations, synods and other organizations to assess and expand

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their commitment to Scripture and the sharing of ideas.

To that end, the initiative must be a grassroots effort — from the congregation up. Jacobson hopes *Book of Faith* will also welcome those not often reached by ELCA ministries. It will utilize a variety of multimedia tools, from face-to-face discussion to print- and Web-based materials.

As the ELCA has unveiled its plans for *Book of Faith*, some have asked what is specifically "Lutheran" about reading the Bible. Plenty, said Jacobson.

"In some senses, we share a lot of ways of reading the Bible with other people," she said. "That's been true from Martin Luther on. But there have also been some particular theological questions we bring as Lutherans: ... 'How does a text show forth Christ? How do we read Scripture in light of other Scripture?' It's not that other traditions don't have those questions; it's that they're not as core to other beliefs. I think [*Book of Faith*] will help us understand what it is that Lutherans bring to study of the Bible."

*Book of Faith* will benefit from a close partnership with Augsburg Fortress Publishers. The first piece, "Opening the Book of Faith," was released April 1. Jacobson sees it as a foundation for congregational *Book of Faith* activities.

The book describes biblical insights from a Lutheran perspective and includes four text studies that show how to apply the methods and insights. It also contains tools that help individuals and congregations assess their Bible usage, needs and hopes.

Among the writers of "Opening the Book of Faith" are Dr. Norma Cook Everist, professor of church administration and educational ministry at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, and the Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, professor of religion and chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department at Wartburg College in Waverly.

"This book is written for the general adult reader, and the use of the book is a good way for congregations to deepen their efforts to expand engagement with the Bible," said Bishop Steven L. Ullestad.

Each 2008 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly voting member who signs up for *Book of Faith* e-updates will receive a copy of "Opening the Book of Faith." It can also be ordered at [www.elca.org/bookoffaith](http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith).

In 2009, Augsburg Fortress plans to release an adult Bible study based on "Opening the Book of Faith," as well as a Lutheran study Bible geared for church members in confirmation and beyond. Additional resources are also in the works.

By 2012, the ELCA hopes to reach several *Book of Faith* goals. By that time, all synods will be committed to *Book of Faith* participation, and it is hoped that 75 percent of ELCA congregations will be actively engaged in the process.

Jacobson also anticipates strong participation of most ELCA organizations, agencies, institutions and networks. The final 2012 goal is to offer 5,000 rostered leaders and 10,000 laypeople trained with enhanced skills for teaching Scripture.

— *Golden is a freelance writer from Waterloo and belongs to Trinity American Lutheran Church.*

## Important *Book of Faith* Dates

### Fall 2008:

The synod will host a *Book of Faith* gathering for all rostered persons.

Bishop Steven L.

Ullestad will

introduce the study and offer encouragement on how to teach the Bible.

**Fall 2008-Winter 2009:** The synod plans events for clergy and lay leaders in each of its 11 conferences. During the sessions, Assistants to the Bishop will lead an introduction of the study.

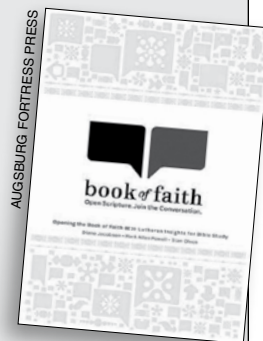
**Fall 2008-Winter 2009:** The three conferences involved in the mission support consultation will help the synod highlight the *Book of Faith* study.

**Spring 2009:** A Rostered Day of Renewal is planned, with focus on the *Book of Faith* initiative.

**June 2009:** Synod assembly will emphasize *Book of Faith*.

### What Can You Do?

- Visit [www.elca.org/bookoffaith](http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith) and read for information and inspiration.
- Share your ideas with *Book of Faith* leaders through [www.elca.org/bookoffaith](http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith) or via e-mail at [BookofFaith@elca.org](mailto:BookofFaith@elca.org).

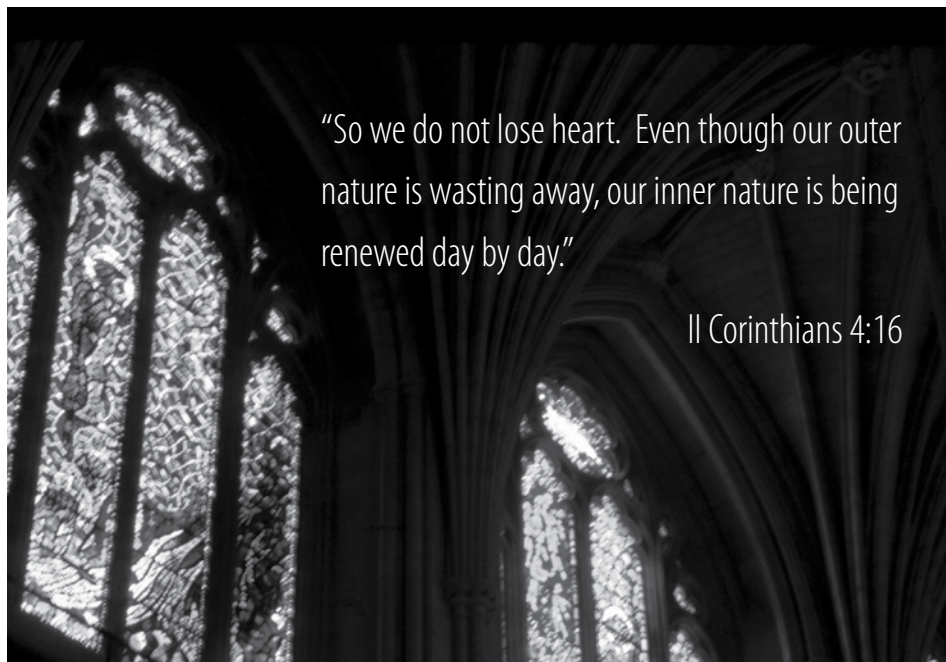
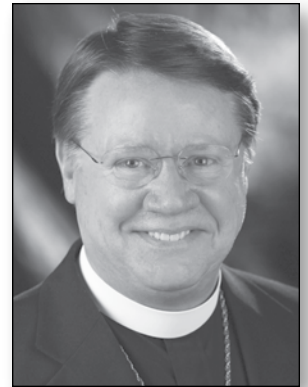


# Renewal of Faith

The daily process of renewal requires attention to the basics of the faith. Daily prayers, reading of scripture and service to others renew our spirit and transform lives. These simple things are the essential things for vitality and health.

council has worked diligently in developing a new Transformation Strategy that will renew synod ministries for the sake of renewing our congregations. The strategy focuses the gifts of the synod staff, the synod council and all those who are engaged in synod ministries to develop and

in Farley, increase our support of the World Hunger Appeal, strengthen our companion synod



"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day."

II Corinthians 4:16

relationship, partner with one another in geographical parishes for the sake of mission, deepen our youth ministry, witness to those living in poverty and much more. I am grateful for the leadership of our synod council as we continue to celebrate the daily renewal given by God.

– Steven L. Ullestad  
Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod

What is true for us as individuals is also true for our communities of faith. Congregations that are not participating in God's renewing power waste away. They lose their purpose and meaning. Communities find themselves in unresolvable conflict that destroys their members, prevents others from becoming part of a Christian community and violates the Gospel witness of our oneness in Christ.

support leaders, focus on mission and network the effective ministries of our congregations. The staff will be coached in transformation, leaders will share best practices, service opportunities will be strengthened, individuals and congregations will be invited into a life of generosity, mission teams will be created, ministry networks of laity and clergy will be developed all as a part of this new strategy.

Synod ministries are partners with our congregations in celebrating the transforming power of the Gospel in our congregations for the sake of mission in the world. The synod

This is an exciting time in our synod. In partnership with the whole church we are beginning the *Book of Faith* initiative. We continue to find new ways of supporting our mission start

## Economic Stimulus Rebate

The Conference of Bishops voted unanimously to tithe the economic stimulus rebate being issued by the U.S. Federal government, to benefit ministries among people in poverty. You are invited to participate in the witness by tithing your rebate to Lutheran World Relief or the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Thank you.



# Synod Assembly 2008

The 2008 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will meet Friday through Sunday, June 13-15, at Wartburg College in Waverly. The assembly theme is *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Faithful and Bold*. The synod emphasis, *Word of Life*, will be the focus of the assembly.

## SCHEDULE

Events begin at 7 p.m. Friday with a communion service in Neumann Auditorium and conclude at noon Sunday following a closing communion service. Liturgy for both services comes from the ELCA's *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

The Sunday morning small group bible study will utilize *Opening the Book of Faith*, part of the new *Book of Faith initiative*.

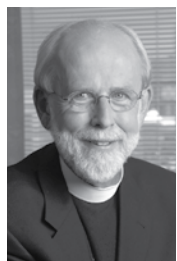
## THE REV. JAMES F. MAUNEY

The Rev. James F. Mauney, bishop of the Virginia Synod, will provide two presentations focusing on the power of the Word of God in the lives of individuals, families, and communities.



Rev. James F. Mauney

Bishop Mauney is a graduate of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Trinity Lutheran Seminary and holds honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Lenoir-Rhyne College and Roanoke College.



Rev. Mark S. Hanson

## THE REV. MARK S. HANSON

The churchwide representative to the assembly will be The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop. Bishop Hanson has served as presiding bishop of the ELCA since August 2001. Before being elected presiding bishop, he served as bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod.

Bishop Hanson is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary. In 2003, he was elected president of the Lutheran World Federation, a position he holds concurrently with his position as presiding bishop of the ELCA.

## BISHOP'S ELECTION

"The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot..." Synod constitution S.9.04. All



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Living in God's Amazing Grace:  
Faithful and Bold*

ordained ministers in the ELCA are eligible for nomination on the ecclesiastical ballot (first ballot). The term of office is six years. The Northeastern Synod has no term limits for bishop.

## OFFERINGS

Voting members and visitors are invited to bring canned food donations for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Donations will be collected near the registration tables Friday and Saturday.

Assembly financial offerings have been designated for the synod's Leadership Endowment Fund and Namibian Travel Fund.

## CONSULTATION

Rev. Phil Blom, regional representative, will schedule individual consultations on behalf of the ELCA Board of Pensions.

## ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT HEARING

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the ELCA Draft of a Social Statement on Human Sexuality. A record of comments will be shared with the task force, who will consider them while crafting revisions for the proposed social statement for 2009.

– Linda J. Hudgins  
Assistant to the Bishop

## NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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Send news for the June 2008 issue to Linda Hudgins by May 2.

# Ideas for a Pre-Assembly Orientation

## PLANNING

Check to see when pre-assembly materials will be mailed to voting members. Hold the orientation after the receipt of pre-assembly information. Invite voting members. Ask a knowledgeable individual who has attended a number of assemblies to review the pre-assembly information and lead the discussion.

## AGENDA

### Devotions

### Introductions

Review information contained in the pre-assembly information:

- Agenda - location for worship and plenary sessions
- General Assembly Information
- Forums, Hearing, Seminars, Ministry Exhibits
- Reports
- Memo from College
  - Directions
  - Location for registration and housing check-in
- Memo from Assembly Manager

### Resolutions

- Who May Submit
- Deadline for Submission
- How to Read a Resolution
  - title
  - RESOLVED's
  - source of the resolution (bottom of the page)
  - Resolution Committee's recommendation (bottom of the page)
  - WHEREAS's for more information
- Discussion of Resolutions
  - describe microphone setup
  - chair will recognize speaker; always state name, congregation, city
  - encourage people to speak
- Voting on Resolutions
  - describe green card, red card, yellow card process
  - voting pads

**Elections** - deadline for nominations, elections ballot.

**Parliamentary Procedure** - see page 6.

**Issues** - describe the main points of both sides of the issue; encourage people to learn more about them before the assembly.

**General Question/Answer Time**

## Assembly Tips

### Comfort

Consider walking shoes, a jacket, and umbrella. You will walk from building to building, and room temperatures vary.

### Orientation

Encourage congregations near you to prepare for the assembly together using *Ideas for a Pre-Assembly Orientation* – see this page.

### Preparation

Participants often say they wish they were more knowledgeable about discussions and decisions. Study the pre-assembly materials containing reports, compensation guidelines, and mission goals, which will be mailed to all registered voting members on May 6. Highlight what is unclear, and make notes for questions.

### Review

Parliamentary procedure ensures a smoothly running assembly that is sensitive to participants. The parliamentary procedure outline, page 6, helps you feel confident about discussing, questioning, and debating.

### Ready

Carry your pre-assembly notebook. You'll use it frequently during business.

### Route

Locate on the Wartburg College map (provided in the pre-assembly materials) the registration site, parking lots, and building locations for housing, worship, and plenary sessions.

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

To accomplish this:	You say this:	Interrupt the speaker?	Is a second necessary?	Is it debatable?	Can it be amended?	Necessary Vote?	Can it be reconsidered?
Introduce business	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."	No	Yes	Yes (if debatable)	Yes	Majority	Yes
Give further study	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes (unless it has gone to committee)
Postpone discussion for stated period of time	"I move to postpone the discussion until..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
End debate and amendments	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No (unless it has gone to committee)
Suspend consideration of an issue temporarily	"I move to table the motion."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Raise a question about noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No (usually)
Call for an intermission	"I move we recess for..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
Adjourn the meeting	"I move that we adjourn."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
<b>Other motions to:</b>	<b>You say:</b>						
Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Reconsider an action	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	Yes	Yes	Yes (if motion to reconsider is debatable)	No	Majority	No
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Verify a voice by having members stand	"I call for a division."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Vote on a ruling of the chair	"I appeal from the chair's decision."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority	Yes
Protest breach of rules or conduct	"I rise to point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote (unless it is unclear)	No
Avoid considering an improper matter	"I object to consideration of this motion."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3	Yes (if main motion was not considered)
Suspend rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No

## Welcome Seminary Graduates

The Northeastern Iowa Synod welcomes two seminary graduates open to receive calls within the synod.

**Randy Bruno**, graduate in business administration from LeTourneau University, Austin, Texas, 2004 and Master of Divinity, The Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Austin, Texas. He has served as a Synodically Authorized Minister in rural parish settings and brings accounting and management experience to the ministry. Randy and Virginia Bruno are the parents of two adult children, Brian and Christine.



*Randy Bruno*

**Matthew R. Voyer**, graduate in sociology from the University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine, 2002 and Master of Divinity, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. He served as day camp director for First Lutheran Children's Program in Portland, Maine and as a coach in the local middle school. Matthew and Heather Voyer are the parents of Tobias, who will turn 1 on the first day of the assembly.



*Matthew Voyer*