



GLOBAL MISSION

New dates, new locations, new goals

Some things about Global Mission Events will not change—the excitement, color, and bonding of like-minded people.

Other things are changing to help Global Mission Events become even more helpful and relevant. Sunitha Mortha, associate director for global events, explains the changes.

Grass roots

“The ELCA is adapting to a new context of global mission,” Mortha said. “Activity is at the grass roots—mission engagement from individual to individual, from individual to congregation, from congregation to individual.”

Accompaniment

Global mission used to originate at the churchwide level. It meant doing

something for someone else, a top-down activity where persons with resources shared with persons who did not have resources.

“Today mission means accompaniment,” Mortha said, “walking with fellow Christians abroad. We learn from their witness.”

**W H Y
C H A N G E
Global
Mission
Events?**

Time, cost

Time and cost also affect the impact of Global Mission Events. With today’s fast pace, people find it difficult to commit to a four-day event. A shorter commitment, such as a weekend, is friendlier to schedules.

Another factor is cost. Traveling to an event across the country is a major expense.

Churchwide role

The question became, how can the churchwide organization help advance accompaniment global mission? One answer is skill building.

“Many ELCA members travel abroad on their own,” Mortha pointed out. “The churchwide organization can offer processes and procedures to help them interact with people abroad. For example, it can suggest questions that ELCA members can ask abroad to weigh whether projects they might attempt there are sustainable and not creating dependency in the people they seek to help.”

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AL RAJA FOLKLORIC DANCE TROUPE brings a lively dance and moving stories to the 2006 Global Mission Event. "These dancers are both Palestinian Christian and Muslim," said Cecil Maureen Johnson, St. Paul, Thornton, a regular attendee of Global Mission Events. "The event's strong theme is peace." Another Middle Easterner at the event was Baraket Rahme of the Contact and Resource Center in Lebanon. "After he left Lebanon, it was invaded," Johnson said. "He had to delay returning. The center serves persons with disabilities, and he shared the story of the woman there who made 500 of the convention bags for Global Mission Events before she had to flee." The GlobalFest evening is a highlight—a colorful out-of-doors event, where flavors, sounds, and sights from around the world are sampled and former missionaries, such as Pastor Milton and Cecil Maureen Johnson, are recognized. The Johnsons served as missionaries in New Guinea and have used synod scholarships to attend Global Mission Events. Any synod member may apply for a scholarship.



CECIL MAUREEN JOHNSON



CECIL MAUREEN JOHNSON

For synod global mission event **scholarships**, contact Rev. Nancy Larson, assistant to the bishop
e-mail <nancy.larson@ecunet.org>
phone 319/352-1414

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Experiments

Mortha said that the ELCA's 2007 plan offers two pilot projects.

"There are two shorter winter events, and they take place in warm locations," she said.

They will include groups of people who are already gathering. The Florida Festival draws in local congregation members by visiting their churches for Sunday worship. The Phoenix Fiesta dovetails with an event that already brings Lutheran seniors to the area—Rally in the Valley. This year's rally will focus on the accompaniment form of global mission.



MORTHA

Teamwork

The Grand Canyon Synod cosponsors this Phoenix Fiesta, and when that synod plans events, it encourages congregations to send teams—pastor, outreach person, educator, music director, youth director, other leaders. The Phoenix Fiesta uses this technique and encourages team participation.

In the past, some people traveled to Global Mission Events alone and found it lonely to return to their congregations and guide them toward an accompaniment model of mission. A team has a better chance of effecting change.

Mortha said, "Some pastors lack tools for the accompaniment model of mission, so the Fiesta shows what a congregation looks like that does accompaniment global mission. As congregations see this working, they can see themselves using the same approach."

Feedback from 2007 events will guide the ELCA as it launches a new global mission model in 2008.

This year, choose a festival, fiesta, or traditional event

The ELCA offers three 2007 Global Mission experiences—a Florida festival in January, an Arizona fiesta in February, and the traditional four-day event in July.

“The three experiences reflect the ELCA strategy to move toward smaller events,” said Anne Basye, ELCA global resources associate director.

Festival

Events begin with the Global Mission FESTIVAL just north of Orlando, Florida, at St. John Lutheran Church, Winter Park. For Florida snowbirds, this winter location may be closer to “home.” It takes place the weekend of **January 26-28.**

“This festival is shorter and more intimate than a full-scale summer event,” Basye said.

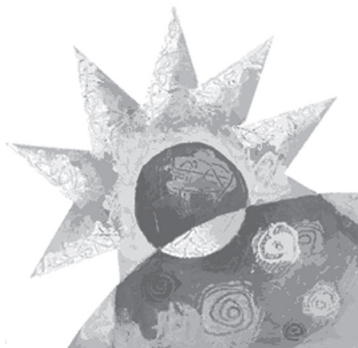
Programming is geared to persons 14 years of age and older. It features skill-building opportunities for congregation members who are involved in global mission. This will be helpful to Lutherans who enjoy companion relationships with a global synod and congregations that sponsor short-term mission trips.

Music at all three events will be lead by Bread for the Journey consisting of Tom Witt, Mary Preus, and Antonio Machado. The group is familiar to global mission audiences.

Friday begins at 3 p.m. and Saturday’s schedule goes from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Sunday, participants visit nearby congregations for a range of global music and a worship service

created by the ELCA global mission unit.

Registration of \$50 includes meals. Registration for just Saturday is \$25.



Global Mission Festival

Winter Park, Florida, January 26 to 28

Speakers

- Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, an outspoken advocate of peace with justice in the Holy Land and Lutheran World Federation vice president.
- Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA new congregational development director for the United States and Caribbean.

Workshop leaders

- Rev. Paul Moonu, student, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, who serves the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.
- Stephen Deal, Costa Rica, regional representative for ELCA Global Mission in Central America, who served in Guatemala.
- Rev. Judith Van Osdol-Hansen, ELCA missionary in Argentina.

Global Mission Fiesta

Phoenix, Arizona, February 2-3

Speaker

Rev. Pierre Séne, president, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal with 12 parishes in central Senegal.

Global Mission Event

Columbus, Ohio, July 19-22

Speaker

Immaculée Ilibagiza, Rwanda, who survived the 1994 genocide by hiding for three months in the cramped bathroom of a pastor’s house, a story highlighting forgiveness and a profound relationship with God.

For information and registration,

use the web site <www.elca.org/gme> or phone 800/638-3522, ext. 2025

Fiesta

The following weekend, Friday and Saturday, **February 2-3**, Global Mission FIESTA takes place at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Arizona.

“This fiesta equips congregation teams for global mission,” Basye said.

After Friday’s plenary sessions, congregation teams on Saturday gain insights and tools in education, advocacy, and worship. The accompaniment model of mission is demonstrated with opportunities to build global mission skills.

Registration is \$100 for the first team member, then \$20 less for each succeeding person until the sixth and additional people pay nothing.

The Global Mission Fiesta dovetails with the Lutheran Seniors Assembly Monday and Tuesday, February 5-6, at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Arizona. For information, go to <www.lutheranseniors.org>, phone 623/878-3996.

Event

The 2007 traditional Global Mission EVENT accepts Ohio’s invitation and takes place at Ohio State University, Columbus, Thursday through Sunday, **July 19-22.** It is multi-generational with programming for children and junior- and senior-high youth.

Registration opens February 1.

“The ELCA does Global Mission Events well,” Basye said. “When you attend, you won’t be disappointed.”



Plan for assemblies, annual meetings

Synod assembly

The 2007 synod assembly will be held at Luther College, Decorah, **Friday-Sunday, June 8-10**. The theme is *Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever*, with the synod's emphasis *Ending Hunger Now*.

As we prepare to gather in assembly around Word and Sacrament, it is important to be aware of the process that brings business items to the assembly. All business brought for action to voting members of the assembly is presented in resolution form. Resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee may come from a voting member of a Northeastern Iowa Synod congregation, a congregation, or a conference. A form to submit resolutions is enclosed.

Voting members

Remember to elect synod assembly voting members at your annual meeting.

Section C5.04 of the constitution provides that a congregation choose laypersons from among its voting members to serve as synod assembly voting members and also persons to represent it at conferences, clusters, coalitions, and other area subdivisions of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected and other qualifications are prescribed in synod guidelines.

You make a difference as you elect your congregation's assembly voting members. You also make a difference at your conference assembly when individuals are nominated for synod boards and committees. As you do so, please pray for the planning and preparation of the synod assembly.

IRS mileage rate

As reported in the December *STAR*, the business mileage rate for 2007 is 48.5 cents per mile, 20 cents per medical or moving mile, and 14 cents for service to a charitable organization.

Treasurers meet

Congregation treasurers gather to learn and share at Redeemer, Waverly, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., **Saturday, January 13**. Speakers

are Keith Oltrogge, CPA, Denver; members of the synod compensation committee; and Gregg Piehl, Northeastern Iowa Partnership for Education. Invitations were mailed to treasurers in December. Pastors, financial committee members, and others are welcome to attend. To register, phone Linda Hudgins, 319/352-1414.

Churchwide Assembly

Congregation observers are invited to attend the Churchwide Assembly in Chicago **Monday-Sunday, August 6-12**. Each congregation may register one congregation observer before May 31. Observers receive the recommendations for assembly action and other materials and have reserved seating in the observers section. They do

not have voice or vote. Registration costs \$150, and the meal plan may be purchased. Other costs will include transportation, housing, and additional meals.

For information, see

continuing resolution 12.41.C04.

—Linda J. Hudgins
Assistant to the Bishop



Living in God's amazing grace:
Thanks be to God!

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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Send news for the March issue to Linda Hudgins by February 2.



Let's work to end hunger—NOW

For the next 12 months, the Northeastern Iowa Synod will highlight ministries of our church that work to end world hunger. The theme is *Ending Hunger Now*, the title of a book by George McGovern, Bob Dole, and Donald Messer. It focuses on how the church responds to God's love in Christ by seeking out and ministering to those in need of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. Each congregation of our synod took this book home from last June's synod assembly.

Four areas

The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is committed to end world hunger in the next 25 years. This is a heady goal. To reach it, the World Hunger Appeal concentrates on four areas —

- Immediate relief for people affected by chronic hunger and poverty
- Long-term, sustainable development
- Law and system changes
- Member awareness of issues relating to hunger, poverty, and justice.

This comprehensive approach proves to be extraordinarily effective, and a congregation can work in the same four areas.

Homework

Become familiar with World Hunger Appeal resources and partner organizations —

- **The ONE Campaign**, with the goal of directing an additional 1 percent of the United States' budget to provide basic needs to poor countries. Web site <www.elca.org/advocacy/one>; phone 202/783-7507.
- **Stand With Africa**, which helps African communities and churches overcome HIV/AIDS, end hunger, and build peace. Web site <www.elca.org/hunger/swa>; phone 800/638-3522, ext. 2764.
- **ELCA Disaster Response**, recognized as one of

the world's most efficient and effective means of responding to disasters. Web site <www.elca.org/disaster>; phone 800/638-3522.

- **Lutheran World Relief**, a partner organization in 50 countries that combats the causes of poverty.

Web site <www.lwr.org>; phone 410/230-2700.

- **Bread for the World**, an ecumenical partner organization on hunger and poverty issues. Web site <www.bread.org>; phone 800/822-7323.
- **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**, a partner organization that works indirectly with hunger by serving refugees and migrants. Web site <www.lirs.org>; phone 410/230-2700.

Plan

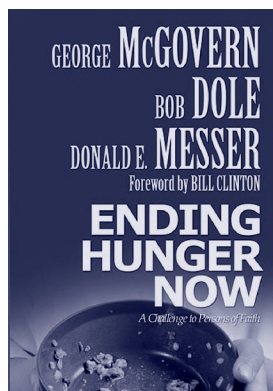
How will your congregation fight hunger in the United States and around the world? I encourage you to organize study groups using the book *Ending Hunger*

Now and to use the bulletin insert *World Hunger Basics*.

Our synod's Hunger Work Group has been active and vital since the synod began. I am grateful for its work, building on the strong heritage of our predecessor district and synod.

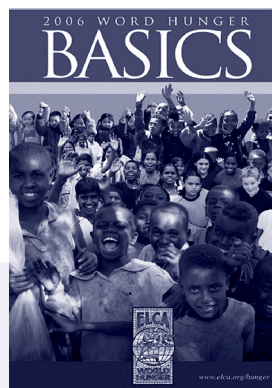
Last year's assembly discussed the importance and urgency of this work. I look forward to working with you in this commitment.

—Steven L. Ullestad
Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod



ENDING HUNGER NOW, ISBN 0800637838, costs \$9.60 on line.

WORLD HUNGER BASICS bulletin insert, ISBN 600002070107, is free in quantities of 50.



Augsburg Fortress Publishers, web site <www.augsburgfortress.org/store>, phone 800/328-4648

Northeastern Iowa Synod Hunger Work Group—

Rev. Dwight Albers, Clermont; Casandra Boevers, Tripoli; Rev. Ramona Bouzard, Waverly; Elizabeth Burns, Waverly; Rev. Charis Combs-Lay, Oelwein; James Combs-Lay, Oelwein; Mary Lou Everman, Washburn; Anna Johnson, Charles City; Alison Joslyn, Arlington; Rev. Nancy Larson, synod staff; Rev. Thomas Martin, Kensett; Tammy Muller, Monona; Amy Olson, Ridgeway; Norbert Strasser, Cedar Falls

LIFELONG LEARNING

Choose from six courses

Lifelong Learning for Lutherans announces six topics for synod lay persons and rostered leaders. Each uses video presentations by ELCA seminary professors that are facilitated by rostered leaders.

- **Jesus to Luther, Part One**, *Harpers Ferry*, Friday evening and Saturday, January 26-27; register by January 12.
- **American Religious Experience and How Lutherans Interpret the Bible, Part Two**, *Mason City*, Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., February 10 and 17; register by January 27.
- **Jesus to Luther, Part Two**, *Harpers Ferry*, Friday evening and Saturday, February 23-24; register by February 9.

Three courses are offered from 7-9 p.m., the five Sundays of February 18 and 25 and March 4, 11, and 18; register by February 4—

- **Lutheran Heritage, Part One**, *Luther College, Decorah*
- **Introduction to Old Testament, Part One**, *Wartburg College, Waverly*
- **Introduction to New Testament, Part One**, *EWALU Camp and Retreat Center, Strawberry Point*

Contact Rev. Helen Beth Kuhens, e-mail <sojourn@acegroup.cc>, phone 563/586-2000.

Youth Leadership Gathering

for adults and youth who lead youth ministry



Each congregation is asked to bring a team—
at least one adult and two youth

PROGRAM

Youth ministry vs. youth and family ministry
Adolescent psychology
Planning for youth groups
LYO and outdoor ministry

EWALU Camp and Retreat Center, Strawberry Point
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, January 13

Register on the web <www.neiasynod.org/synod_news/pdf/gatheringofleaders2007.pdf>
or phone Rev. Mark Anderson, 319/352-1414

FORUMS

January, February forums listed

A Turkey River Forum takes place in January and in February at Zion, West Union, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact Susan Friedrich, e-mail <susanaim@fbx.com>, phone 563/422-6242.

- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship and Renewal of Congregational Worship*, Dr. Thomas Schattauer, linguistics professor and chapel dean, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, **Tuesday, January 16**.
- *Biblical Interpretation and Public Theology*, Dr. Duane Larson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, **Tuesday, February 13**.

Cedar Valley and North Iowa are sharing forums. They take place from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Messiah, Charles City.

Contact Rev. Paul Nelson, e-mail <stjames.pastor@mchsi.com>, phone 641/423-4702, or Rev. Irving Sandberg, e-mail <irving@mchsi.com>, phone 319/296-1387.

- *Tackling the 2007 Lenten Texts*, Dr. Ann Fritschel, Hebrew Bible professor, Wartburg Theological Seminary, **Tuesday, January 30**.
- *Law and Gospel: Guiding our mission*, Dr. Mark Mattes, religion professor, Grand View College, Des Moines, **Tuesday, February 20**.

Registration and meal is \$20 per event.

CLASS

Study group skills

A course titled *Authenticity and Leadership Effectiveness* will be offered at St. Mary by the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, **Monday-Friday, January 22-26**. Leader is Roy Oswald of the Alban Institute. Cost is \$490. Participants experience group phenomena and learn how their behavior effects the group.

The course is cosponsored by Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Cathedral College, Washington, D.C.

For information, contact Oswald by e-mail <Roymoswald@aol.com>, phone 301/432-2616. Register with Marji Shannon, e-mail <mshannon@lstc.edu>, phone 773/256-0746.

SEXUALITY

Study sexuality, part three

Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor is the third phase of the ELCA's sexuality study. Congregations are invited to host a retreat or a half dozen sessions to

work through the study and respond by November 1 to the task force that is writing the social statement on human sexuality. It will be presented to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

The study is on line at <[www.elca.org/faithful journey](http://www.elca.org/faithful_journey)>. For multiple copies, phone 800/328-4648.

Gift annuities offer a gift and a return

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between the synod and you. You as the annuitant transfer property to the synod, and the synod promises to pay you a fixed annuity payment on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis, based on your life expectancy or on two lives. This annuity payment will not change regardless of current investment or market conditions. Since part of the annuity payment is tax-free of principle, you may receive a very substantial income, along with an initial charitable deduction.

If you are interested in learning more about transferring appreciated assets or cash to the synod and yet receiving an attractive return on the transfer, call Gregg Piehl at the synod office.