

# Now the green blade rises

By Pastor Nancy Larson  
ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

Does it ever! This year we have experienced a rather unusual winter and spring. One day the lawn was brown and looking quite dead, the fields were dark and seemingly empty, and the trees were barren, devoid of leaves. Almost overnight the world around us was transformed into lush green grass, budding trees, and fields full of activity with the promise of much to come in the weeks and months ahead.

Ever since I did my first seed-planting project in kindergarten, I have been fascinated with planting seeds and seeing what grows. This time of year I get giddy with anticipation to plant the seeds for beans, peas, chard and tomatoes in my container garden. The ensuing growth is a miracle to my eyes. The fact that just a few short weeks later there are actually vegetables to pick and eat is a bonus. I just really like to see things grow.

The Easter hymn “Now the Green Blade Rises” points to this process of seed planting as a sign of God’s amazing work of salvation through a death that didn’t stay dead. Crucified Jesus, placed in a tomb, is resurrected three days later and nothing is ever the same. The promise of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation is made real in this divine resurrection. This is not just a memory recalled; it is a reality that is once

again relived, not just once a year but each and every day we draw breath. The Easter lilies fade, the trumpets are put back in their case, and we outgrow the Easter dresses, but the reality of new life remains with us. This gift from God is meant to walk with us each step of our lives, through all the difficult times and the challenges, as well as the amazing opportunities that come our way.

There is evidence of life around us and in us, and we are blessed to have these gifts shape us and, through us, shape the world. We are people of hope, life and grace. We are pushed from the empty tomb into the world that desperately needs to know and experience this reality made new in us each day. Even as the seeds planted in the dirt bring growth and promise, so we also are planted with a purpose. We are invited to grow, bloom and yield the miraculous fruit of God’s planting.

May God’s grace be yours!

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## Assembly early bird registration is due May 8

The early bird registration fee for the 2012 Synod Assembly is available until Tuesday, May 8. After that, an additional \$25 fee will be added per person.

Registration materials and the agenda can be downloaded at [www.neiasynod.org/synod\\_resources](http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources).

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Send news for the July/August issue to Marcia Hahn by June 15. We welcome story ideas related to the 2012 theme, “Strengthening Leaders.”

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