

**2012 Bishop's Report**  
**Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly**  
**Bishop Steven L. Ullestad**

In my introduction of Pastor Johnson from LSI, our social ministry work includes direct services, education and advocacy on behalf of the families of Iowa. This spring over 200 of us gathered in Des Moines to advocate for the children of Iowa. Nazareth, Cedar Falls had more people participate in this event than any congregation in the state. They produced this report to their congregation that I think is worth sharing.

Video

There are some people in your life that you know you can always count on. It doesn't matter the situation...no matter the need...you know that they will always come through for you.

Larry Gregory is one of those friends of the synod and a friend of Ruth and me.

Dependable, reliable, humble, committed, deep personal faith, eager to serve...avid UNI and Iowa fan. Larry has served faithfully as synod treasurer through 8 of the most challenging and important years of this synod's history and he has never let you or me down.

This morning, Mr. Treasurer, we give you two tokens of our gratitude:

-picture of the new synod pectoral cross given by Bethlehem In CF in memory of Solveig and

-this plaque with an expression of our appreciation. *Read plaque...*In gratitude to Larry Gregory for your faithful service as Treasurer, Northeastern Iowa Synod, 2004-2012, "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3a

On behalf of a grateful church, thank you.

*Larry's response.*

YAGM...now there is a word you don't hear very often. It is the acronym for Young Adult in Global Mission. The assembly news lists YAGMs with NEIA connections. One of them, Alma Gast from Cresco who will be entering seminary when she returns from the Middle East. Listen to her story.

## Video

We do a lot of good things together in the name of Jesus Christ. You have heard about some of them this weekend.

Norbert and Karen at Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Elayne's story of the candidacy journey, Syd as she shared how she leads and equips others to lead, Harold and the Haylift. The report of your remarkable generosity in the Malaria Campaign.

We heard from Pastor Frances about the depth and breadth of churchwide ministries and workshop after workshop outlining a variety of partnerships that further the mission of Jesus Christ.

Those of us who serve in the synod office work hard and we give our very best because Jesus Christ and his mission deserve our very best.

If I was asked what is the most important thing we do? The answer would be, we help you accomplish your calling/vocation/mission in Christ. Synod ministries exist to assist you in accomplishing your baptismal calling to make Christ known each day.

Each staff person, ministry network, council and committee exists to help you do what God has called you to do while you are on this earth. That is why we have synod staff and synod ministries.

What do you want to do in Christ's name before you die...not talking about a bucket list of places to see and things to buy...Am talking about your mission on earth. Perhaps it is to:

- feed hungry people
- ensure there are pastors for rural Iowa
- save children from a painful death by Malaria
- teach the faith to young people and deepen the faith of adults

We are here to help you accomplish this and more.

That is why, without hesitation, I continue to ask you to give yourself away, to give yourself and your money, to accomplish your calling on earth. You can make this offering through congregational mission support...mission extension...and as individuals.

Our synod council has made individual gifts exceeding \$2,000. Each synod staff person has made a special gift which exceeds \$10,000 in annual gifts and "expectancies" of insurance policies and estate planning that exceeds \$150,000.

The invitation will continue to come to you in a variety of ways, to both individuals and congregations. For example, you will be receiving a letter from us in the next week or so inviting you to further your God given calling. We want you to accomplish your God given calling. Synod ministries exist to help you fulfill that purpose.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor.