



La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA

Coulee

Courier

Assembly edition

June 3-5, 2010

Luther College

Decorah IA

ROOTED IN THE WORD

CELEBRATION

Assembly theme text

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

Psalm 1: 1-3

BISHOP'S REPORT



Bishop Jim Arends message was “Rooted in Hope.” Bishop Arends said he was asked recently where he sees hope in our church. He said he sees hope because we are an evangelical Lutheran church. We’re in this together. We are part of something we are doing together. We’ve been called to this ministry by Christ.

We are evangelical. It means gospel-centered and we are centered in the gospel. We are rooted in the living word. Our Lutheran understanding of scripture is a gift to the world.

At our best we are a big tent church. We don’t agree on all of the social statements. We disagree on lots of things. But we know that we are one in Christ and that’s what held us together.

LIFT -- Living Into the Future Together

Take the survey at www.lacrosseareasynod.org
What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?
What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?

RESOLUTIONS

(Copy of full resolutions on Synod Web site at www.lacrosseareasynod.org)

R1 – Passed

World Hunger Appeal

Challenge synod congregations to carry out ELCA World Hunger Appeal by assigning a person from their congregation to be an ELCA World Hunger Congregational Contact and the La Crosse Area Synod Hunger Subcommittee assist all synod Hunger Congregational Contacts with the mission of bringing the ELCA World Hunger Appeal message to their congregations.

R2 – Passed

Pension Resolution

Direct the Church Council of the ELCA to direct the ELCA Board of Pensions to explore and implement strategies to correct the underfunding of pension obligations owed to former employees through options such as adding a temporary surcharge on congregations, active members and to reinstate the pension recovery fund.

R3 -- Failed

Rescinding Churchwide Action

The La Crosse Area Synod memorialize the ELCA in Churchwide Assembly to rescind the decisions of the 2009 Assembly regarding Resolutions Related to Ministry Policies; in particular, resolutions one, two, and four.

R4 – Passed

Use of Disaster Funds

La Crosse Area Synod takes \$30,000 from its disaster relief fund and gives it to Lutheran Disaster Response to continue earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti.

(Please turn page for more resolutions)

ELCA REPORT



Vice president of the ELCA Carlos Peña brought greetings from Bishop Mark Hanson. Pena commented on the Assembly theme "Rooted in the Word" and said two years ago this September is when hurricane Ike hit his hometown of Galveston, Texas. The surge of seawater contaminated the soil and killed many of the city's trees and flowers. But now the saltwater has filtered through the soil and beautiful plantings are growing again.

"Both the old and the new testaments use images of plant life to teach us about the state of our spiritual life," Pena said. "If our roots are reaching for the fertile land of God's grace, we will grow and flourish and lead fruitful lives."

AWARDS

Green Leaf Awards were presented by Pastor Pete Beckstrand to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Caledonia, for paper recycling, CFL bulbs, natural cleaners; Holmen Lutheran Church for its green team, recycling information, replacement lighting, insulation and a community garden and Melanie Timmerman at the synod office for using her continuing ed to attend an earth keeping conference, using e-mail to send out synod information and for her personal efforts to walk to work or to use mass transportation.

Olive Branch awards for peace efforts were presented by Pastor Kent Johnson to congregations in each conference. South: Good Shepherd, Viroqua; North: Halfway Creek, Holmen; East: Trinity. Sparta; West: English. La Crosse

RESOLUTIONS (continued)

R5 – Passed Thank You for Reflecting God's Generosity

Resolution to commend and thank the congregations who committed themselves to supporting mission giving as outlined in 2009 Resolution 4.



Thursday night opened with a prayer and candlelight service around the cross.



Kes Asfaw Terfassa, president of the Central Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, presented the opening sermon and focused on Psalm 1: 1-3. He challenged us to deepen our roots in Christ and make it a priority to spend time with God every day.