



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA

Leaders Mailing

April 2011

E-LETTER FORMAT!

We hope you appreciate the e-letter format of the Leaders Mailing and thank you for helping us save money and conserve our natural resources!

Please share this document with others who would benefit. If you prefer receiving a paper copy, simply reply to this e-mail and make that request.

If more than one family member is active in the synod, you may receive both an e-mail version and a paper copy of this newsletter. If that happens, please let us know which version you would prefer for all family members. THANK YOU!

NEWS

REGISTRATION FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY

On-line forms now available on synod website home page, www.lacrosseareasynod.org for Voting Members/Visitors and for Displays. Please note there is not one fee for all registrants - choose your housing and meals individually and add that to Standard Fee. Don't forget to click the "submit" key at the bottom of form and don't hesitate to call the synod office with any questions, 608-788-5000.

BOARD OF PENSIONS HEALTH ASSESSMENT - Deadline April 30!

ELCA Bd. of Pensions primary plan members - you and your spouse can complete the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment on your computer and:

- Receive an automatic \$150 credit,
- Earn up to \$300 more in credit for completing follow-up activities, and
- And enable ALL OF US (**all our congregations and synod office**) to receive a 2% discount on our 2011 ELCA health benefit contributions, but

Quick Links

www.lacrosseareasynod.org

[Grace Happens Here](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

MEETINGS

East Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, Mar. 15, Wisconsin Advocacy Day, Madison

Lutheran Campus Ministry Board, Thu, Mar. 17, 7:30 am, Lutheran Campus Ministry office

Certification School Graduation, Sat-Sun, Mar. 19-20, Pine Lake, Waupaca

North Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, Mar. 22, 9 am, Christ, Arcadia

Mission Support Committee, Mon, Mar. 28, 6 pm, synod office

Glocal Mission Gathering Committee, Tue, Mar. 29, 4:30 -6 pm, synod office

Assembly Planning Committee Meeting, Thu, March 31, 9:30 am, synod office

Deans, Thu, March 31, 1:30 pm, synod office

Executive Committee, Thu, March 31, 4 pm meeting, synod office

only IF 65% OF ELIGIBLE PASTORS/STAFF IN OUR SYNOD take the assessment by April 30!
Find it here www.elcabop.org and let the savings begin!
If you don't have a doctor's appt. early in the year, you can use numbers from a previous appt., as well.

PRAYER VIGILS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Thu, Mar. 17, English Lutheran Church, 1509 King St, La Crosse, 5:30 pm (*3rd Thur. each month - April 21 is Maundy Thursday so you are encouraged to worship in your home congregation and keep Middle East peace in your prayers*)
Coordinated by Marla Engbloom, 608-784-9783.
Sponsor: Middle East Subcommittee

MISSION INTERPRETER WORKSHOP

Sat., March 12 - Synod Office
--9 am - for new interpreters
--10:45 am - previously trained interpreters can join in for continuing education and updates
--12 noon - lunch served to all, concluding at 1 pm
Workshop is free with no need to pre-register. Contact Cindy Berg, synod Mission Interpreter Coordinator, with any questions, 608-788-7645.
Sponsor: Mission Support Committee

RETIRED PASTORS MEETING

Tue, April 5, 9:30 a.m. through lunch at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Onalaska. Program and details forthcoming. Coordinated by Pr. Dale Ruosch at 608-534-5127 and Pr. Vern Skarstad at 608-779-1877.

FAITH FORUM - 2 Events for lay & clergy

"Spirit Fed, Spirit Led Worship"
With Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, April 11 / 12
SEE [ENCLOSED INSERT](#).

SPRING THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE for Pastors

Tue, April 12 - Sugar Creek Bible Camp
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Prof. of Homiletics at Luth. School of Theology-Chicago (LSTC)
Watch e-mail notices for registration info coming this month. Please note, different material will be presented at Spring Theological than at Faith Forums.
Sponsor: Professional Service and Care Committee

SYNOD W-ELCA CONVENTION

Sat, April 16, 8 am-3 pm
Grace Lutheran, Elroy, Wis.
Speaker: JoAnn Preston
Registration forms available in Feb. issue of the

Synod Council, Thu, March 31, 5:15 pm supper, 6 pm meeting, synod office

2011 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, Sun, April 3, 6:30 pm, synod office

Peru Sub-Committee, Mon, April 4, 6 pm, synod office

West Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, April 5, 9 am, Wilmington, Caledonia

Church in Society Committee, Tue, April 5, 6:30-8:30 pm, synod office

Global Mission Committee(s), Thu, April 7, 5:30 pm - Ethiopia Subcommittee, 6:30 pm - Global Mission

Mission Support Committee, Thu, April 7, 6 pm, synod office

Middle East Subcommittee, Mon, April 11, 1 pm, synod office

Endowment Fund Board, Mon, April 18, 4 pm, synod office

Lutheran Campus Ministry Development Event, Mon, April 18, 5:30 pm, synod office

East Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, April 19, 9:30 am, location TBD

South Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, April 19, 9 am, location TBD

Lutheran Campus Ministry Board, Thu, Apr. 21, 7:30 am, Lutheran Campus Ministry office

North Conference Pastors' Meeting, Tue, Apr. 26, 9 am, Bell's Coulee

Assembly Planning Committee Meeting, Thu, April 28, 9:30 am, synod office

Deans, Thu, April 28, 3 pm, synod office

Crosswinds newsletter. Call Carol Leopold (608-547-7071) or Leanne Lutz (608-547-2512) with any questions.
Sponsor: Synod W-ELCA Board

PRE-ASSEMBLY CAUCUS MEETINGS

- WEST CONFERENCE - Sun, May 1, 3 pm, location TBD
- SOUTH CONFERENCE - Sun, May 1, 7 pm, Bethel, Viroqua (hosted by Bethel & Bethany Parish)
- EAST CONFERENCE - Mon, May 2, 7 pm, Bethany, Mauston
- NORTH CONFERENCE - Mon, May 9, 7 pm, Blair Lutheran East (formerly First Lutheran)

Caucus events provide important preparation for the Synod Assembly. All voting members to Assembly should attend in order to:

- ~ Receive an Assembly book and other important information,
- ~ Hear the first reading of resolutions and proposed budget,
- ~ Participate in conference elections and nominations to the Synod Assembly, and
- ~ Serve as a communicator to your congregation about the upcoming Assembly!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsor: Synod Assembly Planning Committee

2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Fri-Sun, June 10-12

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Theme: "Spirit Fed. Spirit Led."

Registration forms on synod website,
www.lacrosseareasynd.org home page.

ELCA Rep: Ken Inskeep, ELCA Exec. for Research & Evaluation

Musician: Rachel Kurtz

Sponsor: Synod Assembly Planning Committee

2011 W-ELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

July 14-17, Spokane, Washington

Registration now available [on-line](#) . For further questions contact synod rep, Carol Leopold at 608-547-7071 or clleopold44@gmail.com.

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Sun-Tue, Oct. 16-18

Heartwood Conference Center, Trego, Wis.

PASTORS-- MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Sponsor: Conference Deans

Executive Committee, Thu, April 28, 5:15 pm supper, 6 pm meeting, synod office

CALL PROCESS & PRAYER CONCERNS

SELF-STUDY

- Christ the King - Pastor (Interim: Rev. Steve A. Meyer, part-time)
- Bethel & Bethany, Viroqua - Pastor (Interim: Rev. Kris Fahey)
- Blair Lutheran - Pastor (Interim: Rev. Chris Hallemeier)
- First, Onalaska - Admin. Pastor (Interim: Rev. John Carrier)
- Immanuel & Wilmington, Caledonia - Assoc. Pastor (Interim: Rev. Jim Scaife, part-time)
- Luther Memorial & Our Savior's, Gays Mills - Pastor (Interim: Rev. Kent Johnson)
- Our Savior's, West Salem - Assoc. Pastor
- Our Savior's, West Salem - Senior Pastor (Interim: Rev. Roger Grow)
- Peace, Tomah - Pastor (Interim: Rev. Sue Sheffer-Meyer)

INTERVIEWING

--Trinity, Sparta - Associate Pastor (Interim: Rev. Mark Carr)

PRAYER CONCERNS

SYMPATHY

--For the family of Liam Bersagel-Briese (grandson of Pr. Dave and Mary Jo Bersagel, Our Savior's, West Salem), born Dec. 19, 2010, to Oren and Ahna (Bersagel) Briese (in Colorado) with brain injuries, died Feb. 18, 2011, memorial service held Feb. 22.

RETIREMENT

Rev. Dave Bersagel (Our Savior's,

YOUTH

SYNOD YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS

Next meetings: Mar. 21 & April 18, noon, synod office

Convener: Dick Pirwitz at 608-847-5982 or

pirw@frontier.com

Sponsor: Congregational Life Committee

LYO HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

at a congregation near YOU!

Next date: Sun., April 3, 3:30-6:30 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran, Westby

April Fool's! - skits on current issues and social justice, and more! See [flyer](#) for more information - then mark your calendars!

Sponsor: Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Leadership Team

SEE INSERT ON SYNOD CERTIFICATION SCHOOL STUDENT - Erin Rodriguez

GLOBAL MISSION

NEXT TEACHING PASTOR LEAVING SOON

Pr. Kristin Wendland (currently on-leave-from-call, previously at Living Hope in Ettrick) will be the ninth teaching pastor from our synod to teach in the Nekemte Christian Education College (NCEC). She will be in Ethiopia from March 14 - June 8. Pr. Wendland will be teaching two courses - Pastoral Care in African Christianity and Greek. Please keep Pr. Kristin in your prayers as she prepares for her journey and during her time there.

Sponsor: Companion Synod Teaching Pastors Sub-Committee

2011 DELEGATION TO ETHIOPIA

On March 14 four members of our synod, joined by Pr. Kristin Wendland (see above article) will travel to the Central Synod of Ethiopia for their 50 Anniversary Jubilee Celebration. We have been walking together in Christ for 20 of those 50 years! Those going on this delegation have all been delegates to the Central Synod previously and include Bishop Arends (teaching pastor in 2005 and to EECMY 50 Anniv. in 2009), Pr. Mark Solyst (first teaching pastor in 2002), Pr. Lindsay Jordan (2007 delegation) and Connie Scharlau (first delegation in 1998 and representative to ordination of first woman pastor in 2000).

Following the celebration, they will spend a week visiting ministry sites, making connections with church leaders and exploring the best ways to continue our walk together. They expect that each will visit a different congregation on March 27, bringing 5 different messages, all on behalf of the La Crosse Area Synod.

West Salem) retired Feb. 28, 2011

MISSION SUPPORT

Synod / ELCA Mission Support

Received \$51,986 from Feb 2011

Received \$57,158 from

Feb 2011

Ethiopia Clinics:

Received Feb. 2011 -- \$397.21

GREEN IDEA!

Each dirty heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning filter (HVAC) can cost your business up to \$5 per month in energy and may shorten the service life of your equipment. Replace your HVAC unit's filters regularly to save energy and maximize equipment life.

STEWARDSHIP

LENTEN STEWARDSHIP DEVOTIONALS

Read them [here](#). (or go to the Luther Seminary website

<http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/>)

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"A hardship mentality can make us narrow and defensive. A success and prosperity mentality can make us selfish. An attitude of thankfulness to God, for what He gives us, can make us truly generous."

From "Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer" by Charles Ringma
STEWARDSHIP

Synod Staff Listing

Bishop: Rev. Jim Arends -
bishop@lacrosseareasynd.org

Asst. to the Bishop:
Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" How e -
assistant@lacrosseareasynd.org

Synod Interim Pastor:

Rev. Chris Hallemeier

Exec. Asst./Office Manager:

Melanie Timmerman -
office@lacrosseareasynd.org

The delegation will be taking along 57 New Bible Commentaries for the NCEC students, 9 used Greek New Testaments (hopefully!) for Pr. Wendland's class and 3 medical books on tropical diseases. Yes, your help in supporting our connections in Ethiopia and our teaching pastors' program are greatly appreciated. See [donor form](#) (also at www.lacrosseareasynod.org / Global Church / Ethiopia or Peru) and accept our thanks for supporting these vital relationships!

Sponsor: Global Mission Committee and Ethiopia Companion Synod Sub-Committee

ELCA "GLOCAL" MISSION GATHERING - the Global Church in our Backyard

Fri-Sat, July 29-30, 2011

St. Paul Lutheran, La Crosse

Our synod is fortunate to have one of these national gatherings right here in La Crosse! This is a great opportunity for members of your congregation to participate in an event that 1) builds skills and partnerships that will help your congregation in its ministries and 2) deepen their understanding of the changing context and practice of global AND local mission.

There will be a variety of workshops covering a wide range of interests designed to help people from different areas of your church (music, children's ministries, preaching, stewardship, etc.) learn how to present global and local mission in a coordinated way. Keep watching for more info to follow!

Local Coordinator: JoAnn Salava, Chair, and Global Mission Committee

NEWS FROM MISSIONARIES -- in the Middle East and Peru

SEE ENCLOSED INSERTS or click links:

[Pr. Elly McHan](#), Communication Assistant, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

[Pr. Dana Nelson](#), pastor at Cristo Rey, ILEP (Lutheran Church in Peru)

INSERTS INCLUDED WITH THIS MAILING:

- ~ [Faith Forum Events](#) w/ Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee
- ~ [2011 Certification School Student](#) - Raising Up Leaders
- ~ Missionary Updates from: [Pr. Elly McHan](#) and [Pr. Dana Nelson](#)
- ~ Parish Paper, [April 2011](#) - "Incoming Pastors: Building Smoother Transition Bridges"

The Leaders Mailing is sent to approximately 575 people, including pastors, lay rostered leaders, youth workers, Mission Interpreters, parish staff, local media, members of synod organizations and to others who request it. It includes materials and events sponsored or endorsed by synod organizations. The deadline for text or copy-ready inserts is the first of January, March, April, June, September, October and December.

Off. Asst./Call Process Secy: Deb Wold - deb@lacrosseareasynod.org

Bookkeeper: Alice DaFoe - bookkeeper@lacrosseareasynod.org

Dir. for Raising Up Leaders:

Rocky Danielson - rul@lacrosseareasynod.org

Synod Office:

2301 South Ave, La Crosse WI 54601

P - 608.788.5000 F - 608.788.4916

www.lacrosseareasynod.org

Office Hours:

8:30 - noon, 1 - 4:30 Mon - Thurs

8:30 - noon, Fridays

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to office@lacrosseareasynod.org by office@lacrosseareasynod.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA | 2301 South Ave | La Crosse | WI | 54601-6229