



**La Crosse Area Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's Work. Our Hands.

## UPDATES FROM OUR SYNOD AND MINISTRY PARTNERS

12/01/11

### PRAYERS

Duane Natzke (father of Ben Natzke, Youth & Family Ministry Director, Immanuel, Viroqua) hospitalized on 11/29/11 for emergency surgery

### PREACHING OPPORTUNITIES

As you look at your church calendars past the new year, please note that Bishop Arends and Pr. Libby Howe would love opportunities to preach in synod congregations. Contact the synod office at 608-788-5000 or respond to this e-mail for available dates.

### TWO PASTOR EVENTS IN JANUARY

- Living Well Day - Thu, Jan. 12, Trinity, Sparta
- Boundaries Workshop - Thu, Jan. 26, synod office

ALL pastors are encouraged to attend **both** of these events! Fee for each event is only \$10, to cover meal and expenses. See [FLYER HERE](#) .

### WORKING TOGETHER - Ecumenical Effort for World Aids Day

Thu, Dec. 1 -- Read about the issues, what is being done and how you can help in this joint [LETTER](#) written on behalf of The Episcopal Church and the ELCA.

### WANT TO SAVE 2% in 2012 on Health Insurance through ELCA Bd of Pensions (now Portico Benefits Services)?

YES . . . it involves taking the annual Mayo Clinic Health Assessment, sometime between Jan 1 and April 30, 2012! If 65% of all ELCA-primary plan members in our synod congregations and the synod office complete the survey by April 30, ALL will receive a 2% discount on their health insurance costs. **We did it last year** . . . **let's do it again!** Reminders will be sent out again in January once the assessment is available.

### EXPLORING SEMINARY ON-LINE via Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS)

From Jan. 2 through Feb. 10, 2012

If you are discerning where God is calling you, or you know of someone who is in the discernment process, or who could be a leader in God's Church, please consider the following opportunity. WTS invites you to participate in the upcoming online "Exploring Seminary" course: Learn the fundamentals of theological education and interact with other students and a professor, Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean. Learn more [HERE](#). Fee only \$50.

## **YOUTH IN MISSION via Lutheran Theological Seminary-Chicago (LSTC)**

1. **Serving Christ in the World** - where "students learn about God, themselves and the world while exploring diversity, multiculturalism, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and local and global issues related to wealth and poverty."
2. **Beyond Belief** - where youth groups are connected with youth in the Chicago area for an urban service-learning experience to challenge students to move "beyond belief to faith in action;" also providing opportunities for them to meet and chat with LSTC students.

**FOR MORE INFO ON BOTH OPPORTUNITIES** - go to <http://yim.lstc.edu/> call 800-635-1116 or [youthinmission@lstc.edu](mailto:youthinmission@lstc.edu)

### **A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Sun, Dec. 19, 7 pm, English Lutheran, 1509 King St, La Crosse - Stoffel Lounge  
The Christmas Season can be a challenging time for people experiencing trials and loss. Presiders will be deaconess Susan Moss, Pastor Mark Shaw and musician Rachel Slough. Open to the community, this Healing Service will include an invite for anointing and candle lighting. All are welcome - no rsvp needed. See **FLYER** for more details.

### **A NONVIOLENT WARRIOR FOR PEACE**

"Every time the bold men rose up, they rose up with guns," says Liberian Lutheran Leymah Roberta Gbowee, winner of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. Read Leymah's story by visiting "Living Lutheran" at [www.livinglutheran.com/stories/a-nonviolent-warrior-for-peace.html](http://www.livinglutheran.com/stories/a-nonviolent-warrior-for-peace.html).

### **ENJOY THE ST OLAF 100th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

#### **"Rejoice, Give Thanks & Sing"**

Sun, Dec. 4, 3 pm - via "live" simulcast from the college  
Marcus Theater, 2032 Ward Ave, La Crosse, 2:30 pm preview, 3 pm performance  
Go to [www.stolaf.edu/simulcast](http://www.stolaf.edu/simulcast) for tickets, program and more info. Adults \$20, children \$18.50 plus \$1 each convenience fee.

**Check this link** <http://www.lacrosseareasyod.org/resources/publications/synod-update-weekly-e-letter/> for documents shared in all recent Synod Updates.

#### **Quick Links...**

[Our Website](#)

#### **Contact Information**

Phone: 608-788-5000 or reply to this e-mail

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