



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

UPDATES FROM OUR SYNOD AND MINISTRY PARTNERS

01/05/12

PRAYERS

~~For Pr. Merrill Herder (retired), hospitalized for slight stroke Dec. 31, now home recuperating

~~For Bishop Emeritus Stefan Guttormsson as he continues in hospice care at Bethany St. Joe's, La Crosse

YEAR-END GIVING DEADLINE

Attention pastors & church treasurers -- January 10 is the official deadline for monies to be received by the synod office that need to be included on the books for 2011. (For your convenience, all checks that are received in the synod office by noon on Thu, Jan. 12 will be included.)

PASTOR'S REPORT TO BISHOP AND CONGREGATIONAL (parochial) REPORTS

Links for **both** of these reports are up and active on the ELCA website [HERE](#) or at www.elca.org under Office of the Secretary, Info for Congregations.

UPCOMING SYNOD EVENTS - Time to get registered!!

- **MSG - Middle School Gathering** - Sat/Sun, Jan. 28-29, Sugar Creek Bible Camp SEE [FLYER](#) and [REGISTER HERE](#) .
- **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](#) for both events! (Pastors, if unable to attend our Boundaries Workshop on the 26th, you are also welcome to attend the event in Madison, South Central Synod of Wisconsin, with Barbara Keller on Tue, Jan. 24. See more info on that event [HERE](#).)

TAKE the 2012 HEALTH ASSESSMENT NOW!

For ALL PASTORS and staff covered by Portico Benefits (formerly ELCA Board of Pensions) for health care -- **Do you want to save your congregation 2% on health care costs?** 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. Find the assessment on the synod website home page,

www.lacrosseareasynod.org .

2012 YOUTH MINISTRIES DELEGATION TO PERU

If you are interested in this event see and share all the info on the attached [bulletin insert](#). Application form may be accessed [HERE](#).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A SAY IN HOW THE ELCA IS A PUBLIC CHURCH WITH REGARD TO GOVERNMENT ISSUES?

Here's your opportunity . . . Read the following note from Drew Genszler of the ELCA Washington DC office and then click link for the survey.

Dear Friends,

Your opinion matters!

Advocacy is a faith act you share with Moses, Esther, the Prophets, Luther and many Christians around the world.

Advocacy is living our Lutheran belief that good government is a gift.

Advocacy is pushing aside toxic politics to make space for others unheard.

Advocacy is talking about your volunteering, projects and ministries to your public officials.

Advocacy is *your voice*. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "Advocate".

I know, I know. You and I are Americans living in a country that seems to have forgotten how to make meaningful decisions.

Tired of politics-as-is in both major parties? *We hear you!*

Want to share what is important to you as a person of faith for 2012? *We hear you!*

Take ten minutes and tell us about advocacy priorities...

Let's stand together with hope and purpose next year.

Blessings, Drew Genszler

Director of Advocacy, ELCA

[CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY](#)

PREACHING AND TEACHING THE TEXTS OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Mon/Tue/Wed, Jan 23/24/25 -- A day-long workshop sponsored by the WCC (Wis. Council of Churches), being held at 3 different locations throughout Wis. See more [HERE](#).

YOU ARE INVITED to an ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Sat, Jan. 21, 8:45AM-noon, First Lutheran Church, Duluth, Minn (home to Rev. April Ulring Larson and Rev. Judd Larson) w/ Beth Lewis, CEO of Augsburg Fortress Publishing, and her colleague, Elizabeth Schoenknecht. For more info see Beth's blog post [HERE](#).

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS CHURCH IN BETHLEHEM

If you missed seeing the live simulcast on Dec. 18 you can view photos or listen to

and view the recorded simulcast [HERE](#). Also see photos and read message by Rev. Fred Strickert from the Christmas Eve service in Bethlehem [HERE](#).

Check this link <http://www.lacrosseareasynd.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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La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA | 2301 South Ave | La Crosse | WI | 54601-6229

