

News Briefing

January 2009

Congregational Newsletter Insert

NT-NL Synod, ELCA

To follow the links underlined in the print version, go first to the electronic version posted, in English and *en Espanol*, at www.ntnl.org/news_events.asp.



NT-NL Missionary Leaves for Africa in February

Pastor Kate Warn of Lancaster, PA, has accepted the call to work for two years among the people of Sierra Leone as our synodical missionary. Her work will include preaching, teaching, and outreach ministries, especially related to the establishment of a Medical Clinic and the final stages of construction of the Jubilee Centre. Her ministry is being supported by gifts from congregations and individuals in the NT-NL Synod who want to expand and personalize the long-standing ministry partnership that exists between us and the ELCSL. Bishop Tom Barnett eagerly awaits Pastor Warn's arrival, "Your being here enhances and reinforces our oneness in many minds and proves to our people that the church indeed is one in Christ." How can you get involved? Pray. Encourage. Read about [Pastor Warn and the project](#). Contact [Bishop Kevin Kanouse](#) or the chair of the Companion Synod Committee, [Deb Lemon](#). And look for opportunities to meet Pastor Warn when she returns to the U.S. on periodic visits.

Lutheran Study Bible

As the ELCA embarks on the *Book of Faith Initiative* (an invitation into the study and re-engagement of the Bible), Augsburg Fortress is releasing a [Lutheran Study Bible](#) full of helpful resources for understanding the Bible's history, context and meaning. It's due to be released on March 1, and discounts are available now for bulk orders. The book will be an important addition to anyone's home and library.

An End to the Reign of Trailer

Our mission church in the Roanoke area, [Church of the Resurrection](#), conducts worship in a Keller ISD school building, moving their furnishings in and out each Sunday on a trailer. They have an opportunity to relocate to a more permanent building in the area, but the facility needs renovation. They seek your prayers, energies, and financial support for this move. Learn more about the [Reign of Trailer](#) and contact [Pastor Douglas Schoelles](#) (817.491.3590).

NT-NL DiscipleLife

As part of their Advent observances, **Emmanuel, Granbury**, hosted a LSS Christmas Party; **Trinity, Fort Worth**, undertook to *Build-A-Bear* for Cook's Childrens Hospital; youth from **Gloria Dei, Garland**, wrapped gifts at Barnes and Noble; **Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie**, gave a community outreach party; and youth from **Hope, Springtown**, hosted a Christmas Ball. ≈ **Trinity, Clovis**, celebrated having paid off its mortgage. ≈ **First, Temple**, is hosting both an *End of Life Seminar* and a marriage seminar, *Twogether*. ≈ **Christ, Dallas**, will dedicate new facilities on January 11. ≈ **Faith, Wichita Falls**, had a *Silent Art and Crafts Auction* for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. ≈ Blake Hobratschle of **St. Matthew, Waco**, will enter Candidacy to begin studies for the ministry.

Passing on the Faith Conference: Most parents want to pass on their faith, but are not sure where to begin. [Passing on the Faith](#) is a two-day conference that offers tools to engage entire families in faith-driven conversations, devotions, service, rituals and traditions that can be passed on for generations to come. The event is set for Preston Meadow Lutheran Church in Plano on Feb. 20-21. Info contact [Tom Schwolert](#) (972.539.1031).

FYI...

January Emphasis: [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone](#)

- ❖ The [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) is January 18-25. Pray that we be one in witness and service.
- ❖ [Lutheran Ministry and Social Services of Waco](#) (254.757.3401) provides legal assistance to those in need. Begun by First, Waco, LMSS has now been named an affiliated Social Ministry Organization of the ELCA. Congratulations!
- ❖ [Care for Returning Veterans](#): Congregations and leaders are urged to know the needs of returning military personnel and to know the resources available to them. Info contact [Pastor Mike Masterson](#) (817.292.1338).
- ❖ Walter Wangerin, Jr., pastor, author, professor and speaker for *Lutheran Vespers* will speak at [Texas Lutheran University](#) in Seguin on January 21.