

News Briefing

May 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.



TLU CHOICE: An Innovative Offer

[Texas Lutheran University](http://www.tlu.edu) has announced a [new scholarship program](#) to help respond to the rising costs of a college education in tough economic times. Students who have been granted regular admission to either UT Austin or Texas A&M College Station and who would prefer the benefits of a private liberal arts education are being offered a TLU scholarship that will make the costs of attending TLU the same as UT or A&M. “The CHOICE scholarship provides opportunity for even more students to experience the vibrant community of challenge, engagement and personal attention that makes TLU distinctive” said TLU President Ann Svennungsen. A similar offer exists for transfer students. Texas Lutheran University, annually cited as one of the best universities in its region and classification, is affiliated with the ELCA and is an exclusively undergraduate university of the liberal arts, sciences and professional studies. Founded in 1891, TLU is located in Seguin less than an hour from San Antonio and Austin. The university has an enrollment of approximately 1400.

Hunger Goal Achieved - Thanks to You

One of the *DiscipleLife* goals adopted in 2007 was to have every congregation participate in the ELCA [World Hunger Appeal](#). Our “Public Witness” goal team set a target of \$6.00 per baptized member – a substantial increase over previous years. In 2008 the NT-NL Synod surpassed that goal by giving more than \$158,000 – nearly doubling our giving in 2005 (\$87,000)! Thank you.

New Call Process Web Site

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has launched a new web site to help congregations, church-related organizations and rostered leaders partner with synods to engage the [Call Process](#). The site provides a means to post available positions, receive helpful information and submit mobility forms. The new site has been under development for two years; the Project Director is [Pastor Stan Meyer](#) of the NT-NL Synod.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

Shepherd King, Lubbock, invited Pr. Steve Kanouse to lead a visioning exercise. ≈ **King of Glory, Dallas**, sponsored a 1st Annual Crockpot Cookoff. ≈ Pastor Russell Vardell, **First United, Dallas**, has begun an internet blog. ≈ **Living Word, Grapevine**, sponsors a support/networking group called *The Corporate Connection*; they meet for breakfast at a local restaurant. ≈ **Grace, Abilene**, is helping two refugee families, and the youth are preparing packages for our troops. ≈ **Gloria Dei, Lubbock**, offers a *Web of Creation* emphasis noting ecological resources. ≈ **Calvary, Richland Hills**, offered a *Healing Prayer* workshop

FYI...

May Emphasis: [Briarwood Lutheran Ministries](#)

- ❖ From May 11–31 the ELCA will broadcast nationally a series of [televisions ads](#) on CNN, CNN Headline News, Fox News, HGTV and DIY Network, supported by print, outdoor and online advertising.
- ❖ [Briarwood Retreat Center](#) has a full summer of camps and activities planned beginning June 14 and continuing through July. There are camps for groups ranging from 2nd through 12th grade. Some camps focus on confirmation classes others on leadership development. All are terrific. Support Briarwood, our synod’s retreat and camp center.
- ❖ The [ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#) is August 17-23 in Minneapolis. These assemblies are extravaganzas of worship, activity, learning, community and deliberation. Visitors are welcome – just register as a “Congregation Observer”.
- ❖ The [Lutheran Study Bible](#) is now available for purchase from Augsburg Fortress. This version of the scriptures reads smoothly and contains a lot of helpful information on the scripture as seen from a Lutheran perspective.
- ❖ Cheryl Walenta, a member of First, Longview, and a student at the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest was one of three seminarians to receive the *Philip L. Wahlberg Scholarship*, recognizing strong talent and leadership.
- ❖ Is your congregation planning a mission trip in 2009? Many NT-NL congregations do impressive and gracious work on behalf of others who need our love and effort. Let us know of your mission trip by contacting [Pastor Stan Meyer](#).

[The DiscipleLife Synod: The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA](#) – *Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*

To receive *News Briefing* electronically or by regular mail, contact SynodOffice@ntnl.org, 214.637.6865.