

News Briefing

November 2009

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org

NT-NL Synod, ELCA



The Second Annual Marty Party will give us another chance to be both light-hearted and serious about the “loveliness and quirkiness” of being Lutheran. Whether we are gathered in traditional potluck dinners or for a time of beer and brats – or gathered in an assembly of worship and teaching – (all of which will happen at the party), Lutherans know how to find unity in community. We find it in the centrality of Christ, in living life around Word and Sacrament, and in the gifts of grace, faith and hope. Spend the afternoon with friends on Reformation Day, Saturday, October 31, 2-7 p.m. at First United, Dallas, (6202 E. Mockingbird). Our speaker is the Rev. Dr. Mark Tranvik from Augsburg College in Minneapolis who recently published a new translation of Luther’s seminal work, *The Freedom of the Christian*. Questions about the event? Just call 972.642.LOVE.

Who are the Heroes in your Life?

That’s the question that will be asked at this year’s LYO Jr. High Gathering (grades 6-8) on Nov. 13-15 at the DFW Airport Marriott South. This is a popular event for our youth. And, as is usual, the youth have planned a dance for Saturday night – “Hollywood Nights” (they’ll dress like a favorite movie star). For information contact Pastor Jamie Bruning (214.637.6865; Jamie@ntnl.org) or go to www.ntnlyouth.org.



Toolkit Available Online

Some congregations and individuals have undertaken a study/learning process in response to the decisions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. To assist you in your deliberations, Bishop Kevin Kanouse has compiled a toolkit of items worthy of your reading and discussion. There are biblical reflections, congregational materials, and ELCA documents that can help you. To access the Toolkit go to www.ntnl.org “downloads / toolkit”.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

Immanuel, Posey, refurbished the outdoor church sign that Kinsmen, Houston, once had and placed it on Hwy 84 for all to see. ≈ **Immanuel** also participates in the *Foreign Exchange Youth for Understanding* program to support foreign exchange students. ≈ **Faith, Wichita Falls**, has begun a *Parent’s Day Out* ministry and is already filled to capacity. ≈ **Our Savior’s, Clifton**, will hold its *Smorgasbord* on Nov. 11-12. ≈ Pr. Craig Sturm at **Trinity, Sherman**, has begun a *Facebook* group for members. ≈ **Grace, Carrollton**, is green – recent actions now save 864 lbs of carbon emissions (like driving 960 miles less). ≈ Pastor Geoff Schmitt at **First, Shreveport**, is known to visit members where they work. ≈ Pastor Celene Welch (UNT Campus Ministry, Denton) was the guest preacher at **Good Shepherd, Irving**. ≈ **St. John, Bartlett**, sponsors a once-monthly bible study at the high school. ≈ Members of **Central, Dallas**, tutor for the neighboring school.

FYI...

November Emphasis: Please pray for the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**

- ❖ **Two new web sites** – the NT-NL Synod has a new web site – www.ntnl.org with loads of information, pictures and downloads, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, has one too – www.elcsl.com.
- ❖ The Parish Lay Ministry Academy’s third one-day workshop is Nov. 21 at Calvary, Richland Hills – on **Equipping Everyday People to Read the Bible** (Libby Buuck / Pr. Ryan Mills). Contact Dean@plmacademy.org.
- ❖ **Lutheran Disaster Response** urges you to *Get a Kit* (72-hours of supplies “at the ready” in case a disaster would strike). And maybe put together an extra kit to share with someone in need. Learn more at www.ldr.org/ready.
- ❖ The **World Hunger Appeal**’s task in 2009 is staggering with the worldwide recession taking a disproportionate toll on the poor. 1.02 billion people now go hungry each day. Will your congregation respond in some earnest way?
- ❖ **Briarwood Retreat Center** invites you to Oktoberfest on October 25 beginning at 3 p.m.. It’s a day to celebrate the ministry of Briarwood – with food, conversation, and the dedication of the three new cabins. You are invited.
- ❖ **Book of Faith** is an initiative to encourage people to rediscover the riches of the scriptures. New resource materials are being added every day. Start your discovery under “congregations / affirming identity” on the new www.ntnl.org.
- ❖ Thank you. The eleven students currently enrolled in seminary classes (not on internship) from the NT-NL Synod thank you for the **scholarship gift** we were able to give them in October from your mission support offerings.