

News Briefing

June 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.



Positive Energy! That's one very good way to describe the [2009 NT-NL Synod Assembly](#) in Plano: *Gifted for DiscipleLife*. The entire event stayed focused on a celebration of our DiscipleLife in Christ. Kelly Fryer (author of *Reclaiming the L Word*) reminded everyone that we are called and gifted to go beyond the walls of the church and be what we are – God's plan for reaching and healing the world. The worship events were joyful and reverent. The business sessions and debates were respectful and earnest. The gift of music from *Lost and Found* was refreshing and animated. But perhaps the event that truly captured the spirit of being God's gifted people was the day spent learning and growing at the *DiscipleLife University*. Presenters came from beyond and within the synod, prepared with thoughtful and helpful materials and insights. The discussions were lively; the exchanges of good humor and ideas were invigorating. For more details about the events and actions of the assembly, be sure to read [Bishop Kanouse' summary](#). Next year (April 23-25, 2010) we are headed to Amarillo as we focus on *Living the DiscipleLife!*

On the Journey to the Churchwide Assembly

An invitation: *"Beginning Monday, June 29, and for the 50 days leading up to the Churchwide Assembly, I invite the people of the ELCA to...focus on prayer and scriptural study...I encourage you as congregations, groups, and individuals to study and pray for – and along with – the assembly by using prayers, Scripture, and song drawn from the [assembly's] daily worship. Resources to guide individuals and groups...may be found at elca.org/50days"* (Bishop Mark Hanson, April 27, 2009).

Domestic Hunger Grants

Do you help support a food pantry? Are you involved in hunger-related organizations or advocacy? The ELCA has [Domestic Hunger Grants](#) to help support your work. Grant criteria and application materials are available online. Last year two grants were made to groups in the NT-NL Synod, totaling \$6,000.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

St. John, Coryell City, collects food for the local care center and tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. ≈ **Midland, Midland** is opening a Community Harvest Garden ≈ **Trinity, Wichita Falls**, will offer a Briarwood Day Camp thanks to a grant from the Mission Endowment Fund. ≈ **Calvary, Richland Hills**, had a "Teddy Bear Sunday" and gave new ones to *Children's Alliance*. ≈ **Zion, Priddy & St. John, Bartlett**, give scholarships to their college-bound students. ≈ **Bethel, Avoca**, had a Soil Stewardship Sunday (jars of soil from members' farms were blessed). ≈ **Emmanuel, Granbury**, Pastor Jane Mar was available for private confession on Holy Saturday.

FYI...

- ❖ The 2009 NT-NL Synod Assembly adopted four resolutions: (1) calling on the ELCA to launch a Suicide Prevention Task Force; (2) asking for worship resources that are diverse, including the option for materials that make appropriate use of military language and images; (3) urging the Churchwide Assembly to change its procedures so that any change to ELCA policy regarding sexuality would require a 2/3 vote; and (4) urging adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*.
- ❖ The [Leadership Program for Musicians – Texas](#) is sponsoring courses to support church musicians and worship leaders. An open house is scheduled for First, Temple, on Sept. 26. Info contact [Marsha Seale](#) (713.562.6972).
- ❖ **Mosaic-Dallas** is starting a Bell Choir for its residents using the expertise of a Music Therapist. But it has no bells or chimes. If you have a set to loan or donate, please contact [Beth Sabella](#), Community Relations, 972.866.9989 x321.
- ❖ Make the ELCA [Mission Investment Fund](#) a part of your financial planning. The Fund offers attractive investment options which are, in turn, used to make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries. Info contact [Pastor Carol Spencer](#) (817.927.3239).
- ❖ The **Name Gathering Project** seeks to gather the names of all students headed to college for the coming fall. It's easy, and it helps connect them to their campus ministry program. Just fill out the form at <http://divein.lcmut.org>. And while you are at it, submit their email address to SynodOffice@ntnl.org so we can add them to our "Friends" mailing list.

June Emphasis: [Our Ecumenical Ministries](#)