

News Briefing

July 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.



A Living Ministry On May 15, St. John Lutheran Church in Grand Prairie held a final worship service to celebrate 55 years of ministry. It was a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. They had previously voted to close their doors effective May 31 and to sell their facility to DFW Ghanaian

Seventh-day Adventist Church. The end of St. John's fruitful and active ministry, however, is only part of the story, for their ministry will now live on in a great number of new and powerful ways. The congregation has given furnishings and furniture to several NT-NL mission starts and congregations and the assets from the sale of the facility have been shared among a dozen ministries. Briarwood Retreat Ministries, the synod's Mission Endowment Fund, the synod's Fund for Leaders in Mission, and two of the synod's mission starts (San Gabriel, Alvarado, and Church of the Resurrection, Keller) received the largest part of the congregation's benevolence. There were also gifts to the Lutheran Youth Organization and Lutheran Sunset Ministries (Clifton). And some gifts for local ministries (the local food pantry, Boy Scouts, Children First Counseling Center and others). The congregation lives on! Thanks be to God for the years of faithful mission and ministry at St. John Lutheran Church.

Announcing the 2009-10 Stewardship Academy

Those who have attended the Academy in the past will tell you that they gained thoughtful and practical insights into stewardship for themselves and for their congregation. [The Academy](#) teaches about the stewardship of time, relationships, money, spiritual gifts and all that God's abundant life gives. There are two opportunities to participate: at Grace, Abilene, and at Our Savior, Mesquite. Each group meets three times during the coming year and graduates are *Steward Leaders* in the synod.

And the Parish Lay Ministry Academy also

Looking for a deeper level of understanding and service? Want to study as seminarians study? The Fall session of the [Parish Lay Ministry Academy](#) is scheduled for Sept. 19, Oct. 24 and Nov. 21 with studies in Old Testament, Leadership and Prayer & Spirituality. It's time for you to do this; wait no longer.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

Joy, Rockwall, made dental hygiene kits and hosted a demonstration for 150 African refugees in their area. ≈ **Trinity, Fort Worth**, made 500 sandwiches for one of their outreach ministries: the *Presbyterian Night Shelter*. ≈ **Hope, Springtown**, collected items for the *Community Caring Center* and *Neighbor to Neighbor*. ≈ **Zion, Priddy**, has plans this summer for a VBS, Day Camp and the *Big Country Lutheran Summer Camp*. ≈ **Holy Trinity, Shreveport**, joined in the *NW Louisiana Food Bank Empty Bowl Fund Raiser*. ≈ **Our Saviour's, Durant**, hosted the *Wesley Student Lunches*. ≈ **Redeemer, Greenville**, offers its VBS jointly with the Presbyterian church next door.

FYI...

- ❖ Pray for the [National Youth Gathering](#) (*Jesus, Justice & Jazz*) taking place July 22-26 in New Orleans. May the youth have their minds, hearts and spirits quickened by all they hear and do.
- ❖ Learn about the important and missional work of our synod's [Mission Endowment Fund](#) by going to their brand new web site: MissionEndowmentFund.org. MEF actively supports mission outreach all across the NT-NL Synod.
- ❖ Get some new and helpful resources for congregational stewardship work online at ELCA.org/MakeItSimple.
- ❖ Bishop Kanouse made Fort Worth's [evening news](#) on May 13 -- interviewed at the Habitat *Build with the Bishop Day*.
- ❖ The [Evangelical Lutheran Education Association](#) is a national organization of ELCA congregations who sponsor weekday schools and early childhood programs. Learn more about them on the ELEA web site.
- ❖ You've heard about *DiscipleLife*, but have you heard about [DiscipleLife Alive!](#)? It's coming this fall.
- ❖ The ELCA has scheduled a [Global Formation Event](#) for Katy, Texas, on Oct. 2-3. The event is a stimulating way to experience in person the global work of ELCA missions.

July Emphasis: [ELCA Vision for Mission](#)

[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.