

News Briefing

January 2010

NT-NL Synod, ELCA

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



The Parish Lay Ministry Academy

Over 100 men and women from NT-NL congregations have graduated from our Parish Lay Ministry Academy over the years. Some took the two year course of study for personal spiritual growth, others in order to assume greater levels of leadership in their home congregation. A



few graduates have gone on to seminary and have been ordained. There is no doubt that the PLM Academy is a wonderful gift to their students and to our synod. The Spring Semester this year offers three areas of study: *The Gospels*, *Lutheran Identity*, and *Nurturing the Faith Community*. Classes will be offered in English and Spanish. Classes meet on Saturdays (March 20, April 17 and May 15) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – with reading and writing prescribed as homework. The semester's tuition of \$225 includes registration, books and meals. Learn more about this opportunity at www.ntnl.org / leaders and www.plmacademy.org.

Youth & Family Ministry Happenings

There's a bunch of stuff going on for youth in the NT-NL Synod, and you can stay in touch with it by signing up to receive *Happenings* – an e-newsletter from the synod's youth ministry program. Read about the Sr. High Gathering this month in Dallas, about Vibrant Faith Ministries, Youth in Mission, Pathways and other learning and training opportunities. To sign up, contact Pastor Jamie Bruning (Jamie@ntnl.org).

Praying Together in 2010

The NT-NL Synod is made up of 120 congregations in 12 conferences and shaped by our common commitment to *DiscipleLife* and our six *DiscipleLife* goals. We are related to a dozen or more regional ministry organizations and to an amazing host of things we engage in together as the ELCA. The **2010 Prayer List** (www.ntnl.org / congregations) gives all of us a way to “pray our way through the synod” during the year, remembering each of these many ministries with thankfulness for the way they serve Christ's mission on earth.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

First, Temple, helped out in the crisis at Ft. Hood (the shooting of 13 soldiers) by providing meals and hotel rooms for the families with loved ones in Scott & White Hospital. ≈ **Faith, Fort Worth**, provides teddy bears for Cook Children's Medical Center. ≈ **St. John, Winters**, participates in *Operation Uplink* (phone cards for those in the military). ≈ **Ascension, Garland**, gathered Christmas gifts for an orphanage in Mexico and for ten families of Good Samaritan of Garland. ≈ **Grace, Carrollton**, and **St. Paul, Farmers Branch**, are discussing ways to jointly pursue ministry. ≈ **Christ, Dallas**, is home to a Child Development Center. ≈ **Trinity, Sherman**, put together a Hunger Meal event. ≈ “**Good Gifts**”, (a program of the ELCA to highlight specific needs and ministries nationally and globally that need support) is promoted in a number of NT-NL congregations. ≈ **Calvary, San Angelo**, has launched a Long Range Planning process. ≈ **Good Shepherd, Irving**, has a *Fishes and Loaves* food pantry. ≈ **Advent, Arlington**, hosts “Six Strings & Coffee Beans” concerts.

FYI... January Emphasis: Please pray for our work in Sierra Leone and in Peace & Justice

- ❖ A celebration of the **Week for Prayer for Christian Unity** will bring together people of many denominations for an afternoon of inspiring presentations and worship. The gathering takes place at King of Glory, Dallas, on January 21 (3-8 p.m.). The Rev. Zan Holmes, pastor emeritus St. Luke Community UMC, Dallas, is the speaker.
- ❖ The annual benefit to support Mosaic in Dallas, the **Heart & Soul Gala**, is set for Feb. 13 at the Doubletree Hotel in Richardson. Info contact www.mosaicinfo.org/heartandsoul.
- ❖ What happens to your contributions to the ELCA? A free resource, **Stories of Faith in Action**, gives answers through pictures, stories and vital information. It really helps the reader understand and appreciate the scope of mission and ministry within the ELCA. Info contact 800.328.4648 (item #001403).
- ❖ The annual **Tri-Synodical Theological Leadership Conference** for pastors and other church professionals takes place on January 25-27 in San Antonio, focusing on Latino spirituality – *La Vida de Fe*. Info at www.swtsynod.org.

[The DiscipleLife Synod: The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA](http://www.ntnl.org) – *Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*

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