

News Briefing

August 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.

Rejoice Lutheran Church in Frisco celebrates the fulfillment of a dream that goes back to 1996 when it began as a mission field served by Pastor Developers Mike & Linda Williams. It was a dream that dates as well to 2005 when a capital campaign was launched and property had to be re-acquired during the tenure of Pastor Don Gray. This month (August 30) **Rejoice Lutheran Church** will dedicate its new church home located at 12000 Independence in Frisco. The congregation has been worshipping in the facility since Maundy Thursday (April 9). **Pastor John Van Sant**, who arrived in November of 2006, has led the congregation faithfully and well through a time of re-visioning, ground-breaking and construction even as he and the leadership maintained a very active congregational life, including various ministries, outreach efforts, worship (both a traditional and a celebration service) and small group ministry. No wonder he and the entire membership – which has grown to over 200 baptized – are in a mood to celebrate! God richly bless Rejoice Lutheran Church!



Pastor Jane Mar, Bishop Assistant

On July 1 **Pastor Jane Mar** became *Bishop Assistant for Mobility and Congregational Care* with major responsibilities for Call Process and care of congregations in transition. In her new role she will work with Lay Ministers, TEEM candidates and provide ongoing support to congregational life. Pastor Mar comes to us having worked at IBM and having served as pastor of two congregations, including Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Granbury (2004-2009). She and her husband, Dan, have been married for 25 years and have two children, Sara and Bryan.

Dinssa Awarded Scholarship

Lay Minister Tsena Dinssa (Oromo Mission, Richardson) has been awarded a scholarship from the **ELCA Fund for Leaders** to support him each year of his seminary studies. Dinssa is a lay Mission Developer among the Oromo people of the Dallas area. He is studying to be ordained as a pastor in the ELCA. Congratulations!

FYI...

- ❖ ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has issued a **Pastoral Letter** regarding the upcoming Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, inviting us all to prayer and faithfulness as we anticipate the assembly's deliberations and decisions.
- ❖ The Churchwide Assembly takes place August 17-23. You can follow the proceedings in any one of nine ways, from videos to twitter to news feeds and photo-gallery. Learn more on the *Multimedia* page of the **Churchwide Assembly** site.
- ❖ Nearly one-half of America's energy goes toward powering our buildings. Learn more about ways to reduce energy waste at church and at home on the National Council of Churches' **Carbon Reduction Campaign** web site.
- ❖ Thirty-seven Latino youth from the NT-NL Synod were among the thousands of youth from all around the nation attending **National Youth Gathering** (*Jesus, Justice & Jazz*) in New Orleans in July.
- ❖ NT-NL congregations with seminary interns should read the guidelines about the synod's **Internship Support Funds**.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

St. Luke's, Richardson now hosts the *Richardson Boys and Girls Club's* summer and after school programs. ≈ **Gloria Dei, Lubbock**, offered a community-wide workshop on *Caring for God's Creation*. ≈ **First United, Dallas**, sponsors *Reel Religion* (feature films with religious content) on Wednesdays and held a *Midsummer Festival of Music, Art and Worship* in the German language. ≈ **Good Shepherd, Irving**, participated in the city's 4th of July parade. ≈ **Our Saviour's, Tyler**, has set up a medication fund for members. ≈ **Shepherd of Life, Arlington**, has the *Wild Bunch* – a time of music, refreshments, puppets and devotions for families with small children. ≈ **Shepherd King, Lubbock**, had a *Blanket Sunday* and raised over \$1200. ≈ **Beautiful Savior, Amarillo**, collects toiletries for the Domestic Violence Center.

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August Emphasis: Campus Ministry

The DiscipleLife Synod: The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA – Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus

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