

News Briefing

September 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.



Three Lutheran Pastors stopped in Dallas on July 27 on their 100-day, 65-city, 3-seat bicycle tour to raise awareness for world hunger. Their custom three-seat bicycle, made of bamboo, arrived at Emanuel Lutheran Church (Pr. Mae Jean Zelle) where they then assisted with food distribution. This [Tour de Revs](#) is intended to encourage people to support the ELCA [World Hunger Appeal](#) to meet its \$25 million annual goal (and encourage us all to attend to our own health and wellness). The three Lutheran pastors are all from West Virginia: Pr. Fred Soltow, Pr. David Twedt, and Pr. Ron Schlak. Among those present to welcome them was NT-NL Synod Vice President, Stephanie Varnum.

God's Work Our Hands

Tune in to the Assembly

The ELCA [Churchwide Assembly](#) (August 17-23 in Minneapolis) will consider a proposal to enter into Full

Communion with the United Methodist Church, a proposal for a HIV/AIDS Strategy, the adoption of a new social statement called *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and a proposal that could change the ELCA's policies about gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships serving as rostered ministers. As always worship and Bible study will be focal points for the assembly's activities. You can tune in to the activities of the assembly in a variety of ways – videos, audio, photos, facebook, blog, twitter, widgets, smugmug, and news feeds. All the venues are described on the assembly's [Multimedia page](#).

NT-NL DiscipleLife

Nearly 500 youth and sponsors from NT-NL attended the recent **ELCA Youth Gathering, New Orleans**. ≈ **Advent, Arlington**, sponsored a youth mission trip to Mexico to build a house, and each Friday some members gather early in the morning to make breakfast tacos to give to day laborers that stand on nearby street corners. ≈ **Christ the Servant, Denton**, has declared itself to be a *Safe Haven for Children*. ≈ **Covenant, Temple**, sponsors a Bible study in an apartment complex. ≈ **Bethel, Avoca**, prays its way through the synod's Prayer List each week. ≈ Many NT-NL congregations are engaged in the **50 Days of Prayer** for the upcoming ELCA Churchwide Assembly. ≈ **St. Matthew, Waco**, is a part of the *New Road Literacy Program*.

Book of Faith Initiative

Ten NT-NL congregations have declared themselves to be [Book of Faith](#) congregations – renewing their commitment to study scripture and increase their biblical literacy. ELCA congregations across the nation are invited to take up this challenge, using a great variety of resources (including the new *Lutheran Study Bible*) that have been provided. [Libby Buuck](#) serves as our synod's Book of Faith Advocate.

FYI...

September Emphasis: [Texas Lutheran University](#)

- ❖ Each year the rostered leaders and SAWLs of the synod gather for [Bishop's Convocation](#). This year's gathering, *Greenback\$, Giving & Grace: The Law & Gospel of \$\$\$*, takes place Oct. 12-14 at Briarwood ([registration form](#)).
- ❖ A [Service of Installation](#) for Pastor Jane Mar (Bishop Assistant for Mobility and Congregational Care) will take place at Bishop's Convocation at Briarwood on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. A 6 p.m. dinner precedes the service.
- ❖ What is *DiscipleLife Alive!?* It's the theme of the [Spread the Spirit's Fire](#) events this fall – a day of growth and insight on topics like outreach, mission and the whole of life as stewardship.
- ❖ The [Leadership Program for Musicians](#) serving smaller congregations covers key areas in church music education, pastoral skills, leadership and confidence building. It will be offered at First, Temple, on Saturday, Sept. 26. A [LPM brochure](#) is available for download.
- ❖ The NT-NL Synod [Mission Endowment Fund](#) has given fifteen grants this year to ministries in the synod, totaling \$26,000. These grants have helped to sow and grow disciples of Jesus.
- ❖ Bishop Kanouse offers a weekly meditation – [NTNLifelines](#) – based on his work among us in the NT-NL Synod and his reflections on the upcoming readings for each Sunday. Learn more and sign up to receive the emails at www.ntnl.org.

[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.