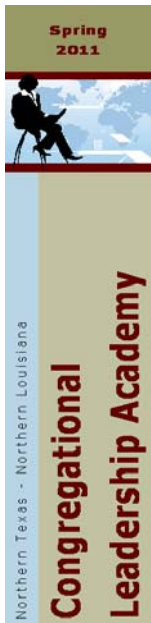


News Briefing

December 2010

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

Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana



Leadership Academy

Registration Deadline Extended

Leadership should never simply be assumed; it should be cultivated and taught – for example, (1) how to understand and appreciate the congregation as a living, striving, purposeful, emotional system or (2) how skilled leadership can proactively promote the health and effectiveness of the congregation. These two items are, in fact, two of the learning goals of the upcoming *Congregational Leadership Academy* (on NTNL.org – click on “Leaders” / “Academy”). Congregations are invited to send a leadership team of 3-5 persons (including the pastor) to take the training over three weekends during Lent, 2011. The training is especially helpful in the areas of conflict management, reconciliation processes and healthy community life. Presenters are seasoned and trained congregational leaders. Act now to submit your application before the end of 2010.



Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus

Advent, Arlington, offers a Thanksgiving Eve service (Tuesday) so those going out of town can gather for worship. • **St. Luke's, Richardson**, offers a *Lost and Grief Class*. • **St. Paul, Crawford**, had a patriotic concert in November. • **Trinity, Wichita Falls**, was host to a concert by choirs from local schools.. • **Faith, Wichita Falls** surprised its pastor with a *Pastor's Appreciation Potluck*. • **Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie**, dedicated a wall of crosses given by members and friends. • **Grace, Carrollton**, had a *Bring a Friend Sunday*. • **New Life in Christ, Duncanville**, had a State Fair Sunday in which foods, games and prizes like the State Fair's were offered. • The daily devotional, **Christ in Our Home**, features devotions by Pastor Stan Meyer for the last half of December. • **Calvary, San Angelo**, had an appreciation dinner for worship assistants.

Fire at Briarwood – On November 6 a fire destroyed the trailer home at Briarwood that housed the Operations Director, Matt Baumhardt. He lost many precious possessions, including his dog Willabee. Please remember him in prayer and consider a donation to Briarwood's *Staff Housing Fund*.

Prison Break – Senior High students of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) gather at the Crowne Plaza in Addison on January 14-16 under the theme, *Prison Break*. The featured speaker is Sean McMillan.



Pastor Mindy Roll is the new ELCA Campus Pastor for the Brazos Valley (Texas A&M and the Blinn College campuses). She comes from Faith, Bellaire (Houston) originally and graduated from Texas A&M in 2003. She is a graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. You can contact her at MindyRoll@yahoo.com.

Living DiscipleLife: Leadership Formation for Mission – Join one of the remaining days of Prayer and Conversation: **Dec. 4** (Shepherd King, Lubbock) • **Jan. 15** (St. Luke's, Richardson) • **Jan. 29** (Calvary, Richland Hills) • **Mar. 26** (Bethel, Avoca).

FYI...

December Emphasis: LSS Nelson's Children's Center

- ❖ **Notice:** The **2011 Mission Assembly** is set for the Hurst Conference Center in Hurst (www.hurstccc.com). The assembly begins on April 29 (not 28 as previously announced), concluding on May 1. Watch NTNL.org for information.
- ❖ **Christmas Vespers** – the annual event to welcome the Advent and Christmas seasons – is a concert of sacred music offered by Texas Lutheran University. The dates are December 3-5 in Seguin. Contact: www.TLU.edu/events/vespers.
- ❖ **Men's Ministry:** Learn more about what's happening in Men's Ministry at NTNL.org / “Partners” / “Lutheran Men in Mission”. The web page also has the link to a new informational video about LMM.
- ❖ Have you heard of **DiscipleLife Alive!** yet? Keep listening. It's about our shared future, leadership, and aspirations.
- ❖ As you plan your giving for Christmas, think of the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**. Gifts large and small make a world of difference. Learn more at www.elca.org/hunger.

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

To receive *News Briefing* electronically or by regular mail, contact SynodOffice@ntnl.org, 214.637.6865, or sign up at www.ntnl.org.