

Leader News

An E-Note to NT-NL Rostered Leaders



Announcements



THEN & NOW: What the 1st Century Church Can Teach the 21st Century Church. The 2011 TriSynodical Theological Leadership Conference features lectures by Marcus Borg, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. The event is open to all professional church workers; all rostered leaders are expected to participate. The event takes place at Moody Gardens Hotel & Conference Center in Galveston on January 24-26. Read the conference and registration details in the event [brochure](#).

Our presenter, **Dr. Marcus Borg**, recommends that participants in the 2011 *TriSynodical Theological Leadership Conference* prepare for the lectures by reading two excellent books: [The Heart of Christianity -- Rediscovering a Life of Faith](#) and [Toward a Hopeful Future -- Why the Emergent Church is Good News for Mainline Congregations](#). Both are available through Amazon.com.



Living Lutherans: Check out this new [online](#) ELCA resource full of stories and information to inspire and encourage us as we go about our life and ministries. It's like an online church magazine.

Stand for Welcome Campaign: The Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service ([LIRS](#)) is encouraging everyone to get informed on issues surrounding immigration reform. LIRS advocates for laws that are practical, fair and humane. Their [Stand for Welcome](#) resources include prayers, a Prayer Vigil Guide, and a Mythbuster site that addresses common misconceptions regarding immigrants and immigration.

Peer Ministry Training for senior high youth will be offered by NT-NL Youth Ministry leaders at Briarwood on February 4-6. The training gives youth skills to minister to

other youth. Two tracks are available at the retreat. Read the [brochure](#) to learn about the training.

World Hunger doesn't take a holiday -- and this season is certainly no exception. Giving through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is below par. Yet this is the PERFECT time to give. Every gift between now and Dec. 31 (up to \$250,000) is [being matched](#) dollar-for-dollar by friends of the Appeal. This is a tremendous opportunity to maximize your gift.

The **Sr. High Gathering**, *Prison Break*, is set for the Crowne Plaza, Addison, on January 14-16. Registration is due [now](#). Read more in the [publicity materials](#).

Congregational Leadership Academy during Lent, 2011 -- an opportunity for you and a couple of your key leaders to

- Build a Leadership Team
- Understand congregational dynamics
- Enhance skills for leadership
- Become a healthier congregation
- Get a vision of wellness and resiliency

The Academy is composed of three sessions -- Feb. 3-4, Mar. 3-4 and Apr. 1-2. [Learn more online](#).



You'll recall the hope and energy that was evident at the 2010 Synod Assembly as an emerging vision of our life together was presented. We tossed around ideas (beach balls) about what we would want our shared life to look like. That conversation continues now in six **Living DiscipleLife** gatherings around our mission territory this fall and winter (see the [brochure](#)). Bring several members with you to one of these remaining events:

- Jan. 15 - St. Luke's, Richardson
- Jan. 29 - Calvary, Richland Hills
- Mar. 26 - Bethel, Avoca

Jews of Wittenberg Exhibition: The Museum of Biblical Art in Dallas is host to a special exhibition, *Jews of the Luthertown Wittenberg in the Third Reich*, during December. Learn more [online](#).

Social Networking Boot Camp: John Parsons, senior web designer for @ Page Pizazz Creative Web Design is the presenter at a TriSynodical event that will teach about modern communication venues -- Facebook, myspace, twitter, podcasting, web presence and advertising using social media. The workshop takes place at First, Temple, on February 12. Cost \$40/person; you can [register online](#).

Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, recently announced the election of a new president. The Rev. Dr. Stanley Olson, past Executive Director for the ELCA's Vocation and Education Unit, will assume the position.

Pastor Diane Eggemeyer (Trinity, Miles) is featured in the current issue of the ELCA's *Stories of Faith in Action*. Diane's remarkable journey to ordination is described. Read all about it [online](#).

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, internationally acclaimed theologian and Old Testament scholar, speaks at [King of Glory, Dallas](#), on Sunday, March 6 ("A Rest from the Rat Race") and Monday, March 7 ("Giving In Without Giving Up").

The ELCA's Communication Services office recently distributed a 10-minute DVD video and documents that describe the **ELCA's Strategy on HIV / AIDS**. If you did not receive a copy, please contact [Pastor Stan Meyer](#).

Votes to Terminate: The following congregations have taken their second and successful vote to terminate their relationship with the NT-NL and ELCA. Out of respect for their decisions, this then concludes their participation in our synodical mission and ministry (including outreach resources and programs, support services, communication services, access to interim and pulpit supply, and leadership education opportunities):

- Grace, Ennis
- Living Word, Grapevine
- Trinity, Haskell
- Grace, Snyder
- Our Saviours, Tyler
- St. John, Winters

We pray that God will bless and prosper their continuing ministry.

The ELCA **Church Council** met on Nov. 12-14 and considered many items of business that may be of interest to you. The Office of Secretary posts information about the work and actions of the Church Council [online](#).

A **Rural Ministry Conference** is scheduled for March 6-8 at Wartburg Seminary. The featured speaker is Tex Sample, other speakers include Paul Lasley and Nate Frambach. Learn more [online](#).

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago offers a **Youth in Mission** program -- *Serving Christ in the World* -- a three-week vocational immersion program designed for current high school sophomores and juniors who want to learn about God, themselves, and discover their gifts for leadership and service. Learn more about the [program](#).

Lost and Found at the Mission (Synod) Office: hooded ladies sweater, brown lined jacket with inside and outside pockets, and two umbrellas. To claim, please contact [Tyna Oslie](#), Synod Administrator.

The **St. Olaf College Choir** sings at the Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas on Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Look [online](#) for tickets or call 800.363.5487.

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And Don't Forget .

The ELCA Board of Pensions has announced that there will be no health plan rate increase for 2011. Also, a record number of sponsored plan members took the *Health Risk Assessment* survey -- and the trends revealed by the survey are in a positive direction.

A **Pre-Retirement Seminar** will be held at Briarwood on Oct. 4-5, 2011.



What's This All About ?