

News Briefing

February 2011

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

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

DiscipleLife Alive!

A Door to the Future

"The Christian Church as we have known it is dead." Our children no longer participate; our membership is aging and dying; financial resources are stretched; congregations are closing.



Against the backdrop of such stark realities, the NT-NL is embracing a bold new vision to engage its future with renewed vitality and vision.

DiscipleLife Alive! is an open door and invitation to focus our energies on the development of leaders for this new world we live in, to commit ourselves to new and daring missional endeavors, and to support our companions in mission, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, as they do the same.

What if Briarwood became the center of our work to form leaders for mission? What if our own Mission Endowment Fund had the resources to support the training of leaders and the development of new mission outreach projects? What if we redefined ourselves not as an organization but as a missional movement? What if?

Learn more: NTNL.org / DiscipleLife.org / [DiscipleLife Alive!](http://DiscipleLifeAlive.org)

Headed to Sierra Leone

Bishop Kanouse and six others will be in Sierra Leone in February joining arms with our companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. These visits back and forth over the Atlantic give both church groups the opportunity to participate in each others mission, solidify our supportive relationships, and encourage one another in faith and work. On this visit the group will see the continuing construction of the Jubilee Centre, the work of the Medical Clinic, the development of churches and schools, and join in a consultation with the Global Mission office of the ELCA.

Mosaic Heart and Soul Gala

This "Deep in the Heart of Texas" gala sponsored by Mosaic – our Lutheran ministry with people with intellectual disabilities – takes place on Feb. 11 at the Westin Galleria in Dallas. The Gala is in its 14th year as a fund raiser for the work of Mosaic Dallas. Special honorees this year are Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Grand Prairie and Community Volunteer Janet Follstaedt of King of Glory, Dallas. You can donate or register for the event online at www.MosaicinDallas.org.

Remember the Hungry this Lent

ELCA Hunger Appeal invites you to offer Wednesday evening Lenten meals that use their suggestions for a global cuisine, table tents, prayers and discussion starters. Instead of charging for the meal, you might collect donations to support ELCA World Hunger. Info contact: www.ELCA.org/hunger/lent.

Living Lutherans: Here's a web site that is full of heartening stories and uplifting thoughts. Www.LivingLutheran.org is a new online ELCA resource that will inspire and encourage.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

FYI...

- ❖ **Grounded in Grace** is the title of a new Lenten Bible study authored by members of the NT-NL to help us all focus on the DiscipleLife Alive! initiative and the upcoming Mission Assembly. It will be available at www.NTNL.org soon.
- ❖ The final **Living DiscipleLife Day** takes place at Bethel, Avoca, on March 26. More info at www.NTNL.org.
- ❖ The Eighth Triennial Gathering of the **Women of the ELCA** is July 14-17 in Spokane, WA. Workshops, exhibits, worship and inspiring speakers will deliver a transformational weekend. Info contact www.WomenoftheELCA.org.
- ❖ The TriSynod **Lutheran Men and Mission** offers a gathering on Feb. 18-19 at St. Paul, Brenham, entitled *I Call You My Friends*. Featured speaker is David Dusek, founder of Rough Cut Men. Info contact HDTubre@gmail.com.
- ❖ **Leadership Outside the Lines** is a leadership training event coming this September and October at Briarwood to assist congregational leaders with their leadership skills. Info contact: www.BriarwoodRetreat.org.
- ❖ **Open Range, Barns or Fences?** is the theme of this year's Clergy/AIM Spouse Retreat at Briarwood on Feb. 25-27. The speaker is Mary Ellen Durham. For more information, see the flyer posted at www.NTNL.org.
- ❖ The Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service encourages everyone to get informed on immigration reform. LIRS advocates for laws that are practical, fair and humane. Check out their **Stand for Welcome** resources at www.LIRS.org.

February Emphasis: *The NT-NL Fund for Leaders*