

# Leader News

An E-Note to NT-NL Rostered Leaders



## Announcements

### February 2011



**MISSION ASSEMBLY:** Who are the people most able to make things happen in your congregation? That's who should be asked to be a Voting Member to this April's Mission Assembly. Just asking a willing couple -- or one of the usual suspects -- may not cut it. The assembly is for those with leadership, vision and energy. The future can be shaped by those who are passionate, Spirit-filled and mission minded. Assembly planning is well underway. [Learn more.](#)



**Ken Medema** is our presenter and lyricist for this year's Mission Assembly. Blind since birth, he is an inspiration to others as he engages his audience in song. The assembly will also be blessed to welcome **Pr. Kendra Mohn** (Trinity, Fort Worth) as our Bible study leader and Vice President **Carlos Pena** from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Grounded in Grace to Run the Race:** A new Bible study written by a variety of leaders from NT-NL (lay and clergy) will be sent to congregations in February. It's for use by individuals and groups during Lent and in preparation for the 2011 Mission Assembly. The series focuses on Hebrews 12:1-2. The study invites us to explore what the life of discipleship really means and what this means for each individual and for the future of the church as God's people.

**Marcus Borg's presentations** at the 2011 Theological Leadership Conference in Galveston are available [online](#). The videos are password protected; the password is Galveston2011.people.

**North Texas SeniorFest 2011:** *"The Path to Joy: Making Peace with Our Diminishment, Our Neighbor and Our God"* is the topic for this annual event; the speaker is Dr. Terry Germann. The event is March 5 and includes workshops. It is hosted by King of Glory, Dallas. A [brochure](#) is available.

**The NT-NL Clergy / AIM Spouse Retreat** is February 25-27 at Briarwood. Mary Ellen Durham is the presenter. [Learn more.](#)

**Annual Report to the Bishop:** Don't forget to send in your Annual Report to Bishop Kanouse. The form is available [online](#). If you need a hard copy, please contact [Pastor Stan Meyer](#) (214.637.6865).

**Hunger Grants:** The 2011 ELCA World Hunger grant applications are due Feb. 21. The grants support activities designed to either educate or advocate about world hunger. [Learn more.](#)

**Hein-Fry Lectures:** What can Lutherans in the U.S. learn from other Christians around the world about interpreting the Bible? The lecture is offered by Dr. Dora E. Arce-Valentin on March 3. [Learn more.](#)

**Luther Academy of the Rockies** this year (June 20-30) features presentations by Dan Olson, Ann Graham Brock and Rich Melheim. [Learn more.](#)

**New Visions:** This training program is designed to help leaders raise mission consciousness, plan for mission and implement mission efforts in their congregations. It is offered by Peter Steinke, Paul Blom and Jon Lee. [Info contact.](#)

**Eben Ezer Parsonage:** Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Oaks, Oklahoma, serves the Oaks Indian Mission and the wider Oaks community. This is a historic mission site that is currently without a pastor. Before they can call a new pastor, they must repair the parsonage. Donations of time, energy and money are needed. Info contact: Linda Davis, Treasurer, P.O. Box 157, Oaks, OK 74359.

**Church Libraries:** If you don't have one -- or if you do and wish you could make it more useful and effective -- [Sandy Sharps](#) can help you think through creative ways to use a church library. She is a member of the NT-NL and a board member for the National Church Library Association.

Wartburg Seminary is gifting the church with a series of reflections on the Epistles. ***Grace to You and Peace*** is a collection of 365 devotions written by Prof. Norma Cook Everist of Wartburg. It is suitable for both personal and group use. [Pr. Stan Meyer](#) can

send you the soft copy of the materials.



**Health Assessment Survey:** Everybody comes out a winner -- you as you learn more about your health; you as you earn wellness dollars; your spouse as he/she doubles your benefit; your congregation when it receives a 2% refund on premiums when 65% of Plan members take the survey; and the NT-NL which receives a cash bonus as well. The survey is for those for whom the ELCA Plan is primary. [Take it now.](#)

**Infections and the Common Cup:** A copy of an article in the *American Journal of Infection Control* is reproduced for you on NTNL.org. [Learn more.](#)

**Tax Relief in 2011:** The federal government is lowering the amount that workers must pay in Social Security taxes for one year only. The SECA tax in 2011 will be 13.3% (rather than the familiar 15.3%). The tax is composed of 10.4% for Social Security (normally 12.4%) and the 2.9% for Medicare. If you have been receiving a 7.65% Social Security offset, it would seem that should continue during 2011 inasmuch as this new benefit accrues to employees rather than employers.

**LSTC Leadership Conference:** This annual event is April 4-5 and focuses on the partnership of preaching and worship. Presenters include Maxwell Johnson, Craig Satterlee and Frank Thomas. [Learn more.](#)



Christ the Servant, Denton, is host to an **Interfaith Stewards Leadership Workshop** on March 26. The event is sponsored by Denton Faith Communities Caring for Creation. [Learn more.](#)

The ELCA no longer automatically ships copies of the **Annual Report Covers** to congregations. Instead they are available for \$5.40 per 50 from the [ELCA Distribution Center](#) (or call 800.638.3522 x2580).

**The Cathedral Choir** of Mount Olivet, Minneapolis, will be leading worship at Advent, Arlington, on March 13. The choir is composed of students from more than 30 high schools in the Twin Cities area.

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### And Don't Forget

**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.

**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.



The sixth and final **Living DiscipleLife** gathering is set for March 26 at Bethel, Avoca. These events have been wonderful opportunities for people to join the conversation about the future of our work together in this mission territory (see the [brochure](#)).

**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](#).

**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 **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.