

News Briefing

July 2011

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

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



THE LEADERSHIP FORMATION FUND *Growing our Vision and Skills for Mission*

Many already know of the wonderful work of our NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund. Since 1996 the Fund has given away \$300,000 in grants for creative, outreaching, missional projects (over 50!) within our congregations. The MEF has been true to its purpose, planting “seeds that change”. They are a blessing.

But, as their logo depicts, the MEF now has a second hand for helping. MEF has added a second endowment to work alongside its General Endowment Fund. This second fund (the “DiscipleLife Endowment for Mission Fund”) will receive some of the proceeds from the *DiscipleLife Alive!* initiative currently underway in the NT-NL and use the money and its investment earnings to help support the Leadership Formation programming that will take place at the much-anticipated DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood. The proceeds will help the NT-NL bring gifted teachers and missional programs to the Center, help the NT-NL give scholarships to lay and rostered leaders so that all will have access to the training opportunities, and will help the Center employ the best available technology so that the training can be broadcast into congregations all across the territory. You can learn more about the MEF, the Leadership Formation Fund and the *DiscipleLife Alive!* initiative at NTNL.org



DiscipleLife Alive! is an initiative to raise \$3 million to expand our capacity for mission in the NT-NL mission area. One-third of the proceeds (\$1 million) will be managed by the MEF to create the Leadership Formation Fund (\$800,000 in a permanent endowment and \$200,000 in upfront expenditures to equip the DiscipleLife Center for Mission). One-half of the proceeds (\$1.5 million) will be used to create the DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood. And a tithe (one-tenth) of the proceeds (\$300,000) will be used to complete the Jubilee Centre in Sierra Leone as a similar Center for Mission for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (our companion church). Our videos tell the story of *DiscipleLife Alive!* Go to www.NTNLvideos.org.

Back to School: Sons and daughters of the congregation will soon be headed off to college. In many ways they will leave behind the loving support of family and friends and the nurturing environment of the congregation. But you can help ensure that the church will be awaiting them in their new place by submitting a referral to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Just go to <http://lcmaustin.org/newstudentinfo> and fill out the online form.

From the Heart of Texas: Thirteen NT-NL congregations in the Temple-Waco-Clifton area recently delivered 176 boxes to Lutheran World Relief. The boxes contained 696 quilts, 447 health kits, 205 school kits, 56 layettes, 35 sewing kits and 30lbs of soap for LWR to distribute. Truly “God’s Work. Our Hands”.



FYI (Go to www.NTNL.org)

July Emphasis: *Briarwood & Women and Men’s Ministry*

- ❖ **Foster Care:** Lutheran Social Services – a leader in programs that support children – wants to tell the story of Foster Care efforts in Texas. Invite them to speak in your congregation. Contact Whitney Flynt (Whitney.Flynt@lss.org).
- ❖ **Check the Facts:** Ever been in a conversation when someone says that the ELCA believes x or y or did this or that, when you know that must not be true? Rumors and accusations need to be checked and not accepted at face value. There is an online resource available to you: the *ELCA FactChecker* found at www.ELCAFactChecker.com.
- ❖ **Parish Lay Mission Academy:** have you been waiting for a convenient time to begin studies in the NT-NL’s lay ministry program? The PLMA starts up again in September, with sessions planned for Sep. 17, Oct. 22, and Nov. 19. Now’s your time. Go to www.PLMAcademy.org.
- ❖ **Thrivent Members:** you can direct your “Choice Dollars” as a contribution to the NT-NL. Choose “NT-NL” on Thrivent’s list of options (after logging on at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800.847.4836.
- ❖ **“DiscipleLife” the Song:** link to it from the homepage of www.NTNL.org. It’s composed by Ken Medema.