

News Briefing

October 2009

Congregational Newsletter Insert

NT-NL Synod, ELCA

To follow the links underlined in the print version, go first to the electronic version posted, in English and *en Espanol*, at www.ntnl.org/news_events.asp.



The Book of Faith Initiative is alive and well at Four Mile Lutheran Church in Mabank, Texas. Timothe and Tammy Mast, church members and Parish Lay Ministers at Four Mile, will tell you that about three-quarters of the active families have chosen to welcome the *Lutheran Study Bible* and add it to their study resources. The Mast's helped the members put together a bulk order (getting a discount for ordering ten or more), even though the Mast's themselves, in a bit of impatience, had already ordered their own. Today visitors in one of the Bible studies at Four Mile would be quick to notice all of the big baby blue Bibles all around the tables. In fact, because there are so many and it's hard to tell them apart, Tammy has begun decorating each one with different hand-painted flowers so that each family can distinguish theirs. You would see white dogwoods, pink dogwoods, grapes, and bluebonnets – with members waiting in line for others to be painted. “During Bible studies, it is a visual affirmation of the one Word that we share being embraced by the many different personalities and gifts that we each bring to the table” said Tammy.

There's an awe-ful lot going on !

- Oct. 4 **Sunday Brunch** – Briarwood (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.). Scrumptious food, great fellowship, low cost.
- Oct. 12 **Bishop's Convocation** (M,T,W) – Briarwood. *Greenback\$, Giving and Grace* - rostered leaders.
- Oct. 13 **Installation of Pr. Jane Mar** – Briarwood, 7 pm. Our new Bishop Assistant – (picnic at 5:30 p.m.).
- Oct. 17 **Spread the Spirit's Fire** – Arlington, 9 a.m. Learn about *DiscipleLife Alive!*
- Oct. 17 **MEF Dinner Fund Raiser** – Dallas, 4-7 p.m. Support our synod's mission efforts.
- Oct. 25 **Oktoberfest** – Briarwood (starts 3 p.m.). Food, program and dedication of the new cabins.
- Oct. 31 **Spread the Spirit's Fire** – Clifton, 9 a.m. Learn about *DiscipleLife Alive!*
- Oct. 31 **Marty Party** – First United, Dallas (2-7 p.m.). A celebration of the loveliness and quirkiness of being Lutheran. Speaker Mark Tranvik.

NT-NL DiscipleLife

New Hope, Keller, makes its facilities available to *Open Arms* – an organization for abused women and their children. ≈ **Trinity, Sherman**, used its Fifth Sunday to focus on World Hunger. ≈ The staff at **Advent, Arlington**, takes a day each quarter to engage in a community service project. ≈ **Gloria Dei, Garland**, has a *Helping Hands* ministry that does small repairs for members. ≈ **Calvary, Richland Hills**, supports the Presbyterian Night Shelter. ≈ **Our Saviour, Tyler**, teaches *Faith 5* to help parents and children talk about faith at home. ≈ Several NT-NL congregations, including **New Life in Christ, Duncanville**, help support the *Food Pantry* at **Mount Olive, Dallas**. ≈ **Calvary, San Angelo**, held a Rally Day *Backpack Blessing*. ≈ **Gloria Dei, Lubbock**, is engaged in the *Texas Ramp Project* for area homes. ≈ **Many NT-NL congregations** work with *Habitat for Humanity*.

Plus Two Great Workshops Offered

Luther and Worship is a one-day workshop (Oct. 24) taught by Pr. Mark Herbener and offered by the Parish Lay Ministry Academy (9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). The workshop, **Equipping Everyday People to Read the Bible** (Nov. 21), will be taught by Libby Buuck and Pr. Ryan Mills. The \$35 registration fee includes lunch; info contact [PLMA](http://www.plma.org).

FYI...

October Emphasis: MEF & the Lutheran Foundation of the SW

- ❖ Information about the work of the [2009 Churchwide Assembly](http://www.2009churchwideassembly.org) in Minneapolis is found online. Bishop Kanouse wrote daily reflections from the assembly and a [pastoral letter](#) regarding the policy changes that were adopted.
- ❖ Read a [Position Paper](#) from our Goal Team C on the proposed U.S. Department of Peace.
- ❖ [Cherish Our Children](#) offers a helpful [Summary of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality](#) adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, especially on issues of sexual exploitation and abuse.

[The DiscipleLife Synod: The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA](#) – *Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*

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