

April
2010

I-K Lutheran

Where mission meets the road



**Empowering, Equipping and Encouraging the
People of God to make Christ known**

From Bishop Jim Stuck

See earthquake updates at www.iksynod.org/ministry/globalmission/chileearthquake.asp

Dear Friends in Christ,

I read a quote by Episcopal Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to the Haitian Bishop Jean Zache Duracin after seeing the earthquake devastation in Haiti: "You should skip Lent this year; you have already had your Good Friday."

The suffering of the people in Haiti and Chile has been enormous. ELCA Disaster Response

has helped with recovery efforts and will continue to do so. We will be looking for ways to help our partner synod in Chile, the IELCH, move through this time of suffering.

In the Christian faith we trust that the suffering of Good Friday is not the final Word from God. We look beyond our suffering for the promise of the Resurrection that we share in

our Baptism. To follow Jesus means that we trust that promise and can move through suffering with hope. It means that we can walk with others in their times of suffering.

I am grateful for all who have responded with prayers and gifts. Please continue to be open to the Spirit's call to follow Jesus by walking with others in need.

Meditation from ELCA Missionary in South America Kate Lawler

Sunday school in our congregation in Buenos Aires started yesterday. This meant the joy of reuniting with kids that we didn't see during the 3 months that we were in the US on home assignment. It meant a return to the challenge of how to go about Sunday school with kids with little or no formal education who are wise beyond their years. I woke up at 3 am last night, asking myself:

Why can't I remember their ages?

- Leonel is 3 and a half feet tall, weighs less than 50 lbs. and has never gone to school. He is 7.
- Graciela is expecting her first baby and sells second-hand clothes 12 hours a day in the market. She is 13.
- Alfredo went fishing with a man his family doesn't know. They drank beer and smoked paco. He is 9.
- Ana gets up at 5 am, does the

housework, cooks and gets her brothers ready for school. She is 15.

- Carla lives a block away from girls who threaten her with a knife when she walks by. She is 11.
- Elisa struggles as she prepares for First Communion because she does not read or write. She is 35.
- Marcos looked up from his pizza during lunch yesterday and said, "at night I can't sleep." He is 4.

I can't remember their ages because something inside me refuses to accept realities that betray the images I have of what it means to be 4 or 13 or 35.

As I struggle to get back to sleep, the only prayer that comes to mind are the words of Carlos Mujica, an Argentine priest and human rights defender who worked with people living in the shantytowns of Buenos Aires.

Lord, forgive me for having grown accustomed to seeing children who look 8 but are 13;

Lord, forgive me for having grown accustomed to splashing through the mud; I can leave, they cannot;

Lord, forgive me for having learned to put up with the smell of sewerage water, from which I can leave, but they cannot.

Lord, forgive me for turning on a light, and forgetting that they cannot.

Lord, I can go on a hunger strike but they cannot because no one makes a strike out of their own hunger.

Lord, forgive me for saying "man does not live by bread alone," and not fighting with all my might so that they get their bread;

Help me.

Lord, I dream about dying for them: help me to live for them.

Lord, I want to be with them at the hour of light.

Help me.

Meditation from a Shantytown by Father Carlos Mujica, (1930-1974)

About Your Synod: *Deaconess Community of the ELCA*

Last month, we discussed the Lutheran Deaconess Association. This month, Sister Nora Frost of Grace Lutheran, Elkhart, Ind., offers information about the Deaconess Community of the ELCA.

"We are one of the four rosters of the ELCA and members have gone through the educational process which includes receiving an undergraduate degree, seminary, CPE, internship and working through the candidacy

process with the synod and deaconess community. We are consecrated by the synod bishop after receiving a call and must follow the constitution and by-laws of the ELCA."

In the past, deaconesses have been instrumental in founding Lutheran hospitals, congregations, and social ministry organizations. Presently, deaconesses serve as teachers, counselors, administrators, health profession-

als, Christian educators, youth workers, information specialists, ecumenists, and more. They serve in congregations, synod offices, hospitals, social service agencies, outdoor ministries, and universities. The Deaconess Community celebrated 125 years of Word and Service ministry on July 18-19, 2009. Visit www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Rostered-Leadership/Deaconess-Community.aspx to learn more.

Upcoming Event: **Worship for Mission**

- Have you thought about different styles of music in worship?
- Have you wondered "Can we be both contemporary *and* liturgical?"

Address these questions and explore the use of technology in worship at the I-K Synod "Worship for Mission" event.

This event is for any member of

the I-K Synod interested in learning more about Evangelical Lutheran Worship and participating in conversations about worship renewal.

April 24, 2010

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lafayette, IN**

Learn more at www.iksynod.org

Registration Fee: Pre-registration \$15; \$20 registration at the door; covers lunch, material.

Questions?

Contact Pr. Rudy Mueller at (317) 253-3522 or rmueller@iksynod.org.



2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

2010 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly

June 4-6, 2010

Service Project for Congregations



Lutheran World Relief Health Kits

Due to massive earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, Lutheran World Relief has seriously depleted its stock of health kits. People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Health kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. LWR health kits are assembled by congregations according to specific guidelines. You can find them here: www.lwr.org/beinvolved/healthkit.asp

Can your congregation help?

Contact Jan Philpy at gphilpy@indy.rr.com.



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Confirmation Gift Suggestion

The new Lutheran Study Bible is an NRSV translation accompanied by introductions, notes, and articles written by over 60 Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians.

It's reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging!

Cost: \$24.99 (Paperback)

Item No: 9780806680606

www.augsburgfortress.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.