

July  
2010

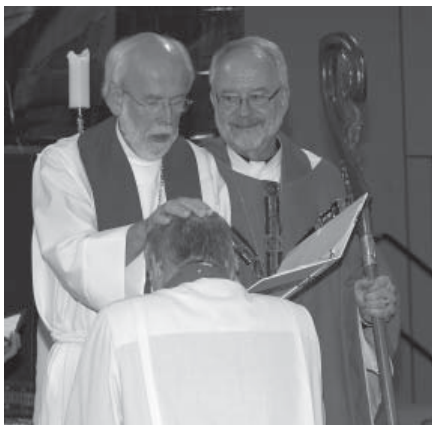
# I-K Lutheran

*Where mission meets the road*



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

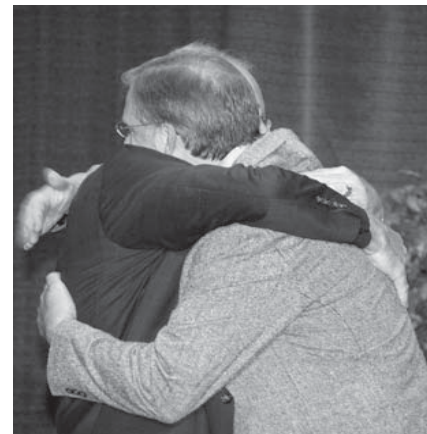
## From Bishop Jim Stuck



Bishop Hanson and Bishop Stuck preside over ordination of Rev. Dennis Zimmerman.



Bishop Stuck and Bishop Hanson prepare for opening worship at assembly.



Bishop Stuck congratulates Rev. Bill Gafkjen on his election as the new bishop of the I-K Synod.

## ELCA News

**In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds.**

Voting members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted in 2009 to support a program to eliminate malaria in south-Saharan Africa by 2015.

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), with a goal of \$75 million, would create a shared effort in concert with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS),

Lutheran World Relief, and the United Nations Foundation.

In response, at the 2010 assembly, the I-K Synod passed a resolution to encourage each family in the I-K Synod to give \$10 in 2010 toward the Lutheran Malaria Initiative specifically for the “Nothing but Nets” program to purchase nets in addition to their regular benevolence giving. Just \$10 buys an insecticide-treated bed net, delivers it to someone in Africa, and educates them on its use.

The resolution calls Indiana-Kentucky Synod congregations to embrace the ELCA brand to be “God’s Work. Our hands” at work in the world. It will connect them globally to others who are in need, and it will help us live out the command of Jesus to “Go and do likewise.”

[www.lutheranmalaria.org](http://www.lutheranmalaria.org)

## Around the I-K Synod



Gifts to the Freed to Lead Fund in honor of Bishop Stuck!



**Summer Leadership Seminar at the Center of the Synod**

Cross and Crown Lutheran Church  
5233 E. 79th St., Indianapolis  
8:30 a.m.

\$8.00 covers breakfast, lunch, materials

Visit <http://www.iksynod.org/ministry/IK-SWO/IKSWO.asp>

**Questions?** Contact Darla Werner at 317-576-9347 or [dwerner9164@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwerner9164@sbcglobal.net)



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## About Your Synod: *Congratulations, Bishop-Elect Bill Gafkjen!*

COVINGTON, Ky. (ELCA) -- The Rev. William O. "Bill" Gafkjen (rhymes with "ruffian") was elected June 5 to a six-year term as bishop of the I-K Synod at the assembly in Covington, Ky.

Gafkjen, 52, assistant to the bishop of the I-K Synod, was elected on the fifth ballot for bishop with 301 votes to 168 votes for the Rev. Steven L. Schwier, Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Ind. The Rev. Michael R. Brown, Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Bargersville, Ind., was also a nominee on the fourth ballot for bishop.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, presided at the election.

Gafkjen will succeed the Rev. James R. Stuck, the synod's bishop for 12 years, who announced he will retire when his term ends Aug. 31. The bishop-elect's installation will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, on September 11.

In an interview with the ELCA News Service, Gafkjen said his elec-

tion brought to him "a sense of humility that's inspired with the sort of trust that comes with this call."

Along with a commitment to the synod, his new call "is an invitation to walk alongside people in a difficult time to try to figure out what it means to be the church in mission. It's an opportunity to work with some great people and to build on the foundation that Bishop Stuck built in this synod."

Among the priorities he sees for the synod, Gafkjen said the synod needs to assist members to have public conversations together in a way that honors differences. He also named priorities such as staying focused on mission in the midst of financial challenges and stewardship concerns, and building connections and communication across the synod.

Gafkjen has served with Stuck since 2002. "He is a man with a deep pastoral heart who is centered in prayer. He has a deep commitment to sharing the good news," the bishop-elect said.



Born in Beausejour, Manitoba, Canada, Gafkjen earned a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. He earned a master of divinity from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and a doctorate from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga.

Following his ordination in 1985, Gafkjen served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Mora, Minn.; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Niles, Mich.; Lutheran Campus Ministries at Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.; Evangelical Lutheran Church, Duncanville, Pa.; and Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend, Ind.

Gafkjen and his wife Janet are the parents of Nathan and Kira.

## 2010 I-K Synod Assembly News

### A few tidbits about the 2010 Synod Assembly:

- Opening Worship Offering designated for a new congregational start: \$5603.70
- Sending Eucharist Offering designated for Chile reconstruction: \$8975.45
- Fair Trade Fair: \$1,563.50
- Pr. Dennis Zimmerman was ordained at the Opening Worship
- Ken Medema wrote and sang a song for and about Bishop Stuck in honor of his retirement.
- The order form for the 2010 Synod Assembly videos is online at [www.iksynod.org/events/Assembly10/videoorderform.pdf](http://www.iksynod.org/events/Assembly10/videoorderform.pdf)

### Free Online Resource

Subscribe to The RevWriter Resource, a free electronic newsletter offering an article, devotion and resources each month from Rev. Sue Lang, owner and publisher of the newsletter.

Recent topics include: mission-focused leadership, congregational leadership, stewardship and prayer forms for busy people.

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.