



# Upstate New York Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### *A REPORT FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE* *Conference Assembly - Fall 2011*

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good' and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Our 2011-12 focus on Health and Wellness identifies three areas:

- creating a healthy and vibrant synod
- promoting healthy and missional congregational life
- forming and supporting healthy leaders

Synod staff and Deans took the first step on our Health and Wellness walk participating in a July 28-29 Retreat led by ELCA Board of Pensions staff – Tammy Devine, Wellness Manager and Barbara Debski, Regional Representative for Outreach Education. Part of our time together was focused on our own personal wellness using a module entitled, *"That You May Be Well."* It included worship, Sabbath time, Bible study and reflection on the wholeness wheel. The second part focused on wellness of the community, affirming assets the synod already has in place and setting goals for future work. To continue to promote health and wellness we will be bringing Peter Steinke in the spring 2012 to lead us in his *"New Visions: Leadership for Mission"* program for congregational leaders and pastors. We invite you dream about what you might do in the coming year to promote health and wellness and keep us posted.

Meet Beth Yenchko, Interim Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) at the October 15, 2011 Mission Interpreter Training to be held at Christ the King, Vestal. Learn to tell stories of how we are living our mission and promoting healthy and missional congregational life.

Seventeen voting members from the Upstate New York Synod attended the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL. Their reflections are on our website. Three actions that are very significant were the adoption of the Social Statement Genetics, Faith and Responsibility, the launch of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the passage of the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) proposals. The Malaria Campaign fits well with the Global Mission focus of our June 7 – 9, 2012 Synod Assembly.

The Synod Finance Committee has been meeting over the summer to track our financial health and wellness. The good news is that we have used our line of credit far less this year than last year and that while mission

support continues to trail prior years the shortfall and decline is not as significant. Synod cash flow continues to remain tight. Please continue to encourage your congregation to be up to date in their giving and to consider an increase in mission support.



Walking together is more than the bishop knowing the breadth of the church's ministries, it is all of us together taking responsibility to learn about and share the great things that are happening because we work and walk together." (Bishop Jerge - pictured with Rev. Martin Junge, the new General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation.)

**Feed the Roots of Leadership**  
A capital campaign of the Upstate New York Synod for:  
**Campus Ministry, Outdoor Ministry and Seminary Education**

visit <http://upstatenysynod.org/capital-campaign> to find out more today!

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;” Isaiah 43:2a*

In recent days we have been called to live out our mission as resurrection people to pray first, walk together and change lives amidst the flood waters of Hurricane Irene and now Tropical Storm Lee. Any time Lutherans help their neighbors in need following a disaster, they are being Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) for their community. You and your congregation can serve in important ways when a disaster happens by: organizing volunteers, opening your doors, holding a special service, or providing spiritual or pastoral care to those who have been impacted by the storms. Learn more at [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org).

Residents and business owners who have sustained losses in the Federally declared designated counties can register for assistance online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362). Residents with requests for clean-up help can call 211 in their area or if 211 is not available they can complete the request form at [www.nyvoad.org/debris](http://www.nyvoad.org/debris).

Ways congregations can help now:

- **Give** a donation to support the LDR staff working in Upstate New York hurricane and flood impacted areas and to support long term recovery efforts. Send your donations to: **LDR, Upstate NY Hurricane/Flood Relief, c/o Lutheran Homes Foundation, 108 Utica Rd., Clinton, NY 13323** (Checks made payable to “Lutheran Homes Foundation” - please note Upstate New York Hurricane/Flood in the memo line).
- **Gather** materials and assemble “flood buckets” used in clean up and deliver to a drop off site:
  - Niagara Frontier (WNY) - Still in One Peace Crisis Services, 9365 Clarence Center Rd., Clarence Ctr., NY, Contact Pr. Steve Biegner, [stevebiegner@gmail.com](mailto:stevebiegner@gmail.com), 716-868-1232;
  - Genesee Finger Lakes - Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 761 Elmgrove Rd., Rochester. Contact Gary Roller, [gwr67@peoplepc.com](mailto:gwr67@peoplepc.com), or Frank Haak, (585)544-1095;
  - Central Crossroads -
    - King of Kings, 8278 Oswego Rd., Liverpool, NY. (315) 622-2077;
    - First United Methodist Church, 400 N. George St., Rome, NY (315) 336-1740;
    - New Hartford First United Methodist Church, 105 Genesee St., New Hartford, NY (315) 733-4227.
- Organize **Volunteer** work teams to assist with clean-up, mucking out and rebuilding. Please email availability to [admin@nyvoad.org](mailto:admin@nyvoad.org) providing type of assistance you can provide, number of volunteers, possible availability dates, and contact name, phone and email.

Regular updates from LDR, Upstate New York are available at [www.upstatenysynod.org/ldr](http://www.upstatenysynod.org/ldr). LDR is a member of the New York Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NYVOAD), a partnership of faith-based and non-profit agencies who work together on disaster recovery. NYVOAD is coordinating volunteer teams responding to requests for household clean-up and mud-out in impacted areas across New York State.

Bucket Contents: One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid; Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle) Please note: Only include bleach if you will be using or distributing the buckets locally; Five scouring pads; Seven sponges, assorted sizes; One scrub brush; Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®); One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent; One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®); One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®); One package of 48-50 clothespins; Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.; Five dust masks; Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®); One pair work gloves; 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon); and One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol). Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.



*Resurrection people who pray first, walk together and change lives*

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