



South Wedge Mission Hosts Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



Mission Developer Pastor Matthew Nickoloff and our synod's newest mission in the South Wedge, Rochester hosted Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for her first visit to the Upstate New York Synod. Those who are being touched by the Gospel through this ministry joined Bishops Marie Jerge and Prince Singh (Episcopal Diocese of Rochester), as well as area congregational leaders and pastors who support the new mission, in a joyful worship celebration and dinner.



Our mission support makes new ventures like these possible! South Wedge Mission is funded by the Upstate New York Synod, the Churchwide

Organization, and area congregations and pastors. We are exploring the possibility of making this an ecumenical venture. The mission currently meets in the building that once housed Peace, Rochester. The Synod is holding the building and assets in trust for this Congregation Under Development.




Malaria Campaign News

World Malaria Day - Sunday April 27

Our Savior, Utica is just one congregation that has been actively raising funds to support the ELCA Anti-Malaria Campaign. They hosted a bake sale and information table about malaria at the local farmers' market and have raised over \$2000.

Laurel McCurdy (Zion, New Hartford) represented the Upstate New York Synod at the recent ELCA Malaria Summit sharing successful ideas for malaria education and fund-raising. Giving has reached \$11 million and is well on its way to the \$15 million goal. Lives are already being saved. Download the toolkit at <http://bit.ly/worldmariatoolkit>.



**Going Public:
 Poured Out
 for the World**

...though in the form of God,
 ...Christ emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 Philippians 2:6-7a

THE 27th ASSEMBLY OF THE UPSTATE NEW YORK SYNOD
 June 1-3, 2014 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center

Congregational Vitality Assessment

Upstate New York Synod was chosen as one of five "test Synods" for the new Congregational Vitality Assessment. This tool will assist congregational leaders to identify areas of strength and opportunity with the hope of building more vital congregations. This survey listens to the voices of the congregation, gathers information, offers analysis and provides a foundation for missional planning. Hear what some of our Upstate New York Synod folks have to say about the CVA:

"Taking the Congregational Vitality Assessment was a profound experience for me; I feel that my voice was really heard and listening to all of our voices will definitely make a difference."

After receiving the results: *"Outstanding!! Looks like we are really ready for the next chapter in our mission. I can see the hand of God leading us to deepen our mission in this neighborhood."*

In the test period, there is no charge for our congregations wishing to take the survey. Your mission support dollars have paid for its development! For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/vitalitysurvey>, or contact your Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) and/or Regional Renewal team!

Finances

Thanks to faithful giving from individuals and congregations across the Upstate New York Synod, we ended FY 2013-14 in relative financial stability with a pre-audit net gain. We are grateful that we could attain most of our financial objectives. Through Mission Support ELCA members do God's work together in ways that no individual, congregation, or synod can do alone.

The New UpstateNYSynod.org

We have updated our website! Growth in the use of mobile devices (phones and tablets) from 10% to 24% in the last year necessitated the change. In the month since the new site has been in place we have experienced an amazing 42% increase in visits. To stay up on the latest information, visit our website, upstatenysynod.org, sign up for the Upstate Update, and/or join the conversation on our social media channels.



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Feed the Roots of Leadership

At the June 2014 Synod Assembly we will celebrate the completion of our 3-year **Feed the Roots of Leadership** campaign to provide funding for outdoor ministry, campus ministry and seminary education. Distributions for FY 2013 were \$57,624. We invite congregations and individuals to consider one more gift to help support these important ministries. There is still time to host a special fundraising event or take a special offering. Together we are making a difference in lifting up the future leaders of our church.

Health and Wellness

Take the Health Assessment

Pastors and some congregations in the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference started not only the Lenten journey, but a journey to fitness. The challenge is to walk or roll 10,000 steps or 5 miles a day beginning Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Pedometers were provided to each pastor thanks to a grant provided by the Synod Council from the Health and Wellness Fund. The Synod Council also offered matching grants to 3 congregations.

Portico Benefits added \$9735 to the Health and Wellness Fund in 2013 when 65% of our rostered leaders and spouses completed their Health Assessment.



Other initiatives made possible by the fund include: sponsoring Peter Steinke and his *New Visions* workshop at 3 sites involving more than 100 leaders, providing continuing education scholarships for rostered leaders, supporting an overnight retreat/planning event for Conference Deans and Synod Staff, resourcing the Bishop's Prayer Days, and expanding the work of Northeast Forum on Spirituality and Aging (NEFOSA).