



## Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy Celebrates 125th

by Bishop Michael Last

'A people wedded to the land.' That's how I would describe the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy. Nearly all are or have been farmers, nearly all of the remaining twelve to fifteen worshipers live in the wide open country of northwest Iowa. Some of Trinity's members are still active in farming, while others have retired. All are grateful to the land that has provided a good life.

Trinity's building is a classic framed white clapboard, tall, steepled building. The church bell can be heard for miles, but likely those who have heard it most often are those souls buried in the picturesque cemetery next to the church.

I will always remember Trinity for its stunningly beautiful stained glass windows, a late addition to the church in the '70's. These extraordinary windows reflect the Christian faith so deeply rooted in the people of the land.

I say 'remember,' because Trinity has decided that after 125 years of continuous ministry, with farms getting larger and those working the land fewer, it's time to conclude a good run, to celebrate with dignity a proud and faithful ministry by closing with a whale of a 125th anniversary celebration, then call it a day.

There will be tears. Remembrances of babies baptized, weddings performed, family members laid to rest. But there will also be joy and laughter. Much has been accomplished through the years. Hundreds have come to a well-rooted faith in Christ through the ministrations of this church on the prairie. The cushions at the altar rail are well worn, reflecting generations who have knelt there to receive Christ present in Holy Communion.

The fellowship hall has a hint of the incense of coffee shared as a staple of hospitality and life in community.

Trinity, though never a large congregation, has through the years, been mission minded,

supportive of synod and churchwide ministries, but also committed to supporting local ministries like the food pantry in Fort Dodge. For many years Trinity walked together with the people at Ullensvang Lutheran, Thor in a shared ministry.

Pastor Herb Schiller has served as Trinity's pastor part-time since his 'retirement' and plans to close it out with them at the anniversary celebration. His deep love for the people and willingness to serve long after retirement have been a joy, giving them the few extra years needed to prepare for a day that has seemed inevitable for some time.

That day has now come. There is peace with the decision, no regrets. God has been the center and sustenance of the many generations who have called Trinity their church home. Many who have gone on to other places will likely always think of that white framed church building on the prairie, the pastor, Sunday school teachers, as their church home, rooted in a land and people whose faith in God was exemplified by working the soil and planting the seed, and trusting that God would surely bless their labors with an abundant harvest.

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy will celebrate 125 years of ministry on June 27, 2010, and then begin the process to dissolve. The building and contents will be sold at auction on July 17, 2010 (www.rognessauction.com).*



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# Global Programs Report

by Cindy Wells, Western Iowa Synod Global Programs Coordinator

## HATUA KWA HATUA/STEP BY STEP COMPANION SYNOD HIGHLIGHTS



### 2010 VISITOR GROUP TO TANZANIA:

The next visitor group to Tanzania will be departing on July 17 and returning on August 8. Trip goals ultimately include walking Step by Step as One in Jesus Christ as we get to know one another more deeply. This will occur by experiencing the Southern Diocese and its ministries, by pursuing more deeply one's individual interest area (e.g., agriculture, health, visiting one's companion congregation, etc.), by worshiping together, and by sharing one another's faith journeys. Additionally, a short safari will be experienced. Travelers and their primary interest areas include:

Gail Bauler	Marcus	Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School
Carl & Alice Bergstrom	Ogden	Center for Agricultural Development & Special Education, respectively
Cayla Egesdal	Storm Lake	Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School
Dr. Bill & Kathy Follows	Spencer	Ilebula Lutheran Hospital, jointly
Bruce & Gail Henderson	Atlantic	Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School & Ikongosi Lutheran Parish (companion congregation), jointly
Colleen Last	Storm Lake	Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School
Dawn Peterson	Fort Dodge	Matembwe Lutheran Parish (companion congregation)
Jan Rosdail-Aegerter	Jefferson	Special Education
Michelle Talbott	Rockwell City	Songea Lutheran Parish (companion congregation)
Bruce Towne	Gowrie	Center for Agricultural Development
Michael Vaughn	Onawa	Center for Agricultural Development

Please pray for safe and meaningful experiences for all! Watch our synod Web site ([www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org)) for a Tanzanian Travelers' Blog during their time abroad.

### 2010 TANZANIAN COMPANION SYNOD CONSULTATION:

Bishop Michael Last, Cindy Wells, and Pastor Sara Jensen (Western Iowa Synod Companion Synod Committee member) attended the Tanzanian Companion Synod Consultation in Chicago on May 19-22, 2010. This event is held periodically in either the U.S. or Tanzania to address and further develop our companion synod relationships. Also in attendance were the Presiding Bishops of both the ELCA (Rev. Mark Hanson) and the ELCT (Rev. Alex Malasusa), Bishop Jacob Mameo Ole Paulo of the Morogoro Diocese ELCT, various ELCA bishops, the ELCA Representatives to Tanzania (Revs. Robert and JMe Lowden), and numerous individuals who work/volunteer in these relationships throughout a variety of ELCA synods. Worship, faith stories, best practices, and book discussions were shared. Presentations on Cross-Cultural Relationships, Accompaniment, Mobilizing the Next Generation, Global Service, Leadership Development, Global Finance, International Development and Disaster Response, Mwangaza, and Global Formation Relationships were given, providing valuable information and resource. We rejoice for this opportunity to come together to deepen and enhance these special relationships.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

#### WELL PROJECT:

The equipment has recently set sail for a hopeful arrival and passing through customs in July! Once we are assured of this, the Western Iowa Synod Well Team will travel to Tanzania to train the local drilling team on its use and maintenance. Several wells will be drilled during this time, and several more are envisioned as this effective and efficient equipment is put to use. Clean, disease-free water is essential to one's very existence and its access promotes human dignity and enhances overall economic development. One community well can serve as many as 20,000 people from area villages. Drilling one well costs approximately \$2500-\$3000 USD. Many wells are needed and we pray for your continued financial support. We are blessed to partner in this vital, life-saving effort!

#### CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (CAD):

Recent accomplishments and advancements have been made in the areas of building site renovation plans and estimates, the provision of water and electricity to the site, and timelines and procedures for securing an Executive

### *Western Iowa Synod Mission Statement*

*The mission we share as the Western Iowa Synod is to energize and shepherd congregations and their leaders to tell about Jesus Christ and to serve together in Christ's name.*

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Director (ED) for CAD. Once the critical component of identifying and placing the ED has been accomplished — hopefully by late summer — implementation plans may quickly come together. To reach our goals, we are happy to report that pledges and other contributions have been coming in on target — a real blessing as CAD demands a substantial financial undertaking. This is a complex endeavor. A fall planning trip to Tanzania is being considered to advance this project to deeper levels. We are thankful as our agricultural connectedness brings us together as One in Christ through this project.

### **MEDICAL INITIATIVES:**

We are pleased to announce that the Ilembula Lutheran Hospital is engaging with Health Technical Services of the ELCT to devise a Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) program. This program surveys the hospital's equipment and its maintenance needs, and develops a plan to ensure for its proper and functioning use. It additionally plans for the eventual replacement of equipment. With the equipment in good working order, Ilembula's ability to provide fee-based medical services is sustained, strengthening its overall financial stability. We believe this to be an example of good stewardship of resources and medical service and will look for ways to partner with the Southern Diocese in the implementation of this plan.

**Jason Mtokoma** is starting another semester at the International Medical and Technology University in Dar Es Salaam (the capital of Tanzania). Jason is working diligently and advancing well. Upon completion of his degree, Jason will return to serve as a medical doctor in the Southern Diocese — a skill widely needed to build medical capacity. Synod support for Jason is \$2900 per year and anyone desiring to partner in this support is encouraged to do so. We are thankful for these efforts which strengthen the health and well-being of our companions.

### **IGUMBILO LUTHERAN GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL:**

Two efforts to support our partner school (in addition to general scholarship funding) are underway — the collection of used laptops for refurbishing, and general fundraising for textbooks (sponsored by the Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Youth Organization). Six or so computers were donated at synod assembly. Katia Frock is currently refurbishing them. Those deemed to provide good service will be hand carried to Tanzania by the July visitor group for use in the Southern Diocese, particularly at the girls school. Many have donated to the Ten

Dollar Textbooks for Tanzania project that will supply textbooks to the students of Igumbilo. More is being sought through Vacation Bible and Sunday School programs, the Junior and Senior High Youth Events, and individual and congregational donations. It is our hope that a significant difference can be made toward this vital need. See a brochure insert in this newsletter for your use in promoting this project. Additionally, note that a color version can be accessed from our Web site, [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org).

**While the members of the Western Iowa Synod have been extremely generous and responsive to the various companion synod partner projects, please note that ALL of these projects need ongoing financial support.** Contributions may be made payable to the Western Iowa Synod with the project name in the memo and sent to PO Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588. Please direct questions to Cindy Wells, Western Iowa Synod Global Programs Coordinator, at 712-732-4968, ext. 441, or [wiscw@wisynod.org](mailto:wiscw@wisynod.org). *For all of the ways in which you have responded to our Tanzanian brothers and sisters in Christ, we say, Asante sana (Thank you very much) and Mungu Awabariki (God bless you ALL)!*



## Straining Forward

Someone once say that “we live in liminal times.” They were right, we do. Liminal times means the in-between time. Whether we are waiting at a traffic light, at a doctor's office, or falling to sleep, we are in the in-between time waiting for what lies ahead. In fact at times we seem to be straining forward in anticipation of what is to come.

The Barnabas Uplift Network is indeed straining forward in anticipation of what is to come. In building on the success of the past and putting forth ideas for the future, new programs or ministries evolve in the in-between time. Anything becomes possible. In general, here is what Barnabas Uplift will be focused on this year:

- Strengthening the Barnabas Uplift Network
- Providing leadership training to participating communities
- Focused outreach

The goal of Barnabas Uplift is to strengthen and sustain a network of partners that are encouraging individuals, families, and commu-

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# Preparing for Mission Work

by Pastor Rodger Prois, Western Iowa Synod Director for Evangelical Mission



Pastor Rodger Prois

Are we ready to reach out? My wife and I decided to do some remodeling in our home. We thought about what we wanted to do and realized it might be best to talk with a contractor. Plans were drawn and permits acquired as we anticipated new living space. When the work began it was important to make sure that we had done the foundational things well, like squaring off the space, sufficient floor joists, and floor boards appropriate for the flooring material to be installed. When an individual, or a congregation, begins to think about new mission opportunities, close to home or globally, attention to the basics is also necessary. I would argue that the most important attribute to mission activity is mature faith.

As I have conferred with leaders, both lay and clergy, from around the synod about how we might best “equip the saints for the building up of the church,” the conversations kept coming back to issues of faith. Several of us are now working on providing resources that would aid the process of **Growing in Faith**. We see that a faith life can be tended to by immersing in scripture, lifting up worship as the primary work of the church, tending to both vertical (God) and horizontal (our neighbor) relationships, and learning/relearning to live as stewards of God’s world.

The materials that will be available to support **Growing in Faith** will be Western Iowa specific and written for the culture of our area. A team of Biblical scholars are working on con-

gregation council devotion ideas, Bible study outlines, sermon series and other aids. Visions are being shared about a day-long synod-wide worship learning experience, culminating in a worship that would be open to everyone. Regional mini-conferences on relationship and leadership skills will be offered beginning next fall to help with the basics of communication and community building and organizing. Plans are being made to reinforce the attitude of being a steward beginning with the pastors and other rostered leaders of the synod. The intent is then for these leaders to pass on the joy of living a life of faith. Look for more on the development of this process in the near future. Contact me at wisrp@wisynod.org or 712-732-4968, ext. 445, if you have any questions or would like to know more.

Along with the **Growing in Faith** process work, we are also looking at the organizational structure that initiates and supports mission in our synod. The intent is not to change our synod constitution but look more to the relationships that bring about faithful activity. In other words, the hope is to invite people to tables where mission strategy, work and support can be discussed and planned with a sense of urgency. I pray daily that those who have a heart for mission will be identified, or self-identify, and join me at the table.

*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Luke 10:2.*

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## Celebrating the Call of Grandparenting



On April 22, approximately 35 people gathered in Storm Lake to celebrate the wonderful call of being a grandparent. At this conference the participants heard about the important role and influence that older and wiser people have on our children, especially in faith formation. The attendees enjoyed an inspiring day with Marilyn Sharpe whose love and enthusiasm for parenting

and grandparenting radiates from her every time she speaks.

Here is what one of the participants had to say: “This conference was so much more than I expected. I came with the intent of bringing home some hands-on ideas from the two workshops I was most interested in ... However, the whole day was just a great blessing. From worship to Marilyn’s passion for pro-

claiming Christ and His love in our families, to hands-on workshop ideas, sharing with others, and taking home ideas to enhance the Stepping Stone Ministry in our parish, it was just way more than I ever imagined. I think the most meaningful part of the event was the encouragement and affirmation that exuded from Marilyn Sharpe on being faithful grandparents and volunteer grandparents. ... I took home a super-charged desire to make grandparenting my vocation. I also took home ideas on long-distance grandparenting using Skype, and on making a faith chest, filling it with faith reminders, taking them out and talking about them. Thanks for an awesome, inspiring day. I would personally encourage anyone to participate in this conference if it is offered again.”

~ Jean Matter, Emanuel-St. John, Lytton

Watch for another event like this in the fall. Details will be posted at [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) as plans are solidified. We hope you will join us.

# Helping Seniors Stay Connected

By Lynn Eggedal, Education, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Summer is upon us. Confirmations and graduations are behind us, now it's time for mission trips, fundraisers and looking ahead to our fall programming. But what about those seniors; where will they be going, and what will they be doing with their lives? Will they stay connected to the church? Will they still connect with you as their youth leader, pastor or adult mentor? Most importantly, will they stay connected to God?

How can we help make these things happen? We need to start before graduation; even during their senior year is better than nothing. Here are some things that you can do:

1. Lead a final-semester weekly Bible study for seniors and their parents. Use a meaningful study framework.
2. Plan multiple seniors-only events that give kids and their parents a chance to learn crucial information and laugh together.
3. Embrace the emerging adult lurking inside of your seniors. A key reason adolescents step away from church and God after high school is their inability to nurture their own spiritual growth. Plan special seniors-only gatherings that are specifically designed to take them through a spiritual growth boot camp.
4. Connect seniors with thriving college-age adults. Plan some informal get-togethers with your seniors and a few Christ-following, college-age students; a home setting is best for this. Ask the former graduates to share stories and lessons learned (good and bad) about maintaining their relationship with Christ in their challenging post-graduate context.
5. Enlist healthy older adults to mentor your seniors. The seniors begin to see themselves as adults and this brings with it an openness to relationships with older adults. So gather together your older adults and bring a list of your seniors and invite them to begin a mentoring relationship.
6. Offer increased leadership opportunities to your seniors. Find ways to incorporate your seniors' spiritual gifts and natural skills — help them surface their leadership ability. You want your seniors asking this question as a normal part of their life: "What can I do to serve my youth group, my community, and the world around me?"
7. Build memories around your trust in God. Build relational bridges that will continue to be important as the senior moves into a new stage of life. Spend one-on-one time with your seniors; if you're shopping for

supplies for a mid-week service, invite a senior or two to ride along.

8. Follow up with last year's seniors; make a point to connect with them. Make a phone call, send an e-mail, poke them on Facebook or go retro and send them a card. Do whatever works for you, but do what you have to do to keep in touch with them.



What are you doing to create an environment that launches our seniors into a lifestyle of healthy Christian living? If you are blessed to have a college or university in your town, what are you doing or what can you do to reach out to those young adults who may not have had a Christian connection or mentor their senior year or during their high school experience? If you are interested in reaching out to young adults and/or offering support to campus ministry please contact Lynn at [wisle@wisynod.org](mailto:wisle@wisynod.org).

Excerpts and ideas in this article were taken from "The Maximized Senior Year" by Tim Levert, *Group Magazine*, May-June 2010.

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nities to be self-sufficient, to give them the opportunities in their life to be able to move beyond poverty, and to walk alongside and encourage them.

As Barnabas Uplift strains forward we hear the words of our students, "We know we will make a difference." That is the power of Barnabas Uplift. That is what we wish to continue this year. These students have had opportunities with the Help 4 Health ministry that provides tuition and support for eligible persons wishing to obtain training as Certified Nursing Assistants. Students have recently graduated from the Spencer and Fort Dodge areas. Please contact Michelle Talbott at 712-732-4968, ext. 443 or [wismt@wisynod.org](mailto:wismt@wisynod.org) for more information on this ministry.

For more information about Barnabas Uplift or to schedule a presentation, Bible study or Supply Pastor, contact Pastor Vince Ramos, State Coordinator, Barnabas Uplift, 319-233-5561 or 319-296-6400 (cell), or e-mail Pastor Ramos at [barnabasupliftiowa@gmail.com](mailto:barnabasupliftiowa@gmail.com). Visit [www.barnabasuplift.org](http://www.barnabasuplift.org) on the Web.



*Heather Lovain, a recent graduate from the CNA course at Iowa Central Community College at a reception held at Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge.*

# Congregations in the Call Process — 6/14/2010

## *Congregations Beginning the Call Process:*

Our Savior's, Albert City  
First, Clarion  
Trinity United Lutheran Ministries — Eagle Grove  
Evangelical, Eagle Grove / Ullensvang, Thor /  
South Enes, Vincent  
Faith, Onawa

## *Congregations in Self Study:*

Christ, Le Mars / St. Peter, Brunsville  
Our Savior's, Rock Valley

## *Congregations Completed Self Study:*

Partners in Faith Ministries — Bethel, Graettinger /  
Wallingford, Wallingford

## *Congregations in Interview Process:*

St. John, Corwith  
Kanawha, Kanawha  
Immanuel, Rock Rapids

## *Congregations in Area Conversations:*

St. John, Albert City  
Trinity, Alta  
Nain, Newell

## *Exploring Shared Minister/Ministries:*

Ascension, Coon Rapids  
Christ, Jefferson

## *Long Term or Intentional Interim:*

St. Luke, Sioux City

## *Calls Extended:*

Estherville, Estherville  
Bethany & Immanuel, Kimballton

## *Calls Accepted:*

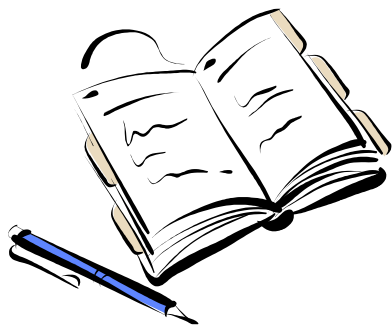
St. John, Council Bluffs — Rev. Shannyn Magee  
Bethany & Immanuel, Kimballton — Rev. Joy  
Gonnerman  
Zion, Rake — Rev. Terry Mahnke

## *Ordinations:*

Shannyn Magee, June 13

## *Installations:*

St. Paul's, Atlantic — Rev. Grant Van Lishout,  
August 1  
St. Paul, Missouri Valley — Rev. Steve Pera,  
July 25  
Zion, Rake — Rev. Terry Mahnke, June 13



## Mark Your Calendars

### *Wellness Events for Rostered Leaders*

*That it may be well with you ...*

Various events are planned; please see insert in this newsletter for schedule.

### *Global Mission Gathering Event*

July 16-17, 2010 — Austin, Minn.

[www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission)

### *Fall Theological Convocation*

“Prayer: Engaging Spiritual Indifference”

For rostered leaders & spouses

September 26-28, 2010 — Hilton Omaha

Watch for more information.

### *2011 Synod Assembly*

June 3-5, 2011

Sioux City Convention Center

## ***A Sacred Trust: Keeping the Church a Safe and Sacred Place for All***

The Board for Ministry is offering a workshop on sexual misconduct prevention *for rostered leaders and lay members* Thursday, **November 11** at St. Paul's Lutheran in Atlantic or Friday, **November 12** at St. Mark Lutheran in Storm Lake. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for rostered leaders and 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for lay members. The workshop speaker is Barbara Keller, a consultant to the ELCA for the prevention of sexual misconduct. Please put these dates on your calendar now and look for further information to come.

## Prayer Requests

- **Pastor Virgil Anderson**, dealing with health issues.
- **Pastor JT Burk**, ordained June 20, 2010, at Emanuel, Dayton; JT will be serving a Western North Dakota Synod congregation.
- Family and friends of **Pastor Luther Flugstad**, who passed away April 7.
- The **Gulf oil spill** and the devastation to livelihoods and the environment, and those working to contain and stop the spill.
- **Pastor Carroll Lang**, undergoing radiation treatments at the Mayo Clinic.
- **Pastor Shannyn Magee**, ordained June 13, 2010, who will be serving St. John, Council Bluffs.
- **Pastor Ben and Monica McIntire**, at the birth of a daughter, Phoebe Lynn, on May 30.
- Family and friends of **Pastor Paul Rothfusz** who passed away April 28, after a long battle with cancer.
- **Phyllis Sterler**, recovering from surgery for colon cancer. Phyllis and her husband Ron are the WIS Well Drilling Coordinators.
- Members of **Trinity Lutheran, Hardy**, planning their 125th anniversary on June 27, 2010, then beginning the process to dissolve.
- **Pastor Jeremy Winter**, ordained March 28 at St. John, Boyden, serving Zion, St. Ignace and Trinity, Brevort, both in Michigan.

## Seminars, Conferences and Continuing Education

- **Wellness Events for Western Iowa Synod Rostered Leaders**, various events are planned. See insert in this newsletter for schedule. Contact Pastor Danette Johns, wisdj@wisynod.org or 712-732-4968, ext. 448, with any questions.
- **ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering Event**, July 16-17, 2010, Austin, Minn. Make connections between global and local mission in your congregation. Go to [www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission).
- **Lutheran Lakeside Camp Anniversary Weekend**, July 16-18, 2010. Registration required. [www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com)
- **Lutherlag 2010**, July 18-23, 2010, Luther College, Decorah. A multi-generational gathering focusing on lifelong learning. Visit [www.luther.edu/alumni/events\\_tours\\_programs/lutherlag](http://www.luther.edu/alumni/events_tours_programs/lutherlag).
- **Rethinking Stewardship: Our Culture, Our Theology, Our Practice**, July 19-21, 2010, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn. Sponsored by Luther Seminary, [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu).
- **Overview of Lutheran Woman Today 2010-2011 Bible Study**, July 31, 2010, Center for Renewal, Grand View University, Des Moines. Visit [www.renewingchurch.org](http://www.renewingchurch.org).
- **“Lutheran Advocates for Safe Families,”** training for congregational leaders on safe families and domestic violence. Sponsored by Lutheran Community Foundation; two dates are offered: September 13-15, 2010 and October 7-9, 2010. E-mail Susan.Hayes@thelcf.org, for details.
- **Food Pantry Conference**, September 13-14, 2010, First United Methodist Church, Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Contact Erica Martin, at 319-385-3242 or visit [thecupmp@iowatelecom.net](mailto:thecupmp@iowatelecom.net).
- **Fall Eldersversity**, September 14-19, 2010, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. Featuring Pastor Arlyn Norris speaking on Tanzania. More at [www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org).
- **2010 Church Secretarial Conference**, September 21, 2010, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny. Theme is ‘God’s Gifts Through Communication.’ All church office personnel welcome. Go to [www.iowawest.org](http://www.iowawest.org).
- **Fall Theological Convocation**, September 26-28, 2010, Hilton Omaha. For rostered leaders and spouses; featured speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kathryn Love. Watch for more information.
- **Ventures in Vocation**, October 11-12, 2010, Luther Seminary. For college-age and post-college folks thinking about seminary. [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu)
- **“GHM and You: Making a Difference in the World,”** Global Health Ministries Fall Conference, October 23, 2010, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minn. More information at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org).
- **“A Sacred Trust: Keeping the Church a Safe and Sacred Place for All,”** November 11, 2010, St. Paul’s, Atlantic or November 12, St. Mark, Storm Lake. Rostered leaders attend 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and lay members from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Workshop speaker is Barbara Keller.
- **Youth and Family Ministry Certification School**, November 1-19, 2010. For adult leaders, volunteers, clergy, youth and seminary students who have a passion for youth ministry. Visit [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu), under ‘Centers/Center for Youth Ministry.’
- **Considering Your Call**, November 13-15, 2010, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque. For those wishing to explore a possible call to ministry. [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu)
- **Holy Land Tour** with Pastor Jack Mithelman, Grand View University campus pastor. Dates are November 1-11, 2011. Contact Pastor Mithelman, [jmithelman@grandview.edu](mailto:jmithelman@grandview.edu) for more.
- Continuing education courses are offered by both Wartburg Seminary and Luther Seminary. Check their Web sites, [www.wartburgseminary.edu](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu) and [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu), for listings.

## Synod Calendar — July / August / September 2010

July 5	Synod Office Closed	September 6	Synod Office Closed
July 16-17	Glocal Mission Event, Austin, Minn.	September 11	Synod Boards & Committees
July 17- August 8	Western Iowa Synod travelers in Tanzania	September 18	Companion Congregation Workshop
August 12	Candidacy Committee	September 18	Synod Council
August 20-21	Lay School of Ministry Two-Year Class Kickoff Retreat	September 24-25	Lay School of Ministry Continuing Education Retreat
August 26	Chaplains & Deans Colloquy	<i>Visit the synod Web site, <a href="http://www.wisynod.org">www.wisynod.org</a>, for a complete synod calendar.</i>	

## Being Ready when God Acts

The Church of the Damascus Road is a unique Western Iowa Synod congregation because the members are inmates at the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City prisons. Even though these men live behind razor wire, they are free in Christ – and they show it!

Always looking for ways to share in God's work, The Church of the Damascus Road members give generously out of the miniscule amount they are able to earn in prison. The Church of the Damascus Road is consistently a Mission Support leader in the Western Iowa Synod. Members support many charities, including CROP Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Haiti relief, the Center for Agricultural Development in Tanzania, missionary Patricia Bentzen, and more.

In May, Bishop Last, Cindy Wells, and Gayle Henderson visited the prison congregation and gave a presentation on the partner projects the Western Iowa Synod shares with its companion synod, the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Among the many partner projects is one to provide microscopes for use in health facilities and the Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School in the Southern Diocese. Microscopes are needed to help analyze, diagnose, and treat illness, and to use in the new science building at the girls school. Definitely a worthwhile project, but possibly not the most exciting!

At this point in the story, we see God taking over. Three days after hearing the presentation, Thomas Tymkowicz, an offender in the Rockwell City prison, was chosen to be part of a work crew on the Iowa Central Community College campus in Fort Dodge. Most of the crew were assigned to grounds maintenance, but Thomas was picked to help with the remodeling of the college science building. While working on that project, Thomas discovered that several older, but working, microscopes were slated for the dumpster.

Thomas saw God's direction clearly, and he didn't hesitate. He told the remodeling project supervisor how valuable those microscopes would be for our brothers and sisters in the Southern Diocese and how they could bring vital improvement in their health care and education. After learning about the project to provide microscopes to health facilities and

the girls secondary school in the Southern Diocese, college officials approved the donation of 24 used microscopes. They

will be checked over, cleaned and refurbished, then travel to Tanzania with a group of Western Iowa Synod members visiting the Southern Diocese this summer.

God's Work. Our Hands. Thanks be to God!



## Pastors Don't Grow on Trees

Where do pastors or associates in ministry or diaconal ministers or deaconesses come from? Well, they don't grow on trees. Rather, they grow in congregations. God is continually calling forth people to consider a full-time vocation in the church. Is there someone in your congregation with gifts for ministry? Does he have a deepening faith in and love for Jesus Christ? Does she have a sense of wonder? Is he articulate? Does she have compassion for people? Does he have a love for the larger church? Does she live a grace-filled life?

Enclosed in this issue of the *Spirit* is a brochure that you can give to someone who you sense has the gifts for parish ministry. Please feel free to make copies for bulletin boards, for your congregational newsletter, or to hand out to your youth group. You can plant the seeds to help grow a pastor or a rostered lay leader.

*Spirit* is a quarterly newsletter published by the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Rev. Michael Last, Bishop. Congregations may reprint newsletter articles for congregational use. *Spirit* is also available on the Western Iowa Synod Web site, [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org).

Ideas, stories and photographs of interest to Western Iowa Synod members are welcome. Submission deadline is the first of the month prior to the month of issue. Submissions, prayer requests, questions, and comments should be directed to

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