



Lay School of Ministry to Start New Class

The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 Our synod's Lay School of Ministry does just that, equipping the saints for the work of ministry. More than 150 Western Iowa Synod members just like you have completed the Lay School of Ministry and are using their gifts and talents in various ways in our synod. A new two-year class will be starting with a retreat August 20-21, 2010.

Are you looking for an opportunity to study the Bible more thoroughly, learn more about Lutheran theology, and deepen your gifts and talents? If so, then the Lay School of Ministry is definitely for you! Visit www.wisynod.org for more information and an application form. Contact Kay Broich, Lay School Coordinator, at 712-732-4968, ext. 440, e-mail wiskb@wisynod.org, with any questions.

Below: Learning, field trips, fellowship — all part of the Lay School of Ministry.



Faith Stories Show God at Work

Last winter a small group of planners from the Western Iowa Synod Board for Congregational Life began to shape a project they called "Faith Stories." Their idea was to invite Western Iowa Synod members to share stories of when our church has been at its best. They hoped to collect stories on video and share them across the synod on YouTube.

The project got a nudge when TV personality Fred Hexom (weatherman on KCAU-TV in Sioux City) agreed to act as spokesman and have people tell him their stories. One of the planners, retired Pastor Carroll Lang, used his past experience in broadcasting by operating the camera. Janell Lowe from Humboldt registered the participants and made sure everything was well organized. Barbara Johnson from Villisca, Dave Hickman from Aurelia, and Pastor Peter Soli, Assistant to the Bishop,

worked behind the scenes.

Faith Stories were taped on May 1 at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly. Story topics ranged from how the Lutheran church helped an orphan find a home and an identity; to the power of prayer; to raising funds for relief work in Haiti and much more. The Faith Stories have been edited and placed on Western Iowa Synod's YouTube site, www.youtube.com/user/WISynod. A DVD of the Faith Stories will also be made and will be available for purchase by congregations and members for use at home or in the congregation. For more information, contact Pastor Peter Soli at 712-732-4968, ext. 449, or wisps@wisynod.org.




Faith Story Crew, left to right: Janell Lowe; Pastor Carroll Lang; Fred Hexom. Faith Stories were recorded at the 2010 Synod Assembly.

Haiti Aid Update

ELCA members have given \$10.5 million as of May 12, 2010, to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti who are still struggling to recover following the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. Our ongoing donations are needed: go to www.elca.org/haitiearthquake. God's Work. Our Hands.

The Vision is a quarterly publication for congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA. For more information, contact the Western Iowa Synod, 318 East Fifth St, PO Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588-0577, 712-732-4968, wis@wisynod.org. Visit us on the Web at www.wisynod.org.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.