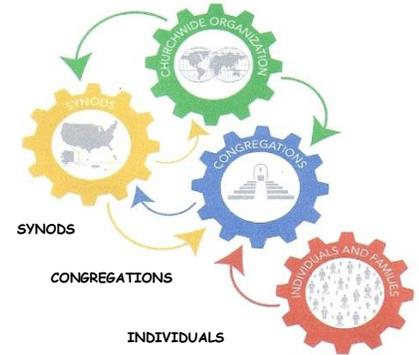


Missional Storytellers

We say **THANK YOU** and **SHARE MISSION SUPPORT STORIES.**

Did you know?

- Western Iowa Synod decided to call Mission Interpreters, **MISSIONAL STORYTELLERS**
- Some of the mission support money to churchwide comes back to the synod and some may come back to congregations.



Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

Through this campaign, a commitment was made to invest in the future of this church. In its final fifth year, Leadership was its priority. Disability Ministries received 31 grants for workshops, training opportunities, education and camps. Through the Disability Ministries priority of **Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA**, strives to create a place at the table for all people.

“Persons living with a disability are human beings, created and formed by God. They seek to know Jesus, become members of the church, reflect Christ within and serve. Without such members, the church is broken and unreconciled, incomplete and missing parts of the body of Christ that affect our ability to share with the world what a difference Christ’s love and grace makes in the world.” **Cindy Uken**

CHANGING THE SITUATION

Living with cerebral palsy, Emily often felt she was seen through the lens of her disability, what she was physically unable to do, rather than seen for her abilities and potential. But in the summer of her sophomore year of high school, all of that changed.

Through her ELCA congregation, Emily heard about the Definitely-abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE) and immediately knew she wanted to get involved. At the event, she found the empowerment she’d been longing for her entire life.

She said, “At DAYLE, people were so intentionally thoughtful about how they can best help me to serve, which is something I love to do. That empowerment was something I had not readily experienced in other areas of my life.”

Since attending DAYLE, Emily has become active in her congregation serving on council and teaching Sunday school. She served on the planning committee of DAYLE, which gave her the opportunity to see the transformation that took place in her in others. She is currently working on her master's in clinical mental health counseling and participates in People Together, a disability awareness program for young students.

“Because of the empowerment I received from the church and its programs, it really instilled in me that I have the power to make a difference.”



Videos Youtube ELCA channel

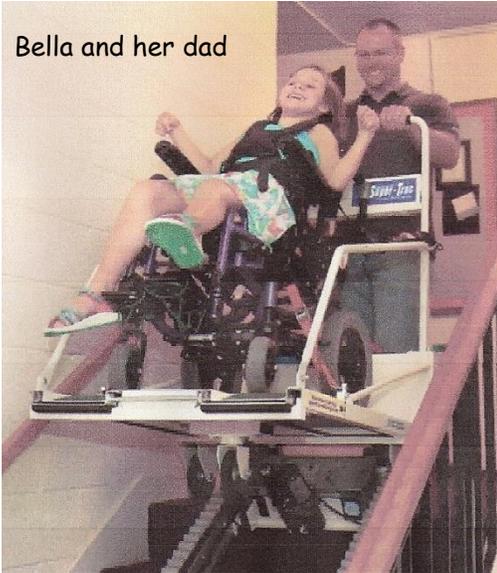
Definitely abled Worship 2:00 <https://youtu.be/CiC5i2Rrf-s>

The tAble 2018: You Belong 1:09 <https://youtu.be/JB4-UQBYePw> A pre-event to the Youth Gathering 2018 tAble (formerly DAYLE)

LEGACY MINISTRY CREATES SPACE FOR ALL ABILITIES

Living Lutheran Cindy Uken October 22, 2018

Bella and her dad



The legacy of a 12-year-old girl lives on in a disability ministry at Central Lutheran Church in Mondovi, WI.

Mark and Laurel Fleming started Open Doors at Grace United Methodist in 2010 after teaching junior high Sunday school for several years and noticing that some kids had trouble fitting into the social fabric of the youth groups for various reasons. They wanted to start something similar at Central Lutheran.

"Our mission was—and still is—to include children and youth with developmental disabilities in Sunday school, worship and other activities of the congregation in a way that enhances the experience, not only for those with special needs but also for others around them," Mark Fleming said.

The initiative for the ministry gained momentum when members of Central asked that their wheelchair-bound daughter, Kylynn, might receive services that would allow her to participate in Sunday school and other church activities. Plans were underway to provide accommodations for Kylynn when she died of complications from Dandy-Walker syndrome, a neurological disorder, in October 2016.

Kylynn's passing had an immeasurable impact on a congregation that preached caring but realized they could do better to show it. In Kylynn's memory, Central's disability initiative was renamed Kylynn's Hope Ministry, with the mission to help the congregation become an accommodating and accepting church home for children, youth and adults with special needs.

In April 2017, Central welcomed Bella—Kylynn's best friend who is also wheelchair-bound—and her family as the congregation was unfolding Kylynn's Hope Ministry. Since then, two more children with special needs have joined that ministry, along with a young adult who uses a wheelchair and was new to the congregation.

Kylynn's Hope Ministry addressed some children's needs with one-on-one support buddies in Sunday school and vacation Bible school, but the ministry's steering committee knew that to be a fully welcoming congregation for people in wheelchairs, some physical barriers in the building had to be overcome, particularly the stairways connecting its three levels. The committee found a solution in the Garaventa Lift Group, which manufactures the Super-Trac, a portable electric lift that makes it possible for people in wheelchairs to have full access to Central's entire building.

Through a multifaceted fundraising campaign, Central raised the needed money to purchase the Super-Trac. Donations came from congregational gifts, a fundraising event, a generous bequest from the family of a longtime member with Down syndrome, and a \$5,000 grant from ELCA Disability Ministries through **The Campaign for the ELCA**.

More to this February 15, 2019 e-Spirit Story



John H. Everts, member of Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church of Lytton, Iowa, is currently a resident at Park View Rehab Center, in Sac City, Iowa. He and his team roll bandages for **Global Health Ministries**. The bandages are made from white sheets torn into three inch strips. Some of John's friends tear the sheets and prepare the strips for rolling.

Since August of 2018, John has rolled about 7,300 of these strips filling twenty

computer-paper boxes. The bandages will be taken to **Global Health Ministries** in Fridley, Minnesota and from there distributed where needed. Some of the countries include Tanzania, Cameroon, Liberia and Madagascar.

In February, I was asked to share at a **Men in Mission** retreat at Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp. LeRoy Johnson asked if I had seen the e-Spirit story about John Everts. I said that I had, he proudly added that he was one of John's friends that would tear sheets for John to roll into bandages.

Also, I learned that **Global Health Ministries'** mission is to be a partner with Lutheran efforts globally to bring medical equipment and supplies to sustain the health and well-being of some of the most vulnerable people on the earth. They partner with ELCA companion churches and agencies.

In 2017, medical equipment and supplies were brought to the Western Iowa Synod Assembly. The goal was to fill a ship container with medical needs for Tanzania. All of the equipment and supplies were taken to **Global Health Ministries** in Fridley, Minnesota.

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