



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

North/West Lower Michigan Synod
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Congregation Newsletter Insert - August 2010

Life-Giving Water

Sylvia Stouten, Synod Hunger Team

“Let justice roll down like waters...” Amos 5:24

At the Synod Assembly in May, the Hunger Team drew attention to the world-wide lack of access to safe drinking water. Our donations to ELCA World Hunger Appeal help tremendously to effectively address this enormous need. Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids also approached the problem by holding a fundraiser several years ago that resulted in the collection of over \$4,000.00 for the purpose of providing clean, safe drinking water. The funds were designated for the people of Honduras through the relationship we had already established as a synod with the Lutheran Church of Honduras.

Recently the first delivery of household water filters took place along with education for the families on their proper use. Vicky Carron, Trinity's Parish Nurse and Team Leader for the Synod Honduras Trip writes: “Dealing with the dengue fever outbreak occupied most of the doctor's day, but he spent half an hour with us anyway. We were bringing the first water filters to his blighted neighborhood, and he would personally see the benefits of his clientele having access to clean water.

I was one of eight from our synod visiting our companions in the Lutheran Church of Honduras, June 18-25. With an initial \$1000 from Trinity in Grand Rapids, 50 family water filters had been purchased. The team was invited into several homes to see the living conditions of the recipients of the water filters. Despite the poverty and desperation, women exuded hope and joy as they proudly showed us where their filters would be used.”

Caring for Creation: More Summer EKO Tips

Dawn Smith, EKO Member

Have you switched to the new CFL light bulbs to save energy? If you have, do you know that they have a small amount of mercury in them and you must dispose of them properly? Recently, I had two of my CFL light bulbs burn out, and these are the websites I used to help me properly dispose of my light bulbs:

www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling

www.Earth911.com

(Most Home Depot stores will also accept CFL's for recycling. “CFL” stands for “compact fluorescent light.”)

If you do not have a recycling center in your area, there is an instructional website that will help you dispose of the CFL light bulbs in the safest way possible. It will also help you if you accidentally break your light bulb. The website is: http://www.ehow.com/how_2049265_dispose-cfl-bulb.html

Center for Mission & Ministry
and
Christ United Church
1000 W. Webb Rd., Dewitt MI

present

The Institute of Spiritual Formation

The Institute of Spiritual Formation consists of ecumenical programs, workshops & seminars designed to immerse participants in the deepening of the spiritual life, on-going formation & spiritual direction, skill-training for servant ministry, and the richness of ecumenical and interfaith connections. For more information call Nancy Brousseau, OP at (517) 321-5066 or email nancybrousseau@mittensynod.org to register.

Foundations of Christian Spirituality - Year-long program

- Ten Saturdays, 9:30am-4:30pm; one Saturday per month, September 2010 —June 2011 (lunch provided)
- Tuition: \$350 (50% due in October and 50% due in February)
- Three required books (can be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost). Required editions:
 1. The Rule of Benedict. Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982
 2. The Cloud of Unknowing Ed., William Johnston Image Books, 1973
 3. The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality by Ronald Rolheiser.
- A reflective study of the great spiritual teachers of the Christian tradition from early church to present day
- Each Saturday consists of two three-hour sessions with each session a separate topic
- Each session has required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher) and journal questions.
- Introduction to and invitation for the practice of contemplative prayer and spiritual discernment.
- Suggestions for the writing and living of an individual Rule of Life are offered
- A silent directed retreat of 4, 6, or 8 days
- Presenters for sessions are local and regional professional Christian ministers and educators.

Program Schedule

September 11, 2010

The Christian Journey
Biblical Spirituality

January 8, 2011

The Cloud of Unknowing
St. Ignatius of Loyola

May 7-contemporary insights:

Rene Girard-Mimetic Desire
Bowen/Friedman Axis

October 2

St. Anthony and Desert Spirituality
Prayer and Spiritual Journey

February 12

St. John of the Cross
St. Teresa of Avila

June 4

Evelyn Underhill
Thomas Merton

November 6

St. Augustine of Hippo
Rule of St. Benedict

March 12

John Calvin
John Wesley

December 4

St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare
St. Catherine of Siena

April 9

Martin Luther
Dietrich Bonhoeffer