



Southeastern Iowa Synod  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52245

Volume 24, Issue 4  
April - 2011

## ***Bishop Mjema of Pare Diocese, Tanzania to Attend Synod Assembly***

PR. ERIC CARLSON  
*Assistant to the Bishop*

Bishop Charles Mjema of the Pare Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), will visit the Southeastern Iowa Synod May 10-23. Mjema will be accompanied by his wife, the Rev. Nahana Mjema, and their 1-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Mjema was elected bishop of the Pare Diocese in May 2010. He is among the youngest bishops in the ELCT. Before his election, he was the principal of the Usangi Training and Leadership College in the Mwanga District from 2007 to May 2010.

In 1997, Mjema became an ordained pastor of the Bombo Parish, having completed a bachelor of divinity degree at Makumira University College of Tumaini University in Arusha in 1995.

In 1999, Mjema was awarded a masters degree of philosophy in religious studies at the Norwegian Lutheran School of Theology in Oslo, Norway.



**Bishop Mjema at his consecration and installation as Bishop of the Pare Diocese, which took place Oct. 10, 2010 in Same, Tanzania**

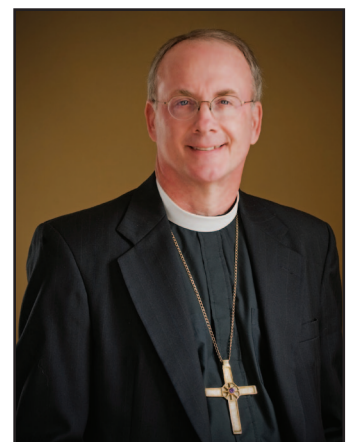
*Bishop Mjema, CONTINUED on page 2*

### ***“That Priceless Grace”***

A teaching event with Bishop Michael Burk for the people of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Lay members are invited to attend this event—no registration required. This event is not intended for pastors and other rostered leaders.

Tuesday, April 5  
6:30-8:00 pm  
Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Center for Ministry  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52245

Thursday, April 14  
6:30-8:00 pm  
St. James Lutheran Church  
5665 Merle Hay Rd  
Johnston, IA 50131



**Bishop Mjema, CONTINUED from page 2**

His wife, Nahana Mjema, was ordained in 1994 and serves the Same Lutheran Cathedral Parish. The Mjemmas have three children: Joel, Catherine and Caroline.

The Mjemmas, in addition to visiting synod congregations, institutions and agencies that partner together in God's mission, will be honored guests at the 2011 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, May 20-21, in Iowa City. Three receptions will be hosted across the synod throughout their stay to provide opportunities for conversations with the Mjemmas:

**Thursday, May 12, 2011****6:30-8:30 pm**

St. James Lutheran Church  
5665 Merle Hay Rd  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
[www.stjamesjohnston.org](http://www.stjamesjohnston.org)

**Sunday, May 15, 2011****2:00-4:00 pm**

Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Center for Ministry  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011****6:30-8:30 pm**

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA  
[www.stpaulqc.org](http://www.stpaulqc.org)



**Bishop Mjema and his wife,  
the Rev. Nahana Mjema.**

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## PRAYING FOR OUR PARTNERS

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The synod encourages congregations to continue praying during Sunday worship for the renewal of the church by praying for congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, other synods, and people throughout the world.

**April 3 - Windsor Heights, Windsor Heights**

*For the people of Japan as they recover from last month's earthquake and tsunami. As they endure continued dangers from nuclear radiation, let us pray for their safety as well as the safety of relief workers assisting in Japan.*

**April 10 - St. Paul, Winterset**

*For the ELCA Church Council as they meet April 8-11 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago.*

**April 17 - Allegheny Synod**

*For seminarians. As they approach the end of the school year, may God bless their final studies and prepare them for calls, internships, or additional education.*

**April 24 - Zion, Wyoming**

*For Easter celebrations. As we gather with family and friends for church services and dinners, let us remember to take time to thank God for the gift of his resurrected Son, Jesus Christ.*

*For additional prayer ideas, please visit  
[www.prayingchurch.org](http://www.prayingchurch.org) and [www.elca.org/prayer](http://www.elca.org/prayer)*

## LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

For Gayla Crosmer, diaconal minister; upon the death of her mother.

For Pr. Percy Kvitne, health concerns.

For Pr. Dan Solomon, upon the death of his brother-in-law.

For Pr. Grant Woodley's wife, Nicole, health concerns.

## CROSSROADS



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 God's work. Our hands.

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**Next Newsletter Deadline: 16th of the Month**

- **Insert Policy:** Items for insertion into *CrossRoads* as separate resources **must be submitted to the editor for pre-approval at least one week before the deadline.** Inserts will be digitized (if needed) and will be located at the end of the digital newsletter. No item will appear more than once.
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- **Address Update Policy:** If your name or e-mail address changes, please notify the synod office immediately. The mailing list for the *CrossRoads* will be updated on a monthly basis

**IF YOU PRINT, PLEASE RECYCLE** 

## BY THE NUMBERS

Mission Support for 2011 through February total \$227,771. This is \$17,626 (7.2%) below mission support for 2010 through February.

Hunger gifts for 2011 through February total \$9,219. This is \$3,944 (30%) below hunger gifts for 2010 through February.

Designated gifts for 2011 through February total \$4,004. This is \$23,392 (85.4%) below designated gifts for 2010 through February.

## SYNOD CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 4 Resolutions for Synod Assembly Due
- 5 "That Priceless Grace" Lay Teaching Event with Bishop Michael Burk, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Synod Center for Ministry, Iowa City
- 14 "That Priceless Grace" Lay Teaching Event with Bishop Michael Burk, 6:30 - 8 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church, Johnston
- 14 Rostered Leadership Support Commission, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Synod Center for Ministry
- 16 Synod Council, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Synod Center for Ministry
- 18 Holy Week Worship for Rostered Leaders 11:00 a.m., Holy Trinity, North Liberty
- 22 Good Friday, Synod Center for Ministry Closed
- 24 Easter
- 28 Stewardship Resource Event, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Grace, Des Moines
- 30 Workshops for Children/Youth Ministry Workers, see page 7.

### MAY

- 9 Stewardship Resource Event, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Gloria Dei, Cedar Rapids
- 10 Stewardship Resource Event, 6:30 - 8 p.m., St. John, Grand Mound
- 12 Reception for Bishop Mjema, 6:30 - 8 p.m., St. James, Johnston
- 12 Stewardship Resource Event, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Swedesburg Evangelical, Swedesburg
- 15 Reception for Bishop Mjema, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Synod Center for Ministry, Iowa City
- 17 Reception for Bishop Mjema, 6:30 - 8 p.m., St. Paul, Davenport
- 20-21 Synod Assembly, Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Coralville

## EVENTS CALENDAR

✝ *new or updated listing*

**Cool Congregations Earth Stewardship Training Workshop, April 9, 2011** from 9 a.m. to noon at Zion Lutheran Church in Muscatine, IA. Bring a team from your congregation to learn how to care for creation by saving energy and money. The training will include a manual, resource CD and a carbon calculator. For more information and registration go to [www.iowaip.org/calendar](http://www.iowaip.org/calendar) or call 515-238-3587.

**Center for Renewal's Ankeny Forums, April 12 - May 17, 2011.** Monthly seminars for pastors and other rostered leaders are offered on the third Tuesday of the month. The Ankeny Forum provides rostered leaders with monthly interaction with theologians and other leaders of the church, as well as an opportunity to interact with colleagues. The forum is held at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 914 NW Ash, in Ankeny, Iowa. Gathering time at 9:00 a.m. is followed by worship at 9:15. Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and end by noon, usually followed by lunch. For more information about workshop topics and registration visit [www.renewingchurch.org](http://www.renewingchurch.org)

**Churches United of the Quad Cities: 50th Anniversary Celebration, April 28, 2011** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport. Special guest, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (eldest daughter of Senator Robert Kennedy and author of "Failing America's Faithful"). For more information, visit: <http://www.cuqca.org/cms.asp>

**2011 Congregational Leadership Series, May 3-6, 2011** at Des Moines (May 3-4), Cedar Rapids (May 4-5), and Quad Cities (May 5-6). Religion today is one piece of a busy life, impacting only one's 'soul' or 'heart' as we seek to cope with the rest of life. The 2011 Congregational Leadership Series counters this reduction of faith by empowering us to apply faith to all of life. The evening session reacquaints participants with the various spheres in which we live and then moves to practical ways to reintroduce the language of faith in otherwise secular realms. This year's speaker will be Christian Scharen, Assistant Professor at Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN). For more information visit [www.renewingchurch.org](http://www.renewingchurch.org)

**2011 Synod Assembly, May 20 - 21, 2011** at Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Coralville, IA. Registration and more information can be found at [www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html](http://www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html)

**Synod High School Summer Mission Trip, July 18 - 23, 2011** in Chicago, IL. This mission trip will be through the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. To register visit [www.seiasynod.org/youth-young-adults/](http://www.seiasynod.org/youth-young-adults/) and click on "Youth Mission Trip 2011" link. For initial questions, please contact Pastor Eric Carlson at [carlson@seiasynod.org](mailto:carlson@seiasynod.org) or call 515-263-5541.

✝ **Grace Institute Spiritual Formation Program for Lay and Clergy, August 5 - 7, 2011** at Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque. This program is designed to immerse participants in Christian spiritual practices and to equip them to lead small groups in those practices. This is an eight session program. To learn more visit [www.luther.edu/graceinstitute](http://www.luther.edu/graceinstitute) or e-mail [graceinstitute@luther.edu](mailto:graceinstitute@luther.edu).

**Southeastern Iowa Synod Companion Synod Summit, September 24, 2011** at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines.

✝ **Children, Family, and Faith: Ten Day Learning Community, October 16-26, 2011** at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Colorado. An opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of children's faith development. Participants will construct a theology that regards children as valuable persons, gifted by God for a life and ministry in the Church and God's world. The implications for ministry to and with the children and families in one's congregation and personal life will be explored. Led by faculty from Wartburg Theological Seminary this course may be taken for academic credit or continuing education. For more information download the pdf brochure at <http://www.rmselca.org/files/PEAK%20Brochure2011.pdf> or contact Ben Larson, [ben@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:ben@rainbowtrail.org) or 719-431-0050.

### Resolutions for Synod Assembly Due April 4th

Resolutions may be submitted by congregations, synod organizational units, conferences, or a voting member of the assembly until 45 days prior to the first day the assembly meets. For the 2011 Synod Assembly, resolutions must be in the synod office by Monday, April 4, 2011. For more information on writing a resolution, go to <http://www.seiasynod.org/resolution.html>

## CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

### ***Health Care Tax Credit: Church Employers May Be Eligible for a Small Business Payroll Tax Credit of Up to 25%***

ELCA BOARD OF PENSIONS

#### **2010 IRS Filing deadline: May 15, 2011.**

The IRS announced that the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is available to churches and other small employers that obtain coverage through certain insured and self-funded denominational church health plans.

Churches and small employers that satisfy the requirements of the tax credit — such as requisite number of employees and average wages, and uniform coverage — can qualify for the credit if they obtain coverage through the ELCA health plan or other self-funded health plan.

According to the IRS, “Small businesses can claim the credit for 2010 through 2013 and for any two years after that. For tax years 2010 to 2013, the maximum credit is 35 percent of premiums paid by eligible small businesses and 25 percent of premiums paid by eligible tax-exempt organizations. Beginning in 2014, the maximum tax credit will increase to 50 percent of premiums paid by eligible small business employers and 35 percent of premiums paid by eligible tax-exempt organizations.”

The tax credit is designed to encourage small tax-exempt organizations to offer health insurance coverage to their employees for the first time or to maintain coverage they already offer. Learn more about the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit for Small Employers page at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)\*

#### **In Self Study**

Albia, St. Paul's – Pr. Larry Peterson, Interim  
Burlington, Bethany – Pr. Leroy Bradway, Interim  
Cedar Rapids, First – Pr. Dan Kolander, retiring  
Cedar Rapids, St. Stephen's – Pr. Lyle Kleman, Interim  
Clinton, Zion – Associate Pastor – Pr. Michael Stadie, Interim  
Grimes, St. Peter's – Pr. Paul Axness, Interim  
Indianola, Redeemer – Pr. Duane Miller, Interim  
Iowa City, Christ the King – Pr. Jack Mithelman, Interim  
Iowa City, Zion – Associate Pastor  
Maquoketa, First – Pr. Carl Engstrom, Interim  
Ottumwa, St. Paul; Blakesburg, Munterville  
– Pr. Gene Anderson, Interim  
Princeton, Zion

#### **Interviewing**

Eldridge, Faith – AIM  
Huxley, Palestine – Pr. Mark Kukkonen, Interim

#### **Call Accepted**

Davenport, All Saints – Pr. Clark Olson-Smith  
Monticello, Wayne Zion – Ellery Dykeman  
West Branch, Bethany – Chad Whaley

#### ***Upcoming Installation***

Pr. Clark Olson-Smith will be installed at  
All Saints Lutheran Church, Davenport on  
Sunday, April 3rd.

**\*Additional information about tax credit from Kathy Smith, Associate for Administration:** Special rules have been established for clergy and churches. As you prepare paperwork, refer to the reference materials written by the Church Alliance Core Lawyers Working Group that explains how congregations can fully benefit from this new tax credit. For more information visit [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org) or **click here**.

## COMMISSIONS

*News Briefs from Commission for Church in Society*

PR. PAUL OSTREM

*Synod Staff Liaison for Commission for Church in Society****Cool Congregations Workshop***

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Cool Congregations Workshop

9:00 AM - Noon (Doors open at 8:30 AM)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

513 Sycamore Street (Corner of 6th and Sycamore)

Muscatine, IA 52761

People of faith across Iowa are caring for God's creation by solving climate change in their own homes and saving money in the process. The Cool Congregations earth stewardship program will provide you with the tools you need to make a difference in your home, congregation, and community.

During the three hour workshop, participants will learn about the ABC's of climate change and the religious response; how to measure your carbon footprint and ideas for reducing it; and how to organize a Cool Congregations program in your faith community.

The training includes a Cool Congregations manual, resource CD, and a Carbon Calculator designed specifically for Iowa.

For more information and to register visit [http://www.iowaip.org/event\\_1.html](http://www.iowaip.org/event_1.html) or contact Sarah Webb at [coolcongregations@iowaip.org](mailto:coolcongregations@iowaip.org)

***Bible Study on Immigration***

"Out of the Waters: Resisting the Power of Fear" is a "Faith on the Move" Bible study written by Pastor David Vasquez, a campus pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The five-session study, based on the opening chapters of Exodus, can be a useful way to help congregational members begin to think more deeply about the issues of immigration. Sessions are entitled:

- "A Pharaoh Who Did Not Know Joseph"
- "They Are Not Like Us"
- "Civil Disobedience:  
The Daughters of the Revolution"
- "The Hyphenated Egyptian"
- "What Is that in Your Hand"

The cost of the series, which can be downloaded from the Lutheran and Immigration Refugee Service website ([www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)), is just under \$20. At the website, click on *Get Involved* and then *Resources*. A free copy of the first session is available for review.

The ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform" is also an excellent resource for discussion on immigration. This can be found at [www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/Comprehensive-Immigration-Reform.aspx](http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Resolutions/Comprehensive-Immigration-Reform.aspx)

***Proposed Social Statement on Genetics***

"Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" is the proposed social statement which will be before the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. The proposed statement along with an executive summary and a document answering frequently asked questions is available online at the ELCA website at [www.elca.org/socialstatements/genetics](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/genetics). Additional information about the statement can be accessed at [www.ELCAFactChecker.com](http://www.ELCAFactChecker.com). A brief YouTube video with Bishop Mark Hanson being interviewed by farm broadcaster Orion Samuelson is available at <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4727>. This link is also available at the website for the genetics social statement.

## COMMISSIONS

### *Workshops for Children & Youth Ministry Workers*

PR. ERIC CARLSON

*Synod Staff Liaison for Commission for Vocation and Faith Formation*

The Commission for Vocation and Faith Formation is excited to announce the following events for adults (volunteers or staff) who work with children and youth in congregations.

#### *Equipping Youth Ministry Leaders*

Saturday, April 30, 2011  
(Two Locations)

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church  
1240 66th Street  
Windsor Heights, IA  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Directions: [www.whlc.org](http://www.whlc.org)

Southeastern Iowa Synod Ministry Center  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Directions: [www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)

A mix of “a “face-to-face” meetings throughout the next several months, as well as online webinars that you and other youth ministry leaders can participate in at home.

The topics provided at these events include: The Landscape of Youth Ministry; Youth Ministry Events as Faith Formation; Lutheran Theology: How God is at Work in the World; Lutheran Theology: How Lutherans Read the Bible; Your Role as a Leader; Strategic Planning, Leading a Small Group; Faith Conversations, and Planning for the Unexpected.

After these events, an information session on the ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held. It will be led by Erik Ullestad, Gathering Coordinator,

These events are free; however, we ask you to RSVP by April 27 with the number attending from your congregation. To RSVP, contact Pr. Eric Carlson at [carlson@seiasynod.org](mailto:carlson@seiasynod.org) or at 515-263-5541.

#### *Child Safe Policy Retreat*

Saturday, June 4, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3010 52nd Street  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)

What is a Child Safe policy? What is the benefit of having a Child Safe policy? How do we prepare and develop a Child Safe policy? Who in the congregation is responsible for overseeing the implementation and background checks?

If your congregation does not have a Child Safe Policy or you need to rethink your current policy and the questions above are questions you would like answers to...then this retreat is for YOU! The Commission for Vocation and Faith Formation of the Southeastern Iowa Synod sponsors this retreat as it exists to enhance congregational ministries in the area of ministry with and among children, youth and young adults.

Join Angie Larson, Associate in Ministry and Youth and Family Ministry professional, as she helps your ministry team navigate through what can be murky waters of Child Safe policies and implementation. Angie will be leading the group through the “hows and whys” of a Child Safe policy and provide a multitude of resources you can take home. After the morning session, we will have lunch and mull over some practical ideas for your context. Consider bringing your youth or children’s ministry team for a day retreat, where you can learn, eat, and then begin work together to develop your policy. The official retreat time will be from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, but congregations are welcome to meet in teams until 3:00 pm.

The cost is \$10 per participant (lunch and program materials). To register, visit [www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org) and click on Child Safe Policy Retreat link under “What’s New”. For more information, please contact Pastor Eric Carlson at [carlson@seiasynod.org](mailto:carlson@seiasynod.org) or at 515-263-5541.

## ***April 30th Deadline to Save \$39,300***

### **ELCA BOARD OF PENSIONS**

The Southeastern Iowa Synod needs 65% of the eligible ELCA-primary health plan members and spouses to complete the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30th. Doing so will help all of the synod's congregations and organizations save a collective \$39,300 on ELCA health contributions this year.

According to the ELCA Board of Pensions, the Southeastern Iowa Synod needs an additional 68 people to take the assessment to reach the 65% participation goal.

And remember, by taking the assessment, you'll earn \$150 in your personal wellness account and will be taking stock of your health. Healthy leaders do enhance lives and ultimately create a healthier ELCA community.

Take the assessment at [www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org). Find instructions for taking the assessment in "Understand my Benefits" at [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org).



## ***Synod Assembly Reminders***

### **Registration**

Registration for the 2011 Synod Assembly is now open. A link to online registration can be found [www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html](http://www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html) under the "Registration" section of the page. If you prefer not to register online, a registration form can be downloaded from this web page or you can use the registration form at the end of this newsletter. Registration forms may also be picked up at the Synod Center for Ministry in Iowa City. Registration deadline is **May 6, 2011**.

### **Resolutions**

Resolutions are due by **April 4, 2011** to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry. Please send resolutions to Lorraine Jordan at [jordan@seiasynod.org](mailto:jordan@seiasynod.org) or at Southeastern Iowa Synod, 2635 Northgate Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245-9565. If you need direction on how to write a resolution or have questions, please refer to the "How to Write a Resolution" guide on the synod's website at [www.seiasynod.org/resolution](http://www.seiasynod.org/resolution) or contact the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry at 319.338.1273. The resolution guide has recently been updated on the synod's website.

### **Pre-Assembly Materials**

For a second year, pre-assembly materials will be published on the synod's website. These materials will be available on **April 20, 2011** at [www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html](http://www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html). If you are attending Synod Assembly, please review these materials beforehand. The website will note what materials will be printed and available at Synod Assembly.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions about synod assembly, contact:

Kathy Smith, Associate for Administration

[smith@seiasynod.org](mailto:smith@seiasynod.org)

319-338-1273



## *A Voice for Iowa*

PR. VINCE RAMOS

*Barnabas Uplift State Coordinator*



**BARNABAS UPLIFT**  
a mission of encouragement

Since 2002, Barnabas Uplift has been a project with an “all hands on deck” attitude. But over the years, especially in the last two and a half years, Barnabas Uplift is becoming one voice, a network where individuals, families, and communities are encouraging one another to eliminate poverty. This is our passion and commitment. Barnabas Uplift results flow from this commitment. Together we are providing rural Iowans access to tax preparation. Assistance they might not otherwise receive. Together we have placed 132 Iowans into jobs as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and other careers in the health care industry. This was accomplished with the Help4Health Initiative. Other sites that were funded beyond this initiative placed a combined 48 Iowans into jobs. Together we are lending one voice to this important work.

These results show we are evolving into a state-wide network. The main question for us in 2011 is how do we continue making a difference in Iowan’s lives? I believe the answer is that we continue to THINK and ACT as a state-wide network. Here is what it means for us to think and act as a state-wide network.

First, we will continue to provide access to opportunities for the people we serve. The Certified Nursing Assistant and other job training programs must continue. Further, beginning a second career line would assist us in sustaining our partners and would move us beyond especially in the green and environmentally friendly industry. Together we will continue our tax ministry to rural Iowans and keep encouraging tax coalitions to form. We will continue to refer our clients to social support services to assist them with the opportunities in their lives. Substance abuse awareness will create new partnerships and grow our work. Together we will strengthen what we do well and continue building a voice for Iowa.

The second way it means to think and act as a state-wide network is to develop career, educational, and

life pathways that meet people where they are at. It’s important to link our head to our hearts and show our compassion as we develop partnerships that can assist our clients in taking hold of opportunities and moving them along their path. As we meet them where they are at and walk with them as long as it takes.

To think and act as a state-wide network we need to connect with others in the network. Let’s not isolate ourselves in our locations and specific communities, region, organizations, diocese, Synod, or part of the state. We will continue to operate our programs and ministries in our communities and it’s critical we remember we are not alone. Connecting with others is important for our overall success especially in a down economy. We can’t do it alone. Let’s not only serve Iowans within our own borders; but let’s think about our larger context and all of our partnerships-throughout the state.

Finally, we think and act as a state-wide network by providing financial resources to the whole network. As Barnabas Uplift evolves, it’s time to pool our resources. I believe we can decentralize our programs and ministries and centralize our resources, for example financial resources, that are needed to help with the programs/ministries.

The time is now to strengthen our network. You are the voice of your community. Join Barnabas Uplift to continue to being a voice for Iowa well into our future.

For more information, or to schedule a Barnabas Uplift Sunday which includes any of the following or combination of: presentation, Bible study, preaching, and/or temple talks, contact Pastor Vince Ramos, State Coordinator Barnabas Uplift. Office: 319-233-5561 or Cell: 319-296-6400, or Email: [barnabasupliftiowa@gmail.com](mailto:barnabasupliftiowa@gmail.com) Visit us on the web at [www.barnabasuplift.org](http://www.barnabasuplift.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Holy Week Worship for Rostered Leaders*

Monday, April 18th  
11 a.m.  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, North Liberty

Rostered leaders of the Southeastern Iowa Synod are invited to gather for a service of Holy Communion on Monday of Holy Week. Worship will take place at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church which is located at 650 240th St. For travel directions to Holy Trinity visit [www.holytrinitynl.org](http://www.holytrinitynl.org) or [click here](#).

An optional box lunch will be available afterwards for \$5 (or a donation of your choosing). If you would like a box lunch, please RSVP with Paula Casper at the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry by calling 319.338.1273 or e-mailing her at [casper@seiasynod.org](mailto:casper@seiasynod.org) no later than Wednesday, April 13th.

### *Pre-Retirement Seminars Filling Quickly*

Rostered leaders and lay employees age 50 and over who participate in the ELCA pension plan and their spouse are welcome to register for the upcoming pre-retirement seminars.

With the June pre-retirement seminar full, the October 24-25 seminar is filling up fast. There are just twelve spots left.

If you would like to attend visit [www.seiasynod.org/preretireseminars.html](http://www.seiasynod.org/preretireseminars.html) to register online. When registering online, please sign-up for the October 24-25 seminar.

### *Stewardship Resource Events*

The Commission for Evangelical Mission is hosting four resource events across the synod for congregational leaders, particularly stewardship teams and rostered leaders. New material will be previewed, and there will be opportunity for sharing "best practices". Please put one of these dates in your calendar and plan to bring a team from your congregation. For more information and to register for one of the events visit: [www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org). You may also register by calling Paula Casper at the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry at 319.338.1273. Please provide name, phone number, which event you will be attending, and how many people will be attending the event.

**Thursday, April 28th, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines

**Monday, May 9th, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids

**\*(UPDATED)**  
**Tuesday, May 10th, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
St. John Lutheran Church, Grand Mound

**Thursday, May 12th, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**  
Swedesburg Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Swedesburg



# Our Synod in Action...



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

April 2011

## Upcoming Events...

*“That Priceless Grace”*

### *Bishop Mjema of Pare Diocese, Tanzania to Attend Synod Assembly*

Bishop Charles Mjema of the Pare Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), will visit the Southeastern Iowa Synod May 10-23. Mjema will be accompanied by his wife, the Rev. Nahana Mjema, and their 1-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Mjema was elected bishop of the Pare Diocese in May 2010. He is among the youngest bishops in the ELCT. Before his election, he was the principal of the Usangi Training and Leadership College in the Mwanga District from 2007 to May 2010.

The Mjemas, in addition to visiting synod congregations, institutions and agencies that partner together in God's mission, will be honored guests at the 2011 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, May 20-21, in Iowa City. Three receptions will be hosted across the synod throughout their stay to provide opportunities for conversations with the Mjemas:

A teaching event with Bishop Michael Burk for the people of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Lay members are invited to attend this event and no registration is required. This event is not intended for pastors and other rostered leaders.

**Tuesday, April 5**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**  
Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Center for Ministry  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52245

**Thursday, April 14**  
**6:30-8:00 pm**  
St. James Lutheran Church  
5665 Merle Hay Rd  
Johnston, IA 50131

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**  
**6:30-8:30 pm**  
St. James Lutheran Church  
5665 Merle Hay Rd  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
[www.stjamesjohnston.org](http://www.stjamesjohnston.org)

**Sunday, May 15, 2011**  
**2:00-4:00 pm**  
Southeastern Iowa Synod  
Center for Ministry  
2635 Northgate Drive  
Iowa City, IA  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**  
**6:30-8:30 pm**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA  
[www.stpaulqc.org](http://www.stpaulqc.org)

### *ELCA Youth Gathering & Equipping Youth Ministry Leaders Events*

It's not too early to begin planning for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Erik Ullestad, Gathering Coordinator for the synod will be leading information meetings on **Saturday, April 30** at two locations:

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church  
1240 66th Street, Des Moines

Synod Center for Ministry  
2635 Northgate Drive,  
Iowa City

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
[www.whlc.org](http://www.whlc.org)

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)

These meetings will take place immediately following the Equipping Youth Ministry Leaders training events with Pastor Eric Carlson at 9:00 am (Windsor Heights) and 2:00 pm (Synod Ministry Center). Attendance at the preceding events is not required, but strongly encouraged.

# Congregational Leadership Series

*leading congregations in a changing world*

Three two-part seminars for church leaders to cultivate a new imagination for congregational leadership.

May 3 – 6, 2011 • Des Moines • Cedar Rapids • Quad Cities

## *Faith: a heart-felt hour or a way of life?*



Religion today is often one piece of a busy life, perhaps impacting one's 'soul' or 'heart' as a means of coping with the hectic pace of the rest of life, where other values rule. For most people, love of neighbor may rule the soul, but love of a bargain rules in shopping, love of self-interest rules at the polls, and love of taste and beauty rules in the arts. As a result, most churches have accepted the demotion to one sphere of life – tending to 'spiritual' aspects of life where love of God rules.

The 2011 Congregational Leadership Series seeks to counter this reduction of faith. The series will empower congregational leaders to equip their members in putting faith to work in everyday life. Participants will practice thinking and talking about all of life in ways that are explicitly shaped by faith.

The seminars will be repeated three times, in three locations across southeastern Iowa. The sessions are designed to engage both paid staff (pastors and program staff) and lay volunteers, especially those who serve on church councils, boards, or vestries. Each session stands independently; together they form a practical approach to congregational leadership in changing and demanding times.

*“One of the most pressing needs of pastoral ministry is to develop, sustain, and academically legitimize reflection on Christian faith as a way of life.” – Miroslav Volf*

## *The Sessions*

### **EVENING SESSION: ARE WE PRACTICAL POLYTHEISTS? FAITH AND THE SPHERES OF LIFE**

In the modern West, religion is a private, personal matter with little relation to the rest of life. In other spheres of life, multiple other values act like 'little gods' asking our allegiance. The evening session will acquaint participants with the various spheres in which we live and then move to practical ways to reintroduce the language of faith into otherwise secular realms, beginning with the family.

### **MORNING SESSION: BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST IN DAILY LIFE**

Thinking theologically is a means of moving faith from its status as a secondary language back to its role as the primary language Christians use to understand and provide meaning to their life in the world. While not seeking to reassert Christian dominance in culture, we explore how a theology of the cross offers a view of faithfulness deeply connected to the whole of life. The morning session will provide opportunities to practice theological reflection about daily life, including spheres of politics, economics, leisure and the arts. The session will also give participants concrete practices that can be used to help members live out their faith in all of life.

## *The Presenter*

Christian Scharen is assistant professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., where he teaches worship and practical theology. A leading scholar working at the intersection of ethnography and theology, he writes in the areas of worship, ethics, ecclesiology, and popular culture. He is the author of several books and scholarly articles, including the recent *Faith as a Way of Life* (Eerdmans 2008) and the forthcoming *Broken Hallelujahs* (Brazos, 2011).



## *The Schedule*

### **DES MOINES**

#### **GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY**

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

### **CEDAR RAPIDS**

#### **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 5, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

### **QUAD CITIES**

#### **AUGUSTANA COLLEGE, ROCK ISLAND**

Thursday, May 5, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, May 6, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.



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

# Synod Assembly Registration

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly—May 20 - 21, 2011  
 Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Coralville, IA

Registration and Assembly Materials are available on the synod website  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)

The following information is required for each person who registers.

## Voting Member

- Lay Voting Member
- Ordained Pastor
- Diaconal Minister
- Associate in Ministry
- Ordained Pastor - Retired
- Diaconal Minister/AIM Retired

## Visitor

- General Visitor
- Business Visitor
- Exhibitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name (preferred for name tag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: Street or Box #, City, State, and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Congregation/Organization Name and Town

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address  
 (Required for on-line registration)

- Male       Female

Special Needs

- Please note any mobility or dietary requirements
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Assembly Fees

register on-line before May 7, 2011

### 1) Assembly Registration for Voting Member

\$150.00 per voting member (includes registration, materials, and meals) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2) Visitor Registration

\$120 per general visitor registration (includes registration, materials, and meals) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 40 per business visitor registration (does not include meals)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 45 per exhibitor registration (does not include meals)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3) Late Registrations - \$20.00 per person if registering after May 6, 2010 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fees

(Credit card payment option available with on-line registration) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send registrations by mail with check to:  
 Southeastern Iowa Synod, 2635 Northgate Dr. Iowa City, Iowa, 52245.

# 2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY DETAILS

## THEME & HIGHLIGHTS

The 2011 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be held at the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Coralville, IA: May 20-21, 2011. The theme for this year's event is Christ, Be Our Light. The assembly will begin on Friday, May 20 with onsite registration opening at 8:00 a.m. and Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Plenary Session I will begin at 11:15 a.m.

Pre-Assembly materials will be available at the Southeastern Iowa Synod website at <http://www.seiasynod.org/2011assembly.html>. These materials include an agenda, reports, resolutions, and helpful information to prepare for Synod Assembly. Watch the synod website for updates and information in the weeks leading up to Synod Assembly.

## REGISTRATION FEES & INFORMATION

### Voting Member Registration

Voting Member registration includes materials, lunch on Friday & Saturday, Friday evening banquet, and breaks.

Voting Member Registration \$150

### Visitor Registration

The Visitor fee registration includes materials, lunch on Friday & Saturday, Friday evening banquet, and breaks. The Business Visitor fee includes registration materials but does not include meals.

Visitor \$120

Business Visitor \$40

### Exhibitor Registration

Registration as an exhibitor at Synod Assembly is available to ELCA affiliated organizations and institutions. Exhibitors are provided with a skirted table and chairs for their display. The Exhibit Hall is available for set-up beginning at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 19. Use the south entrance of the Marriott for easy access to the display area. Please note fee does not include meals.

Exhibitor \$45

### Additional Information

A \$20 late fee applies for registrations received after Friday, May 6 and walk-in registrations day of assembly.

### Hotel

Overnight accommodations are not included in the registration fee. You may find it helpful to make hotel reservations as soon as possible due to the limited number of rooms blocked under Southeastern Iowa Synod for participants at the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The discounted rate of \$89 is available for Friday night only. To reserve your hotel room, you may call or use the Marriott's online reservation system.

Phone:

1-800-228-9290

Website:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cidic-coralville-marriott-hotel-and-conference-center/?toDate=5/21/11&groupCode=elcelca&fromDate=5/20/11&app=resvlink>

Complete one registration form for each person.

Southeastern Iowa Synod, 2635 Northgate Drive, Iowa City, IA

If you have questions, contact Kathy Smith, Assembly Manager, at (319) 338-1273.