

OTHER COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

ELCA MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA serves this synod by providing vital loans for capital projects to new-start congregations, established congregations and ELCA-related ministries. MIF is able to fund these loans through the sale of investments to ELCA ministries and congregation members.

Nearly 800 MIF loans totaling \$460 million are at work today in ELCA ministries throughout the United States, Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 10 congregations and ministries currently have Mission Investment Fund loans totaling \$1.2 million, while many individuals and 108 ministries, including this synod, have investments in MIF totaling \$10.1 million (as of February 11, 2011).

MIF serves ELCA ministries. In addition to the ministry loans and investments that it offers, MIF provides consulting services to ELCA congregations through its church building. The consultants evaluate the effectiveness of existing facilities or plans for new facilities and help congregations design building programs that support their mission. The consultants' services are provided at no charge. Area representatives are available to meet with congregations and ELCA-related ministries regarding MIF's loan and investment opportunities.

Has your congregation invested? Have members of your congregation invested? Join the thousands of individuals, ELCA congregations, ELCA-related ministries and synods – including the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod – that are earning interest on their investments as they help to build the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your participation enables MIF to continue this vital ministry. A variety of fixed- and adjustable-rate investment opportunities are available and may be opened with initial investments of as little as \$5. Information on investments and ministry loans is available at www.elca.org/mif and through the MIF representative listed below who serves this synod.

Thank you for your support of and participation in the Mission Investment Fund. It is a joy to work in partnership with you for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Mark Wimmer, area representative

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COALITION FOR MISSION IN APPALACHIA (ELCMA)

2010 was a year of growth and networking for ELCMA. We are so grateful for the partnerships that allowed ELCMA to continue to answer the requests from the synods and to be present with the people of the Appalachian Region.

The Bonding Garden Project continued to connect congregations with food pantry clients. This partnership taught gardening skills to people with food insecurities in four Pennsylvania counties in 2010.

Leadership development was high on our list of priorities in 2010 as it is every year. Grant writing seminars and the stress workshop, *"Emotional and Spiritual Care in Communities"* were popular and provided participants with skills to strive toward goals they choose.

ELCMA's connection with the Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEM) in each synod is increasing. We have strong ties with various new mission starts including Mountain of Life LC in Blairsville GA and Cross of Grace LC in Jonesborough TN. ELCMA brings our network to these sites offering prayer partners, encouragement, connections and resources, and as a result ELCMA assisted in redistributing numerous resources around our region and beyond. Our commitment to and work with other specialized ministries, such as St John's in Shenandoah PA, continues as strong as ever. We also remain committed to our work with community groups, especially those with no other Lutheran presence in their areas, such as Appalachian Women's Alliance in Clinchco VA.

As the future unfolds, I see ELCMA moving toward assisting more sites with economic development projects that will strengthen the Lutheran presence in the area. Potential jobs relating to the greening of America are offering hope to many areas. Additionally, ELCMA is moving to provide educational opportunities at low costs to church leaders throughout the region. Some of the offerings will be offered by other entities and promoted by ELCMA. Some offerings will be live; some will be recorded and available for viewing from our website or on DVD. Today's technology provides a variety of opportunities. ELCMA is also beginning work on a training program on the Appalachian Culture and its implications for ministry called *"Appalachia 101"*. This had been a request of several synods over recent years. As we move into the future, your

companionship on the journey will make average accomplishments great. I look forward to what God has in store for us, working together in 2011.

In closing, allow me to thank you for your continued support of our ministry, even in the hard times. And these hard times are when we really need to show our commitment to walk with our people. Your shared "people power" who make that possible for ELCMA include: Bishop Samuel Zeiser, Chip Fairchild, Kurt Garbe, John Hazel, David Heckler, John Houck, Wayne and Michele Kaufman, Tony Pagotto, Glenn and Mary Simmons, and Mindy Heppe. These dedicated ELCMA people can answer some of your questions. Or feel free to contact the staff at the ELCMA office through www.elcma.org or 814-618-5158 or 724-463-8422.

Dory Campbell, ELCMA coordinator

LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA (LAMPa)

This has been a year of many changes in Pennsylvania, in the ELCA and at Lutheran Advocacy Ministry. In the midst of these changes we remain deeply thankful for our partnership with all the Pennsylvania synods and ministries and awed at the ways in which God is present, moving Lutherans around the state to voice their faith convictions in the public arena on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable. Thanks be to God! Read about some of the areas of our ministry below:

- **Hunger** – Hunger advocates in Pennsylvania united around strong funding for the State Food Purchase Program, which funds food pantries and nutrition programs. LAMPa gave support to establishing a Hunger Garden on the State Capitol grounds as a teaching tool and reminder about the pervasiveness of hunger in the Commonwealth. LAMPa led Lutherans around the state in the passage of federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization, holding workshops and Paper Plate Campaigns over the summer. The ELCA Bishops in Pennsylvania signed a joint letter to Congress expressing their support.
- **Poverty** - LAMPa staff helped to draft and move a resolution to conduct an in-depth analysis of the occurrence, effects, and trends of poverty and low income and to make recommendations for comprehensively addressing these trends. This initiative will encourage private-public partnerships in addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty and involve hearings and public education on poverty in the Commonwealth. While the resolution did not receive a vote by the end of the session, we have begun

outreach to members of the new administration and legislature.

- **Health Care** – LAMPa focused efforts on saving adultBasic health coverage, which covers 42,000 working poor adults. LAMPa was also part of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network conference on federal reform implementation in Pennsylvania, including focus on the creation of the exchanges and rate review.
- **Affordable Housing** - After a multi-year effort, LAMPa advocates were part of the passage of a State Housing Trust Fund, a vehicle by which to expand safe and affordable housing in the Commonwealth.
- **Creation Care and Tax Policy** – LAMPa is a go-to-place for Lutherans with questions about natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. LAMPa took part in a state-wide Consultation of Lutherans on Natural Gas Drilling and has acted as a resource for congregations in issues related to impacts on creation and communities. LAMPa has acted in Harrisburg primarily around support for an extraction tax that will protect the environment and support impacted areas.

LAMPa met this year with rostered leader groups in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to discuss issues of hunger, poverty and health care and provided leadership for the "Jesus Calls Us...To Action!" event and provided resources and support to ministries addressing hunger and poverty. We are thankful for our synod Policy Council representatives, Sr. Janet Stump and the Rev. Jay Wetzel, and for the leadership of Bishop Zeiser.

LAMPa launched a new website in 2011, www.lutheranadvocacy.org and a monthly e-newsletter, *LAMPa Highlights*, to better serve, inform, and lead Lutheran voices for justice.

Amy E. Reumann, director

LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Lutheran Planned Giving of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania brings together the ministry partners in our area along with the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to promote charitable giving. As the Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Giving and a charitable gift planner for the ELCA Foundation, I am ready to provide donor education, assist donors with their charitable gift planning, work with congregations as they establish a mission endowment fund, and assist congregations to grow

their endowment fund. These services are available to any Lutheran congregation or ministry without charge or obligation.

As the economy slowly rebounds from the worst recession in recent history, there still remains high unemployment or underemployment. Likewise, the demand for charitable services remains high. Through all of this, members of the ELCA remain generous in making gifts to those ministries which catch their passion. Whether it means a hot meal and shelter for the homeless, a bed in a nursing home for someone who cannot otherwise afford it, more affordable education, an outdoor camping experience to help grow faith, or a place to worship on a Sunday morning, your gifts can make a difference. One of the goals of the Lutheran Planned Giving program is to encourage folks to include charitable giving as part of their estate plan. And a second goal is to encourage people to remember their congregation and other favorite church ministries in those gifting plans.

In the eight years of operation, LPG has closed over \$6 million of revocable and irrevocable gifts. In 2010, I conducted 3 Legacy Seminars and made 14 mission endowment fund consults helping congregations establish an endowment fund, tune-up an existing endowment fund, or grow an endowment fund. I made 161 donor calls which resulted in 37 irrevocable gifts totaling \$253,145 and 2 revocable gifts for \$556,000. In my service area, I also assisted several congregations and ministries establish new accounts in ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust-Fund A and directly or indirectly helped many other congregations increase their participation in Fund A for a total of \$1.4 million. The ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust-Fund A is a balance fund managed by the ELCA available to any ELCA related ministry.

In 2010, the ELCA provided several training opportunities for me to keep my skills up-to-date. First, the regional gift planners and the senior staff of the ELCA Foundation met twice for staff training. I attended the annual educational conferences of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning and the Association of Lutheran Development Executives, which was held in conjunction with one of the ELCA Foundation Staff meetings. Also, I am a member of the Planned Giving Council of Central PA, a local chapter of the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning. In 2010, I attended 4 educational seminars presented by the Planned Giving Council.

Finally, thank you very much for your support. Your synod, 17 related ministries, and the ELCA underwrite the Lutheran Planned giving program. Without your financial support, words of wisdom and encouragement, and especially your prayers,

I would not have been able to accomplish what I did. Your support is essential to the success of this program. For more information about the Lutheran Planned Giving Program or to schedule a Legacy Seminar, please contact me at 570-374-2044 or kramerga@ptd.net.

Gregory A. Kramer, executive director

PENNSYLVANIA LUTHERAN NETWORK

Mission

The Pennsylvania Lutheran Network (PLN) is committed to cooperation, collaboration, and support for mutual benefit in ministry to insure that no part of the church need stand alone in our calling to be faithful to the mission God has entrusted to us.

Value Statement and Purpose

The PLN is an aggregation of the Specialized Ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Pennsylvania intentionally organized for mutual support and collaboration as we work to extend and focus the ministry of ELCA congregations in Pennsylvania.

The PLN is a facilitating mechanism through which the synods, institutions, and organizations related to the ELCA in Pennsylvania can maintain relationships, cooperate, and collaborate in ways that can fulfill already existing commitments to the ELCA, to each other, and to the public.

The PLN is not a new organization to join, but a network in which all can participate, fully or selectively, to sustain values and fulfill goals for their mutual benefit in ministry, education, and service in church and society.

Activity

The PLN gathers annually in assembly to consider a topic of interest, to reconnect partners in ministry, and to provide the opportunity for cooperative efforts in our shared ministry.

In 2011, the assembly focused on the February 2011 restructuring of the ELCA and its implications for Network's member organizations and, indeed, for all of the ELCA baptized here in Pennsylvania. The Reverend Dr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director for the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA, was the keynote speaker on the theme *Restructuring and Resurrection*. A Panel of participants that represented outdoor ministry, campus ministry, ELCA colleges, theological education, social ministry

organizations, evangelical mission, and advocacy ministry reflected on implications of the restructuring for both their individual ministries and for their partners across the commonwealth; in turn this guided table conversations among all participants. Finally, a discussion, led by Jill Schumann, President/CEO of Lutheran Services in America, provided the opportunity for deepening conversation about the Network's future.

A Planning Council meets between assemblies to provide direction for the Network.

B. Penrose Hoover, convener

REGION 7

As I write this report, I am conscious that the landscape of Region 7, and indeed the churchwide expression of the ELCA, is quite different from a year ago. In October 2010, a complete restructuring of the churchwide offices and staff resulted in the elimination of 65 additional positions. Regional coordinators, who were Vocation and Education and Synodical Relations staff, are now part of the very large Congregational and Synodical Mission staff. Our main areas of responsibility are unchanged and include candidacy, coordinating assignment of first call candidates, and administrative support for campus ministry. However, with the elimination of central (Chicago based) staff in these areas, the coordinator's role has become more crucial in order to maintain a consistent ministry across the church.

In addition, due to financial realities, for the first time in its history Region 7 does not have an administrative assistant. It was with deep regret that we said good-bye to Yvonne Curtis at the end of November and closed the office at LTSP. The main office for Region 7 is now located with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, presently in Wescosville. A small office at the seminary is used as a satellite for the coordinator's meetings with students and faculty.

Three campus ministry vacancies were filled during the past year at Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education in New York City; Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY; and the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at Temple. I am now working with the campus ministry in New Paltz, NY to fill a vacancy there. Quadrennial Reviews have been done for the campus ministry at Albany, NY as well as the campus ministries in the Boston/Cambridge area; Kutztown University; the campus ministry at St. Peter's in Bethlehem, PA that serves Lehigh University; and University Lutheran in Philadelphia.

I have worked with the candidacy committees of all of our synods and conducted theological review and competency assessment panels for most of them. In October we held our annual regional candidacy consultation for the staff and chairs of each synod committee along with staff at LTSP who relate to candidacy. John Berntsen at the seminary and I have met with students to assist them in fulfilling the various steps in the candidacy process.

In January we had a very successful first call theological education event for leaders in their first three years of rostered ministry. More than 90 attended the four day event. Craig Satterlee, professor at LSTC, was our plenary speaker. We offered workshops and excellent worship opportunities and time for conversation and fellowship.

For nearly six years I have appreciated the opportunity that I have to serve in Region 7, working with the bishops and their staffs; the candidates for ministry; the faculty, staff, and students at LTSP; and the campus ministries and other networks to strengthen the mission of the Church in the Northeast.

Peggy M. Wuertele, Region 7 coordinator

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The three expressions of the Women of the ELCA (Congregational Units, Synodical, and Churchwide) are active in ministries that promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and in the world. Our women advocate for those that cannot. They are generous with their financial gifts that are used to provide grants to seminarians and social organizations whose needs compliment the mission of W/ELCA, as well as supporting World Hunger and Disaster Response. Congregational Units continue to support the needs of LWR, brought on by natural disasters, through their donations of health and school kits, baby layettes, and quilts.

Churchwide Women of the ELCA produces a variety of resources that can be downloaded from their website free, that help women grow in faith, and support them on their spiritual journey as they develop and nurture relationships and opportunities to serve.

Synodical and Cluster events that lifted up our 21st convention theme, "Building to Last Forever:"

- Our "Great Adventure" fall learning event, where we were led in discerning what our unique, God-given gifts are and how we can use them

in leadership roles within the church, and that we can flavor the world with simple acts of love.

- Our Fall Cluster event that focused on bringing awareness to our women on the second largest and fastest growing illegal trade in the world – Human Trafficking. The root cause of this crime on women, girls, and young boys is greed, poverty, and fear of who to trust. We will continue to learn more and identify ways where we can become involved to make a difference in their lives.
- Our Spiritual Growth event where 120 women experienced a powerful presentation by the Rev. Gladys Moore on the persistence, patience, and power of prayer. We need to make the connection as the named and claimed children of God now and forever. Workshops on prayer beads and praying with color were part of the day's event. Amazing fellowship was shared.
- Our financial support and prayers to Amanda Tompkins, a Muhlenberg College grad on a mission trip to South Africa through the young adults in Global Mission, and our offerings to Camp Noah.
- Our 22nd Convention at Friedens Lutheran in Oley, under the theme "A Time for Every Purpose." Our goals of a of peace time to embrace, to sow, to heal, to love, and a time were presented through our workshops, our worship, and our time with Bishop Zeiser.

Current information is available on the synod website at www.godslove.org.

Patricia A. Reitnauer, president

ASTaR

The ASTaR Committee continues to work with ELCMA (Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia) in its various ministries. Bishop Zeiser, John Hazel, Mary Simmons, Michele Kaufman, Glenn Simmons, and Wayne Kaufman attended the annual assembly in the Northwest Pennsylvania Synod in April. Several tours of the area were held highlighting the ministries and attractions of the area.

We also spent part of the year finishing up the grants from the Clark Charitable Trust. We had a discussion with Pastor John Hassler about his church's use of Neal Boese book, "Blueprint for Change." In the Fall we worked with Dory Campbell, coordinator of ELCMA, and Bishop Zeiser to help St. John's, Shenandoah look at their congregation's outreach ministry. We will

continue to partner with ELCMA and St. John's throughout 2011.

Wayne Kaufman, Chair