

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD FaithLink

Connecting Leaders of the Saint Paul Area Synod (ELCA)

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Congregations find new ways to save, spend, and share

Creative stewards in our midst

By Christine Fifield, Communications Specialist



Originally purchased in 1874 at \$5 per acre, the Christiania Lutheran farm land still generates income for the congregation as it is used for farming, a community baseball field, and a mission garden.
Photo credit: Jeff Otto, Christiania, Lakeville.

We are all called to be thoughtful and faithful stewards. While stewardship encompasses a whole host of aspects, a key component of this call is the management of financial gifts. As much as we may shy away from talking about money in the church, it is these gifts that undergird the meaningful work and ministry of our congregations.

A few weeks ago, congregations were asked via email and social media to share creative ways they are stewarding their resources. In that time, we received some terrific responses from congregations across the synod. Now we get to share them with you!

After reading what these congregations have done (or are doing), maybe something new will become obvious to you.

A history of stewardship

One congregation of creative stewards is Christiania Lutheran Church in Lakeville.

This historic Lutheran congregation is in a unique position as it is in possession of over 100 acres of land (some of which is in Scott County, making it the only Saint Paul Area Synod congregation in Scott County).

Christiania was originally built as a two-point parish in 1874—East and West Christiania. On top of their ministerial duties, Christiania's first pastors farmed the land between these two parishes up until the 1930's. The original location of East Christiania is now the location of a cemetery, baseball field, and small parsonage.

The current church building sits on about 17 to 18 acres of this land which includes a parking lot and wooded area. The vast remainder of the land is either used for the community (i.e. baseball field, cemetery, mission garden, etc.) or tilled by local farmers.

For many years, the property committee at Christiania has worked with local land owners in the area to sign three-year contracts to care for its rich farm land.

While the church building has moved around, the land has stayed relatively the same. Many of the members of Christiania have strong backgrounds in business making them key voices in this entrepreneurial stewardship endeavor.

Using the entrepreneurial gifts of Christiania's members, the congregation has continued to buy a little more land over the years. Recently, some of this land was converted into a mission garden. The produce from this garden goes to bolstering local food shelves.

Most recently, Christiania has been in conversation with [Urban Ventures](#), a non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in south Minneapolis. Urban Ventures is looking to potentially acquire some land from Christiania which they can use to produce food to sell to support their ministry.

For over a hundred years, the stewardship of this land continues to not just give back to the community of Christiania but to a host of metro partners.

As Lutherans (and human beings), we are called to live well. With this call, we often focus our efforts on physical and spiritual wellness (we are the Church, after all). But, whole wellness not only includes these aspects but also encompasses our financial wellness.

According to the Portico Wholeness Wheel, "being financially well involves making decisions based on our values, as reflected in the way we save, spend, and share. Tending to one's financial well-being in this way requires us to be resilient, generous, and focused on sustainability." This goes for our congregations as well.

So, as we launch into a new church year, let's take a look at how we, in our congregations, can be financially well with our first ever stewardship and finance issue of FaithLink.



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FaithLink is published six times a year by the Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Patricia J. Lull, Bishop.

Saint Paul Area Synod
105 West University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103-2094
Website: www.spas-elca.org
Phone: 651.224.4313

Christine Fifield, Editor

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From the Bishop

By Patricia J. Lull

We are all renters

*“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.”*

Psalm 145:15-16

The day was hot and muggy. I was tired from a long week at work and knew I still faced a slew of fresh deadlines. The yard of the house I was renting as a young pastor took about 20 minutes to mow with a hand-push mower but as I went back and forth across the lawn, I did not feel refreshed. I felt resentment. I found myself thinking, *why should I, a renter, have to toil to keep the yard and gardens looking good? What gain was there for me when it was the landlord’s bank account that grew with each month’s rent?*

I suspect you have had bouts of resentment in your life, too. Times in which you as a householder or a congregation have wondered why you need to look out for the wellbeing of the mission of the wider church or the multiple needs of your community of faith. When resentment rears its head it is tempting to ask, why do I need to share with others? Isn’t it enough that I take care of my own needs?

As the blades of the mower whirled that afternoon, I realized that we are all renters upon this earth. Not a one of us holds deed and title to this vast creation.

It is God who provides for us, entrusting us with the responsibility to use wisely the resources given to us. To tend the yard of my rental house, to consider the needs of my neighbors, and to contribute to the welfare of the city—its schools, its safety, and its economic prosperity—were obligations placed on my shoulders by a God wise and generous enough to call me—and all of us—to care for the wellbeing of the whole creation.

In the church we call this stewardship. Knowing that all we need comes from a good and gracious God, we are free to imitate that divine generosity in the way we share our time, our skills, and our money.

We are also free to discover creative ways to save money or generate resources that allow us to invest in work that shares the love of our generous God with others.

In this issue of FaithLink, you will read about the innovative practices of several congregations that have discovered ways to use their resources in such a wise and frugal way. I’ll bet you know of other good examples in your congregation or your own home.



I’ve mowed a lot of lawns since that hot and muggy day. I have also witnessed the incredible generosity of those who trust that God does, indeed, provide all that we need. I pray that we may be that kind of church, that kind of synod, for our neighbors today.

Yours in God’s Service,

Stay connected on “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday!

Baking casseroles for families in need. Cleaning up local highways. Packing 500 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Making sandwiches for a food truck that feeds the homeless. These are just a sampling of how congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod will be serving on “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday coming up Sept. 7. If your congregation is planning on participating, be sure to do these three things (if you have not done so already):

1. Register your congregation at www.elca.org.
2. Email living.lutheran@elca.org after Sept. 7 to share highlights and photos of your service with whole Church.
3. Share your service and follow other congregations on Sept. 7 using the hashtag [#elcadayofservice](https://twitter.com/elcadayofservice).

More information and resources for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday can be found at www.elca.org/25years.



Ponder anew what the Almighty can do...

...at the Bishop’s Theological Conference

October 26-28, 2014 at the Heartwood Retreat and Conference Center in Trego, Wis.

Registered leaders of the Saint Paul Area Synod are invited to *Ponder Anew* at this year’s Bishop’s Theological Conference. To ponder means to examine an issue or an idea from a variety of perspectives. During this first year of Bishop Lull’s term, we are invited to join in a time of discovery by looking at our faith practices and the world in which we live from a wider variety of angles and perspectives.

Participants at this year’s conference will be joined by keynote speaker Dr. Anna Madsen, founder of the [OMG Center for Theological Conversation](http://www.omgcenter.org), as our keynote speaker. She is a lively, observant thinker and will be a worthy guide and partner at this gathering.

Register by October 3

Online registration closes on Thursday, Oct. 3. Late registration is available until Thursday, Oct. 9, but is subject to availability and a late registration fee of \$50. Because of limited space, we regret that retired clergy and interns who wish to attend this event will be accommodated if space is available when registration closes. If you wish to have your name placed on a waiting list, please contact Julie Keefe, julie.keefe@spas-elca.org, in the synod office.

A limited number of scholarships may be available. If you need additional financial support to attend the conference please contact Bishop Lull in the synod office.



Wellness dollars get synod moving ...and sweating!

We are a synod that gets things done! This year, our synod yet again reached the 65 percent participation by April 30 for Portico Benefits Services' annual health assessment. Due to our participation, Portico has granted our synod about \$20,000 to further the health and wellness within our synod for the sake of ministry.

As in past years, part of this money will continue to go toward sabbatical assistance (up to \$1,000 per grant—\$500 for the rostered leader and \$500 for the congregation) and congregational staff development (up to \$500). If you're interested in applying for a sabbatical assistance or staff development grant, please contact the synod office at 651.224.4313.

In addition to these wellness opportunities, we are now launching a brand new initiative aimed at reaching more leaders in our synod. We at the synod office proudly present the Saint Paul Area Synod's *Get Moving* initiative for rostered leaders! That's right: it's time for our synod to get sweaty!

A sometimes neglected part of our call to live well is physical wellness. "While we are not all born perfectly healthy or able to live life without injury or illness, we can live well by tending and nurturing our body as a gift from God," states Portico.

Through the [ELCA Wholeness Wheel](#), we are encouraged to, "feed it healthy foods, keep it hydrated, build physical endurance through regular exercise, and respect your body's need for rest."

We realize sometimes fulfilling our need to live well physically is hard. Life so often gets in the way.

Here's where we want to help.

With the remaining Portico health assessment funds, we'd like to support you as work towards physical wellness, whatever that may mean for you.

To meet your personal wellness goals, we've created two mini-grants you may apply for either as an individual or as a group starting Sept. 15, 2014.

Through the synod's Get Moving initiative, you may apply for *ONE* of two pro-wellness grants*:

1. *Get Moving*



Through the individual *Get Moving* grants, rostered leaders may request up to \$100** to help increase physical activity.

For example, grants may be used to:

- purchase a fitbit or a new pair of walking shoes,
- repair a bicycle,
- enroll in a yoga course,
- contract with a personal trainer, or
- take a similar step to significantly increase daily physical activity.

Application period: Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2014.

How to apply: Send your request to cyndi.berg@spas-elca.org including your name, an address to which grant funds may be directed, and a brief description of how you intend to use the grant.

Fine print

*At this time, grants will only be awarded to active and on leave from call rostered leaders. Grants will be awarded to the first 180 applicants.

** *Get Moving* grants may be taxable, please consult your tax advisor.

We at the synod office are excited to support you as work towards physical wellness, whatever that may mean for you.

Happy sweating!

Save-the-date for the 2015 Health Assessment

If you like this initiative, let's make sure it comes back next year! The Portico health assessment will return in 2015 on January 1-April 30. We barely met the 65 percent participation mark in 2014. To ensure we not only save two percent on our health contributions but also bring back wellness initiatives like *Get Moving*, mark your calendars to take your health assessment on January 1, 2015!

To check your 2014 assessment results, login into the Embody Health Webportal at www.elcaforwellness.org.

2. *Get Moving Together*



Through the *Get Moving Together* grants, three or more rostered leaders can register as a group with a measurable goal for physical activity and be eligible for a drawing for \$300** at the successful completion of the goal. *Goals must be completed by Dec. 31, 2014.*

For example:

- Three runners might agree to a collective goal of running 750 miles;
- Four walkers might agree to each walk for 30 minutes every day for 60 days; or
- Five swimmers might swim a distance equivalent to the length of the Mississippi River before Dec. 31.

Application period: Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2014.

How to apply: Assemble your team and visit www.spas-elca.org/getmovingtogether. Have your team name, members names and email addresses ready when you register.

Calendar

Look for more events and information at www.spas-elca.org

September

“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday

Sept. 7, Everywhere! Find out more and register your congregation at www.elca.org/dayofservice.

College of Retired Church Workers Luncheon

Sept. 9, 12:00 noon, Bethlehem, Minneapolis. Retired clergy, Diaconal Ministers, Associates in Ministry, church workers and spouses of the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Synods are invited. Featuring author and retired pastor Lonnie Branch. RSVP by noon on Sept. 4 by calling 651.224.4313 or emailing cyndi.berg@spas-elca.org.

North Conference Meeting

Sept. 16, 9:00 a.m., Fish Lake, Harris. Monthly meeting for rostered leaders in the North Conference. Contact North Conference Dean, Dale Stiles, at dstiles@fishlakelutheran.org with questions.

Stewardship Farmer’s Market

CANCELLED

Sept. 20, Cross of Glory, Brooklyn Center. This joint annual stewardship event has been cancelled.

Fretheim Lecture at Luther Seminary

Sept. 22, Chapel of the Incarnation, Luther Seminary. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary has been rescheduled to present his lecture titled, “Why the Old Testament Must not Go Away.” More information at www.luthersem.edu/lectures/fretheim.

Practice Discipleship Training

Sept. 25, Augustana, West St. Paul. Event offers a series of interactive presentations for those in Children, Youth and Family leadership. Free training put on by the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Synods as part of the Practice Discipleship Initiative of the ELCA. More at www.elcaymnet.org.

October

■ Multicultural Conversations: How do we build bridges across race, culture, and class?

Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Congregations are invited to learn about engaging in multicultural conversations. [More on page 7.](#)

World Communion Sunday

Oct. 5. Congregations are invited to celebrate our common mission within Christ’s global church by sponsoring a Global Church Sunday. For more information, contact globalchurch@elca.org.

Celebration of Biblical Preaching:

Preaching as Divine and Human Drama

Oct. 6-8, Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Join as we seek to reclaim preaching as the means by which to invite our people to witness this story and take up their part in the ongoing drama of God’s work. Find out more and register at www.luthersem.edu/celebration.

Installation of Robin J. Steinke as President of Luther Seminary

Oct. 12, 3:00 p.m., Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton will preach. A reception will follow the service. More at www.luthersem.edu/president.

North Central Conference Meeting

Oct. 14, 3:00 p.m., Prince of Peace, Roseville. Rostered leaders of the North Central Conference are invited to meet Bishop Lull and hear her plans, hopes, and dreams for the Saint Paul Area Synod. Contact North Central Conference Dean, Ryan Brodin, at pastorryan@abidingsavior.org with questions.

ELCA Youth Gathering registration opens

Oct. 15. Registration opens Oct. 15, 2014, with a soft opening on Sept. 15. Adult Leaders may begin to enter and save data in the registration database on Sept. 15 in preparation for submission on Oct. 15. More at www.elca.org/YouthGathering.

■ Bishop’s Theological Conference

Oct. 26-28, Heartwood Conference Center and Retreat, Trego, Wis. Annual retreat for rostered leaders of the Saint Paul Area Synod. [See page 2 for details.](#)

Joint Fall Ministerium

Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Central, Minneapolis. Rostered leaders of the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Synods are invited to a morning with newly elected President Robin Steinke of Luther Seminary and Bishop Patricia Lull of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Lunch will be offered for \$10, payable at the door. Register at www.mpls-synod.org/ministerium.

November

■ Bega Kwa Bega Fall Festival

Nov. 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Augustana, West St. Paul. Join us for celebration, prayer, and fellowship as we strengthen our connection with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. For highlights from the 2013 Fall Festival and more information on the partnership, visit www.spas-elca.org/tanzania. See inset for additional details.

■ Sponsored by the Saint Paul Area Synod

Share your event!

Have an event with synodwide appeal that you would like to share on the calendar? Send details to Julie Keefe at julie.keefe@spas-elca.org.



Save-the-date

Bega Kwa Bega Fall Festival

Highlights from the 2013 BKB Fall Festival at Christ the King, New Brighton. [Like Bega Kwa Bega on Facebook](#) for additional photos.

Join us for a morning of celebration, prayer, and fellowship as we strengthen our connection with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.

Saturday, November 8, 2014

Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 S Robert St, West St Paul

This year, you can:

- **Celebrate** the 20th Anniversary of the University of Iringa (formerly Tumaini),
- **Create** an act of Thanksgiving for our companions in the Iringa Diocese,
- **Learn** ways to enhance your relationship with your companion congregation, and
- **Share** your experiences with others who ‘get it.’

Help make the “Great-BKB-Get-Together” a smashing success

With a partnership that spans the globe there are plenty of opportunities for you to use your gifts and talents to strengthen our relationship with the Iringa Diocese. We’re in need of some volunteers to help make this year’s festival one of the best yet. We’re looking for an Event Coordinator, Worship Leaders, Hospitality Chiefs, and Workshop Organizers. Time Commitment: Couple hours a week in October/November.

Email begakwabega@spas-elca.org for more information.

Connections

with the ELCA churchwide and other partners in ministry and mission

Mission Investment Fund

Start saving for the 2015 Youth Gathering through Mission Investment Fund

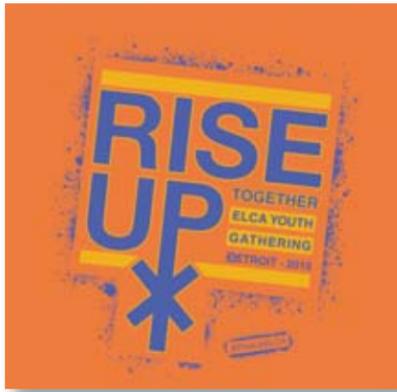
Have you started saving for your congregation's youth to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in Detroit? Consider registration fees, transportation, lodging and meals.

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special Demand Investment Youth Ministry account. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars—and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. Your congregation can open an MIF Demand Investment Youth Ministry account for as little as \$100, and your funds will be available to you when you need them.

The Mission Investment Fund will also host an on-site service center at the Gathering, July 15-19, 2015. Authorized account holders will be able to conveniently cash checks on their MIF Demand accounts at this Service Center at the youth event.

July 2015 is closer than you think. Visit www.mif.elca.org/youthministry for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application.

For information on MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877.886.3522 or your MIF Regional Manager LuAnn Ferguson, at 651.900.3575, luann.ferguson@elca.org. For a complete calendar and additional resources, please visit www.elca.org/YouthGathering or Like ELCA Youth Gathering on Facebook.



DATES TO REMEMBER

The 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering is less than a year away. Now is the time to get your groups together and excited to Rise Up Together in Detroit next summer.

As you begin to assemble your groups, keep in mind these important deadlines:

October 15, 2014

Official Gathering registration opens! Adult leaders may begin to enter and save data in the database on Sept. 15 in preparation for submission on Oct. 15.

January 2015

Registration fees increase to \$375.

May 15, 2015

Registration closes.

July 12-15, 2015

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and Definitely-abled Youth Leadership Event (DAYLE).

July 15-19, 2015

ELCA Youth Gathering: Rise up together.

ELCA News

Psalm speaks to unrest in Iraq, ELCA leader says

By Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Public Relations, ELCA

As the 4 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathers for Sunday worship Aug. 17 and shares in the reading of Psalm 133, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of this church, said the Psalm “reminds us of the goodness and blessing of a life lived in unity with one another.”

In an Aug. 15 letter to the church, Eaton wrote that Psalm 133 generally is “an encouraging Psalm, at a time such as this, when the world seems anything but unified, these words may feel more jarring than inspiring. This is especially so now as news from Iraq continues to worsen.”

About 150,000 people have “recently fled their homes in the wake of attacks from Islamic state militants and their allies. While reports indicate that the immediate threat to many of these precious lives was abated by the delivery of food and water aid, an estimated 300 people, many of them children, still perished from exposure, dehydration and starvation. Reports of attacks, atrocities and human-rights abuses,

often targeted at religious minorities and other vulnerable groups cause, our hearts to cry out in lamentation rather than in the hope that this week's Psalm celebrates,” she wrote.

The continued violence in part of Iraq “has put at grave risk the already tenuous security situation of the entire country and diminishes the ability of Iraq's new government to lead with a strong vision of national solidarity and peace,” said the presiding bishop.

“Our hearts are heavy with sorrow and concern as we further mourn the violence that has come to typify the news we hear from Iraq. Many of us served or have family or friends who served as U.S. military or security personnel in Iraq or are Iraqis ourselves and are now a part of U.S. communities. The proximity of Iraq in our experience as American Christians heightens our awareness of the continued suffering and increases the depth of our distress and grief.”

In what “seems like an endless stream of bad news, the Holy Spirit leads us to ponder these words of the Psalmist: ‘How very good and pleasant it is when kindred

live together in unity,’” Eaton wrote.

“Perhaps this Psalm, in this week when the world seems splintered and on the brink of rupture, speaks to us with special encouragement and whispers an enduring word of hope,” she wrote. “Our hearts may cry out in mourning, but God fills us with a desire to follow the words of the Psalmist as we pray for peace and unity. Indeed, how very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”

The full text of the ELCA presiding bishop's letter is available at www.elca.org/news.

People of faith are mobilizing across the globe standing up against injustice, speaking out for peace and dialogue, and prayerfully lifting those regions and individuals in our world experiencing violence, pain, disease and devastation.

If you want to follow how we as the ELCA are acting and speaking out today's crimes against humanity, be sure to sign-up for ELCA News updates by visiting www.elca.org/news.

Creative Stewardship, cont.

Luckily, for most congregations, you do not need to possess 100 acres of fertile farmland to be a creative steward.

In the early 2000's, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul worked with AT&T to place a cell tower on the church property. "When its technology became outdated, it was removed. In about 2006, we were approached by AT&T to construct a new cell tower," says Senior Pastor Bonnie Wilcox.

AT&T pays Gustavus Adolphus a monthly lease payment in order house the tower on their property. "As our property has a large parking lot, the effect of having a fenced in area around a small building and the tower itself has had minimal effect on our parking," says Wilcox.

Because income generated off of a cell tower is coming from a for-profit company, congregations considering this form of stewardship should speak to a tax consultant on the potential impact on their non-profit tax status. "We had a legal opinion written for our protection and education," says Wilcox.

Instead of a cell tower, Lakeview Lutheran Church in Maplewood currently rents out space on their church property to a local school, Choo-Choo Montessori. For the past couple of years the consistent income from having an additional tenant in their building has helped to generate some extra income for the church which has helped in its effort to pay off debt.

In addition to the income generated for the church, there are other benefits too. "The children provide a positive presence in our building," says interim pastor Bill Pearson. "It shows how the church is reaching out into the community and reflecting the diverse community surrounding the church in Maplewood."

But Lakeview is not only stewarding their resources to pay off debt.

Better stewards, one rain garden at a time

In 2013, Lakeview applied for a Clean Water grant as a part of the [Ramsey Washington Watershed District's](#) (RWWSD) Partnering with Faith Organizations for Clean Water project. This grant awarded Lakeview \$60,600 to build a rain garden on the church property.

According to the RWWSD, "a rain garden is a landscaped shallow depression that is designed to capture storm water runoff from roofs, driveways, roads, and other hard surfaces. Water is contained in the garden and allowed to infiltrate into the surrounding soil."

Officially dedicated on June 29, 2014, these rain gardens not only filter and control storm water runoff but are now home a variety of native wildlife including birds and butterflies.

By making connections with local environmental agencies, Lakeview acted not only as a prudent financial steward but as a caring steward of creation as well.

As interim pastor Bill Pearson says, we're trying to be "better stewards of creation, one rain garden at a time."

New ways to save

Creative financial stewardship is not just about finding ways to generate money. It is also about noticing new ways to save it.

Take St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul for example. St. Timothy recently saved on how much it spends on energy.

"We had a contractor for Xcel knock on our doors to let us know it was time for him to change out the energy saver switch on our air conditioner," describes St. Timothy Office Administrator, Kate Tegtmeier.

While St. Timothy has eight air conditioning units, they only had one switch to control all eight units. The contractor informed staff that one switch can be added per unit. Having multiple air conditioning switches allows the energy company (Xcel) to cycle air conditioning units on and off during peak usage times.

Cycling air conditioning units on and off in 15-minute increments saves the energy company money by not having to run backup energy supply during peak hours. These company savings are then passed onto customers, like St. Timothy, in the form of a discount simply by adding switches on the units.

"We added seven switches to our existing air conditioning units and instead of saving \$15 each month with the one switch, we now save \$200 each month on our energy bill," says Tegtmeier. "Our bookkeeper has already noticed the savings on our electric bill so it's working!...I kept waiting for the other shoe to drop thinking this was too good to be true but really we are doing Xcel a favor by reducing their costs to run the place."

"All of this was done at no cost to the church!" continues Tegtmeier. "We felt a little silly for not realizing this sooner but we are glad we have the opportunity to share our news with others. It's a no-brainer!"

Making creative connections

Steve Jobs once said that, "Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while"

You could say we have some creative connectors in our midst, especially when it comes to stewardship.

Whether it's farmland, cell towers, rain gardens, or air conditioning units, congregations are stewarding in ways beyond Sunday's offering plate.

What other ways are you saving?

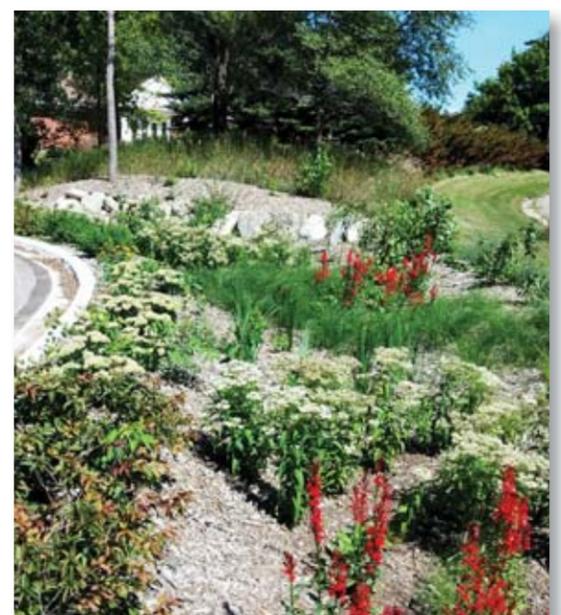
Find this article online at www.spas-elca.org/news and post your ideas in the comments section.

For more resources on stewardship and financial management, please visit our website at www.spas-elca.org/stewardship.



Officially dedicated on June 29, 2014, these rain gardens not only filter and control storm water runoff but are now home a variety of native wildlife including birds and butterflies. The raingardens surrounding the church building help to capture and filter roof runoff.

Photo credit: Terri Ekholm, Administrative Assistant, Lakeview, Maplewood.



The raingardens at Lakeview Lutheran Church in Maplewood help to capture runoff from the nearby roads and streets, as well.

Photo credit: Terri Ekholm, Administrative Assistant, Lakeview, Maplewood.

Highlights

The Installation of Patricia J. Lull

The Reverend Patricia J. Lull was installed as Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Sunday, August 24 at Roseville Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minn.

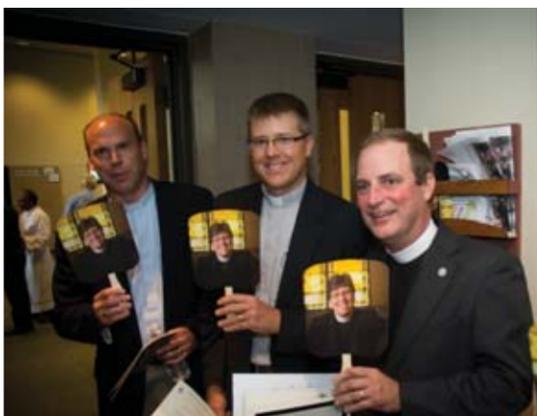
Bishop Lull was installed in the presence of over 400 people including family members, ELCA Bishops, ecumenical leaders, and close to 200 rostered leaders from the Saint Paul Area Synod. The event featured Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton who presided over the installation. Other guests included our United States and Global companion synod partners: Bishop Guy Erwin, Southwest California Synod; Bishop Dr. Owdenburg Mdegella, Iringa Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT); and President Karen Castillo, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG).

Bishop Lull surprised guests with a special fair-themed goody: a bishop-on-a-stick! A fitting addition on a hot day.

Thanks abound!

It truly takes a village to put together this kind of event. We would like to extend a special thanks to the incredible team of staff and volunteers at Roseville Lutheran, to Bradley Schmeling and the worship committee, and to all of the participants for their role in this special day in the life of our synod.

For more photo highlights, [Like the Saint Paul Area Synod](#) on Facebook!



In Interim

Beaver Lake, Maplewood, *pastor*
Christ the Servant, Vadnais Heights, *pastor*

Easter, Eagan, *associate pastor*

Faith, Forest Lake, *senior pastor*

Hmong Central, St. Paul, *pastor*

Holy Cross, Oakdale, *senior pastor*

Roseville Lutheran, Roseville, *senior pastor*

Shepherd of the Hills, Shoreview, *pastor*

St. Philip's, Hastings, *senior pastor*

Zion, St. Paul, *pastor*

Call Committee Active

Amazing Grace, Inver Grove Hts, *associate pastor*

Faith, Rosemount, *pastor*

Farmington, Farmington, *associate pastor*

First, Harris, *pastor*

First, Taylor's Falls, *pastor*

Galilee, Roseville, *pastor*

Lakeview, Maplewood, *pastor*

Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood, *pastor*

Our Savior's, Stillwater, *senior pastor*

St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, *associate pastor*

St. James, Burnsville, *associate pastor*

St. Mark's, North St. Paul, *senior pastor*

Trinity, Stillwater, *associate pastor*

Zion, Chisago City, *pastor*

Ordinations, Consecration, and Commissioning

The Rev. Ali Ferin, ordained July 26, 2014 as she accepts call to serve as associate pastor with St. Michael's, Roseville

The Rev. Peter Weston Miller, ordained July 27, 2014 as he accepts call to serve as pastor with Atonement, New Brighton

The Rev. Javen Swanson, ordained August 10, 2014 as he accepts call to serve as associate pastor with Gloria Dei, St. Paul

Calls Accepted

The Rev. Michael Carlson, senior pastor, St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi

The Rev. Janel Kuester, senior pastor, St. Paul, Stillwater

The Rev. Joy McDonald Coltvet, pastor, Christ, St. Paul

Serving Interim Contract

The Rev. Linda Wahlstrom, interim pastor, Zion, Chisago Lakes

Deaths

The Rev. Don Fredine, died June 20, 2014

The Rev. Donald Severson, died July 18, 2014

The Rev. Paul Tidemann, died July 26, 2014

The Rev. Daniel Vinge, died July 25, 2014

MULTICULTURAL CONVERSATIONS:

How do we build bridges across race, culture, and class?

Congregations seeking to connect with their changing communities are invited to send teams of people to learn about resources for engaging in multicultural conversations.

Saturday, October 4, 2014, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Luther Seminary Northwestern Auditorium
1501 Fulham Street, St. Paul

Judith Roberts, ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice Ministries, will guide the conversation. This is a continuation of the conversation that began on January 25, and congregations are encouraged to send teams of leaders interested in "Meeting My Neighbor Again for the First Time."

Sign-up today!

Please register online by Oct. 1, 2014 at www.spas-elca.org/MulticulturalConversations2014.

Cost is \$10 per person (or \$25 per congregation), paid upon arrival at the event by cash or check **only** (checks payable to the Saint Paul Area Synod).

For more information, contact Paul Erickson in the Saint Paul Area Synod office, paul.erickson@elca.org.



Prayers

September

Week of September 7

Our Savior's, Stillwater; Our Saviour's, Hastings; Peace, Lauderdale; Southern Ohio Synod and Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt; Erin Morris DM, St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi

Week of September 14

Pilgrim, St. Paul; Prince of Peace, Burnsville; Prince of Peace, Roseville; New England Synod and Bishop James Hazelwood; The Rev. Candace Moser, Interim Health Care of MN

Week of September 21

Pueblo de Fe, West Saint Paul; Redeemer, White Bear Lake; New Jersey Synod and Bishop Tracie Bartholomew; The Rev. Russell N. Myers, United Hospital

Week of September 28

Resurrection, Woodbury; Roseville, Roseville; Metro New York Synod and Bishop Robert Rimbo; Upstate New York Synod and Bishop Marie Jerge; The Rev. Timothy G. Nelson, HealthEast Care System

October

Week of October 5

Salem, West St. Paul; Shepherd of the Hills, Shoreview; Pennsylvania Synod and Bishop Samuel Zeiser; Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Bishop Claire Burkat; Sister LaDonna M. Olson, Fish Lake, Harris; The Rev. Debra A. Ost, Allina

Week of October 12

Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley; Shobi's Table, St. Paul; Slovak Zion Synod and Wilma Kucharek; Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Bishop Ralph Jones; Diane C. Pearson AiM, Our Saviour's, Hastings

Week of October 19

Spring Lake, North Branch; St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi; Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Bishop Kurt Kusserow; The Rev. Gerry Rafferty, Luther Seminary; Kimberly D. Rehfeldt AiM, Roseville Lutheran, Roseville

Week of October 26

St. Anthony Park, St. Paul; St. James, Burnsville; St. John's, Lakeville; Allegheny Synod and Bishop Gregory Pile; The Rev. Rob A. Ruff, Regions Hospital—Pastoral Services Department; The Rev. Mark Rydberg, Presbyterian Homes—Johanna Shores

Seasonings of the Synod

Reading the newspaper with eyes for the hungry

By Vernita Kennen, Hunger blogger

Do you do this? Have you been surprised to find an article about hunger or food when you were looking for something entirely different?

When you have become aware of those who are hungry or continue to think about and advocate on their behalf, you would be surprised what falls under your eyes.

Case in point—this last Sunday I was thumbing quickly through the Sunday newspaper “Parade” insert. Perhaps this insert is in your local paper, too. The small information piece titled, “Dine Out for No Kid Hungry,” appeared next to items about Smokey Bear and Shark Week!

The article said you could eat out during September at one of thousands of participating restaurants nationwide to get meal deals and help raise money to end childhood hunger. Sounds like a win/win to me! Who doesn't enjoy eating out once in a while—and why not do it in a way to help someone who is more hungry than you.

Check out the participating restaurants yourself at www.nokidhungry.org.



Image of Sunday Pioneer Press, August 14, 2014.

Read the featured article of Shobi's Table at www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_26345668/st-paul-pastors-pulpit-food-truck.

It's easy to indicate your location and find local places to dine and be of help at the same time.

More Seasonings of the Synod at www.spas-elca.org/seasoningsofthesynod.

Seasonings of the Synod provides food for thought from the Saint Paul Area Synod's Hunger Work Group. Contact Vernita Kennen, editor, at dykennan@aol.com.

Important information regarding the Domestic Hunger Grant cycle and process

The Domestic Hunger Grant application will now be for a two-year funding period. We anticipate that the application will be posted at www.elca.org/domestichungergrants in May 2015 for funding considerations in 2016-2017.

Applicants funded in 2014:

- Applicants will not be required to complete an application for 2015 funding.
- Rather, second-year funding will be contingent upon completing the Organizational Information Update and Evaluation form. The Organizational Information Update and Evaluation form will be posted at www.elca.org by Nov. 1, 2014, for submission on or before Nov. 30, 2014.
- Organizations that received grants in the 2014-2015 granting cycle are ineligible for funds in the 2016-2017 granting cycle.

Effective with the 2014-2015 cycle, applicants will now receive funding for TWO consecutive years.

The ELCA World Hunger-funded **Domestic Hunger Grants** support ministries that offer hope and assistance to many thousands of people who experience poverty and hunger in the United States.

These grants do more than just give food to people who are hungry—in addition to immediate relief programs, ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants fund projects in community development and community-based organizing and advocacy that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty.

More at www.elca.org/domestichungergrants.

CALL Assist

Clergy, rostered leaders, and their families are sometimes the last ones to reach out for help with their own problems. But you don't have to wait until things fall completely apart before you ask for help. **Assist**, the employee assistance program of Fairview Health Services, can help. To speak confidentially with an **Assist** counselor about issues of personal or professional concern, call 612.672.2195. The phone is answered 24 hours a day.

NEXT DEADLINE

October 1

The deadline for the November issue is Oct. 1. The mailing date is Nov. 1. If you have questions, call the synod office at 651.224.4313.