



NOT
FOR SALE

I-K Lutheran

May, 2017

A Newsletter of the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” [Galatians 5:1]

For a week near the beginning of May, I have the honor and joy of representing the ELCA and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod as a voting member of the Twelfth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). This gathering of some 800 representatives and guests of the 145 member Lutheran churches from 98 countries occurs once every six to seven years and is the LWF’s highest decision-making body. This year, we will gather in Windhoek, Namibia, Africa. The Assembly will give general direction to the work of the LWF for the next few years. It will speak out on issues concerning the life and witness of the churches and the world. It will elect the LWF President and Council to serve until the next Assembly. At this Assembly the LWF will also commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in grand global fashion.

The theme for this assembly is “Liberated by God’s Grace,” supported by three sub-themes: “Salvation—Not for Sale,” “Human Beings—Not for Sale,” and “Creation—Not for Sale.” In the introduction to the Study Book for the Assembly is found this great nugget of a paragraph:

The Lutheran concept of liberation and freedom is closely linked to the doctrine of justification by faith through grace. According to the Lutheran tradition, this doctrine has also been called “the doctrine by which the church stands or falls.” It affirms that in Christ God’s love is given to us as a free and unconditional gift. The experience of forgiveness, of God’s grace, and God’s unconditional love frees us from fear, and allows us to express our gratitude through the loving and caring engagement with human beings and the whole of creation.

This helpful summary of the core Lutheran understanding of the good news reminds us that in Christ and by grace we are set free **from** fear and **from** having to secure our own salvation. But this freedom is not self-centered. This grace leads to responsible freedom. In other words, we are also set free to love our neighbor and all creation with the forgiveness, grace, and love of Christ that we ourselves have received from God.

As the LWF Study Book puts it, for Martin Luther this meant “Christian freedom was personal, but never private. Freedom was a calling to public service. According to Luther, God has called the church to be a ‘living word’ in the world. To be a ‘living word’ in the world also means to be committed to diaconal service, raising one’s voice, and taking action against the oppression of the poor, the persecuted, and the marginalized.”

Set free in Christ, we proclaim with our lives and our words: Salvation is not for sale. Human beings are not for sale. Creation is not for sale.

I invite you to join with your sisters and brothers from around the world in reflecting on these powerful, transformational themes during the month of May.

What have you been set free **from** in Christ? What have you been set free **to**? How might what you do and say more clearly reflect and share the amazing good news that we – and our world – are liberated by God’s grace?

Peace be with you,
+Bishop Bill Gafkjen

A PDF of the LWF Assembly Study Book can be downloaded here: <http://ow.ly/NAOs30b1Rhm>

A hymn composed by a Namibian musician around the theme and sub-themes of the Assembly can be downloaded here (e.g. for use in local Reformation or other observances): <http://ow.ly/Et3i30b1Ro4>

I-K Staff Welcomes Pastor Dan Fugate & Mr. Tom Dearchs

We are pleased to welcome Pastor Dan Fugate as the synod's new Assistant to the Bishop for Discipleship, beginning Monday, May 8, 2017. Pastor Fugate's ministry will focus on equipping, empowering, and encouraging the faith communities across the territory in Lifelong Faith Formation and Youth and Young Adult Ministries.



He will also serve as key liaison with Campus Ministries, lead planner for the program aspects of our annual Synod Assembly, and steward of the synod's relationship with the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (the synod's companion church in Indonesia). Dan will also be available for Sunday worship leadership and educational opportunities and will serve in other ways as needed and requested as a represent of the Office of the Bishop of the I-K Synod.



We are pleased to announce that Mr. Tom Dearchs will begin his full-time ministry as the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Communications, Office, and Synod Assembly Logistics Coordinator on May 15.

A resident of Kokomo, Indiana, Tom has served most recently as the Minister of Music & Parish Administrator at Christ Lutheran Church, Kokomo, Indiana, and the Founding Director of Music at Christ, a fine arts program for the church and the community. Mr. Dearchs has served the people of God at Christ for 18 years. Tom was the Director of Music for the 2015 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly and was actively involved in planning the music for the 2016 Assembly. He currently serves as a member of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Worship Committee and was instrumental in implementing the Mentoring Program for Musicians, a ministry of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. From previous work, Tom also brings office management and other organizational skills appropriate to this position.

I-K Synod Assembly June 1-3, 2017 *Formed, Reformed, Transformed* Covington, Kentucky

Service Projects

"...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

We are offering two types of service projects this year. Are you more active (enjoy doing something) or passive (like collecting something)? Whichever your preference, we have an opportunity for you to serve.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

We have partnered with two off-site two local charities to provide them some hands-on support: the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky and Welcome House of Northern Kentucky. Both sites will involve landscaping, cleaning, painting, and other physical type jobs.

If you are interested in serving at one of these organizations on Friday afternoon (during the workshop time), please click on this link to sign up (to assist us in arranging transportation): <https://ikassemblyservice.eventbrite.com>. We have a limited number of spots, so please sign up only if you intend to serve that day.

COLLECTIONS:

We are asking everyone coming to the assembly to please bring one of the following items. These collections are being made for the Women's Crisis Center of Northern Kentucky and the Fair Haven Rescue Mission. Items needed include: Women's personal hygiene products, personal care items (especially deodorant), flip flops (all sizes) and umbrellas and non perishable food supplies.

Volunteers Needed

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly needs volunteers! We can use assistance on Wednesday afternoon to unload and set-up, on Thursday to help with registration, be greeters, assist in the plenary hall and with worship, and on Friday and Saturday to serve in the plenary hall and other areas. Please contact Heather Apel, hapel@iksynod.org if you are able to help.