

NOTES & QUOTES

Volume 20, Issue 8

AUGUST 2007

FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP.....

Rev. Jennifer Johnson Wrege
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*For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Before I knew much about the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, I first heard these words in a pop tune sung by the *Byrds* in the 60's! I remember being surprised that the words were basically, almost word for word, from the Bible, which I thought, then, was a good enough reason to suggest that we sing this tune in church during worship on a Sunday morning. I was further encouraged by the fact that we had a young pastor, just out of seminary, who appeared to be "hip", just slightly rebellious, and modern (he had a beard, was funny, took Luther Leaguers to movies and helped us learn to discuss them theologically, and didn't always wear a collar all the time. He also wore shorts in the summer (even when he wasn't at Bible camp!), so I thought my suggestion would be something along the lines of a slam-dunk.

NO! It was not! My young, hip pastor wouldn't even publicly support it. The organist who had served at least 35 years on the bench would not even look at it. None of the other pianists in the congregation would even consider taking what was, apparently, a huge risk. Finally, months later, during a Wednesday evening Lenten Worship Service when a trio of post confirmation youth, which included me, were asked to sing something, anything we wanted, as special music during the offering, did we bring it on: *For everything turn, turn, turn; there is a season turn, turn, turn; and a time for every purpose under heaven....*" I played the guitar. The three of us sang. We felt like we had hijacked *Abide with Me* and rather cleverly got our tune in there.

If there is a time for every matter under heaven, what are the matters under consideration, review, scrutiny, discernment, evaluation, strengthening, encourag-



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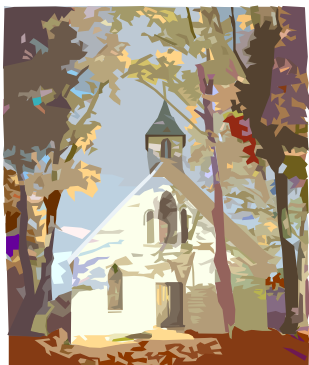
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REV. JENNIFER JOHNSON WREGE (CONTINUED)

ing, cutting, changing or transforming in your congregation at this time and season? In many congregations there are a variety of programs, projects and efforts that take a “breather” while other programs, projects and efforts move into full swing.



In our Synod, *Renewal of Congregations* will be the four pillar emphasis for the remainder of 2007, as well as guide us into 2008. While there is no “one size fits all” program for congregational renewal, there will be a variety of resources offered that congregations may choose to use to assist them in their ministry settings. Renewal of congregations can often be sparked with a review of the current ministry and mission programs by asking questions such as: What mission and ministry programs are working well? What might need to be strengthened, changed, adapted, or even put to rest for awhile? Where is God calling us in mission and ministry now? What needs to change in order for our congregation to go where God is calling us?

In the months ahead, you will hear much more about the resources and opportunities that will be available to congregations who have a desire to expand the conversation about ministry and mission. Additional information about these resources will also be available online at www.nglsynod.org as it becomes developed. Here’s a nutshell version of some of the resources:

“Does your congregation have an idea, dream or vision for ministry in the area of evangelism, but could use a bit of a financial boost to make it happen?”

+ Take part in the **Synod Wide Book Study!** While the Synod Council, committees, task forces, and teams will be reading and discussing the book, *Reclaiming the “C” Word: Daring to be Church Again*, by Kelly Fryer, suggest that small groups in your congregation read and discuss it. Use it with your congregation council, various committees, your congregation’s book club, prayer groups, WELCA, and more. Read about the thoughts of others in our Synod regarding this book in articles included in future *Notes and Quotes*.

+ Receive a **2007 Evangelism Grant!** Does your congregation have an idea, dream or vision for ministry in the area of evangelism, but could use a bit of a financial boost to make it happen? Since you know your ministry setting best, you decide the size and scope of the ministry project, event, activity, or program. Apply for the amount of grant dollars you need to help fund your idea - grant awards will be between \$100 and \$1,500. More information already available at www.nglsynod.org

+ Plan to participate in the **Healthy Congregations Workshop** offered October 19-20 at First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. This two-day workshop is offered to both clergy and lay leaders who have a desire to improve the health and vitality of their congregations’ mission and ministry. More information already available at

REV. JENNIFER JOHNSON WREGE (CONTINUED)

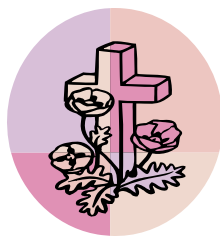
www.nglsynod.org.

+ Strengthen existing prayer ministries and create new ones by participating in the congregational workshop *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*. Members of the Synod Evangelism Committee are prepared to facilitate this workshop in your congregation, or in a cluster of nearby congregations. The workshop is approximately five hours in length.

+ **Heart to Heart: Moving Forward in Mission and Ministry:** Use this resource as a tool for assessing the current ministry in a congregation. It can also be an aid for discerning where God may be leading a congregation in mission and ministry, as well as a process for strengthening a congregation's awareness of mission and ministry.

What time is it in your congregation? Is it a time for renewal in any way, shape or form? If you discern that it is, there are others who will journey with you and resources to assist you.

Blessings!



Pastor Waldemar Framstad

1920-2007

We give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Pastor Waldemar Framstad, who died on Thursday, June 14, 2007, at Luther Home in Marinette, Wisconsin. He was 87 years of age.

After his ordination in 1949, Pastor Framstad served God's people in Tacoma and Burien, Washington; Bagley, Minnesota; L'Anse, Michigan; Marinette, Merrill and Pepin, Wisconsin. After his retirement, he served as a visitation pastor at Emmanuel in Menominee, Michigan and as Assistant Chaplain at Northland Lutheran Retirement Community in Marinette, Wisconsin.

Pastor Framstad is survived by his wife of 59 years, Betsy Framstad, five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, two sisters and many friends.

Pastor Framstad was an accomplished singer and a great man of faith. Christ has won for him and for all of us the victory of life over death. May God bless his memory in our midst!



Pastor Lance J. Roberts

1942-2007

We praise the Living Christ for the ministry and friendship of our brother, Pastor Lance J. Roberts. Pastor Roberts died at home on Sunday, June 24, 2007. He was 65 years of age.

After his ordination in 1968, Pastor Roberts served God's people in the ministry at Trinity in Stambaugh, and Bethany in Amasa from 1968 to 1972. He then became pastor of Holy Nativity in Kenosha, Wisconsin from 1972 to 1978. He served Christ the King Church in Escanaba from 1978 to 1986; First in Iron Mountain from 1986 to 1995; and Bethany in Republic from 1995 until his retirement from full-time ministry in 2001. He would later serve as Interim Pastor at Bethany in Ishpeming and Emanuel in Skandia.

Pastor Roberts is survived by his wife of 44 years, Marlys, three children and their spouses, and four grandchildren. He is also survived by his father, one sister, a brother, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Pastor Roberts was a man of faith who loved his calling to be a pastor in God's Church. We stand with his family and friends and praise God for his fruitful life. Christ has won for him and for all of us the victory of life over death. May God bless his memory in our midst!

TRANSITIONS

+God bless **Pastor Nancy Amacher (Messiah, Marquette)** as she completes her ministry at Messiah after nine years. Pastor Amacher reports that she is "taking the summer off and playing with her grandchildren." She and her husband, Dale, have purchased a

home in Withee, Wisconsin where they will be living. Pastor Amacher is not done with ordained ministry yet, but is waiting upon the Spirit's direction for a new call.

+The people of **Grace in South Range** and **First in Dollar Bay** have voted to "yoke" their ministry. They will be sharing a pastoral leader beginning this fall.

+God bless seminarian **Kenneth Lahners** who has accepted the Call to serve as pastor at **Trinity, Ishpeming**. Seminarian Lahners is a recent graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and comes to us from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. May God bless him and the people of Trinity as he begins his ministry in our midst.

+Welcome **Clay Hilman**, the new Youth and Family Minister at **Gloria Dei, Hancock**. Clay was installed as a Licensed Lay Minister on July 22, and will be employed full time by the congregation. We welcome Clay, his wife, Adrienne, and their two young children.

+Welcome to **Seminarian Luke Smetters** who will be doing a year's internship at **Bethany in Ishpeming** with **Pastor Warren Geier**.

+Thomas A. Skrenes

Bishop



THANK YOU!



ELCA Disaster Funds

Shepherd of the Lakes, Sayner
Bethany, Escanaba
Grace, Gwinn
Grace, South Range

Lutheran World Relief

Zion, Marinette
St. Mark's, Marquette
Faith, Ishpeming
First, Iron River
Holy Trinity, Chassell
Calvary, Rapid River

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Grace, Gwinn
Bethany, Amasa
Emanuel, Skandia
Trinity, Ishpeming

Bishop's Discretionary

In Memory of Rev. Lance Roberts

Seminarian Support

In Memory of Rev. Lance Roberts
from Rev. Jonathan & Jean Schmidt
Calvary, Minocqua
Zion, Ironwood
Immanuel, Rhinelander

All Saints, Wakefield
In Memory of Rev. Lance Roberts
from Rev. Jennie Johnson Wrege
and Marv Wrege

Lay School for Mission

Trinity, Rapid River

World Missionary Support

Pioneer Lake, Conover
Calvary, Rapid River
Trinity, Stambaugh
Bethany, Perkins
Bethel, Ishpeming

Tanzanian Teachers' Gift

John & Pauline Kiltinen

Endowment Fund

Dave & Linda Mason

Tanzania Projects

In Memory of Rev. Lance Roberts
from Bishop Tom & Luanne Skrenes
from Marlys Roberts

Kemppainen Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Rev. Lance Roberts
from Bethany, Ishpeming



Thank You Letters Received from Catholic Charities of the Upper Peninsula and Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

TO THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD:

Dear Bishop Skrenes:

Thank you for the \$1,000 offering received from the Lutheran/Roman Catholic Prayer Service on May 19, 2007. We will use this money to help people who have no other means to provide for their care.

I commit to you that Catholic Charities will work in whatever way possible in collaboration with Lutheran Social Services and the Northern Great Lakes Synod to use our limited resources in a cost effective and important way.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at 906/227-9116 or email me at:

lziomkowski@dioceseofmarquette.org

Sincerely yours,
Laurence Zomkowski
Executive Director

TO THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD:

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 from the Lutheran-Roman Catholic prayer service to Lutheran Social Services received on June 15, 2007.

With the demands of our society, the opportunities to serve those in need seem to multiply. Help from good friends like you allows us to increase and strengthen the helping hand we extend to increasing numbers each year.

We do make a difference in the lives of those we serve daily. Your gift helps this work continue.

We thank you for making the difference and assure you that your generosity is used to serve those in need.

Sincerely,
Richard Kochis
Director of UP Programs

Pastoral Vacancies and Interim Pastors

Grace, South Range & First, Dollar Bay - Pastor Jimalee Jones & Pastor Peter Gundersen

Bethel, Ishpeming - Associate Pastor Vacancy

Prince of Peace, Marquette - Pastor Rell Spickerman

Trinity, Stambaugh & Bethany, Amasa - Pastor Doug Johnson

All Saints, Wakefield - Pastor John Kuziej

Central, Menominee - Pastor Ken Michaelis

Pioneer Lake, Conover - Pastor Dorothy Lindstrom

Bethany, Covington & Trinity, Trout Creek - Pastor Marlin Snyder

Holy Cross, Baraga - Pastor Ted Koehl

Bethany, Norway - Pastor Earnest Ness

Bethel, Cedarville & Zion, Allenville - Pastor George Kaiser

Bethany, Mohawk - Pastor Peter Vorhes

Our Redeemer, Newberry - Pastor LaVonne Stephenson

Messiah, Marquette - Senior Pastor Vacancy

Calendar year giving in 2007 continues to remain higher than in 2006. However, fiscal year 2007 giving is \$12,477 below fiscal year 2006. Summer giving to your Synod can sometimes be a challenge, but we encourage you to lift up in prayer the many ministries we share in partnership, and to give joyfully, trusting in the knowledge that God is faithful in His promise to provide for all our needs.

As of 6/30/2007	2006	2007	\$ Change	% Change
Pledged Amount	1,033,577	1,045,301	+11,724	+1.1%
Amount Received	409,735	426,097	+16,362	+4%
Designated Gifts	87,743	84,789	-2,954	-3.4%



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SYNOD**

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ON-LINE DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST 2007

www.prayfaithfully.org

July 29-August 4 / Members of Our Saviour's, Paynesville

August 5-11 / Susan Anderson, Sharon, Bessemer

August 12-18 / Carole Neitzel, Our Redeemer, Champion

August 19-25 / Jeremy Reese, Faith, Rock

August 26-September 1 / Dick Neitzel, Our Redeemer, Champion

**Anyone feeling God's call to share devotions would be appreciated.
Please contact Jean Schmidt at prayfaithfully.org.**