



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

## Connections



Connecting the Congregational, Synodical, and Churchwide Expressions of the ELCA

## Making Disciples of All Nations

*By Bishop Rolf Wangberg*

One of my vivid memories of childhood was the commissioning of Jean Wang at St. John's Lutheran Church in Webster, South Dakota, to be a missionary to Japan. Following the service we went to the railroad station where Jean boarded the train to begin her journey. I was in awe of someone who was so committed to serving our Lord that they would commit their life to travel to a far distant land. Today, the ELCA still supports about 284 adult mission personnel. In 2005, 119 new missionaries started service, of these 44 percent were under age 30.

There are two programs for congregations to consider that want to support missionaries with second mile giving: Missionary Sponsorship and the Missionary Covenant Program. Missionary Sponsorship is intended to assist in identifying with the global ministries of the church; strengthen the total mission of the ELCA; and enable ELCA members to relate with ELCA missionaries.

In the Missionary Covenant Program, congregations, groups, or individuals pledge a minimum of \$1,000 per year to sponsor a missionary. Sponsors correspond with the missionary and pray for them. Missionaries in turn maintain regular contact with sponsors and visit them when they are in the United States on home leave.

These programs aren't intended to compete with or be a substitute for financial contributions to the general mission support program of the ELCA. Congregations sponsoring a missionary do so by providing new money, rather than using funds committed to general mission support.

Please remember missions and missionaries in your prayers, thanking them for their partnership in making Christ known.

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### The Northwestern Minnesota Synod

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## The startling facts about hunger

*From Bread for the World*

More than 850 million people in the world go hungry.

In developing countries, 6 million children die each year, mostly from hunger-related causes.

In the United States, 12.4 million children live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. That means one in ten households in the U.S. are living with hunger or are at risk of hunger.

### “We CAN end hunger”

We have the means. The financial costs to end hunger are relatively slight. The United Nations Development Program estimates that the basic health and nutrition needs of the world's poorest people could be met for an additional \$13 billion a year. Animal lovers in the United States and Europe spend more than that on pet food each year.

### Only a change in priorities and the will to end hunger

Bread for the World Institute collects facts on domestic and global hunger. It also generates answers to frequently asked questions about hunger. Or you can learn about what issues Bread for the World members are working on right now to bring an end to hunger in the U.S. and around the world. You can also get involved or write a letter to your member of Congress.

### Camp Noah for children of service personnel

You may know a child whose parent is serving in the military, and who will be returning home soon. If so, you are their link to a wonderful opportunity for children of veterans. *Camp Noah: A Soldier's Coming Home Camp* is that opportunity.

Camp Noah is a week-long, faith-based day camp for children ages K-6 grade. Designed by Lutheran Social Services, it has been implemented in a number of places, including the Red River Valley floods of the 1990s, and Hurricane Katrina/Gulf Coast communities.

There are many opportunities to volunteer, both on-site, and before the camp (e.g., prepare food). A camp in Moorhead will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church June 25-29, (218) 236-1333. Site Coordinator: Joy Finkelson, 701-261-8051 or 701-433-0185