



# Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Assembly Wrap Up - June 7, 8 & 9, 2012

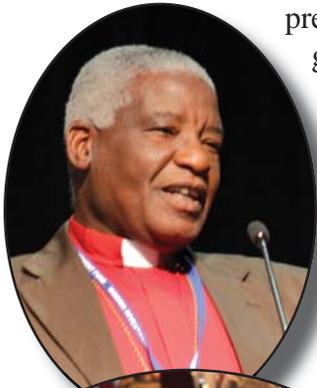
*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" (Isaiah 52:7)*



### Walking Together Around the Globe

A global flavor permeated our 2012 Synod

Assembly, highlighted by the presence of our honored guests, Bishop Stephen Dube of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ), his wife Mrs. Effina Dube, and General Secretary, M.M. Dube (no relation). They were available for conversation and lifted their voices in song at the Global Café which preceded the Assembly. Bishop Dube led the assembly in opening devotions and shared stories of mission in a workshop.



Devotions were led by Pastor Arden Strasser, ELCA Missionary with Pastor Banda from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia and Pastor Steve Biegner who described his mission work in Haiti. Pastor Jim Slater reminded us that mission also happens closer to home as his devotion focused on disaster response work in Prattsville.

Our Churchwide Representative was Tammy Jackson, the Director for International Leadership Development in the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA. Worship included hymns and lessons in a variety of languages. Offerings totaling \$37, 121, will purchase 46.5 barns of animals and 47 malaria nets through the ELCA World Hunger program and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

<http://upstatenynsynod.org>

### Mission Trip

Some members of the Assembly put the talk about mission into action by volunteering at Mary's Place Refugee Center during the Assembly. They assisted some Nepalese refugees with their English lesson, supervised children on a playground and organized donated food and clothing. Another group worked at FOODLINK, a regional food bank that distributes food to over 450 member agencies in Western and Central New York.

### Financial News

Treasurer Fred Risser reported that the risky fiscal position of the synod last year has improved significantly. Thanks to the giving of congregations and individuals and the careful control of spending by synod staff, the synod ended the year with a small operating profit. The 2013 Mission Proposal begins to gradually restore funding areas that had previously been cut: mission support to the ELCA, support to the Philadelphia seminary, and salaries for conference deans. It also includes a slight increase in salaries for synod staff. The assembly approved the 2013 Mission Proposal. A motion to support restored funding for outdoor ministries was referred to the Synod Council.

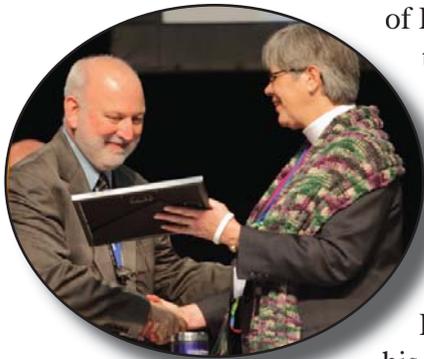
### Convo

Youth Convo served as pages, greeters, worship leaders and more. They also offered a prayer labyrinth for use by Assembly participants and took sandwiches out onto the streets to feed the homeless.



## Recognitions

The Congregational Discipleship Award went to Melissa Dwyer of Lord of Life, Depew and the Synodical Discipleship Award to Dr. Robert Lebel of King of Kings, Liverpool. The assembly also honored Pr.



Leonard Johnson for his fiftieth anniversary of ordination. Thanks were extended to Sandy Moncrief for her 12 years of service as Secretary as well as retiring Synod Council members and Conference Deans. We installed our new Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Judith vanOsdol.



## Closing

The 2012 Synod Assembly intertwined worship, business, and service opportunities throughout the day. Taking a cue from the assembly's Scripture verse, Isaiah 52:7, feet and footprints were everywhere. Every congregation had a large footprint on the wall on which to write their own mission projects and footprints led to the prayer room, workshop spaces and the mission faire. The plenary space was anchored by a large baptismal font, surrounded by pieces of paper containing prayer requests that had been tied onto wooden rods. As the drafts of air set the papers swirling and fluttering, it was as though we could see the movement of the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, moving among us and through us into the world.



## Elections

Secretary – 4 year term - Patrice (Patty) Sampson-Bouchard of Bethlehem, Fairport Board member of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia – Mr. Fred Risser, St. Paul's, Pittsford.  
Synod Council – 4 year terms  
Ms. Susan Nalle – Grace, Oswego  
Pastor Sarah Litzner – Zion, Cobleskill and St. Matthew's Chapel, Leesville  
Mr. Gary Roller – Redeemer, Rochester  
Ms. Ann Myers – St. Paul's, Dansville  
Pastor Jeff Kane – Messiah, Schenectady  
Ms. Samantha Rossi – St. Timothy, N. Greenbush  
Pastor Wendy Buckley – St. Paul's, Williamsville and N. Park, Buffalo  
Pastor Thomas Olson – Christ, Norwich  
Mr. Les King – First, Jamestown

Members of the Consultation and Discipline Committees were also elected.

Sixteen voting members and several alternates were elected to serve at the Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh in 2013.



*Resurrection people who pray first, walk together and change lives*