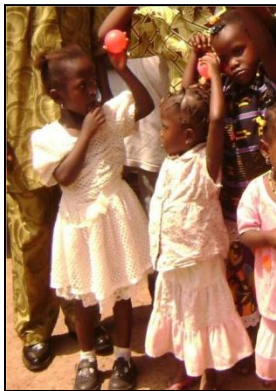


News Briefing

August 2011

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org



THE JUBILEE CENTRE, FREETOWN

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone

The Lutheran church in Sierra Leone is growing at an amazing rate. The enthusiasm of the laity, the dedication of the clergy, and the stirring of the Holy Spirit makes for an unstoppable combination. The expanding reach of the ELCSL is evident in the growing number of congregations, lay evangelists, elementary schools, medical services and training programs. People from all around the capital city of Freetown can literally “look to the hills” to see that there is help and compassion – for it is on the hillside in Freetown that the ELCSL’s Jubilee Centre is being constructed as a place of personal, spiritual and community care and outreach. It’s their church home.

This fall leaders from across the NT-NL Mission Area will be visiting with congregations and members to tell the story of the *DiscipleLife Alive!* initiative. This initiative holds within it the hope and promise of renewal and revitalization within our mission area as it expands our capacity for mission in northern Texas and Louisiana and fans the flames of expansion in the ELCSL. Already we have gifts and pledges of three-quarters of a million dollars toward the \$3 million goal. One-half of the proceeds (\$1.5 million) will be used to create the DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood as a leadership training center (featured in the May *News Briefings*). One-third of the proceeds (\$1 million) will be managed by the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund to sustain programming for Leadership Formation in the NT-NL (featured in the July *News Briefings*). And a tithe (one-tenth) of the proceeds (\$300,000) will be used to complete the Jubilee Centre in Sierra Leone as a similar Center for Mission for the ELCSL (our companion church). Our videos tell the story of *DiscipleLife Alive!* Go to www.NTNLvideos.org.



Congregational Leadership Academy 2012

Plenty of congregational leaders find themselves wishing that someone would help them understand what they are to do in their leadership role, especially if conflict surfaces. The NT-NL’s Congregational Leadership Academy (part of our *Alive! Series*), can help in a couple of ways – (1) learning about congregations as dynamic systems, the management of conflict, and the positive benefits of a mission vision; and (2) gathering with other leadership teams to support and learn from each other. The academy will be offered during Lent, 2012.

Congregations are invited to send a team of 3 to 5 key leaders (including the pastor) to the three sessions of the Academy; each session is a Friday-Saturday. The Academy will be hosted by Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor. Learn more about the Academy at <http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/leaders/leadership-academy-2012>.

FYI (Go to www.NTNL.org)

August Emphasis: Briarwood & Parish Lay Mission Academy

- ❖ **DiscipleLife Alive! Training Celebrations** are scheduled for this fall in multiple places around our mission area to inspire and train congregational leaders in ways to promote DLA! in the congregation. The schedule of Training Celebrations is published at <http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/disciplelife-alive/dla-training-celebrations>.
- ❖ **LOL: Leadership Outside the Lines:** Leadership is something that can be taught, learned and practiced. You can improve your understanding of the skills and concepts of leadership at this “LOL” training event, Sept. 20-21 and Oct. 14-16 at Briarwood. Learn more at <http://www.briarwoodretreat.org/LOL.htm>.
- ❖ **Campus Ministry Referral:** Let the Campus Ministry program at the college where your daughter or son is headed know about your loved one. Just go to <http://lcmaustin.org/newstudentinfo> and fill out the online referral form.
- ❖ **The ELCA Youth Gathering** is returning to New Orleans in 2012 as “Citizens with the Saints”. Learn more about this gigantic youth event at www.elca.org/gathering.
- ❖ **A “Glocal Mission Gathering”** takes place in San Antonio on Sept. 23-24. Learn more at www.elca.org/glocal.

The Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Mission Area of the ELCA – *DiscipleLife: Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus*

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