

# News Briefing

October 2011

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org)

Celebrating our Ministry together  
in the NT-NL Mission Area



## Hay Lift Iowa to Texas

Texas has been dangerously hot, dry and ablaze this year. Cattle lost. Homes lost. Pastures lost. So it's no surprise that talk of the desperation became a topic of conversation between the voting members from NT-NL to the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando in mid-August and a delegation of voting members from Iowa. One of those who heard the plea from Stephanie Varnum (NT-NL Vice President) and Jesus Escamilla (NT-NL Lay Evangelist) was Pastor Harold McMillin of St. John Lutheran Church in Luana, Iowa. He suggested a Hay Lift from Iowa, where crops have been plentiful, to Texas. The idea caught on immediately. By early September five truckloads of hay had been delivered to three churches' doorsteps – Bethel in Avoca, San Gabriel in Alvarado, and Trinity in Miles – for distribution to families in the greatest need. It is “God’s Work. Our Hands.”

*The needs are great. This is the worst drought in Texas history. Your prayers and gifts are invaluable. Learn more about [Hay Lift 2011](http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/news/hay-lift) at [www.ntnl.org/index.php/news/hay-lift](http://www.ntnl.org/index.php/news/hay-lift).*



### Hearing a Call to Service?

Have you thought about becoming a pastor or a lay professional church worker? Are you curious about seminary life and the requirements of theological education and candidacy? The NT-NL Candidacy Committee can assist you in your discernment. Info contact: Pastor Stan Meyer ([Stan.Meyer@ntnl.org](mailto:Stan.Meyer@ntnl.org)).

**FYI** (Go to [www.NTNL.org](http://www.NTNL.org))

**October Emphases: ELCA Hunger Appeal and Women & Men's Ministries**

- ❖ **NT-NL Campus Ministry** hosts its annual *Trivia Challenge* on October 9 at Christ, Dallas, to support the work of its ministry on campus. Info contact: Pastor Celene Welch ([PastorCWelch@msn.com](mailto:PastorCWelch@msn.com)).
- ❖ **The Mission Endowment Fund's Dinner-Fundraiser** is October 22 at Advent, Arlington. The dinner includes a live and silent auction plus music by “Scattered Seeds”. Info contact: Hattie Hammer ([Hattie.Hammer@att.net](mailto:Hattie.Hammer@att.net)).
- ❖ **Wildfires:** Do you know of a Lutheran family that has suffered a loss due to the wildfires? Lutheran Disaster Response has small grants that can help. Info contact: Stephanie Varnum ([Stephanie@ntnl.org](mailto:Stephanie@ntnl.org)). Also, the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod is receiving donations from individuals to help those affected by the fires ([www.GulfCoastSynod.org](http://www.GulfCoastSynod.org)).
- ❖ **The NT-NL Women of the ELCA** is offering its fall retreat on Oct. 8 at Briarwood. Learn more at [NTNL.org](http://NTNL.org).
- ❖ **Same Kind of Different:** The LYO Jr. High Gathering is Nov. 11-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison. It features the wit and wisdom of Wes Halula. Register by Oct. 10 for a discount. Registration information is at [NTNL.org](http://NTNL.org)
- ❖ **Russia Adoption Program:** LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is seeking families who feel called to adopt a child. They have an active Russia Adoption Program. Info contact: Pastor Martha Nack ([Martha.Nack@lsswis.org](mailto:Martha.Nack@lsswis.org)).
- ❖ **GUSTO!** is a speaker series for mature adults offered the second Monday of each month (Sept. through May) at King of Glory, Dallas. On Oct. 10 the program is *To Your Health: Air and Water Quality in North Texas* by Myron Knudson. More information at [www.KingofGlory.com/Gusto](http://www.KingofGlory.com/Gusto).
- ❖ **TLU Concert Choir** members of the 1980's are invited to a Concert Choir Reunion at this year's *TLU Homecoming*, October 29. Info contact: Andrew Huang ([AHuang@DowntownHouston.org](mailto:AHuang@DowntownHouston.org)).

## DiscipleLife Alive!

Transforming the Future



**DiscipleLife Alive! Leadership Training Celebrations** are taking place all around the NT-NL Mission Area this fall. Come hear about the progress of the DLA! Initiative, learn how to share with others the story and excitement that DLA! has generated, and plan ways to get your congregation involved in supporting this crucial work. Learn more at [NTNL.org](http://NTNL.org).

Sept. 26 (6 p.m.) – Holy Trinity, Shreveport  
Sept. 27 (6 p.m.) – First, Longview  
Sept. 28 (6 p.m.) – Faith, Flower Mound

Oct. 8 (11 a.m.) – St. Paul, Levelland  
Oct. 11 (7 p.m.) – Resurrection, Plano  
Oct. 12 (6 p.m.) – Faith, Fort Worth  
Oct. 13 (6 p.m.) – Shepherd of Life, Arlington  
Oct. 15 (10 a.m.) – Trinity, Miles  
Oct. 20 (6 p.m.) – New Life in Christ, Duncanville  
Oct. 22 (10 a.m.) – St. Matthew, Waco  
Oct. 27 (6:30 p.m.) – New Hope, Keller