



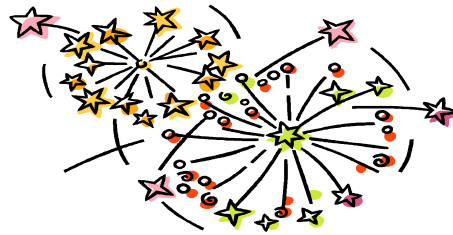
New Jersey Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

STEWARDSHIP SPARKLERS

FALL 2009



STEWARDSHIP

- Strengthens Faith
- Enacts Justice
- Sustains the Planet

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THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD

Who are we?

We are God's people, gathered together as approximately 80,000 Lutherans, 182 congregations, 1 camp and conference center, 5 ministries under development, 16 mission clusters, and 327 pastors, associates in ministry, and deaconesses.

We're working together, in thousands of places, in thousands of ways, with a passion for God's Word and a compassion for God's world. We do ministry *with, among, and for* each other! On the whole, we live and work in New Jersey, but our ministries reach around the world!

What is a "synod"?

A "synod" is a "shared journey." It actually comes from two Greek words: the words that give us "synonymous" and "odyssey". So, to be together as a synod is to be on a "synonymous odyssey." It means that we journey together: strengthening, challenging, and supporting one another in solidarity as God leads us, along similar paths, into God's future.

Why are we a synod?

Because God knows we need one another! God knows we can love more fully, give more freely, and see more clearly, when we are gathered as God's people. Together we find the strength and courage to meet God's challenge each day; together we meet God's comfort and forgiveness in the compassion of one another. As individuals and as churches, we belong together as genuine partners and friends.

May we take up this "shared journey", knowing that we grow toward our best as we grow together. Together, we learn from one another's experiments. Together, we lift up one another in prayer, in challenge, and in celebration. Together, we care for one another in times of need. And together, we can reach out with a greater strength, share our insights, pool our resources, and coordinate our efforts in more effective ways!

Mission Highlights

Through gifts, grants, publications, staff work, special events, volunteers, mission teams, consultants, workshops, programs, studies and celebrations, we are bringing God's Good News around the world. In 2010, the New Jersey Synod proposes to invest \$2,782,650 to strengthen God's ministries across New Jersey, the United States, and the world!

