

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

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IPLC

Inviting in God's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for others

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

When you open this issue of Tidings, I will be celebrating my one year anniversary as the pastor of this congregation. The last year has been one of great personal joy and growth for me, and I know that the last 12 months have given us the opportunity to live and learn together. In some ways, it has been a whirlwind adventure learning about what it means to pastor a congregation like Irving Park Lutheran, every week speeding by until suddenly I realized that we have had an entire year and about 700 church parties together! In other ways, pastoring IPLC has been a slow process, getting to know each of you and what you hold dear in this life and place.

As many of you know, the last month has brought some significant changes to my personal life. In early September, Josh and I got engaged. Many of you have met Josh in church or at other IPLC events, but Josh and I look forward to spending more time with all of you as we prepare for our marriage. It is amazing to look towards a future with Josh that I also am able to share with all of you! I know that both of us feel incredibly blessed to have a church family who support us and hold us in prayer as we begin the process of becoming our own family.

As I look back on my first year here, and look toward the future, I am struck by the wealth of gifts that this congregation holds. We are a people who are active in the neighborhood and world; we are a people who bring skills and gifts from our personal lives and our work to this place; we are people who are invested in worship together; we are a people who are willing to learn and change and grow together. Over the next many months I would like to begin the process of visioning a new future together- looking at our many gifts, and prayerfully considering the ways in which God would like us to use them.

All of our church publications have somewhere on them the line, "Continuing the Journey." This congregation has been a vibrant part of this neighborhood for more than 100 years, and the journey continues! We are a blessed people, and it is a joy to look towards the future with excitement rather than dread! I owe many thanks to all of you for your patience and kindness over the last year, and I look forward to a long future together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Petersen

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA
TENTH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY
AUGUST 6-11, 2007, CHICAGO
A BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 6-11, 2007, at Navy Pier, Chicago. About 2,000 people participated, including 1,069 voting members. The theme was “Living in God’s Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!”

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson Re-Elected

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, 60, was elected to serve a second six-year term as presiding bishop. Hanson was re-elected on the second ballot with 888 votes of the 1,029 cast. Seventy-five percent of the ballots cast are required for election on the second ballot. The runner-up nominee, the Rev. Karl P. Donfried, received 73 votes. Hanson fell two votes short of being re-elected on the first or nominating ballot. He begins his second term Nov. 1. Hanson was first elected presiding bishop at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly. In 2003 he was elected president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and will serve in that role until 2010.

David D. Swartling Elected Secretary

David D. Swartling, 60, a Seattle attorney, was elected to a six-year term as ELCA secretary. Swartling was elected on the fifth ballot, 611 to 366, over the Rev. Paul A. Schreck, executive for constitution and rostering interpretation and oversight, ELCA Office of the Secretary. Swartling will succeed the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, who has been secretary since the ELCA was formed in 1987. Almen announced last year he would not seek a fifth term and will leave office Oct. 31. He was presented the Servus Dei (Servant of God) Medal at the assembly, given to churchwide officers who are completing their terms.

Assembly Encourages Restraint in Discipline of Congregations, Leaders

The Churchwide Assembly made no changes to ELCA standards for professional leaders, declining proposals that suggested specific policy changes. By a vote of 538 to 431, the assembly asked its synods and bishops to “refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining” people and congregations that call otherwise-qualified candidates in mutual, chaste and faithful committed same-gender relationships, and it called for restraint in disciplining rostered leaders in committed same-gender relationships. The proposal was adopted as a substitute for a recommendation of the Memorials Committee.

Following the decision, Hanson said, “These are words of counsel. They are not words that change the standards of the church. They reflect the mind of this assembly as it

seeks to give counsel to the leaders of this church.”

The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality is currently developing a social statement on human sexuality for consideration by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Voting members referred to the task force memorials regarding same-sex blessings, ELCA clergy standards and other matters. The assembly added an amendment to its referral on clergy standards, directing the task force to “specifically address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.”

“Book of Faith” Initiative Affirmed

The assembly endorsed “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible,” a five-year initiative to promote study of the Bible. The initiative grew out of a proposal the North Carolina Synod made to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. One recommendation stressed the importance of Scripture for believers “throughout the ages” and thanked the North Carolina Synod for proposing the initiative. It was adopted by a vote of 1,000 to 19. A companion recommendation, adopted 956 to 68, gave specific suggestions for ways to “invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing and being formed by God’s Word.”

Education Social Statement Adopted

With a 949 to 35 vote, the assembly adopted a social statement, “Our Calling in Education,” which addresses issues of children’s faith formation, equitable access to education, quality of U.S. public schools, and support for Lutheran schools, colleges and campus ministries. The assembly also adopted the statement’s accompanying implementation actions. Several amendments were adopted, including the addition of language that addresses the specific needs of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities as well as students with disabilities. Social statements are significant documents adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. There are now nine ELCA social statements.

Assembly Strengthens ELCA’s Financial Future

Striving to strengthen the future financial resources of the ELCA, voting members accepted a report with recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, appointed to study the ELCA’s funding policies and practices. By a 623 to 52 vote, the assembly received “with gratitude” the committee’s report, commended the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church, and fostered a renewed commitment to “vigorous mission-support efforts.” The assembly called for the development of a resource for presentation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to “help

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HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

This month, Irving Park Lutheran Church is coming up on a significant milestone in its history. It was 90 years ago, on Sunday, Oct. 28, 1917, that our church building was dedicated.

It took five years from when the "New Church Building Committee" began its work in 1912 until the new building opened its doors to the community. The total project cost less than \$40,000.

The cornerstone for our church was put in place on Oct. 1, 1916, and construction on the new church building continued for the next 10 months.

Oct. 28, 1917, was chosen for the building dedication to honor the 400th anniversary of the Reformation, which took place on Oct. 31, 1517. That's when Martin Luther started the Reformation by posting his "Ninety Five Theses on the Power of Indulgences" on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany.

Naturally, October 1917 was a festive time at IPLC. Five days before the dedication ceremony, on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 23, Prof. J.V. Bergquist

from the Augustana Conservatory had the honor of first playing the church's new Moller-Carnegie pipe organ at a dedication concert. That organ eventually was replaced 36 years later, in 1953, by our current pipe organ.



The September 1917 edition of the Forsamlings-Bladet had a picture of our new church building on its cover, and it gave notice of the Dedication Ceremony planned for Oct. 28, 1917.

Miss Corlew Smith was the soprano soloist at the organ dedication concert. As was noted in the Forsamlings-Bladet (predecessor of the Tidings): "Mrs. S. Has a charming personality and her presentations simply captivated her audience." Miss Amy Emerson Niell also sang a solo, and the IPLC chorus choir, led by George A. Carlson, also performed.

Two days later, on Thursday, Oct. 25, IPLC hosted a neighborhood service. The Calvary, Mission and Swedish Methodist congregations were welcomed at a service at IPLC. The combined choirs of the four churches closed the service with a singing of "America."

—Ralph Greenslade

YOUTH GROUP CORNER

The youth group (grades 7-12) has an exciting schedule ahead of them at IPLC! I truly hope that you decide to take some time in your already very busy schedules to let yourself be part of something really cool (I promise!). All you have to do is say YES and ask mom or dad for a ride, or call a friend and start a car pool! We realize most youth find it more comfortable to come with friends, so feel free to invite a buddy to come too! More information about the upcoming events can be found in Sunday bulletins, emails and mailings, or by contacting Erin Day at erin@iplc.org or 773-551-6823.

Fall Youth Calendar

October

- 7 Krispy Kreme selling day
- 13 Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity Youth Blitz Day
- 14 Krispy Kreme Selling Day; Youth Group Meeting, 7-8:30pm
- 21 Krispy Kreme Pickup Day; LYONS Food Drive Prep @ UIF, 5:30pm
- 26 Haunted Trails Halloween Event

November

- 4 LYONS Food Drive, Distributing Bags
- 11 LYONS Food Drive, Bag Pickup
- 18 Youth Group Meeting, 7-8:30pm



(Continued from page 2)

congregations assess their responsible and accountable use of God's resources commended to their care."

Assembly Asks for Social Statement on Criminal Justice by 2013

By a vote of 957 to 68, the assembly directed the ELCA Church in Society program unit to develop a social statement on criminal justice for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Requests for the statement grew out of memorials from three synods. The social statement will be developed following consultation with church members and others involved in criminal justice, and it is expected to deal with topics such as the prison system, rehabilitation for those convicted of crimes and the current cost of incarcerating criminals.

ELCA Assembly Extends Full Communion Relationship with Moravian Church

Voting members extended the ELCA's full communion relationship with the Moravian Church in America to the East West Indies and the Alaska Provinces of the Moravian Church in America by a vote of 999 to 23. The 1999 Churchwide Assembly adopted a proposal for full communion with the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America.

The assembly adopted several other proposals:

+ **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** was "received with thanksgiving" as this church's primary worship resource. Released in 2006, about 725,000 volumes of the book have been distributed.

+ It called for a churchwide strategy for responding to **HIV and AIDS** to build on and deepen current denominational engagement with the pandemic in the United States and around the world. The resolution urged further prayer, charity, advocacy and education efforts. The ELCA committed \$1 million to be used for the strategy's implementation. The assembly asked the Church Council to consider committing up to \$1 million more for implementation of the strategy.

+ The assembly invited renewed efforts by members and congregations to "reach and surpass, as soon as possible," a goal of \$25 million in annual giving to the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**.

+ The assembly said Lutherans should study the situation in **Darfur, Sudan**, and advocate to federal officials on behalf of Darfur, a place where the U.S. government has called the mass killing "genocide." The action praised the presiding bishop for the efforts he and the LWF have made to address the situation in Darfur.

+ Voting members declared their opposition to "any escalation of the war" in **Iraq** and asked this church to call

on the U.S. government to "take immediate and comprehensive steps to end the violence and establish a peaceful, stable, and just society in that country." They urged the ELCA to engage in "moral deliberation about the situation in Iraq," urged concern for military personnel and their families, and asked ELCA members to make their views known to members of Congress.

+ ELCA congregations and other Lutheran agencies should provide a "welcoming and supporting environment for returning **military veterans**," according to an assembly resolution.

+ The assembly called on the ELCA to recommit to this **church's strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine**, including a call for economic initiatives. An assembly amendment said that economic initiatives could, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, include "purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements." The assembly also called for examination of investment activity by the ELCA and added an amendment that specifically excludes "the option of divestiture." Awareness-building, accompaniment and advocacy activities are components of the strategy, adopted by the Church Council in 2005, and the ELCA "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land" campaign that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly adopted.

+ With a 318 to 309 vote, the assembly asked **synod bishops to discuss their accountability** "to the adopted policies, practices and procedures of the ELCA" and requested that a report be brought to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

+ **Budgets for the ELCA churchwide organization for 2008 and 2009** were adopted.

+ The assembly acted on several other memorials by pointing out previous actions on the specified subject, declining to act or referring them to the Church Council and churchwide units.

Eleventh Biennial Assembly AUGUST 17-23, 2009 Minneapolis

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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OCTOBER 2007

Readings for the Month

- 1 Proverbs 22:2-16
- 2 Proverbs 28:3-10
- 3 Luke 9:43b-48
- 4 Ezekiel 18:5-24
- 5 Revelation 3:14-22
- 6 Psalm 62
- 7 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10
- 8 2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36
- 9 2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37
- 10 Matthew 20:29-34
- 11 Isaiah 7:1-9
- 12 Revelation 2:12-29
- 13 Psalm 3
- 14 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19
- 15 Numbers 12:1-15
- 16 Leviticus 14:33-53
- 17 Luke 5:12-16
- 18 Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-31
- 19 2 Timothy 2:1-7
- 20 Psalm 61
- 21 Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5, Luke 18:1-8
- 22 1 Samuel 25:2-22
- 23 1 Samuel 25:23-42
- 24 Luke 22:39-46
- 25 Isaiah 54:11-17
- 26 2 Timothy 2:14-26
- 27 Psalm 27
- 28 Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22, Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14
- 29 Daniel 5:1-12
- 30 Daniel 5:13-31
- 31 Luke 1:46-55

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Sara & Bruce Anderson - October 1, 1988
Holly & Larry Lundquist - October 25, 1969
Meagan & Isaac Sporrang - October 26, 2002
Jonna & Eric Brodersen - October 28, 1995

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debra Rogers
Ann Smith
- 3 Judith Freels
- 4 Eric Brodersen
Lori Johnson
- 7 Garrett Brodersen
Alexandra Phillips
- 8 Jonna Brodersen
- 9 Elizabeth Greenslade
Bill Sherlock
- 10 Joseph Freels, Jr.
- 11 Risé Wier
- 12 Katherine Kuhn
- 15 Davie Hall
Holly Smith Grattan
Blanca Vargas
- 17 Molly Haneberg
- 19 Clifford Swanson
- 20 Alexander Haneberg
- 21 Julia Wier
- 22 Christina Larson
- 24 Megan Welch
- 25 Christine Johnson
- 27 Zephranie Buetow
- 28 Edgar Hammerberg
Joyce Raygor
Sandra Stumme
- 31 John Van Essen

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am-Chapel, Sunday School, Adult Studies

10:30 am-Traditional Service

11:45 am-Ensemble rehearsal

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Thursdays at 7:00

Potluck September 27

Calling all pets and pet owners! In honor of the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, Irving Park will hold our first Blessing of the Animals. Join us on October 6th at 12:00 pm in the Carlson Building Backyard for a short service to bless the animals most important to us. Bring your dogs, cats, gerbils, goldfish, or any other animal you would like to include in the service. Make sure to have them in appropriate cages or on leash to prevent any bad behavior! See you on the 6th at noon!

OCTOBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00 MAP	2 3:00 MAP 6:30 Paris Visitor's Meeting 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Carlson Board Meeting 8:00 Basketball	3 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel	4 10:30 Hope Circle 3:00 MAP 7:00 Mid-Week	5 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Women's Volleyball, Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	6 10:30 Confirmation, Basketball 12:00 Blessing of Pets
7 8:00 Independence Park Farmers' Market 3:00 Swedish Cultural Society 4:30 Girl's Volleyball	8 7:30 Congregational Council	9 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	10 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel	11 3:00 MAP 7:00 Mid-Week	12 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	13 10:30 Basketball
14 4:30 Girl's Volleyball	15 3:00 MAP 7:00 Miriam Circle	16 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	17 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel	18 3:00 MAP 7:00 Mid-Week	19 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	20 10:30 Confirmation, Basketball
21 11:45 Annual Meeting 3:00 Jupiter Lodge 4:30 Girl's Volleyball	22 3:00 MAP	23 3:00 MAP 6:00 Team Night 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	24 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel	25 3:00 MAP 6:00 Potluck 7:00 Mid-Week	26 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 6:00 Halloween Party 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	27 10:30 Confirmation Rehearsal Basketball
28 Reformation Sunday 4:30 Girl's Volleyball	29 3:00 MAP	30 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	31 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel	Please Check the Web-site and the bulletin for updates.		

TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2007, VOLUME XXXIV, No. 10

Visit our Website: <http://www.iplc.org>

Rev. Brooke Petersen, Pastor
pastorpetersen@iplc.org

IPLC Office
office@iplc.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday:
9:00 am Sunday School, Chapel and
Adult Studies
10:30 Holy Communion

Thursday, Midweek Worship
7:00 pm

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson	Dwan Buetow
Sue Geisler	David Hall
Elmer Haneberg	Sharon Iverson
Eleanor Kepp	Larry Lundquist
Noel Nape	Richard A. Plambeck
Bill Sherlock	Isaac Sporrang
Lee Stein	Sandra Stumme
Holly VanEssen	Darcie Wadycki

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