



Barnabas Uplift Helping Iowans

Zion Lutheran Church, Oelwein, recently hosted a graduation ceremony for students in the Barnabas Uplift Help4Health Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program. This initiative helps low-income Iowans obtain CNA training, providing an avenue out of poverty. The hope is that these students will later continue their education, possibly becoming LPNs or RNs. Other CNA training sites include Des Moines, Iowa Falls, Waterloo, and in the Western Iowa Synod, Spencer and Fort Dodge.

Another Barnabas Uplift initiative helps eligible, low-income Iowans complete tax returns and receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, money which they can use to pay bills or rent, buy food, decrease debt, etc. If all eligible Iowans received their Earned Income Tax Credit, the economic impact in rural areas would be significant.

How can congregations help with the EITC program? First, a congregation becomes the location for the ministry and finds space where tax documents can be photocopied, the taxpayers can be logged in, and the copies of all documents can be gathered and mailed to Iowans for Social and Economic Development (ISED). Second, outreach materials are sent to community agencies and to the faith community detailing when and where people can bring their tax documents. It's that simple!

Barnabas Uplift is an ecumenical ministry in Iowa whose pro-



grams are designed to give individuals living at or near the poverty level a hand up rather than a hand out. Barnabas Uplift partners include the three ELCA Iowa synods. Read more about Barnabas Uplift on the Western Iowa Synod Web site, www.wisynod.org, or contact Michelle Talbott, Western Iowa Synod Barnabas Uplift Coordinator, at wisnt@wisynod.org or 319-371-9552. Michelle would love to visit with you about Barnabas Uplift and how you and your congregation can become involved!

2010 Festival Assembly News

The Western Iowa Synod ELCA will meet in Festival Assembly May 1-2, 2010, at the Convention Center in Sioux City. This venue has served our needs well and will be familiar to many assembly voting members and visitors. The Convention Center will be transformed for this first Festival Assembly to be held in Sioux City.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission ELCA, will bring a mission focus to the assembly and will likely serve as churchwide representative. We will host an in-gathering of gifts for the Lutheran Mission Center Thrift Store in Sioux City.

Registration will open early Saturday morning, and by mid-morning the assembly will gather in Festival Worship. Saturday afternoon will be devoted to the Ministry Fair, shaped by synod mission and ministry work groups in cooperation with the Committee of Assembly Business and Counsel. The Ministry Fair will feature a Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale and the Resource Center will present an expanded line of Augsburg Fortress products. The Ministry Fair will conclude with dinner and evening entertainment.

Synod elections this assembly will include synod secretary and 2011 Churchwide Assembly voting members. The synod nominating committee is partnering with conference leaders to identify nominees and request biographical information.



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Assembly goers will be invited to worship in Sioux City area congregations Sunday morning. Detailed information will be provided at assembly check-in. The morning worship schedule will be complemented by a buffet brunch and Sunday school at the Convention Center. Assembly business will resume Sunday afternoon with an anticipated mid-afternoon adjournment.

Registration materials will be mailed in late January. Rostered leaders, lay adult and youth voting members, and visitors — including youth — must register by April 1 to receive pre-assembly information. The deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered at the 2010 Festival Assembly is Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

The Vision is a quarterly publication for congregations of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA. For more information, contact the Western Iowa Synod, 318 East Fifth St, PO Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588-0577, 712-732-4968, wis@wisynod.org. Visit us on the Web at www.wisynod.org.



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