

opportunities *around the* **Synod**

- **New Life for Your Church: a Workshop with Paul Nixon** will be held March 22-23 at the Quality Inn in Jamestown. Nixon is the author of *I Refuse to lead A Dying Church*. This workshop, sponsored by the North Dakota Conference of Churches, will challenge church leaders (lay and clergy) to refuse to accept the status quo for our churches and our faith, and to intentionally move to rebuild the church, its membership and its faith. You may register online at www.ndconferenceofchurches.com/up_coming_events or call Elisha at (701) 226-8037. Registration is \$40.
- **Hospice of the Red River Valley** is in need of volunteers to visit patients in your area! Volunteering for Hospice is a powerful way to help friends and neighbors at a critical time. Volunteers would provide companionship by reminiscing and sharing stories, giving wheelchair rides, writing letters or cards, running errands, helping with a meal, and sitting with a patient so caregivers may have a break. Please consider this opportunity by contacting Muriel Leach, Volunteer Coordinator, at 701.356.1565 or mleach@hrrv.org
- Make sandbagging money for the **Caring for Children** program by volunteering to fill bags in Fargo. [*Caring for Children provides access to health, dental and mental health care services for eligible North Dakota children, ages birth to 19. These children are from working families who do not qualify for government funded programs but whose parents cannot afford private health insurance. Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND initiated the program in 1989 and provides all administrative costs as an in kind donation. Therefore, 100% of all donations go directly to provide care for children enrolled in the program. For more information, visit www.ndcaring.org]
The city of Fargo is currently offering \$75 to registered non-profit agencies for every 100 hours a group spends filling sandbags. If you volunteer, you can choose the Caring for Children program as the agency to receive the money for your hours worked. Sandbags are being filled from 8 am-8 pm Monday through Saturday at Sandbag Central; park at the Coliseum, 807 17th Ave No, Fargo and take a bus to Sandbag Central. Buses run every half hour. Before going, groups of 5 or more should call FirstLink at 476-4000 to sign up.*
- **Lutheran Social Service** continues to collect quilts and kits for various programs:
 1. **New American Services** is collecting quilts for new arrivals. Contact Darci Asche or Lynette Seminole at (701)271-1604 to make arrangements for delivery.
 2. **Great Plains Food Bank** is collecting quilts for Haiti relief. Call Joann Matthews at (701) 476-9102 for details. The Fargo Food bank is open 8-12 and 1-5 pm Monday to Friday.
 3. **Lutheran Disaster Response** is collecting quilts, health kits, school kits, sewing kits and layettes for the annual LWR drive. Pick up is at LSS, 1325 11th St So, Fargo the week of May 17-21 and at Midwest Motor Express, 2215 No Washington, Grand Forks the week of May 20-21.
- **"For the Bible Tells Me So"**, a 90-minute documentary film addressing human sexuality with stories of real people as they have struggled with concerns in the context of their faith, is available for showing in your congregation. Discussion leaders who are members of Lutherans Concerned are available to come and lead in discussion and dialogue. All are invited to share in this educational opportunity, sponsored by the Hunger and Justice committee of the EaND Synod. If you would like this program brought to your congregation, contact Vicki Schmidt (701.282.0480) or veschmidt45@msn.com.

