

mission in *motion*

by Rev. Keith Zeh, Director for Evangelical Mission

Men's Mission is on the Move in the synod

Congregations with a higher percentage of men actively engaged tend to have stronger worship attendance and stronger stewardship, family and children's ministries. According to an ELCA study, the percentage of men worshipping in our congregations hovers around 30 percent. What is keeping men away from church? What can congregations do about it?

Barna's research group did a study and found that: 1) men want to understand how faith connects to their everyday life; 2) they are seeking significant relationships with other men; and 3) fathers are searching for quality instruction and a positive Christian experience for their children, even if that was not part of their experience growing up.

The Lutheran Men in Mission Team of the Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota Synod is caught up in a vision. The vision is for every man to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective ministry with men in every congregation. This vision is shaping the ***Building Men and Men's Ministry for Christ Retreat at Red Willow Bible Camp - February 4-6, 2011***

Casters have been added to the synod's New and Renewing Mission Table

On September 25 the Table mates (pictured below) took a field trip into the Fargo/West Fargo mission field to stop, look and listen to what God is doing in several mission stations including, First Sudanese Lutheran Church, Journey of Faith, Elim Lutheran, Recovery Worship, Spirit of Woape (formerly the Native American Christian Ministry) and to learn more about the "missional edges" where we could put the shovel deeper into the ground.

Did you know?

- That we have congregations increasing in worship attendance in areas where the general population trend is decreasing.
- That we have congregations decreasing in worship attendance in areas where the general population is stable or growing
- That there are 25 congregations sprinkled throughout the synod have experience a 10% increase in worship attendance from 2004-2009
- That there are 9 congregations in places where population is stable or growing that have experienced over 10% decrease in worship attendance from 2004-2009.

For the synod's "up down" map ...

