

**Report of the Synod Council**  
Northern Illinois synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008

**Synod Officers**

The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, bishop (2010)  
Ms. Esther Prabhakar, vice-president (2009)  
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Secretary (2010)  
Mr. Michael Brooks, Treasurer (2011)

**Synod Council**

Ms. Sarah Baeverstad NIS LYO (2007)  
Mr. Bill Bartlett (2008)  
Ms. DiAnne Beynon (2010)  
Ms. Beth Chase (2009)  
Mr. James Hankins (2009)  
The Rev. Robert Hansen (2008)  
The Rev. Linda Jarchow Jones (2007)  
The Rev. Donald Knowles (2008)  
Ms. Amy Laurin NIS WELCA (advisory member)  
The Rev. Kim Lee-Brown (2010)  
Ms. Cheryl Lefler (2007)  
The Rev. Mark Luepke (2010)  
The Rev. Richard Meier (2009)  
Mr. Dennis Melgren NIS LMM (advisory member)  
Dr. Randall Mullin (2009)  
Mr. Kevin Rogers NIS LYO (2008)  
Mr. George Sanchez (2010)  
Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker (2008)

**Synod Staff**

The Rev. Denver Bitner, Urban/Multicultural Ministry Consultant  
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, assistant to the bishop  
Ms. June Cain, support staff  
Mr. John Califf, director of development  
The Rev. Michel Clark, assistant to the bishop for the West Conference  
Ms. Nancy Corey, support staff  
The Rev. Brent Dahlseng, Evangelizing Church Consultant  
Deaconess Cheryl Erdman, assistant to the bishop for the Northeast Conference  
Ms. Judi Fields, support staff  
The Rev. Carol Gates, assistant to the bishop for the East Conference  
Ms. Karin Graddy, AIM, Communication Director  
The Rev. Kurt Hansen, assistant to the bishop for the Northwest Conference  
The Rev. Dennis Heaney, Mission Director  
The Rev. Timothy Kenyon, assistant to the bishop for the South Conference  
The Rev. Tom Larsen, assistant to the bishop for the Southwest Conference  
Ms. Mary Lasits, Synod Youth Coordinator  
Ms. Julie Lewis, support staff  
Ms. Sandra Musch, assistant to the bishop  
The Rev. Jay Quinn, assistant to the bishop for the North Conference  
The Rev. Barbara Rapp, assistant to the bishop for candidacy

The Rev. Christine Stienstra, assistant to the bishop for the Central Conference  
The Rev. Ron Voss, Mission Consultant

## Committees

### Executive Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett  
Ms. DiAnne Beynon  
Mr. Michael Brooks  
The Rev. Gary Erickson  
Dr. Randall Mullin (2007)  
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio  
Ms. Esther Prabhakar  
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

### Finance Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett  
Mr. Michael Brooks  
Ms. June Cain – Ex Officio  
Ms. Cheryl Lefler (2007)  
The Rev. Mark Luepke  
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio  
Ms. Esther Prabhakar  
Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker  
Mr. Nord Swanstrom  
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

### Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett  
Ms. DiAnne Beynon  
Mr. Michael Brooks  
The Rev. Gary Erickson  
Dr. Randall Mullin (2007)  
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio  
Ms. Esther Prabhakar  
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

## Synod Council Dates and Locations

June 2, 2007	Synod Office, Rockford, IL
September 8, 2007	Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL
January 5, 2008	Synod Office, Rockford, IL
April 19, 2008	Synod Office, Rockford, IL

## Administrative Actions

1. Received the bishop's report at each meeting
2. Approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. Approved 2008 Synod Assembly Committees
4. Approved 2008 Synod Assembly rules.
5. Approved resolutions left over from 2007 Synod Assembly.
6. Approved Clergy, AIM, and Diaconal Ministry rosters and conducted the yearly review of the rosters.
7. Approved Synod Council Committees
8. Approved 2008 Synod Assembly budget.

9. Approved 2008 Synod Assembly ballot.
10. Approved making the position of Campus Pastor for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University a full-time position
11. Designated the 2008 Assembly offering to support the full-time ministry of the Campus Pastor for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University.
12. Approved guidelines for rostered leader's salaries to present to the 2008 Assembly.
13. Approved changes to congregational constitutions and bylaws.
14. Approved the position of Companion Parish Coordinator.
15. Approved appointments to standing committees.
16. Approved Sabbatical Leave policy for bishop and full time assistants to bishop.
17. Approved program initiatives for the synod.
18. Received reports from NIS-WELCA, NIS-LMM, NIS-LYO, LSSI, Covenant Cluster Seminaries.
19. Approved the Book of Faith Initiative for the Synod.
20. Approved Housing Allowance elections for ordained synod staff.
21. Approved a Financial Consultation Task Force to assist congregations when needed.
22. Approved a resolution of thanks for Synod Council members with terms expiring in 2007.
23. Approved a resolution of thanks for Mr. Mic Brooks for his service as interim treasurer.
24. Approved a resolution to the Mission Investment Fund to support advance purchase of land for proposed mission development.
25. Approved the "Widening the Circle" joint venture between Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and Lutherdale camps.
26. Approved a resolution to the 2008 Synod Assembly from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois marking the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter as "Good Shepherd Sunday" in support of LSSI.

#### **Budget and Finance**

1. Regularly reviewed and approved, subject to audit, the reports of the treasurer.
2. Accepted the audit report presented by Lindgren, Callihan, Van Osdol, and Co. Ltd.
3. Approved the Jenny Lind Chapel budget.
4. Approved pay increases for bishop and assistants.
5. Approved housing allowances for ordained synod staff.
6. Approved pay increases for support staff.
7. Approved and amended 2009 budget for presentation to 2008 Assembly.
8. Approved use of \$6,000.00 from reserve funds for Jenny Lind Chapel expenses.
9. Approved entering into a fund raising campaign to support a full-time Campus Pastor at Lutheran Campus ministry at Northern Illinois University.
10. Approved salary for Director of Fund Raising for LCM-NIU campaign.
11. Approved a task force to assist the fund raising efforts for LCM-NIU.
12. Approved reinvestment of interest bearing accounts.
13. Approved distribution of financial gifts received by synod.
14. Approved policy statement changes as needed.
15. Approved funds for participation in Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium.
16. Approved distributions from reserve funds according to reserve fund policy.
17. Approved recommendations for expenditures from the synod endowment fund.
18. Approved making the rostered leaders educational debt retirement fund an ongoing effort of the synod.
19. Approved the purchase of a camera for photographing synod events.
20. Approved mileage reimbursements at IRS rates for deployed synod staff.

#### **Personnel**

1. Received report of pastors not attending the 2008 Synod Assembly
2. Granted "On Leave From Call" status to the following:
  - i. Pr. Trish Madden Baik (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2/28/06-2/28/09)

- ii. Pr. Joel Bexell (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 8/31/06-8/31/09)
  - iii. Geroge Brook, AIM (4<sup>th</sup> year – 2/29/04-2/29/08 1-year extension)
  - iv. Pr. John Cunningham (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2/5/07-2/5/10)
  - v. Pr. Susan Davenport (3<sup>rd</sup> year – 9/01/05-9/01/08)
  - vi. Pr. Kathleen Flores (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 3/20/06-3/20/09)
  - vii. Susan Friesen, AIM (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 5/31/06-5/31/09)
  - viii. Pr. Jim Harbaugh (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2/28/07-2/28/10)
  - ix. Pr. Gary Heedum (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 2/28/07-2/28/10)
  - x. Pr. Mark Helge (5<sup>th</sup> year – 4/1/04-4/1/10 Family Leave)
  - xi. Pr. Lisa Hufford (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 3/13/07-3/13/10)
  - xii. Pr. David Patterson (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 3/20/06-3/20/09)
  - xiii. Seminarian Sharon Rogers (4<sup>th</sup> year extension for graduate study 4/01/04-4/01/10)
  - xiv. Pr. Steve Woita (2<sup>nd</sup> year – 10/31/06-10/31/09)
  - xv. Pr. Pat Woods (1<sup>st</sup> year - 3/13/08-3/13/11)
  - xvi. Pr. Ann Ziegert (3<sup>rd</sup> year – 10/05-10/08)
3. Extended “calls to special service” to the following:
- i. Jean Anderson, AIM (2/1/07-2/1/10)
  - ii. Pr. Brent Dahlseng, interim pastor (11/27/06-1/31/08)
  - iii. Karin Graddy, AIM (2/1/07-2/1/10)
  - iv. Dr. Robert Haak, AIM (2/1/07-2/1/10)
  - v. Pr. Paul Hayes, interim pastor (11/01/07-1/31/09)
  - vi. Pr. Rodney Juell, Hospital Chaplain (2-year term 4/07-4/09)
  - vii. Pr. Charles Olson, LSSI Chaplain (1/17/07-1/17/10)
  - viii. Judith Rooney, Diaconal Minister, Hospice Chaplain (2-year term call)
  - ix. Pr. Fred Schmidt, interim pastor (5/20/06-1/31/08)
  - x. Pr. Paul Wolf, interim pastor (2/1/08-1/31/09)
  - xi. Pr. Kurt Hansen, interim pastor (4/09/08-1/31/09)
4. Appointed the following:
- i. Ms. Mary Brodd to Jenny Lind Chapel Committee
  - ii. Pr. Lynn Bergren to Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee (1/5/08-1/5/09)
  - iii. Ms. Nancy Califf to Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee (1/5/08-1/5/10)
  - iv. Pr. John Leaf to Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee (1/5/08-1/5/11)
  - v. Mr. Ron Peterson to Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee (1/5/08-1/5/11)
  - vi. Ms. Nancy Gebler to Ministry Support Committee (9/07-9/09)
  - vii. Ms. Vicki Sauter to Ministry Support Committee (9/07-9/10)
  - viii. Dr. Peter Kivisto to Social Ministry Committee (9/07-9/10)
  - ix. Pr. Michel Clark to ILLOWA Coalition Board
  - x. Pr. Steve Erickson to chair the Synod Assembly Nominating Committee
5. Resignation from Clergy Roster
- i. Pr. Ann Ziegert (12/15/07)
6. Notice of Retired Pastors
- i. Pr. Lowell Almen (1/1/08)
  - ii. Pr. Ron Ferrell (3/1/08)
  - iii. Pr. Neville Kretzman (3/31/08)
7. Excused pastors formally requesting absence from Synod Assembly (SC.01.06.04)
8. Discussed staff evaluations.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Synod Secretary