

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



A partnership of the nine synods of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota

REPORT TO THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Region 3 is a partnership of the nine synods of the Dakotas and Minnesota. It exists to support the cooperative work among these synods and enhance connections with the Churchwide offices. We host a number of leadership retreats and leadership events. In 2003 these gatherings included rural ministry, outreach, global mission, candidacy training, bishops and staffs, synod support staffs, a mission support consultation involving several synod leaders, and congregational transformation. We are also heavily involved in support to candidates for ministry and synod candidacy committees.

The Region 3 office also maintains a Computer Resource Center, containing most church-related software. Phone consultation is available for individual churches and the regional coordinator is a frequent speaker for leadership events, synod assembly workshops, and pastors' conferences.

Another major task of Region 3 is providing archival services. We are very fortunate to have Paul Daniels (shared staff with Luther Seminary) to assist synod offices and congregations. Please see the detailed Archives report in your pre-assembly book to learn how your congregation may make use of these valuable resources.

ELCA resource staffers serve you in the areas of outreach, candidacy and mobility, building and loan consultation, and mission investment fund from the Region 3 office. The Region also coordinates the work of the camping network, one multi-synod resource center, and a number of informal partnership groups.

2003 was a difficult year for most judicatory offices. Lower congregational funding to synods and ELCA Churchwide has impacted our ability to provide some of our previous levels of involvement, especially in sponsoring some of the "cutting edge" seminars and conversations. We hope this is only a short-term result of the economy.

Region 3 is a "behind the scenes" support office. Rather than being another level of church bureaucracy, we strive to provide services that will help synods and congregations be effective communities of Christian mission in today's world. Our funding comes primarily from the 9 synods of the region.

Pastor Craig Boehlke, Region 3 Coordinator

