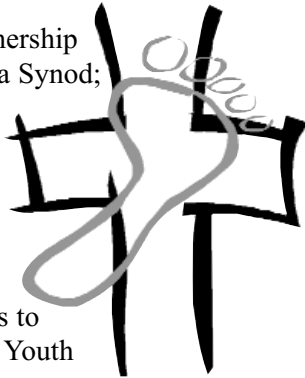


Raising Up Young Leaders

Vision: Called into God's Marvelous Light: To Be Strong Leaders

Objective: Youth/young adult event for discerning ministry

Good Earth Village, in partnership with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Rochester area and Freeborn/Mower County Habitat for Humanity Chapters; Holden Village in Chelan, WA; and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, received a \$125,000 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to develop the Good Earth Village Youth Servant Leader Institute (YSLI).



The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is committed to raising up and equipping youth as lay leaders in congregations. The YSLI supports this commitment by creating a series of developmental, theme-based, retreats focusing on developing leadership skills in youth that will be grounded in our Lutheran theology of grace. We are recruiting youth from throughout the five conferences of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to participate in this leadership training based at Good Earth Village. Fifteen youth will be selected in 2006 and will gather together for one week during the summer and four retreats throughout the year. Each youth, in partnership with a congregational support team, will prepare, plan, develop and manage a service project for their home congregation or local community, impacting the faith lives of over 600 youth and adults.

Do you know of some youth in your congregation who might be interested in this program? Information and application forms are available on the Good Earth Village website (www.goodearthvillage.org), or call Dayna Clemment, the YSLI Program Coordinator at 507-261-9337 or dcllement@juno.com.



Called into God's Marvelous Light

To Be Joyful Witnesses

To Be Christ-Centered Disciples

To Be Strong Leaders

2006: A Synod Joined in Bible Study

Which Bible?

By Rev. Dick Spande
Congregational Renewal Team



Amazon.com lists over 56,000 options for a person buying a Bible. I am not suggesting that is the best place to buy a Bible, but it does give an idea of how many choices there are.

For some the desire for a particular translation narrows the field. The ELCA uses the New Revised Standard version in most of its publications. Augsburg Fortress also carries the New International Version (NIV) and the Contemporary English Version (CEV). Few would say the CEV is an outstanding translation, but it is most readable. There are many good translations available.

For some who grew up using it, the King James Bible is THE Bible and it is unlikely anyone will change their minds. However, for over fifty years there have been other choices available using more contemporary English. It isn't that the King James is a bad translation. The issue is that the English language has changed in the past 400 years.

For young children receiving their first Bible, I think it is important to have a Bible with a few illustrations. The visual impact makes the story real. It is also important that it be an actual Bible, not a paraphrase. For young people who will carry their Bibles to Sunday School a sturdy binding is important. Inexpensive Bibles tend not to be sturdy.

For teens and adults I think it is helpful to have a Bible with a few aids. Personally, I like the New Oxford Annotated (NRSV). Its notes are very helpful for difficult passages. For those leading discussions based on the Bible, the Serendipity Bible can be helpful. While it does not have Lutheran "roots," the questions in the margins often reflect the issues that are raised by a text.

Please note my simple suggestions are all suggesting that Bibles are being used. They are not for either the coffee table or decoration. We are a synod that encourages Bible Study.