

## Communicators Scheduled to Gather for Retreat

Following positive reviews of 2007's first ever retreat for people in communication roles throughout the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, a second retreat is scheduled for January 24-25 at Good Earth Village. This retreat is meant for any staff or volunteers who work with communications including newsletters, bulletins, and websites. Last year's group gathered for fellowship, relaxation, job idea and resource sharing, and to learn more about the work of the synod. Watch the December *River Crossings* for more details about the 2008 retreat.

### Southeastern Minnesota Synod

2007\* Mission Support Income

	Current Year	Last Year	Budget
Sept. YTD	\$1,239,549	\$1,277,394	\$1,289,679

\* Fiscal Year February- January

The generosity of our congregations in the past month for gifts to the flood relief has been wonderful. We thank you for your generous gifts. Please continue to honor the regular giving to the synod so we can honor our commitments to our ministry partners and the churchwide expression. We have fallen behind last year's giving by almost \$40,000, but we trust in your faithfulness and your generosity to continue to share this expression of our faith to carry out God's ministry in the world.

## Welcome to Rev. Linda Gunderson

Rev. Linda Gunderson is now in place in her new call as Synod Minister. She can be contacted by calling the synod office at 507-280-9457 or 800-426-6376 in Minnesota or at her new e-mail address: [gunderson@semnsynod.org](mailto:gunderson@semnsynod.org). Her installation will occur during worship on Tuesday morning (Nov. 6) of the Theological Conference.

## Young (and Not-as- Young) People Learn about Finances

*"The choices we make with our money can change the world."*

Over 100 adults and students were present at Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter on Sept. 29 to hear about the economic impact of our temptations to spend from Nathan Dungan, one of the national media's go-to experts on family finances and the effects of mass marketing on young people. Considering our spending habits becomes important as temptations to spend do not allow us to be generous people and results in a 0.0% savings rate in our country.

Dungan spoke about how healthy financial habits could equal financial and personal success for all of us. By sharing we can be concerned about the needs of others and live lives of gratitude. By saving we can learn patience and financial discipline. By watching our spending we begin to make distinctions on what are "needs" and what are "wants" in our lives.

These issues are significant with young people spending over \$1 trillion a year and children spending five times more money than their parents did when they were the same age. Nathan's book, *Prodigal Sons and Material Girls: How Not to be your Child's ATM*, can be a good resource for your congregation and youth to address these economic and stewardship concerns.

## Remember in Prayer

### Health Concerns

- Rev. Glennys Knutson
- Cathy Rehfeldt, wife of Rev. Richard Rehfeldt
- Shannon Reuss, wife of Rev. Peter Reuss
- Rev. Don Roberts

### Sympathies

- Rev. Harold Usgaard, whose father-in-law Mervin Ellingson died Sept. 28
- The family of Rev. Harry Peterson, who died Sept. 19, 2007
- The family of Rev. Leonard Benson, who died Sept. 18, 2007