

## ***Would You Like to Be Part of a Synod Wide Team?***

**by Pastor Helga Jansons** Director for Evangelical Mission

I have been very grateful to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission for our Synod. It has been a joy and a challenge from start to finish. I have learned so much from congregations and from ELCA churchwide training. Since I am coterminous with Bishop Martin Wells, I am to finish this work at the end of August. However, I will continue to be a resource and contact person until a new DEM is employed. As I get ready to end my position I would like to provide people – clergy and lay – the opportunity to get involved at the synod level in various areas of ministry. You could be involved because you have some skills in the area or because you would like to learn more. If you are interested, contact me on [helga.jansons@elca.org](mailto:helga.jansons@elca.org) This email address is active through the end of August and after that you would need to contact me at my new ministry, as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Pasco. I am excited to serve as pastor again and particularly in this congregation. This congregation houses the Pasco Latino Lutheran Ministry which is a new ministry start, and I am looking forward to this partnership. The other way to get connected to these synod wide initiatives is through the three Net-Workers that you can contact through the synod office.

Here are the ministry areas in which you could get involved at the synod level:

- Asset Mapping a 90 minute process to discern congregational strengths and interests. Create new ideas/ initiatives for ministry or even a Mission Plan from this process.
- Coaching have a coach or be a coach in general, or for stewardship leaders / team.
- Community Organizing engaging congregation members and your community to make a difference; from educational opportunities to a social justice issue.
- Earth-keeping stewardship from community gardens to community action.
- Latino Ministry synod team meets quarterly to discuss challenges and ministry opportunities
- Mission Developer find out if you have the gifts to be one through the ELCA interview process.
- Mission Redevelopment intentional change which includes training of the pastor, funding and accountability within the ELCA.
- Ministry review be part of a team of pastors/ leaders who listen to congregations and then report their observations and recommendations for direction.
- Mission Plan development help congregations to develop a 6 month - one year plan.
- Mission Interpreter train to become one or coordinate interpreter training across the synod.
- New ministry starts if you have any new ideas you would like to try and need guidance or resources.
- Parish Nursing teach others how it is done/ qualifications/ or learn how to set it up.
- Rural Ministry be part of the ecumenical rural ministry team and its direction or learn of resources
- Stewardship training in Ventures for Growing Stewards (a 4 part workshop series) or shorter training such as Rediscovering Macedonia and several other resources e.g. money leadership retreats.
- Technology be part of a team to learn about new way ways to communicate. Or, help other congregations who need assistance in website development and other forms of communication.
- Transformational Ministry be part of a team offering workshops in discerning Purpose, Guiding Principles, Vision, and a Mission Plan. Teach Congregational Renewal, Adaptive Change, Outreach, Engaging the community, and some Community Organizing skills.

