



Together

**Newsletter for congregations of the ELCA
from the Costa Rican Lutheran Church**

Number 2/2010

We are very pleased to present you with the second number of our newsletter, "Together", hoping that it may serve our sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be better informed about the life and mission of the Costa Rican Lutheran Church.

Highlights from our recent ministries

- **Women in Holistic Health Ministry Attain New Skills**

The Community of San Martin of Guápiles was the happy scene of the graduation of twelve of its members who completed the requirements of training in massage therapy. The graduates - all women active in a ministry of Holistic Health- acquired skills in a massage therapy, nutrition, and natural medicine, through which they can be of greater service to their neighbors and themselves. The graduation ceremony was led by the pastoral coordinator of San Martin, Geraldina Alvarez.

- **Bible Workshop Stirred Inter-active Reading**

Under the theme of, "Food for the Journey: the Bible in the Life of an Inclusive Church", the Faith Community of Diversity held a workshop that generated much interest by encouraging the participants to read Bible stories interactively. Guided by Bible scholar Violeta Rocha, members of the group were encouraged to use a variety of approaches to relate to the stories, and they went away inspired by hearing the Word of God speak with new accents.

- **Lay People Lead Reformation Day Festival**

Highlighting the principle of the priesthood of all the believers, the festive worship and celebrations that took place in the San Sebastian Community on Reformation Sunday were all led by lay persons. By directing the prayers, and bringing music, readings and the sermon, the women, men, youth and children of the congregation gave expression to God's grace that is given freely to all. Members and guests enjoyed the day's festivities that included a puppet show, music, artistic work, and an international food fair.

- **Ecological Sanctuary in Memory of Lilia Jiménez**

Friends and family members of Lilia Jimenez joined the staff of the Costa Rican Lutheran Church to offer prayers for the dedication of a beautiful garden plot that bears the name of Lilia Jiménez, one of the founders of the Church and strong

defender of the human rights of women. This new ecological sanctuary located on the grounds of the Church headquarters, is a fitting memorial to this leader who strove tirelessly to promote the dignity of vulnerable population groups.

- **Church's Work with Children and Youth is Strengthened Through Cooperative Play**

Coordinators of the Church's children's work and youth leaders had fun and gained "hands on" experience in cooperative play and problem solving through a training activity led by Richard Rutschman, of Leadership Link in Chicago. The exciting all day program of games and small group activities that these leaders carried out, promote dialogue, trust-building and cooperation to resolve issues.

- **Marketing their Handicrafts: Focus of Women's Gathering**

Women crafters gathered in the Church's main facilities to learn more about the steps involved in getting their handicrafts on the market. Organized by the Human Rights of Women's Program, the meeting covered such topics as developing a business plan, elements of marketing, customers' expectations, and advertising. An underlying interest of the women is to become more effective in handling sales to our sister churches in the United States, Germany, and Sweden.

- **Youth activities**

Throughout 2010 the Youth Commission has, once again, made it possible for young people in the church and in the wider community to gather to discuss topics of interest and share their views. One of the main activities has been a workshop on human sexuality from the perspective of our faith, which was held in three of our faith communities. Another important activity was a youth camp in which the participants discussed problems in their communities, with the aim at organizing common efforts to address some of them.

- **In our Prayers**

We remember you and send you our sincere good wishes for a blessed Advent and a Joyful Christmas. May God continue to bless our partnership relation in God's mission. Thank you for your love, prayers and support throughout the year.

Are you interested in receiving more information? Please contact:
Rodolfo Mena, Communication and Delegation Coordinator:
Mail: comunicacion@ilco.cr

This newsletter may be printed or distributed freely.

