

2010 SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING

The offering at this year's assembly will be divided between:

YAKIMA VALLEY HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRY

Yakima Valley Hispanic Outreach Ministry includes *Tree of Life* in Terrace Heights, *Campbell Farms Ministry* to Women and Children, and the 50-100 spanish speaking people that attend the week long event at Holden Village *Abriendo Caminos* every year. The synod offers financial support to *Tree of Life* and *Campbell Farms*.

Tree of Life is a New Ministry Start funded jointly by the EWAID Synod and the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission of the ELCA. It is a Word and Sacrament ministry for the Hispanic/Latino population in the Yakima Valley with services in English and Spanish, Bible Studies, Sunday School, and an active Youth Group. The Synod is appointing a Mission Developer from Mexico. Their goal is to offer and find resources for the poor, support students with supplies, mentoring, tutoring, translation, English as a Second Language, transportation, and a Safe House for latch key kids.

Campbell Farms in Wapato offers programs to women and children who live in extreme poverty. Fifty children come to the Farm regularly for after school and summer programs and events. The staff provide resources and a loving environment for families and children who might otherwise be involved in the local gangs. They teach Middle School youth to become Christian leaders. The Farm is an ecumenical venture and is staffed by a Lutheran. It is also a retreat center that is available to churches and a farm internship site. They are hosting an Open House on May 8th noon to 2pm. All are welcome to meet the staff, families and animals, and to see the orchards.

TUMAINI DINING/ASSEMBLY HALL PROJECT

The Tumaini Dining/Assembly Hall Project that we are helping our Companions in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese in Tanzania build, is becoming a reality. We all have learned many lessons in the process. We have learned to be patient and understanding, as we know we cannot predict progress by the same measurements that we use in the U.S.; we have learned to “accompany” rather than to “lead” or “direct”, even when we think our ideas might be better than the ideas of others; and we have learned to be faithful, especially when the road ahead seems uncertain - not giving up on the project, but proving to our companions that we will accompany them even during difficult times. Perhaps these lessons are what true companionship is really all about.

It was in April of 2008 when Rev. Mark Nelson, Heidi Cryer and Marj Nishek visited Tumaini School in Ulanga Kilombero, Tanzania, when we learned of our companion's top priority – the construction of a Dining/Assembly Hall at Tumaini School where students can eat their daily meals, study, take examinations and perform the music and drama they love so much. Our Synod offered to help them with the project at that time. Later building redesign for safety reasons created an increased budget and timeline, but the project is now soon to be completed. Generosity expressed through the Assembly Offering can make this happen and, at the same time, provide our companions with a heartfelt expression of our continued love and support.

Two video clips regarding this project can be found on www.youtube.com. In the search box type in “marjnishek” and look for one clip entitled “Dining Hall Plans” and the other entitled “Tumaini Kitchen. Clips from the 2006 trip can also be viewed there.