

# Stream of Information

## Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

### Tour de Revs comes to Upper Susquehanna Synod

On June 4, 2009, a group of three Lutheran pastors riding a bicycle built for three will make their way to the Upper Susquehanna Synod. If you haven't heard of this group yet, you have been missing a creative and energetic force that is working to end the global hunger crisis. Pastors David Twedt, Ron Schlak, and Fred Soltow serve a total of seven churches in West Virginia and have a reputation for doing the unusual to attract attention to social issues. Their trip across the country on a bicycle made of bamboo will raise awareness as well as financial resources for world hunger.

The Tour de Revs will be making stops in each of the ELCA's 65 Synod offices between May 13 – August 20 of this year. They will leave from the ELCA churchwide office in Chicago and will cover nearly 13,000 miles before arriving at the Church's Assembly in Minneapolis. The pastors, who are in their late 50's and early 60's, have been organizing the trip with the assistance of the Upper Susquehanna Synod's World Hunger Task Force.

While many pastors may be occupied with Lenten preparations, this event is less than five months away, and needs congregational attention. Support for this event needs to begin as soon as possible; not just for the sake of publicity, but for the sake of ending hunger.

While in our synod, the Revs will be available to local churches to make presentations on hunger, lead bible studies, or visit food pantries to learn what is being done in our area.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod World Hunger Task Force is calling on pastors and churches in our synod to work creatively toward ending hunger. The Tour de Revs has made a goal of raising five million dollars for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The USS World Hunger Task Force is challenging the synod to raise \$55,000.

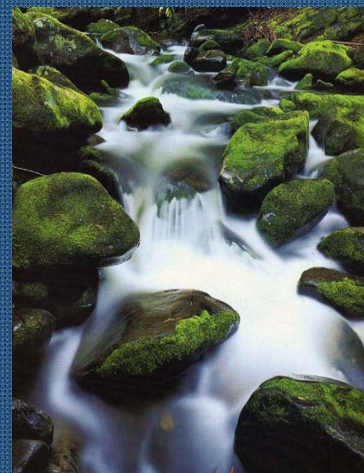
The amount of miles that the Tour de Revs will be traveling from the Allegheny Synod to the Upper Susquehanna Synod is about 110 miles. That means if only 110 congregations in our synod pledge \$500 to "adopt a mile," we will meet our goal. We are encouraging each congregation to think creatively about this project. Below are listed some ideas for congregations to try, but feel

*A message from  
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Go to the Tour de Revs website to find more information, ideas from other synods, clip art for bulletins and announcements, and more.  
[www.tourderevs.org](http://www.tourderevs.org)



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*Three Lutheran Pastors are using their creativity to work toward eradicating world hunger.*

*The USS World Hunger Task Force is calling on pastors and churches in our synod to work creatively toward ending hunger.*

### Tour de Revs story, continued

free to use your own creativity and tap into the resources of your church.

In Micah 6:8, we hear these words from God: "What does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Our synod has a unique opportunity to support a ministry that is working to do justice in the world. We are calling on pastors and congregations to help with our efforts.

We are aware that the economy has left many in this area in financial hardship. We are also aware that the economy of our country is having an even more significant impact on the world's poor. Because of this, we need to take action. The Tour de Revs is a one-time opportunity that gives us the chance to help our congregations realize the significance of world hunger.

At the World Hunger Leaders' Gathering in Denver, members of our task force were asked this challenging question: What is an acceptable number of hungry people in the world? The answer for all of us should be: zero. Our hope is that through this ministry, we can make a significant step toward ending hunger.

Our synod is 137 congregations strong. If every pastor and every congregation is able to do just one thing, this event will be successful, and thousands of people will feel the effects.

Below, please find a list of possible fundraising ideas for your congregation. Please feel free to use your own creativity and passion to help the Tour de Revs work toward ending hunger.

*Pray + Youth Bike-a-thon + Lenten Midweek offerings + Encourage mothers' day gifts in the form of donations to World Hunger in mom's honor + Congregational pledge to give up one meal out a week/month and donate remaining \$ to Tour de Revs + Valentine's Day—donate \$1 for every person you love! + Food pantry collections for local food pantries + Labeled containers for people to save coins and contribute on a particular date (mini m&m's, film canisters, RX containers) + Pastor shaves head if congregation raises a certain amount + challenge a neighboring congregation—winner hosts a pot luck + soup sale + sell fair trade coffee + tithe*



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