

## Worship Offering

This year's synod assembly worship offering will be given to support the work of one of our companion synods, the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG). Specifically, it will be used to fund three ministry initiatives:

### **Completion of the Seminary and Guest House at the Lutheran Center**

Construction began in 2007, and the final phase is nearing completion. The guest house portion includes four dormitory rooms, accommodating up to 32 people, bathrooms with showers, and a dining room and kitchen area. These rooms are used by visiting U.S. delegations as well as by the leaders of the ILAG congregations, who travel to the capital several times a year for various training events. The upstairs, or seminary portion, consists of a large chapel/classroom space that is used for the various classes and seminars led by the pastoral team of the ILAG. The second floor also contains an apartment for long-term volunteers. The funds for the construction and furnishing of the seminary and guest house have come primarily from congregations of the Saint Paul Area Synod, with a total cost of approximately \$200,000.



### **Leadership Development**

Most of the 17 ILAG congregations are located in rural areas and are led by members of the community, most of whom have had little formal education or experience in the church. The ILAG pastoral team invites these leaders to travel to the Lutheran Center four to six times a year for ministry reviews and planning, biblical and theological education, as well as practice in the arts of ministry. The funds will be used to cover the costs of transportation and lodging for these events.

### **Health Ministry**

The pastoral team of ILAG has identified a goal of having one trained health promoter in each of the 17 villages where a congregation is located. These promoters gather at the Lutheran Center several times a year to receive training in the prevention of illness through nutrition, sanitation, and other indigenous practices, as well as basic first aid techniques. The funds will be used to pay for the transportation and lodging for the health promoters and trainers, as well as curriculum and supplies.

*Please make offering checks payable to the Saint Paul Area Synod and include "Assembly Offering" in the note. Offering envelopes will be available when you check in at the registration desk and on the tables in plenary hall.*