

# STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2008

## Hospitality Amid Election Frenzy

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

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ELCA leaders and members gathered in church basements and on ELCA college campuses across Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada in late 2007.

Vicar Trish Volberding attended a November 2007 event at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she is the pastoral intern.

“The election atmosphere in Iowa is very unique,” said Volberding, a seminarian from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. “It’s been interesting for me to see all the frenzy and what goes on here [in Iowa].”

She found the event at St. Andrew “really interesting” because she heard from ELCA members who had effected policy change through persistent efforts.

She also heard about St. Stephen’s, an ELCA congregation across town that planned to provide space for both Republican and Democratic presidential caucuses in January. For years, St. Stephen’s has been a polling station, with members serving as poll workers and poll watchers, and providing hospitality for voters.

Your offerings help support ELCA efforts to involve Lutherans at the grassroots level on issues such as affordable health care and housing, fair rural development, farming and trade policies.

“ELCA advocacy ministries strive to do what Jesus and the prophets did and call us to do in the Bible—work for justice by advocating on behalf of those in need,” said Andrew Genszler, ELCA director for advocacy. “We work for just policies aimed at preserving God’s creation and breaking the cycles that keep people in poverty.”

For more Stories of Faith in Action, visit [www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html](http://www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html).



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GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.



College students attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2007.

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