

Church Scan

■ Robert Mattheis, bishop of the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod, said in a Sept. 29 letter that disciplinary charges won't be filed against **University Lutheran Chapel, Berkeley, Calif.** He earlier censured the congregation for calling Jeff Johnson, a noncelibate gay man, as pastor (June 2000, page 35). The decision came after the Sierra Pacific Synod assembly urged Mattheis to do all he could to "avoid expulsion" of the congregation. Mattheis related his decision to his parenting style, saying that whenever he was faced with indecision he would "always err on the side of grace." However,

others within the synod could choose to file those disciplinary charges. Mattheis said his censure remains in place despite the lack of disciplinary charges. He dropped his previous recommendation that campus ministry funding be withheld from University. "I will use the resources of ULC as we think through missional issues relating to the pastoral ministry of gay and lesbian people who cannot subscribe to the [ELCA] *Vision and Expectations* document," Mattheis said.

■ Taking a new look at shared ministry in retirement, two pastors—Stanley Peterson and Paul Rothfusz—divided one call to **Samuel and Holmes Lutheran churches in Eagle Grove, Iowa**, with each pastor working six nonsequential

months in a year. Since the retirees' July installation, positive comments have come from both congregations.

■ A remodeled printing factory was dedicated Nov. 26 as the sanctuary for **United in Faith Lutheran**, a 3-year-old congregation that resulted from the merger of eight **Chicago** congregations, the largest ever ELCA church consolidation (October 1998, page 32).

■ Literally rising from the ashes of a fire that destroyed its building five years ago, **Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Minneapolis**, recently dedicated its Center for Worship and Mission. Our Saviour has been a landmark in the Phillips neighborhood since 1912, reaching out to the community with housing, food and



AMBER LEBERMAN

The beat goes on

Music leader Abe Caceres helps Bruce McQuackay of Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland, Ore., and Michael Wilker, pastor of Lutheran Community Church, Watsonville, Calif., learn an Afro-Latin drum pattern at the Multicultural Mission Institute, sponsored by the ELCA Commission for Multicultural Ministries Nov. 3-5 in Los Angeles.