

Global Vision



A newsletter for friends of the Global Mission Institute, Luther Seminary

Vol. 14, No. 3, Pentecost 2004

Christus Lux Mundi: The Witness of Gudina Tumsa

By President David Tiede

Luther Seminary has long been blessed by its international students. The churches that supported Augsburg, Northwestern, and Luther Theological Seminaries were deeply engaged in global missions. Long before programs for advanced study existed in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, our missionaries sent promising indigenous candidates to “the seminary” in Minnesota. They have enriched the lives of our students and faculty, inspired our congregations, and returned to leadership roles in their churches and nations.

From the day he arrived on campus in 1963, Gudina Tumsa stood out, not only by his physical height, but also because the courage and discipline of his convictions were manifest.

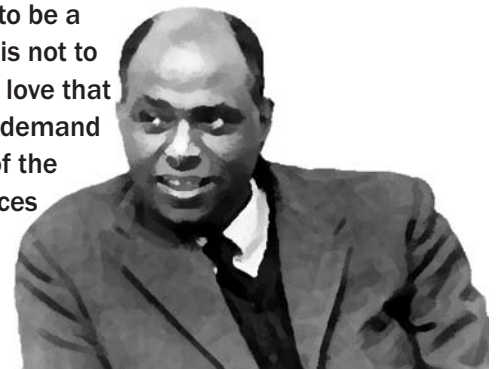
As a classmate, I remember the awe we felt at this pastor who didn't have a college degree mastering the study of Hebrew in English, probably his fourth or fifth language. We were glad to invest our money in his books, humbled by his commitment to learn. This May, his roommate, Darrell Jodock recalled that the picture he had of his wife and five children would make him so lonesome that, when he studied, he had to hide it from view. Although he hoped to return to his home as a pastor, working among his people as an evangelist, he was soon named the Executive Secretary of the Mekane Yesus church, as hundreds of thousands came to faith in Jesus Christ in an era of peril and change in Ethiopia.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the birth and the 25th anniversary of the execution of Gudina Tumsa. Upon the nomination by Paul Wee (class of 1963) who was a Lutheran World Federation colleague, Luther Seminary was grateful to join the international observances of the anniversary year by granting the Christus Lux Mundi award, posthumously, to Gudina Tumsa. This is the seminary's highest recognition of “the witness and service of persons who have manifested the light of Christ during a long and distinguished career either

To believe in Christ is to take the form of a servant, to be a servant for others. ... To pay the cost of discipleship is not to buy our salvation; it is to demonstrate the quality of love that led Jesus of Nazareth to the cross. ... The inevitable demand of the cost of discipleship is that the saving power of the Gospel should be preached regardless of the sacrifices it may entail.

- Gudina Tumsa, 1975

To read more of Tumsa's writings, see p. 4



in the pastoral office or as a lay person.”

The week of Nov. 15-18, the *Word & World* lectures and the Kairos program will deal with “The Cost of Discipleship.” On Wednesday, Nov. 17, Luther Seminary will welcome Ms. Lensa Gudina, Gudina Tumsa's daughter, to chapel to give thanks for the legacy of his life and witness.

Please join Luther Seminary in its gratitude, and plan to attend the lectures or worship service. And while you are on campus, whether in November or some other time, open your eyes to the promising future of world Christianity in the faces of our international students. God is continuing to do a great thing in these people. We are blessed to be in on it with them.

Inside:

New Director Announced	2
International Student Profile: Julianne Koivisto	6
News Notes	7

The GMI Mission:

The Global Mission Institute provides critical support to Luther Seminary in its task of developing global mission leaders, partnering with the church in fulfillment of the great commission.

GMI Announces New Leadership

Under the interim directorship of Rosanne Swanson and with the counsel of the GMI managing board, the last two years have led to greater involvement with international student hospitality and recognition, consistent work to promote global awareness, and increased opportunities to learn with the global church.

GMI is pleased to announce that these initiatives will continue under new leadership.

- **Dr. Frieder Ludwig**, associate professor of mission and world Christianity, has been named GMI director. This reflects the closer relationship GMI seeks to build with faculty members. "Many members of the faculty have been overseas, and are interested in questions of mission and global Christianity," Ludwig said. "There is great experience, a great commitment, and a great opportunity. I hope and pray that God will guide us in this."



New GMI
Director
Frieder Ludwig

Ludwig plans to collaborate with colleagues in the World Christianity and Islam initiative, Charles Amjad-Ali and Mark Swanson, and draw on academic dean Richard Bliese's tremendous enthusiasm for mission as he helps cast the vision for the GMI's future.

- **Nijhar Minz-Ekka** is now GMI's assistant director. Her role as a bridge between congregations, donors and the seminary community is vital to the GMI's work. **Sara Trumm** continues as GMI's program coordinator, giving consistency and organization to both old and new initiatives.



Assistant
Director
Nijhar
Minz Ekka

• One of those new initiatives is the **Visiting Scholar/Professorship Program** (visit the GMI Web site for more information: www.luthersem.edu/gmi). Over the coming years, colleagues from Africa, Asia and Latin

- America will come to Luther Seminary to teach for a semester.
- A second initiative: More established, long-term partnerships with institutions overseas that will lead to regular exchange programs and allow students to receive credit for core courses taught abroad.

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Director's Corner

Tumsa Shows International Students Give Important Witness

It has long been recognized that mission is not a one-way road from West to East or from North to South. In 1961, C.G. Baëta, President of the International Missionary Council, declared: "The idea of one part of the world evangelizing another will not bear scrutiny. Missions are not a movement from the haves to the have-nots, from the educated to the illiterate. They are a movement from the fellowship of faith all over the world to all who stand outside this fellowship, whoever and wherever they may be."

At Luther Seminary, we realize the important contributions of our international students, both during their studies here and as they return to their home countries. Immense wisdom is to be found in their context of ministry, which is often challenging to say the least. Many of them confess their Christian faith in circumstances which are difficult and in which they are vulnerable. There is a lot that we can learn from them.

An example was the Ethiopian Gudina Tumsa (1929-1979), who studied at Luther Theological Seminary and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1966. He served as Executive General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus from 1966-1979. After the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution that led to the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie, he began seminars and workshops on Christianity and Socialism. He recognized that in Ethiopia changes were necessary – changes which affected the Church and her leadership.

Tumsa never ceased to proclaim the gospel, which resulted in his persecution. In 1978, Tumsa was arrested for the first time and set free a few weeks later. After his second arrest in 1979, the regime attempted to brand him a counter-revolutionary and political agent. After worldwide protests, he was again released. A few weeks later, after attending church services, he was attacked by armed men in Addis Ababa, kidnapped, and murdered by government forces.

Former Lutheran World Federation president Christian Krause compared Tumsa with Dietrich Bonhoeffer. To both men, the question was not, "How can I emerge from this situation a hero?" but rather, "How will the coming generation be able to survive?" Both had a chance to leave their countries. Like Bonhoeffer, Tumsa chose to stay with his church, though he was aware of the threat this posed. Thereby he gave direction to the next generation and became an important witness.

GMI Member Profile

Rolf & Vi Aaseng

Rolf and Vi Aaseng both grew up aware that the church was active all over the world. Her father taught at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, and missionaries home on furlough frequently came by their St. Anthony Park home. He corresponded with a Chinese pen pal while he was in high school.

Still, the longtime and generous supporters of the Global Mission Institute didn't think of themselves as active in that global church until their children were grown and their careers had been well-established.

Rolf, who graduated from Luther Seminary in 1950 and spent 6 years as a parish pastor in Park Rapids, Minn., spent more than 20 years as an editor and curriculum writer at Augsburg Publishing. In 1977, he was asked by the church's department of missions to visit international mission sites and write an update on how effectively the mission funds were being spent overseas. He and Vi spent several months traveling around the world, meeting missionaries and hearing their stories.

"We thought, 'We really ought to get out more often,'" she said. Two years later, they had their chance. Rolf was invited to teach Bible at the Lutheran seminary in Umpuluo, South Africa. Though he didn't have a formal background in education, he always enjoyed leading Bible studies and teaching adult forums and confirmation. And with their youngest child away at college, they felt the time was right to follow God's call to a new land.

"We are one of those families where the children grew up and the parents left home," Vi said.

For eight years, the seminary in South Africa was blessed by their work – Rolf's time in the classroom; Vi's work in the administrative office – though, she said, she wasn't

planning on that part. But when they met the rector the day they arrived, he told Vi that she should come over the next morning to organize his office. She became the *de facto* seminary administrative secretary and financial manager, finally ending up maintaining the library. "Library work is my love," she said.

These days, Vi continues her passion for books by coordinating the library at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, Minn., the Aasengs' congregation – a task that keeps her busy six days a week. Rolf combines his communications skills with his interest in missions by

editing the newsletter for Global Health Ministries.

They credit their time in South Africa with broadening their perspective on what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.

"That time certainly gave us more of a global outlook," Rolf said. "We are very much aware that there is a world out there that many Americans don't even begin to consider."

They also appreciate the Global Mission Institute's efforts to raise awareness of the global church, particularly among the students and faculty, and are encouraged by the curriculum's increased emphasis on missions and evangelism.

"I served a church in Africa where the seminary was not considered that important. It was an enormous honor for me to be sent there as a teacher, but there it was no great thing," Rolf said. "But I think the church in South Africa is weaker for that reason. I think the seminary is close to the heart of the church. If the seminary thrives, the church thrives."

– SC



Vi and Rolf Aasengs' home is filled with artifacts that remind them of their time in South Africa and travelling the globe.

Lectures
@
Luther Seminary
2004

"What Happened to the Christian Home? Controversies over Gender and Mission in the 21st Century"

October 4, 10 a.m., Chapel of the Incarnation.
Guest speaker: Dr. Dana L. Robert,
Truman Collins Professor of World Mission,
Boston University School of Theology



Andrew S. Burgess Lecture in Global Mission

The Cost of Discipleship

Events That Honor Gudina Tumsa



Word & World Lectures

"The Cost of Discipleship: The Story of Gudina Tumsa"

Nov. 15, 10 a.m.

The Rev. Tasgara Hirpo,

pastor to Oromo-speaking Christians in Hermannsburg, Germany

"The Cost of Discipleship: The Witness of the African Church"

Nov. 18, 10 a.m.

Dr. Andrew Walls,

emeritus professor, University of Edinburgh

Chapel with Holy Communion

Nov. 17, 10 a.m.

Preacher: President David Tiede

Presentation of Christus Lux Mundi Award to Lensa Gudina

KAIROS Continuing Education Course

"The Cost of Discipleship: Faith on the Line"

Nov. 15-19, 2004

How can our churches bear faithful witness in difficult times and contexts?

Ethiopia can never be what she was before September, 1974. Fundamental changes, especially in the economic field, have taken place. ... This is what it means to love God above all and our neighbors as ourselves in the present Ethiopian situation.

The demands for the cost of discipleship will be met by various responses from each one of us. To some, it will mean a reduction of pay in a drastic way. To others it will mean giving everything away to be members in farmers' associations. Still to others who earn their means of living either through the employment of wife to husband, it will mean serving in a different manner.

- Gudina Tumsa, 1975

Excerpts taken from **The Memorandum to Ato Abraham, President, EECMY, from Gudina Tumsa, General Secretary, EECMY, Re: Some Issues Requiring Discussions and Decisions**. Published in O.M. Eide, *Revolution and Religion in*

Mission and World Christianity Focus of New M.A.

Global mission used to mean taking the gospel to other parts of the world. "But now the world has come to North America," says Richard Bliese, Luther's academic dean and associate professor of mission.

He points out, for example, that the Twin Cities are now home to immigrants from Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. And while many are Christian, many are not.

In this multi-ethnic, multi-religious context, "the church needs leaders who are capable, ready, and able to cross cultural and religious boundaries with the gospel," Bliese says.

To meet this need, Luther has created the M.A. in Mission and

World Christianity. The program includes courses in Bible, the history of Christianity, theology, and confessional writings, as well as world religions, world Christianity, and global mission. All students will participate in an overseas experience outside North America or Western Europe.

After several years of planning, the program will be officially launched this fall.

According to Frieder Ludwig, GMI director and associate professor of mission and world Christianity, students will learn to "understand Christianity in different contexts, churches acting in a different context, and theologies developing in a different

context."

This understanding will help them connect with global stories and proclaim the Christian faith in a way that is open to non-Christians.

"It is important to proclaim the gospel," Ludwig says. "But we must also be able to listen and find ways to live together peacefully."

The M.A. in Mission and World Christianity can be used to fulfill requirements for rostered ministry as a deaconess, diaconal minister, or associate in ministry. It is also suitable for anyone wrestling with the challenge of defining their own beliefs while striving to respect other cultures and experiences.

Present Leaders Appreciate Tumsa's Legacy

By Masresha Chufa

The time that Rev. Gudina Tumsa was serving was not a time anyone would wish to be a church leader. It was a time in which people refused leadership in the church. It was a time of challenge and temptation, a time of sacrifice – not sacrifice of time or money, but of one's entire life. It was a time of communism.

Communism primarily teaches the denial of God. It was anti-Christian teaching from the beginning as it was seen in the country where it first practiced, Russia. In Russia, as we know from history, some church leaders accepted communism. They obeyed the communists to proclaim their ideology in the church by profaning God's name and his word. Some who refused to adhere to it were imprisoned, tortured and even killed.

This communism came to Ethiopia with the same spirit. After the communists of Ethiopia took over the authority of the leadership of the country, they began to proclaim the ideology of communism. They saw religion as a tool for oppressing and ruling people which is used by the capitalists. Based on this, religious leaders of the time were thought to be a means for the oppression of the capitalists. They were asked to accept and adhere to communism. If they accepted it, they would be required to teach it to their people. I remember a person who was a minister of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and who later became a communist. He persecuted his Christian friends when they refused to follow him. He influenced a few Christians who were not deeply rooted in their faith.

Gudina, the General Secretary of the EECMY at that time, was asked by the communist leaders to follow them in propagating communism. But Gudina was a person who had sincere love for God and his people. He preferred death rather than betraying his faith and his church by accepting communism. Though he knew he would be killed, he persevered in his faith. He finally was killed. He is a good model of perseverance in such a challenging situation.

Gudina Tumsa is also a model for church leaders in his ministry. He was a wise and hard working person. He had visions for his ministry. In such a hazardous situation, he used his time and talent effectively to plan and work out his visions for the growth of the church. One of his visions globally known is 'holistic service.' Another is 'establishing church fellowship.' He was the first leader who suggested the establishment of 'Ethiopian Evangelical Churches Fellowship.' His visions serve still as a framework for churches in Ethiopia and beyond. He is the first model especially for unity among Ethiopian church leaders.

Gudina had a good family. His wife and children have a good foundation in their Christian life. They lived a sacrificial

By Megersa Kumbi

Rev. Gudina Tumsa brought a holistic ministries approach to the Ethiopian Mekane Yesus Church that sparked the works of Gospel in many different regions of Ethiopia. He found ways and methods of appealing to many different nationalities oppressed by the Ethiopian Government. By using their languages and cultures, he empowered oppressed and ignored people in Ethiopia with the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. He understood that the best way to help people is to engage them in a process of solving the problems of their own daily lives.

Gudina also understood that preaching the Gospel to the starved, sick and poor of society does not fulfill the intended goal of salvation. First, people have to be cured from sickness and starvation in order to hear and learn the Word of God and participate in God's Kingdom. This point was particularly true to the Oromo, Kanbata, Sidaamaa, Gamoo, Dorzee and other peoples of Ethiopia. Gudina's approach to evangelism was based on the total packaging of evangelism. For example, he did well blending basic modern education and the message of the Gospel at peoples' levels and interests without forcing them. He just showed the love of Christ. Gudina allowed protestant Christians to participate in self-governing processes in their churches and communities. By doing so Gudina encouraged people to solve their own political, economic and social crises by themselves without waiting for government help and assistance.

Gudina taught church leaders how to teach people to be self-reliant and self-sufficient in order to meet physical and spiritual needs in their communities. In response, Mekane Yesus Church expanded the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to the weak, oppressed and the poor people of Ethiopia. It established a health care ministries system that builds local clinics to provide health education, and trains professional nurses and health officers in order to provide medical treatment to the poor people of Ethiopia. Likewise, by teaching church leaders to help themselves and their congregation by building elementary and high schools, teacher training institutes, agriculture institutes, bible training schools and seminary schools in their areas the church is able to provide modern education in combination with God's Word.

Kumbi is a Master of Theology student from Nedjo Wollega, Ormiya.

life during his suffering from the communists and after his death.

Gudina lived a life of a shepherd, being faithful to the Lord and his people. He is a model for Christian leaders.

Chufa is a senior Master of Arts student from Dessie, Wollo, Ethiopia.

International Student Profile

Julianne Koivisto

Julianne Koivisto was raised an Anglican, in Ontario, Canada. As a young parent she knew God was calling her into church work. One day she received an out-of-the-blue phone call from a Lutheran pastor asking if she was interested in talking about an opening at the church. She interviewed and was hired to join the church staff. First she served as a pastoral assistant, then she became the Minister of Faith in Life. Her time working at the church affirmed God's plan for her life, she said: "It kind of felt like a pair of comfortable slippers."

The people she worked with agreed. Years after she had been working at the congregation, she said, the pastor told her, "Before you started working here, God gave me your name."

Along the way, she felt a stronger and stronger pull to ordained ministry, and a special passion for reaching out to youth, so she applied to and was registered at a seminary in Canada. But when she came across Luther's Youth and Family Ministry program, it sounded like exactly what she was looking for.

Her instincts proved right when she took an intensive course taught by the Youth Leadership team. "When I experienced the godliness of the faculty teaching those courses, their enthusiasm for people and their excellence in the field, I knew I needed to switch to Luther," she said.

It was the right choice. Koivisto graduated with the master of divinity degree in May.

Still, even though she didn't have to adjust to changes of climate, money, technology, or language, she says, she clearly felt like an international student.

"There were so many things that struck me as being different," she said. "Things like the importance of freedom of speech, and a fiercely independent commercial spirit."

She also found herself set apart in the



Julianne Koivisto finishes handstitching the stole she wore for her ordination in June.

classroom at times. "You'd be surprised how often it was pointed out to me that I was from Canada," she said. "But my experience was incredibly blessed by being a part of the international student community. I have met people with incredible stories – people who have served God for years in their own countries in extremely difficult situations. It makes my story look pretty boring. I'm a very strong extrovert, so for me to talk to people and hear their stories is marvelous."

Koivisto feels studying at Luther Seminary – and being a part of the global community – has put her life into a different perspective.

"I can be more aware, more compassionate, more willing to consider how things might be different for someone else," she said. "It has helped me understand my assumptions and expectations."

Since she admits to being a bit outspoken at times, she looked for role models on how to express her opinions in a way that invites conversation. She found those role models in her professors.

"The faculty is very diverse – not ethnically, but theologically," she said. "The professors I've had disagree on lots of things, but not always the same

thing. It's been helpful, because it forces me to make a decision on what I really think ... it's not that straightforward.

"A big part of my education has been to deepen and broaden my perspective on the world and the church. I realize how narrow my mind was – because when you come from a certain place, and it's all you know, you think the whole world is like that."

The challenge comes in going back to that place. Koivisto has been called to serve as lead pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Calgary, Alberta, which was founded by Swedish immigrants 107 years ago. She hopes her experience at Luther will help her keep her mind open. She again points to the faculty as a model.

"I'm going to serve at a church where half of the people weren't raised in the Lutheran faith. I will need to draw on my biblical and theological base to unite them. [My seminary professors] weren't all Lutheran, either. But their faith is clear, their passion for their particular area is clear, and that enthusiasm is contagious."

– SC

P.S. After one busy month at First Evangelical, Pastor Julianne reports that "ministry still feels like comfortable slippers!"

✘ SCHIOTZ FUND EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES

With monies from the Schiotz Fund Endowment, the GMI granted scholarships to 15 students and faculty studying overseas this summer. Studies took place in India, South Africa, and at the Parliament of the World's Religion in Spain. The Schiotz Endowment is also creating the opportunity for the GMI to establish an International Professorship/Fellowship beginning in Spring 2005. Scholars from primarily the Southern Hemisphere are presently applying for the opportunity to teach and do research here at Luther Seminary for five to nine months. For more information, or to pass on the name of a potential applicant, please contact the GMI at gmi@luthersem.edu



News Notes

✘ STUDENTS ENJOY SUMMER TOGETHER

International students and their families enjoyed a tour of the Mayo Clinic as well as some recreational activity in Rochester at the end of June. At the end of July, a group of almost 30 international students, family and friends attended the ELCA's Global Mission Event in Milwaukee, Wis. Great opportunities for exchange and education continue to occur in both classroom and unique outings like these during the summer months.

✘ ROBERT TO GIVE BURGESS LECTURE

Dana Robert, professor of missions at Boston University's School of Theology since 1984, will explore "What Happened to the Christian Home? Controversies over Gender and Mission in the 21st Century" during the annual Andrew S. Burgess Lecture in Global Mission Monday, Oct. 4. Robert argues that liberals and conservatives think of community in contrasting terms, and that this affects how the church approaches mission. How does today's culture reflect the concept of the Christian home as a mission outpost? The lecture, which begins at 10 a.m., will be held in the Olson Campus Center Chapel of the Incarnation.

✘ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMPLETE STUDIES

The GMI congratulates those international students who completed their work at Luther Seminary this past spring. Some students have returned to their home country for ministry. Others will continue further study. The list includes: Alem-seged Asmelash, Changja Bae, Sigurdur Jonnson, Julianne Koivisto, Thomas Oduro, Margrete Schmidt, and John Sumo.

YES!
I want to be a member of the GMI!

The GMI challenges and encourages the Luther Seminary community and the greater Church to discover its many relationships with world Christianity by providing programs in global mission education to students and scholars, and by serving as a missional resource to congregations.

Why is your support of the GMI important?

The work of the GMI is supported entirely by the gifts and grants of individuals, congregations, foundations and corporations.

How can you become a member?

Membership begins with a gift of \$250 to the GMI. Membership may be renewed annually. GMI membership automatically qualifies you as a PARTNER of Luther Seminary.

Benefits of Membership

1. The satisfaction of knowing your investment strengthens global mission in the ELCA and around the world.
2. Prompt thanks and recognition from the GMI and Luther Seminary.
3. Automatic membership into Luther Seminary PARTNERS.
4. An annual GMI Watanabe Calendar (mailed late fall)
5. Invitation to an annual GMI donor recognition event.
6. *Global Vision* newsletter, featuring news and information about global mission.

Global Mission Membership Levels

- GMI Missioner (\$10,000 or more)
- GMI Investor (\$5,000-\$9,999)
- GMI Builder (\$2,500-\$4,999)
- GMI Sustainer (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- GMI Founder (\$500-\$999)
- GMI Sponsor (\$250-\$499)
- Other \$ _____

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Have you included the GMI in your estate plans?

By including the GMI in your estate plans, you will help share the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. For more information on various planning options, please check here.

GMI Calendar

Mission and Ministry (M&M) Forums

Olson Campus Center, Luther Seminary, 12:30-1:30 p.m. most Thursdays starting Sept. 16. Bring a lunch. For topics, call 651-641-3390, or check the events calendar at www.luthersem.edu.

October 4 Andrew S. Burgess Lecture in Global Mission

"What Happened to the Christian Home? Controversies over Gender and Mission in the 21st Century." Given by Dr. Dana Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Mission, Boston University School of Theology. 10 a.m. Olson Campus Center Chapel of the Incarnation.

October 10 Music With a Mission Concert

Four-hand piano duet music presented by Paul and Helen Baumgartner. Free-will offering to benefit GMI. 4 p.m., University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Avenue SE, Minneapolis.

October 14 International Chapel Service and Forum

Worship at 10 a.m., Chapel of the Incarnation. Forum at 12:30 p.m., Olson Campus Center.

November 7 and 8 Cross-Cultural Simulation Experience

"BaFa BaFa" Led by GMI. 6-9 p.m. Olson Campus Center Board Room. RSVP to Sara Trumm, 651-641-3390.

November 15-18 "The Cost of Discipleship"

Events that honor the life of Gudina Tumsa. See schedule, p. 4

November 30-December 3 Fair Trade Fair

Crafts, handiwork, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, chocolate bars from around the world available for purchase. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Olson Campus Center Commons.

Prayer Concerns

- ✘ We pray for the successful start of a new academic year at Luther Seminary. May the Holy Spirit inspire students, faculty and staff in their studies and outreach to others.
- ✘ As many Hmong and other refugees arrive in our communities, we pray for willing and patient people to welcome them and guide them through a peaceful transition. Guide all newcomers to faith communities where they can witness to and celebrate God's grace with others.
- ✘ We thank God for people like Gudina Tumsa who are willing to share their faith in the midst of difficult circumstances and conflict. God, give us all the strength to speak out against injustice and to share God's love in creative ways amidst hardship and struggle.
- ✘ With gratefulness, we thank God for the faithful service of Rosanne Swanson as interim director of the GMI. May God bless her in her new call at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey.
- ✘ We continue to pray for peace in our world, especially in areas of significant conflict, such as the Middle East, Sudan and Colombia.
- ✘ We pray for the new leadership and the new initiatives of the GMI, that all may be strengthened, inspired and led by God's will.

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