

# BY THE WORD



We are an association of congregations and individuals, free in Christ, accountable to one another, rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

*Volume 4, Issue 1  
1st Quarter 2005*

## *Looking Back*

The annual gathering of the association is the yearly highlight of our corporate life as a fellowship. The networking, fellowship, worship, learning and sharing that takes place when we gather is always enjoyed by those in attendance.

In October of 2004 the fourth annual gathering of LCMC congregations took place in Fargo, North Dakota at Atonement Lutheran Church. Over 260 delegates, members and visitors enjoyed the warm hospitality of the members of Atonement and the events that filled the three days of our time together.

Each year the gathering features keynote speakers from around the world. The Fargo event featured Rev. Gene Appel, associate pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Barrington, Illinois and Rev. K. K. Alavi, missionary to Muslims in India.

Gene Appel challenged the gathering with three messages about change. Many considered his insightful messages to be the highlight of the gathering. K. K. Alavi inspired us with his personal testimony of being won to Christ and of the mission work he now does with Muslims in his home country. The son of a mullah who was himself in line to be the mullah of his village, K. K. endured much persecution after coming to Christ and still endures regular threats on his life as he shares the Gospel of Christ.

Please turn to pages 4 and 5 for a pictorial summary of some of the highlights of the 2004 gathering.

## *Looking Forward*

From **October 2-5**, members and friends of the association will meet at **Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa** for our **2005 Annual Gathering**. With a theme of "**Come and See**" we will be inviting participants to come and see what God is doing in LCMC and to be challenged in exciting and inspirational ways to be about the work of the Great Commission.

- See FORWARD, page 3 -

## **NEWS FLASH! Health Insurance Rates to Remain the Same!**

In an era of percentage increases in premiums that have sometimes been in the double digits, it is really good news that health care premiums for participating association congregations will remain unchanged in 2005-2006.

Gayle McCann, president of Johnson/McCann Benefits Company made the announcement at a recent meeting of LCMC and Word Alone Network representatives at the company's office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The announcement means that our premiums for the annual period running from May of 2005 through April of 2006 will remain unchanged from last year's rates. This is made possible because plan participants have held the line on the cost of claims per member per month and because the team at Johnson/McCann works hard to be our advocate with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, our health insurance provider.

Many plans have seen increases of from 6 to 12 percent again this past year. Plans that have had a zero percent increase in premiums are very rare indeed.

If your congregation would like more information about the LCMC insurance plan, you may contact Britt Osterhues, our account representative at Johnson/McCann, at the company's toll-free number - 1-800-497-3424.

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## **Coming Soon: Mission Connections! Network on the LCMC Web Site**

Coming soon to the LCMC website...a whole new way to connect mission churches with partners for prayer, fellowship, and support! You will soon find a new link on our website (lcmc.net) for "Mission Churches." There you will find plenty of useful information, including a listing of mission churches that are a part of LCMC. If your church is interested in starting a partnership with a mission church, you can find the one nearest to you at the mission link. Or, if you are part of a mission church, you can make sure that we have you listed there. If not, you can make application for mission status directly from the website. We hope that this upcoming mission link will make it possible for the churches of LCMC to strengthen their partnership for mission. For more information, you can also contact the Mission Committee: Robin Lake, Larry Lindstrom, or Lenae Rasmussen. Call the LCMC office for more information.

- Rev. Larry Lindstrom, Vice Chair - LCMC



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### **BY THE WORD**

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 3, Issue 4

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PUBLISHED BY: LCMC  
HEADQUARTERS: 7000 Sheldon Rd,  
Canton, MI 48187  
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WEB SITE: [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

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"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast." ...  
Ephesians 2:8-9



Keynote speakers will include Dr. Kent Hunter, director of Church Doctor Ministries in Corunna, Indiana, Rev. Bill Moberly, Executive Director of the East European Missions Network and Janina Gazda, a respected children’s ministry expert from Poland.

Dr. Hunter is a respected authority on church health and vitality. He is a church consultant, having worked with over 1000 churches in the United States and Canada and numerous others abroad. He is the author of 30 books, including

*Discover Your Windows* and *The Jesus Enterprise*. He writes the bi-monthly column “Ask the Church Doctor” in *Rev. Magazine*. You can learn more about him at [www.churchdoctor.org](http://www.churchdoctor.org).

Rev. Bill Moberly is the Director of the East European Missions Network. He presented a breakout session at the 2004 gathering. The ideas he shared there were ideas we felt the whole association needed to hear. Says Moberly of his planned talk in Altoona: “The Great Commission is not optional, but is to be the primary task of the church. How can a church be meaningfully, strategically and effectively engaged in completing the Great Commission? We’ll explore practical ways for congregations of any size to be personally involved in the harvest field, and hear about fruitful opportunities for ministry in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.”



Janina Gazda will come from Poland to share her testimony and to tell us of the work she does with Children in her country. She will also share the vision God has given her and others in Poland for reaching many more children, equipping young people to reach other young people for Christ. She is the author of the book *Adopted By God*, which tells the story of her life and ministry. We are confident you will be inspired and motivated by her sharing with us in Altoona.

A host of breakout sessions, inspiring worship, great food, a couple of surprises and warm Iowa hospitality will also be featured when we gather the first week-end in October. We invite you now to “Come and See” what God will be up to.



## **April 8-9th Retreat for Women of the Heartland District**

"God's Blueprint for Happy Families" will be the central topic for participants at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, NE. Brandy Logston, who has a degree in counseling, will share the social and psychological aspects of improving our family life. Doyle Karst, pastor of St. John Lutheran and chair of the Heartland District, will share the spiritual dimension of family life followed by a service of communion.

Friday night the group will be entertained by the Cleff Dwellers choir from Midland College. Skits to welcome participants, sharing of family stories, presentations, discussions and reflections around Colossians 3:12-14 are planned for the retreat. Anyone wishing to stay at the Holiday Inn Express may contact them for group prices and reservations at 402-753-3850. Our hope at St. John is that this will be the first of annual retreats for women of the Heartland District. Member congregations will be able to take turns planning and hosting this annual retreat event. For more information contact Pastor Karst at 402-866-6271 or Marilyn VanGroningin at 402-866-5492.

- Rev. Doyle Karst, St. John - Sterling, NE

# ***A Changing Church***

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 1 Cor. 3:12*

## **A Changeless God**

For I the Lord do not change; Malachi 3:6a

### **2005 LCMC Leadership Conference to be held from April 24 - 26 Embassy Suites Hotel - Bloomington, Minnesota**

The LCMC Ministry Board designed this year's conference with two thoughts in mind. They wanted to incorporate some of the **ideas concerning change** that were offered by Gene Appel in Fargo last October and at the same time deal with the whole area of **conflict management**, since that is a subject all of our congregations will need to deal with from time to time. The Ministry Board is presently developing materials on conflict management and discipline issues for the association.

Recognizing that change is a part of our daily lives, and of the corporate life of a congregation, is an important place to start. So that is where the conference will begin. **Rev. Jim Anderson**, pastor of The Harbor Church in Cottage Grove, Minnesota and also president of Harvest Impact Ministries, will address the conference on Monday morning. His presentation will be entitled *Identifying the Need for Change*.

Following Jim's presentation, **Rev. Mark Vander Tuig**, Sr. Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa will talk to the conference attendees about *Leading Through Change*.

As we are all aware, change is quite often uncomfortable and can lead to conflict in congregations. Our first presentation on Monday afternoon is entitled *Managing the Conflict Change Often Brings*. The presenter for this session was still tentative at the time this article was published.

Monday afternoon's second presentation is entitled *Mediation - When Change Requires More*. Many of us have experienced situations where conflict management was not successful and where help was needed to bring resolution to a conflict. **Mr. Kim Pennington**, an attorney in St. Cloud, Minnesota, has worked with a number of mediation situations in his practice and will help us take a close look at mediation and how it works.

Following Monday's program, participants will have the opportunity to explore the Twin Cities area. The Mall of America is within a mile of our conference hotel. There is also light rail service from the MOA to downtown Minneapolis.

On Tuesday morning, **Rev. Steve Ernst**, one of our LCMC mission congregation pastors, will talk with us about the challenges of planting churches and will challenge us to become more involved in the Great Commission. His presentation is entitled *Change Your World*.

**Dr. Nancy Koester** will lead us in devotional times on Sunday evening and Tuesday morning. She will be exploring the *A Changeless God* portion of the conference theme. In a changing world and a changing church it is good to know that a changeless God is at the helm. We look forward to Dr. Koester's messages to us.

Registration materials were sent to all congregations in February. Details about the conference can be found at the LCMC website: [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net). When you get to the homepage, click on "National Events" and then on "3rd Ann'l Leadership." The event is open to all leaders of LCMC congregations.

# "A Changing Church-A Changeless God "

## *2005 LCMC Leadership Conference Presenters*



### **Dr. Nancy Koester**

Nancy teaches Church History at Luther Seminary as "Affiliated Faculty." She has served as a pastor in two ELCA congregations in St. Paul, Minnesota and holds a Ph. D. in Church history from Luther Seminary. Nancy's current writing project is the Fortress Introduction to Christianity in America. Nancy and her husband Craig live in St. Paul and have two college age children. Nancy will speak to us about our unchanging God during our conference devotional times on Sunday evening and Tuesday morning.



### **Rev. Steve Ernst**

Steve is the pastor at City On A Hill, an LCMC mission congregation in Manhattan Beach, California. Steve is a graduate of Long Beach State College and received his Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He and his wife Ginnette have two sons, Ezekiel and Nathan. Steve's presentation on Tuesday morning is entitled "Change Your World."



### **Rev. Mark Vander Tuig**

Mark is the Sr. Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa. Mark is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, Luther Seminary and St. Mary's Graduate School. He holds master's degrees in Divinity and in Counseling and Psychological Services. Mark and his wife Candice live in Altoona with their two daughters Laura and Emily. Mark will deliver Monday morning's presentation "Leading Through Change."

### **Mr. Kim Pennington, Esq.**

Kim is an attorney in St. Cloud, Minnesota. One of his areas of expertise is mediation. Kim will be leading us in presentation #4 on Monday afternoon. His presentation is entitled "Mediation - When Change Requires More."



### **Jim Anderson**

"Jim Anderson serves as senior pastor of The Harbor Church in Cottage Grove/Hastings, Minnesota. He has been happily married to Dawn for over 30 years and they have been blessed with three wonderful sons and a beautiful daughter.

Over the past 28 years, Jim has served in many capacities in local churches of various sizes. He is a church planter and the founder and president of Harvest Impact Ministries, a consulting ministry which specializes in helping established congregations negotiate the changes necessary to become effective outreach and disciple-making churches."

# Getting to Know . . . Lutheran Church of the Cross

- Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Senior Pastor



The American Lutheran Church decided to start several new ministries in the early 1980's. The effort was so successful that they chose to add even more under the theme: "50 more in '84". It was out of this that Lutheran Church of the Cross, in Altoona, IA began. After much prayer, door-to-door canvassing, blood, sweat and tears, the group decided to begin worship services in a rented flower shop in "old town" Altoona! The first worship service was held on the first Sunday in Advent, 1984 with 38 people in attendance. They were the beginning of the congregation that God has built today.

In February of 1985, the people left the flower shop for the site on which the church now sits, but the facility consisted only of a renovated house. Worship attendance had just about doubled to 74 people. In October of 1986 plans were made for an addition to the facilities to include a multi-purpose room/fellowship hall that would also serve as a worship center. When it was first completed in December of 1987 average worship attendance had climbed to 96.

In 1990 the congregation decided it was time to renew its commitment to outreach and evangelism, a primary concern when it was formed just a few years earlier. A group came together to develop a mission statement and form a strategic plan for its ministry, and as people got excited about where the Lord was leading, things began to change. And change has not stopped!

Over the last 15 years this congregation has completed 5 major building projects. But the most important building was taking place in the hearts and minds of the leaders and members of this church. This building project, one being done by the Holy Spirit, would lead this church to identify 7 core values, a vision for ministry and a renewed commitment to its mission. It would also lead us to a change in our affiliation! We joined LCMC in October of 2001, left the ELCA in February of 2003 and have never looked back! We are excited to be a part of LCMC because it allows us to engage in ministry with other congregations who share a similar passion for mission, the authority of the Word and congregational life.



From a flower shop in 1984 to our current campus, the Lord has proven his faithfulness time and time again. We believe that the Lord has given us a mission: to challenge all people to find a living relationship with God in Jesus Christ and to actively support growth in their faith. God has led us to engage in mission beyond our property-- we are active in ministry in Monterrey, Mexico and in Central Vietnam. Most recently, we have decided to plant a new church in a neighboring suburb to the north in the Des Moines metro area. We hope that this will be one of many new church plants in our area!



We are excited to be able to host the 2005 National Convention of LCMC and look forward to doing what we are able to encourage the congregations of LCMC!

# **MAJOR MAILING SENT TO ELCA CHURCHES**

*NW District, Private Donors Collaborate to Spread News of LCMC Lifeboat*

On Tuesday, February 15th, a massive mailing occurred throughout the Northwestern United States. This mailing focused on the newly published LCMC brochure titled "CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS". (Each envelope also carried a publicity strip featuring the coming convention of the Northwest District, LCMC on April 22-23.) Thanks to many willing hands the brochures were eagerly sent out from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Burien near Seattle.

Exactly where did the brochures go and to whom? They were sent out to every ELCA pastor and church council president in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. That's a goodly number, about 1,000. Another 500 were sent to select lay leaders, church councils, and retired ELCA pastors. They were also sent to each of the eleven LCMC congregations in the four states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

Why was this mailing so massive and so important? The new LCMC brochure can be of enormous help in exposing ELCA pastors and parishioners to what's been happening inside the LCMC. That is its prime purpose! With all the moral and spiritual confusion today in the world and in the ELCA, this brochure can lead the way in clarifying the options and benefits now available to faithful and struggling Lutheran men, women and young people. Those who read the brochure and believe what they read will recognize that a lifeboat has been quietly constructed. It's a strong vessel and durable enough to handle the storms this world hurls at those who trust and depend on Christ alone as Lutheran Christians. It's called Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

This brochure received most of its writing here in the Northwest. But it was designed for a national audience. Because of that, the Northwest District and two NW District donors financed the printing and shipping of 14,000 brochures, no small accomplishment! 11,500 were sent to our national office in Michigan for a national mailing to every ELCA pastor outside the Northwest. Hopefully, that will happen soon.

Would you like to be a part of this action? Because the LCMC runs on a lean budget, we invite your support. Send your gift to our national office at 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187 with the words "National Brochure Mailing". Thanks for this special help to reach pastors, those who may be searching for an association like LCMC.

*Paul Braafladt  
Chair, NW District, LCMC*

## **NORTHWEST LCMC DISTRICT CONVENTION**

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*April 22 and 23, 2005  
(Friday Evening and Saturday)  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Burien, Washington*

### **LIVING A RESURRECTED LIFE**

*The Convention Theme in . . .*

- ✓ **Worship**
- ✓ **Bible Study**
- ✓ **Workshops**
- ✓ **Power Point Presentation**
- ✓ **State of The Union (LCMC)**
- ✓ **Business/Elections**

*The Preacher: Rev. John Fahning*

*The Presenter: Rev. Bill Sullivan*

**COME TO KNOW!  
COME TO GROW!**

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**For further information call:  
(206) 824-5173 or (206) 242-1253**

# CHANGE YOUR WORLD!

LCMC Youth Rally ~ July 10-13, 2005 ~ Olympic Village, Salt Lake City

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**Making a Difference:** It would probably be fair to say that everyone at some point in their life has dreamed about making a difference, dreamed about changing their world for the better. For many in this world that hope and desire has remained only a dream. The good news is that in Christ we have been given the tremendous opportunity to bring dreams into reality. Through Christ real change has, and will continue to, come into this world!

**Fellowship of Believers:** One of the most effective ways to bring about change is to come together with other like minded people and bring dreams into reality. Scripture reminds us over and over of the importance of spending time in fellowship with believers. This is not to say that we don't spend time with unbelievers, it is just very clear that in order to be effective in bringing about change we must spend time with the body of Christ. We read in the book of Acts how when the believers come together the way God has intended the people are greatly encouraged and their numbers are added to daily. We hear in Hebrews a word of encouragement to not stop getting together but rather to spend intentional time pushing each other forward in our faith. **This summer our youth have the opportunity to experience first hand this fellowship that will change their world!**

**Rally at the Olympic Village!** From July 10th to the 13th the youth of the LCMC are invited to come together at the **Olympic Village** in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah for a rally that won't soon be forgotten. We will be gathering together for a time of **fun, fellowship, and unforgettable moments** that will be treasured for a lifetime. The goal of this rally is to bring students together from around the country for a time of **spiritual encouragement and equipping** that will make them ready to bring about some wonderful change in their own world. Just a few of the highlights of the rally include :

- † an amazing worship team from Salt Lake City called **Jeremiah's Fire**,
- † **TJ Anderson** - a spectacular keynote speaker from Youth Encounter, and of course
- † the **YOUTH of LCMC!**

**Jeremiah's Fire** is worship team consisting of six tremendously talented college students with a strong heart for worship and praise. Jeremiah's Fire has been leading worship regularly at youth services and camps for two years and growing deeper with the Lord with every occasion. One of the most recent worship events was at the LCMC's Evangelical Renewal District Summit held in Salt Lake where they lead a time of worship that truly blessed all who were in attendance.

This year's keynote speaker, **TJ Anderson**, comes to us from **Youth Encounter**. Incorporated in 1965, Youth Encounter is an evangelical and confessional Christian organization that began by sending a music ministry team to Scandinavia. Rooted in the Christian Scriptures and shaped by the Lutheran tradition, Youth Encounter has now grown into a global ministry serving churches of many denominations in the United States and over 40 other countries. TJ is an amazing speaker with a heart that longs for youth to experience Christ. He loves to talk about his faith in Jesus Christ, and has 25 years of experience doing just that! He believes teens will change the world and that it is time for Christian youth to lead the Church. We are really very excited about how God will use TJ this summer in Salt Lake! This summer truly will be one to remember, the world is going to change one life at a time!

For additional information regarding the LCMC 2005 Youth Rally in Salt Lake please contact Jeff Stephenson at 801-255-8181 or [ffej@gslc.net](mailto:ffej@gslc.net). Registration packets are available for download at [http://www.lcmc.net/nat'l\\_youth\\_rally.htm](http://www.lcmc.net/nat'l_youth_rally.htm).

# A MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Changing Lives in Eastern Europe

## Sponsor a young leader at Bible Retreat Institute 2005 for only \$100 each!

The spiritual, social and cultural devastation brought about during the Communist years by the destruction of over 100,000 churches under Joseph Stalin will take years to overcome, but it is happening as God's Word is taught and believed! The focus was on children, knowing that if you convince children there is no God early enough, the emptiness cascades into the future as hopelessness predominates. The occupation years took their toll across Eastern Europe, but now the first generation of young people with no direct memory of that time is coming of age. What a time to teach and preach God's Word!

East European Missions Network has a 15 year history in the region. **Pastor Bill Moberly**, a Lutheran Pastor and Director of EEMN, **will be a keynote speaker at this year's LCMC 5th Annual Gathering in Altoona, IA. Also in Altoona this fall will be Janina Gazda**, Director of Rainbow Garden Ministries (part of the Center for Mission & Evangelism, an outreach of the Polish Lutheran Church in Dziegielow, Poland). She is one of the leading authorities in children's ministry training in Eastern Europe. Her story has been told in the powerful book *Adopted by God*.

Working together, Janina Gazda and EEMN have put together the Bible Retreat Institute this summer in Karpacz, Poland. Janina wrote: "It is hard to even count how many children heard the Gospel through all kinds of evangelistic campaigns, open air meetings, visits and camps in churches and schools across Poland...For Bible Retreat Institute our goal is to bring the 'cream of the cream', 70 young leaders aged 16-21 both from Poland and Central Europe who have been serving the Lord among the youth and children...They need their 'spiritual batteries' recharged before the summer activities and to get a wider vision of the spiritual needs of European children."

Pastor Moberly and his staff will lead a team of 20 (from 5 states - including **key staff from LCMC congregations in Hutchinson, MN and Albuquerque, NM**) that has been called together to minister to these very special young people. All 70 have been through Janina's intensive ministry training program. How can you help? Please pray for God's working in their lives. Pray also for God's provision, and consider your own gift to the Bible Retreat Institute Scholarship Fund. Each \$100 scholarship sponsors one student for nine days in a family camp setting, providing all meals and lodging. We gather for times of study, worship and equipping, building an atmosphere of love and trust for young people from difficult home environments. These students will leave refreshed and equipped, and in turn will minister in churches, schools and camps to thousands of children and youth across Poland & Eastern Europe. This is a gift that will multiply in fruitfulness for years to come! Please mail your gift to EEMN, 9072 Lyndale Ave So. Suite 165, Bloomington, MN 55420. For more information you can call 952-881-3554 or e-mail Pastor Moberly at [eemn@usfamily.net](mailto:eemn@usfamily.net). **GIVE A GIFT THAT WILL CHANGE LIVES!**



## Bible Retreat Institute July 12-21, 2005 - Karpacz, Poland

*Sponsored by Center for Mission and Evangelism and East European Missions Network*

Seventy young Christian leaders, aged 16-21, will gather in the mountains of southwestern Poland for 8 days of spiritual growth, equipping, relationship building and refreshment, while expanding already strong skills in conversational English with native speakers. Fifty of the young people will come from Poland, described by Janina Gazda as her "cream of the cream", young people who will spend the rest of the summer and beyond ministering to other young people through the CME in Dziegielow, and in Sunday Schools and other settings across Poland. "We need a time to recharge our batteries. I've dreamed of doing this for many years" and now the dream is coming true! The other twenty will come from elsewhere in Eastern Europe. EEMN is providing the leadership team of 15-20 Americans for a life changing week of ministry where you'll give and receive. Structured like a typical family camp in the US, it will be marked by daily Bible teaching, worship, prayer, group discussion, and workshops on practical Christian living, along with time for play, free time, developing a new cross cultural family at the end of these 8 full days of growing together as the Body of Christ. We need team members willing to create a sense of family. Team members also are needed to lead small group discussions and workshop sessions on practical Christian living and ministry topics like the following: Courtship & Dating, Inductive Bible Study, Sexual Purity, Creation & the Theory of Evolution, Drama, Clowning, Puppetry, Alcohol & Drugs, Crafts, games with a purpose, world missions, missions etc. What is your area of interest or passion, or expertise?

**Interested? Contact Pastor Moberly (see related article for contact information.)**

# People of Humboldt Reach Out, Grow in Faith

## *Rev. Glen Peterson 1st LCMC Pastor Ordained in South Dakota*

Rev. Glen Peterson was ordained on October 17, 2004. Rev. Lenae Rasmussen officiated and Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt preached. Also participating were Rev. Doyle Karst, and Rev. Kip Tyler. Peterson is the first person to be ordained by LCMC in the state of South Dakota. He is also the first person to complete the theological studies program through Claus Harms House.

Peterson serves Faith Lutheran Church in Humboldt, South Dakota. Mr. Eric Kurtz and Mr. Dana Davis helped form the new LCMC mission church in the summer of 2003. At that time, Faith also joined the Augsburg Lutheran Churches, one of LCMC's non-geographic districts and the Heartland District, one of the association's geographic districts. In the fall of 2003 they called Glen to serve as their pastor while he completed his theological studies. Focusing on "grace alone, faith alone, word alone" the congregation grew and purchased land in Humboldt in the spring of 2004. The core group of 75 members is currently working to finish a project that included moving an existing church building onto a new basement on the property they purchased last spring.

Peterson and the congregation are focused on reaching unchurched people in the area and on attracting people who move into the area. Church members have gone door to door in Humboldt to introduce themselves and their mission. They have also reached out through local newspapers to spread their message. The Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, South Dakota featured an article about Faith Lutheran Church and Rev. Peterson's ordination on Sunday, October 17, 2004.

Please keep Rev. Peterson and Faith Lutheran in your prayers as they raise the necessary funds to complete their building project through the Lutheran Mission Investment Fund. For more information about investing in their project and the mission of Faith Lutheran, please feel free to contact Pastor Peterson at [petersongln@aol.com](mailto:petersongln@aol.com).



*Cindy and Glen Petersen celebrate his ordination*

*- Rev. Lenae Rasmussen*

### *Future Home of Faith Lutheran - Humboldt, SD*



*Eric Kurtz addresses the People of Faith Lutheran*



*"The blessing of the Lord be upon you, that you may go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit may remain." Amen.*

# Evangelical Renewal District Summit

*Salt Lake City, January 14 – 18, 2005*

For the whole body of Christ to function together as a unit, its various parts must be connected to one another. Making such connections at times requires a sacrifice in time and money, and a resolute conviction that the church is no place for lone rangers. Here's what we didn't sacrifice in our first ERD district gathering in January in Salt Lake City:

**Energy.** Everyone who gathered left refreshed and energized, not drained. Our shared values and our common Lord meant that we left better equipped than when we came. It was a good investment of time.

**Comfort and beauty.** It wasn't much of a sacrifice to stay in the Olympic Village in the foothills of some of the best skiing anywhere. A number of folks came early to enjoy the slopes around Park City. And lodging for \$20 per night, per person, was not much of a sacrifice, either.

**Core convictions.** We weren't there to debate them. Many thousands of leaders across our nation would celebrate the opportunity to stand on a solid foundation and build something new, rather than debate the foundation itself. Our ERD gathering was just such an opportunity!

We gathered together and encouraged one another. We dreamed together about effective ways of reaching the lost and moving in the power of the Holy Spirit. We shared how we could work together in mission opportunities in Haiti and Mexico and Russia and Viet Nam. We strategized about the best ways to plant new congregations. We networked together - youth directors, senior pastors, office managers, worship leaders, and others. We discovered a willingness to open our hearts to the Spirit and to one another.

Those who gathered heard an update on plans for the 2005 LCMC Youth Rally to be held at the Olympic Village from the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. They also took a tour of Temple Square in Salt Lake City and then were debriefed on the experience by staff members of Salt Lake Theological Seminary, one of the seminaries training LCMC students for pastoral ministry in the association. Several helpful ideas on how to share the Gospel effectively with Mormons were shared in the session. On the final evening of the event, Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, updated participants on events and developments at the national level in the association.

It was an awesome event which provided great opportunities to connect with one another, dream together, and storm the dominion of darkness

- Rev. Dave Drum

*Community of Hope - Tucson, AZ*

**Do you have something to share?** -- If you, your congregation, your district, or a ministry group you belong to is involved in something new and exciting, we'd love to hear about it. Or, if you would like your congregation to be profiled in our series on LCMC churches, let us know. Contact Deb Lingen, editor, at [ddalingen@netscape.net](mailto:ddalingen@netscape.net), or 402-597-3362. We'd like to tell your story!

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

•••••  
**APRIL 22 & 23.**

**NW District Convention**  
*Burien, WA*

•••••  
**APRIL 24 - 26**

**3rd Annual LCMC  
Leadership Conference**  
*Bloomington, MN*

•••••  
**APRIL 26 & 27**

**Trustees Meet**  
*Eagan, MN*

•••••  
**JULY 10-13**

**LCMC Youth Rally**  
*Salt Lake City, UT*

•••••  
**July 24 - 26, 2005**

**Augsburg District Convention**  
*Florence, AL*

## *LCMC Logo Wear Available*

Looking for a birthday gift? How about getting a \*really\* big jump on this year's Christmas gift list? Or maybe your congregation or district would like to "show our colors." High quality polo shirts and jackets with our LCMC logo tastefully embroidered on the left side are now available! And it couldn't be easier: just go to our web site, [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net) . . . click the wearables button . . . and follow the instructions. You can order one, two or a hundred items—there is no minimum purchase requirement.

We've had inquiries from congregations about participating in this program and we're pleased to announce that we can also put your congregational logo on the shirt or jacket and move the LCMC logo to the left sleeve. There is an additional charge for this program but our wearables consultant would be happy to visit further with you about this option. For further information contact Jeff Anderson (651-683-0577, or [anderson\\_jeff@msn.com](mailto:anderson_jeff@msn.com)) or feel free to call the LCMC national office.

