

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.

1st Quarter 2007

2007 LCMC Leadership Conference: *Being a Christian Leader in a Pluralistic Culture*

The annual LCMC Leadership Conference will be held from April 22-24 at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme of this year's conference is "Being a Christian Leader in a Pluralistic Culture." The event is open to both lay leaders and clergy.

The event is planned each year by the LCMC Ministry Board. It is designed to be a time for fellowship, networking, encouragement and learning. Commenting on this year's theme, Rev. Paul Spaulding had this to say: "The theme this year acknowledges that we lead as Christians within a pluralistic culture. There are many religions and pseudo-religious options that affect our communities and congregations. We need to know our mission field and how to be specifically Christian leaders in our contexts."

Four excellent and qualified speakers will lead us into the subject and facilitate our discussions. They are Dr. Walter Sundberg, Pastor Tim White, Pastor Jim Harrington and Pastor John Spaulding.

Walt Sundberg is a professor of history at Luther Seminary and a vocal witness for the historic faith. He will speak on our unique and often challenging American experience of the relationship between church and state.

Tim White is an LCMC pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, Nebraska. Tim is concerned about ministry in communities where secularism is capturing the hearts and minds of people outside and inside the church. He will challenge us to think of how to best minister in the midst of this creeping secularism.

Jim Harrington, a retired LCMC pastor from Brigham City, Utah will speak from his own personal experience and bring a wealth of knowledge of how to be a Christian in the midst of a religion as tantalizing, confusing and misleading as Mormonism.

John Spaulding has a ministry to Muslims in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Besides working with individual Muslims, he works with Christian churches and individuals to help Christians understand Islam and be witnesses to their Muslim neighbors. John was an ELCA Global Missions pastor in Senegal, Africa for fifteen years and has his Master's degree in Islamic studies.

The cost of the conference is \$60.00 per person which includes the registration fee, dessert

Leadership event cont'd page 6

**Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ**

Laywoman named to LCMC Board of Trustees

Mrs. Sue McKenzie has been named to the LCMC Board of Trustees. McKenzie was chosen to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of G. Barry Anderson, LCMC's first chairman and one of the original architects of the association.

Citing increased professional demands as a result of his appointment as an Associate Justice of the Minnesota State Supreme Court, Anderson submitted his resignation in November. The trustees then directed that each church in Area 6, from which Anderson was elected, be contacted for the purpose of soliciting nominations to fill the post. Trustees then made the decision to name McKenzie at the regularly scheduled January board meeting.

McKenzie is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, an LCMC mission start in Hayward, WI. She attended the ELCA's NW Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry in 2001-2002. McKenzie currently serves as the Secretary of Grace's church council and is the liaison to its Music and Worship committee. She is also a member of the Praise team for a community ALPHA program.

McKenzie and her husband Scott have been married for 27 years and have three children. Together they owned and operated a resort, restaurant and mobile home park for many years. Sue has been a teacher and program administrator for a child care center in Hayward since 1995. Sue



earned an AA in Liberal Arts and is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in communications at the University of Wisconsin/ Superior.

In addition to her other activities Sue is the president of the Hayward Community Choir; a choir of 90-100 people that put on a Christmas cantata every year.

McKenzie will begin her active service as a trustee with the board meeting scheduled for April.

**Comments? Suggestions?
News to share?
We want to hear from you —
submissions are welcome!
Contact Deb Lingen, newsletter editor,
at ddalingen@netscape.net
or 952-686-7333.**



Staff, Board of Trustees

Service Coordinator: Rev. William Sullivan - wtsullivan@sbcglobal.net
Dir. of Operations/Financial Sec'y: Sharon McFadyen - lcmcadmin@sbcglobal.net

7000 Sheldon Road (734)-207-5400
Canton, MI 48187 Toll Free: 866-720-LCMC (5262)

LCMC Board of Trustees:

Rev. Dr. Paul Braafladt
Rev. David Chancellor
Kirk Dean, *Treasurer*
Rev. Larry Lindstrom, *Vice Chairman*
Mrs. Debra Adams Lingen, *Secretary*
Mrs. Sue McKenzie
Mr. Dennis Sandmann
Rev. Dale Wolf, *Chairman*

You may obtain individual contact information by phoning the National Offices of LCMC:
(734)-207-5400

Toll Free: 866-720-LCMC (5262)

or by e-mailing to:

lcmcbboard@lcmcsvr.lcmc.net

BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter 2007
EDITOR: Deb Lingen
CONTRIBUTORS: Bryan S. Anderson, David Chancellor, Dan Cloeter, Kirk Dean, David Drum, Lee Hardesty, Doyle Karst, Deb Lingen, Perry M. Petersen, Sharon MacFadyen, Meg Madsen, Sue McKenzie, Chris Magnell, Curt Rosen, Paul Spaulding, Bill Sullivan, Ron Winslow

PUBLISHED BY: LCMC
HEADQUARTERS: 7000 Sheldon Rd,
Canton, MI 48187
PHONE: Toll Free (866) 720-5266
WEB SITE: www.lcmc.net

• • •
"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

LCMC Ministry Board

The LCMC Ministry Board has selected a new chair, Rev. Paul Spaulding. Other Ministry Board members are Rev. David Drum, Rev. Kathy Sukke, Rev. Kip Tyler, Rev. Tim White, and Rev. Bruce Wilder. Rev. Spaulding provided the following observations on Ministry Board activities.

The LCMC Ministry Board meets three or four times a year to consider clergy, ministry, and leadership issues in the association. One of the most recent items of discussion was the upcoming Annual Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, April 22-24, 2007. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the agenda for this Conference: "Being Christian Leaders in a Pluralistic Culture."

Though District Ministry Committees do most of the colloquies to bring pastors from outside the association onto LCMC's certified list of clergy, as well as the candidacy work to bring seminarians into ordained ministry, the LCMC Ministry Board serves as a resource for these district committees. It also functions as a voice for broader LCMC policy. The Ministry Board plans to have a breakfast meeting with representatives of district ministry committees at the April Leadership Conference.

Because we do not have "our own seminary" some have wondered how we are able to provide clergy. Now appearing on the LCMC website is a list of names and addresses of seminaries with which LCMC has a working relationship, as well as others where we also have students. Several of the seminaries listed have the ability for the student to fulfill LCMC's expectations for Lutheran confessional and historical education in-house within their approved curriculum. If you have ques-

tions, please feel free to contact me at pauls@cableone.net.

At the last Ministry Board meeting possible solutions to the issue of LCMC having more pastors than congregations was discussed. If any of you know of congregations of other denominations (ELCA or otherwise) near you without a pastor and without prospects of getting one soon, let us know. A letter is being drafted that could be sent to them to encourage their considering an LCMC pastor.

The reality is that the LCMC is a networking association of congregations. No one fund, for example, is held from which support for mission congregations is handed out. Instead, as your congregations are giving benevolence as part of their budget, perhaps a generous portion should be earmarked for LCMC mission congregations. In some traditional denominations 75% or more of the benevolence sent to the denomination was used for administrative purposes. Here in the LCMC my guess is that if we all sent 10 or 20% of our benevolence dollars to the LCMC national office it would be enough. The rest, 80 to 90% of what your congregation should be giving away anyway, would then be available for direct giving to mission and ministry opportunities of all types. Form a benevolence committee in your congregation to discuss how to use those funds to God's glory!

Is switching to e-notification right for you?

LCMC spends a chunk of money each year on postage and paper goods. Organizations like ours are constantly challenged to reduce that paper use and contain those postal costs. For us, it's a matter of good stewardship.

There is an easy way you can help: ask to switch to electronic notification as your preferred form of communication. Simply notify Sharon MacFadyen in the LCMC office and she'll be glad to make the change for you. Contact Sharon by e-mail at lcmsadmin@sbcglobal.net or call the LCMC office at our toll-free number, 866-720-5262.

2007 Gathering Theme, Location, and Keynote Speakers Announced

The dates and location of the 7th Annual Gathering of the association recently have been finalized. Sunday evening, October 7 through Wednesday noon, October 10 are the dates, and the location will be North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

The theme for this year's gathering will be "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." Our theme verse is Luke 11:1 -- "Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

We are pleased to announce that at this time two keynote speakers have agreed to address this year's gathering. Other speakers and Bible study leaders will be announced as plans are confirmed.

Dr. Paul Maier is the Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History and chaplain at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is also the 2nd Vice-President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Dr. Maier is a graduate of Harvard University and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. On a Fulbright Scholarship, Maier studied at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and Basel, Switzerland. He is a much published author of both scholarly and popular works; over 5 million Maier books are now in print in a dozen languages. A recipient of the Distinguished Scholar and Alumni Teaching Excellence awards, Dr. Maier has been recognized as Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He lectures and does seminars on a wide range of topics, and appears frequently in national radio, television, and newspaper interviews.



Dr. Paul Maier



Rev. John Burke

John Burke is the Lead Pastor at Gateway Community Church in Austin, Texas. He is also the president of Emerging Leadership Initiative, a nonprofit organization founded in 1998 to help establish a multiplying network of missiological churches that envision, equip and empower young emerging leaders to plant innovative churches throughout America. Before starting Gateway, John was the Executive Director of Ministries at Willow Creek Community Church. Prior to Willow Creek, John and his wife Kathy were on staff with a campus ministry in California. John is the author of the book "No Perfect People Allowed: Creating A Come As You Are Culture in the Church."

North Heights Lutheran Church, where the gathering and convention will be held, has two campuses in the Twin Cities. We will meet at the Arden Hills campus, at 1700 West Highway 96. Because this event will be held at a site that is not an LCMC member church, congregations in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas will be invited to assist with hosting duties for the gathering. A meeting for representatives of these churches is planned for early this spring. As details for the gathering are confirmed they will be made available at the LCMC website: www.lcmc.net.

Put October 7-10 on your calendar and plan to join us for another time of rich fellowship, extensive networking, fine teaching and an overall wonderful opportunity to be together with LCMC folks and those visiting from around the country.

The ABC's of Starting a New Church: Assessment, BootCamp, Coaching

-- Rev. David Chancellor, LCMC Board of Trustees

Historically, Lutherans' primary church growth strategy has relied on having large families by cranking out lots of little Olie and Lena's to bring into the Church. But now that families are much smaller, what should Lutherans do to build the Kingdom of God and take serious Christ's command to go and make disciples of all people?

Let's be honest, while Lutherans have many strengths, evangelism is not one. But we can learn from other denominations which are successful in evangelism. Last year, the LCMC Board of Directors met with the president and staff members of the Evangelical Free Church in America (EFCA) at their headquarters in Minneapolis. Our goal was to learn about the EFCA, which is structured almost exactly like our LCMC. The EFCA is a mainline denomination founded in the 1950's having some roots in the Lutheran Church of Scandinavia. Unlike almost every other main-line denomination, the EFCA is showing strong growth. Their mission focus is to fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying healthy congregations.

Currently, the EFCA has 143 new church starts with an average success rate of 90%! That means that at any one time there is a new church being successfully started for every 13 congregations. That is an outstanding record.

The EFCA has a threefold strategy which encompasses the ABC's. Let's learn how they do it:

Assessment is about finding the right leader for starting a new church. For various reasons, most pastors are not cut-out for church planting. St. Paul reminds us that we all have different gifts according to the grace given us. The Assessment process helps identify these gifts and talents and places the right pastor for the right call.

Bootcamp is a week long seminar which covers the major issues a church planter will confront when starting a new church. Why re-invent the wheel when someone else has already been there and done that? Bootcamp is for planters, spouses, lay leaders, and coaches.

Coaches are peers and mentors of the church planter who provide encouragement, accountability and perspective for the church planter down in the trenches.

The fantastic news I'm bringing to you is that the EFCA has offered to help us in our church planting efforts by making their course and assessment resources available to

A Warm Welcome to LCMC's Newest Congregations!

New congregations to join the association since our last report in the third quarter newsletter include the following:

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
Bellflower, California (1/28/07)

Hegland Lutheran Church
Hawley, Minnesota (1/28/07)

Apostles Lutheran Church
Chesapeake, Virginia (1/28/07)

Glenfield Lutheran Church
Glenfield, North Dakota (1/28/07)

Ephphatha Deaf Lutheran Church
Des Moines, Iowa (1/7/07)

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church
Sandusky, Ohio (12/16/06)

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Blanco, Texas (12/10/06)

John the Baptist
Vitebsk, Belarus (12/10/06)

Revelation
Minsk, Belarus (12/10/06)

Holy Peter and Paul
Poltsk, Belarus (12/10/06)

Holy Matthew
Orsha, Belarus (12/10/06)

We extend an enthusiastic welcome to each of these congregations new to our growing fellowship in LCMC!

Four Congregations in Belarus join LCMC

In the summer of 2006, while traveling through the former Soviet Union, Rev. Bill Moberly of the East European Missions Network stayed in the home of Rev. Valery Hryhoryk in Belarus. While he was there Moberly told Hryhoryk about LCMC and gave him information about our association.

Shortly before our 2006 Gathering in Albuquerque, the LCMC office in Canton received the first inquiry from Rev. Hryhoryk.. Pastor

Valery wrote asking for more information about LCMC and also asked if the association was open to receiving members from other countries.

Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, wrote to Pastor Hryhoryk with information and an invitation to any congregations in Belarus that were interested, indicating we would be glad to welcome them to LCMC.

As a result, Pastor Hryhoryk sent a letter of greeting that was read to

those gathered in Albuquerque. He started the process of informing congregations there in Belarus about LCMC.

We recently received subscription forms for four congregations in Belarus. They are John the Baptist in Vitebsk, Revelation in Minsk, Holy Peter and Paul in Poltsk and Holy Matthew in Orsha.

We look forward to developing a relationship with our brothers and sisters in Belarus.

Financial Snapshot

- Kirk Dean, LCMC Treasurer, and Sharon MacFadyen ,
Director of Ops / Financial Secretary

A final review of the year 2006 shows a markedly improved financial picture. The contribution and expense streams seem to indicate the same pattern we have experienced over the year with donations continuing to increase.

In 2005, we showed a net loss of \$7,968.84. In 2006 we had positive revenue over expenses of \$9,268.30. This represents a \$17,237.14 improvement over last year. Our YTD donations have increased by \$32,617.01. Some of our expenses have increased---mostly travel, meeting costs, and newsletter expense. Other expenses were actually decreased in order to keep expenses in line with our projected budget. Other expenses include increased bank fees due to higher than prior year's usage of credit cards for the annual gathering, and increased expenses for general supplies in the office. These expenses will most likely continue to be as they were in 2006. We are not likely to repeat the expenses in the computer hardware/equipment category this next year either. Going forward, the biggest area of concern would have to be in the area of professional fees.

2006 marked the first year where both the Leadership Conference and the Annual Gathering were self sufficient. Considering the Annual Gathering location in Albuquerque, this is a very positive outcome. If we continue to diligently plan these events so that the costs are incorporated in the fees, we should be able to continue this trend.

The picture for 2007 looks bright as well. We continue to see new congregations join us and see others begin to contribute who did not in the past. With a couple of exceptions all congregations maintained or increased giving in 2006. Additionally, in order to provide proper stewardship of congregation contributions a money market account has been established for temporarily excess funds. So far this provides about \$50 per month in additional revenue.

Leadership event cont'd from page 1

Sunday evening, lunch on Monday and Tuesday and refreshments both days. Breakfast both days will be on your own as well as dinner on Monday evening.

A block of rooms has been secured at the Country Inn and Suites in Bloomington, Minnesota at the rate of \$89.00 per night, plus tax, based on double occupancy. The deadline for the conference rate is April 2, 2007. The hotel is located at 2221 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN and the phone number at the hotel is 952-646-2804.

There is a complimentary shuttle service between the airport and the hotel. In addition, shuttle service from the hotel to the conference location will be provided by the folks at Trinity of Minnehaha Falls. The hotel is located directly across the street from the Mall of America where conference attendees can shop and dine as well as catch the light rail to downtown Minneapolis if they choose.

The conference schedule, a registration form, and all other pertinent information can be found at the LCMC website: www.lcmc.net. When you get to the home page just click on "National Events" and then on the "2007 Leadership Conference" menu item. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be an outstanding conference.

LCMC-Lutheran Men: Tips on Starting an LCMC-LM Chapter in Your Church

The purpose of LCMC-Lutheran Men is to worship God through its Mission Loan Fund and Mission Gift Fund. LCMC-LM President Perry M. Petersen offers information below on how your church can become involved.

1. Find a member of the congregation who is willing to serve as the "Key Man." (Leading this group is not meant to be a function for the pastor.) The Key Man will shepherd the group and act as it's liaison with the national LCMC-LM office. He should have some computer skills as much of our communication is via e-mail.
2. The Key Man should become familiar with the constitution of LM and its vision, objectives, and background.
3. The Key Man should determine with the local church council the date(s) when the LM should have their Mission Appeal, if other than the months suggested in the description of each of the funds. Some churches conduct both appeals on the same day such as Father's Day.
4. The Key Man should develop a short presentation to make to the congregation such as temple talks, forums, and other local church groups. This is to be given prior to the date selected for the annual appeals for the Buck-a-Month Club (LCMC-LM Mission Loan Fund) and the Committee -of-100 Club (LCMC-LM Mission Gift Fund).
5. The Key Man should publicize, prior to the appeal, in the monthly church publication of the upcoming date for the fund appeal.
6. The next suggestion for the Key Man is to prepare the bulletin inserts from the LM link on the LCMC website. The insert and a 3x5 envelope for the donations are to be placed in the Sunday bulletin. The envelope could be entitled "Lutheran Men Fund Appeal" so it would be different from the usual church donating envelopes. This would assist the money counters in separating the envelopes for counting purposes.
7. It is suggested that the Key Man give a short temple talk to the congregation before each service on the day of the appeal to remind all of the men of the purpose and importance of the appeal.
8. Each member should fill out the bulletin insert noting which fund he wishes to contribute to and the amount, along with his name and address. Donations can be accepted for both funds and men can become members of both clubs.
9. The Key Man should then count the donations, keeping track of the donors, amount donated to each club, the type of payment, and attach the payment to the bulletin insert for sending to Sharon MacFadyen at the LCMC national office in Canton, MI.
10. The donations may continue to come in for several Sundays after your initial appeal. **Donations can also be accepted from female members in honor of their husbands.**
11. It may be advisable to leave some extra forms and envelopes on the bulletin board or at a kiosk for those men who may not have attended services the day of your appeal.
12. Donations should be mailed weekly to the LCMC office.
13. Records of the donations need to be kept from year to year at the local chapter so members of each club can be reminded to continue to be members each year.
14. In larger churches the Key Man may need to solicit additional help to prepare the bulletins and count the funds received from the appeal.

Feel free to print out these tips for your use.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these tips please contact:

Perry M. Petersen, President of Lutheran Men

522 Silver Lane

Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, 51054

Cell Phone: 712-490-4950 or e-mail at: perry@aol.com

You can also contact Sharon MacFadyen at the LCMC national office in Canton, MI



WOW Talk Offers Opportunity to Network

At the request of the group of women that gathered in Albuquerque, Sharon McFadyen set up a chat list called WOW Talk. It has not yet been very active, but you may sign up for it from the LCMC web site-- www.lcmc.net. Once you are on the list you can share what's happening with your church or district, ask about Bible studies, benevolence and mission opportunities or whatever is on your mind. You can also pose specific requests, such as whether another church or district would be willing to share their governing documents.

Once you've signed up, using the WOW Talk is easy. To send a message, simply address it to wowtalk@lcmcsvr.lcmc.net.

If you reply to a message received through the board, remember that the message will be sent to all members on the list.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them on the discussion board or contact LCMC's Director of Operations, Sharon MacFadyen, at [lcmcadm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lcmcadmin@sbcglobal.net).

Mailing to Contain Important Notification, Seek Information

In early March congregations of the association will receive a packet of material with several important pieces of information. One of the items will provide information and a couple of them will seek important information.

Churches can expect to find a statement of giving to LCMC's general fund in 2006. Details will also be included about giving to the two restricted funds administered at the national level.

A second item of information will be the bylaw measures passed at the 2006 convention which took place during our gathering in Albuquerque. Congregations will have until October of 2007 to register a vote in opposition to either bylaw passed this past year. If congregations approve of the changes, no further action on their part is necessary.

A third piece of information will be a sheet of statistical information about each congregation. If there are changes to the information, congregations will be asked to submit those changes to the office in Canton, Michigan. Statistical information about each congregation is listed at the website and we like to make sure that the information listed there is as accurate as possible. Some of the requested information is used by organizations like Thrivent to determine what kinds of grant funds will be made available to LCMC.

Congregations are asked to watch for the information and to respond to any changes in their information in as timely a manner as possible. As always, we appreciate your help in keeping our records accurate and thank you in advance for your assistance.



“For our sake, he made him to be sin who had no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Update from the Heartland . . .

- contributed by Rev. Doyle Karst, Heartland District Chair



TRINITY-BEATRICE WELCOMED; SAHL INSTALLED

Heartland churches are pleased to welcome Trinity Lutheran Church of Beatrice, NE to LCMC and the Heartland District. The people of Trinity have called Rev. Tom Sahl. Sahl was installed by Rev. Doyle Karst, chair of the district, on January 21st. In spite of a snowstorm that afternoon, the congregation celebrated with a reception to give a warm welcome to Pastor Sahl and his wife Sandy.

MISSION START UPDATE

Heartland's new mission start in Lincoln now has a name! The church plant has been called River of Life, and is being led by Pastor Dan Cloeter. Though the Association of Related Churches chose not to fund a matching \$30,000 interest-free loan, supporters in the district have not been discouraged. They are continuing to work with Pastor Dan and are close to raising the funds necessary to launch this mission plant.

A steering committee is being formed and a place to conduct opening worship has been secured. River of Life's first service is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. March 25th at SouthPointe Cinema, and LCMC members in the surrounding area are invited to join in worship. Pastor Dan asks for your prayerful support as they launch this exciting new venture. Monetary gifts would also be greatly appreciated. More information about River of Life can be found at the church's new website, www.rol4u.com, or by contacting Pastor Cloeter at dmcloeter@yahoo.com. or 402-261-4775.

The Amazing Grace mission start in Colorado has run into difficulty. The Heartland council requests prayers for guidance, seeking God's will for His people in that area.

DISTRICT COUNCIL TO MEET APRIL 14; CONVENTION SET FOR JUNE 23

Members of the Heartland council will meet April 14. One topic of discussion will be choosing a theme and making plans for the district convention to be held in June. Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbus, NE is to host the convention. One item on the agenda will be a discussion on preparing Heartland members to participate in the search for qualified candidates to stand for election from Area 6 at the 2007 national LCMC convention.

In other business, the Heartland council and district ministry board have been fine-tuning the district's candidacy and colloquy process for adding pastors. Because of the number of contacts from pastors seeking to join LCMC through the Heartland District, an application form has been added to aid in accepting pastors onto its list. The council is also working on an application form for congregations that wish to join Heartland. The simple forms help focus the information for the district's task force.

COORDINATOR POSITION UNDER CONSIDERATION

In response to the growth of the district, the Heartland council is prayerfully considering whether to fund and hire a part time coordinator. They envision this person would be responsible for managing contacts, providing information about Heartland, and keeping the simple structure of the district working.

SEMINARIAN NEWS: PEDERSEN TO ATTEND LUTHER

Jeremy Pedersen, whose home congregation is Elk Horn (IA) Lutheran Church, has been working with the district's ministry committee. He is currently spending a year on a foreign culture service project in England. "This experience has in many ways has been a combination of college, camp, and study abroad," according to Jeremy. Upon returning to the United States Jeremy plans to attend Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He'll begin next fall with the goal of becoming a pastor in LCMC. If you'd like to find out more about Jeremy's service project experiences you can reach him at orlanduped@hotmail.com.⁹

First LCMC-Endorsed Army Chaplain in Iraq!

-- an open letter from Chaplain Chris Magnell (Lutheran Church of the Cross, Altoona, IA)

Many of you know that LCMC recently became an endorsing body for denominational chaplains. This was of particular excitement to me, because I am able to be the first chaplain endorsed by LCMC* to deploy in combat, heading to Iraq last summer. So, the question is, what am I doing?

Well, I arrived in Southwest Asia in August, and went from Kuwait, to Baghdad, Iraq, and eventually settled in at a place called Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah, where I filled in a vacancy with the 3-67 Armored Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. I served with them for four months. My duties included leading worship, counseling Soldiers, advising the Commander (and praying with him!), hosting an Iraqi priest, providing Spiritual care to wounded Soldiers, performing memorial ceremonies, and providing the Protestant version of last rites for Soldiers. (All Soldiers who are killed in action are prayed for; as a Lutheran, my prayers over the body focus on strength for the family and proclamation of the risen Christ.)



After the 3-67 returned to Fort Hood, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division Chaplain's office at Camp Liberty. Known as the First Team, the 1st CAV is leading the current operations in Baghdad. My duties are varied; I organize and lead one of the Sunday Protestant services; I offer morning devotionals during the Commanding General's morning battle update, twice a week; I coordinate helicopter transportation for chaplains; I lead Bible studies; I visit Soldiers; I counsel, and much more.



Chaplain Magnell, with Geraldo Rivera

It has been fulfilling. I have seen God move. I have experienced many rockets and mortars and have been out in the fight, including battlefield circulation in a tank. I have felt the presence of God, especially in my fears, and as I miss my family and home. I'll be ready to get home, but I also know God has me here for a great purpose.

As I close, I have to admit it has also been fun to tell others about LCMC when they ask my denomination, and I know our LCMC chaplain corps will continue to grow! I am keeping a blog at www.armychaplain.blogspot.com Also, feel free to email me at: chris.magnell@us.army.mil My schedule doesn't always allow me to answer right away, but I try, and love to hear from home!

** Editor's note: LCMC has other chaplains on its list of pastors who have obtained their military endorsement through other endorsing agencies.*

World Encounter Outreach Team to Minister with LCMC Churches in India

-- by Curt Rosen, President of World Encounter

For a life-transforming experience, join World Encounter, in association with LCMC, on a short-term outreach to India October 5-22, 2007. Orissa Evangelical Fellowship (OEF), an LCMC association of churches in India, has invited congregations in the US to encourage them in their efforts to share the Good News with the unreached people of India. They have asked the team to conduct a two-day leadership conference, to visit and minister in the village churches, and to learn about the needs and opportunities facing them in India.

OEF members live in small, rural villages scattered among rice paddies and small garden plots. Groups of believers worship in homes and thatch-roofed churches. In the midst of opposition to the Gospel, they are committed to reaching their Hindu neighbors and families with the Good News that has transformed their lives.



The people of Orissa are primarily tribal/animists and Hindus who worship spirits, trees, rocks, and other objects of nature. The heart of the OEF vision is focused on church planting, discipleship, and leadership development. They have asked LCMC churches in the US to partner with them to share the Good News with their neighbors.

Led by OEF president, Pastor Promod Nag, local fellowships strive to reach their neighbors. Using a motorcycle, donated by Lutheran Community of Grace, an LCMC congregation in Minnesota, Pastor Promod travels to the villages to support the eighteen pastors and churches, and to initiate work in new villages.

As in most of India, the believers in Orissa warmly receive guests with overwhelming hospitality. Team members will be challenged and encouraged as you meet the people and witness the amazing events God is using to spread the Gospel. You may never look at "church" the same way again!

Opportunities to learn about Indian culture are also provided in short visits to cultural sights, Hindu shrines, and through visits with Hindu families and community leaders. A day-trip to the Taj Mahal will conclude the journey.

Make plans now to join the outreach team to Orissa. Experience a powerful, life-transforming outreach opportunity. Registration for the team closes June 30, 2007.

For applications or more information contact World Encounter at 651-484-3010 or by e-mail at <missions@worldencounter.org>

Pastor Curt Rosen is founder and president of World Encounter, a cross-cultural training and sending ministry for short-term teams. He has over thirty years of experience in short-term missions and cross-cultural ministry around the world. His passion is to help people discover a bigger world and their God-given destiny to serve the least - the last - the lost for Jesus Christ.

He leads several teams each year to work with different ministries throughout India. On behalf of LCMC he visited the Orissa Evangelical Fellowship churches in November 2005 to learn about the challenges they face in ministry, and how they might be encouraged as LCMC international members.



What's New in the Evangelical Renewal District

- David Drum, Community of Hope - Tucson, AZ; ERD

New Wine for New Wineskins: ERD gathering in Salt Lake City, January, 2007

JANUARY DISTRICT MEETING

Leaders from the Evangelical Renewal District met January 22-24 in Salt Lake for worship, fellowship, and discussion, hosted by Pastor Jeff Nellermeoe and Good Shepherd Lutheran.

Much of the discussion grew out of the business concept of a "blue ocean." Red oceans are where businesses compete over the same factors (the analogy being sharks drawing blood!). Blue oceans are where a business is innovative enough to venture into uncharted waters, sometimes by combining two sectors in a new way, enabling it

to reach a whole new pool of potential customers. Discussion centered around the factors that have traditionally shaped a congregation's approach to ministry, and what new factors might be considered in order to more effectively reach the growing pool of people who are not connected to either the church or the Savior.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The district's website will be adding a feature that lists various congregations' upcoming short-term mission trips, enabling individuals or groups from other

congregations to join these trips, as well as support them through prayer. (See current list - next page.)

2008 GATHERING PLANNED

Next year's annual district gathering will be in Monterrey, Mexico, hosted by Enrique Estrada, January 21-24, 2008.

ERD EVENINGS

ERD members and interested guests are invited to join ERD evenings held in conjunction with the Leadership Conference April 22-24, and at the annual convention October 7-10.

"CHRIST . . . OUR ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS"

How do Catholics, Lutherans, and conservative evangelicals differ on Christian basics such as faith, baptism, prayer, use of the Bible? The CrossAlone District of LCMC has produced a booklet which compares the basic stance of Catholics, Lutherans, and conservative evangelicals on 19 issues. It's a great resource for adult study groups and for all those who wonder about the edges of the gospel and the differences among these major Christian traditions. The booklet titled, "Christ....Our Only Righteousness," can be ordered by contacting Jane Larson at JLarson333@aol.com or by fax at 952-442-4134.



COMMUNITY OF GRACE CELEBRATES, REACHES OUT IN FELLOWSHIP

Community of Grace, an LCMC mission start in the Twin Cities, recently marked its third anniversary. Rev. Mark Richardson, who currently serves Bethesda Lutheran Church in Dresser, WI, returned to the LCOG pulpit to mark the anniversary. Following coffee time the congregation enjoyed a forum led by Pastor Richardson, as well as stories and pictures from Community of Grace's past three years presented by Bob Gjengdahl, president of the congregation. In other news from LCOG, the congregation was pleased to send a gift of \$870.00 to Lutheran Pastor Pramod Nag in Orissa, India. The funds were used to help rebuild the collapsed wall of his congregation's church. LCOG previously raised funds to provide Pastor Nag with a motorcycle to facilitate his outreach work for the Orissa Evangelical Fellowship.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, BETHESDA! Bethesda on Sand Lake (Dresser, WI) is celebrating its 135th Anniversary this spring. The congregation, which began in 1871 with 61 communicants and 50 children as charter members, joined LCMC in 2004. They're planning a two-part celebration to look back on where they have been and ahead to Bethesda's future. Celebration dates are April 22nd and June 10th, and will include 10:30 worship and noon potluck, followed by an afternoon program of reminiscing.



ERD Offers Short-Term Mission Opportunities

Evangelical Renewal District congregations are participating in many domestic and international mission trips. Please add these trips to you and your congregation's prayers. Additionally, contact information is listed if you would like more information about the possibility of joining any particular trip.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| March 13 - 31, 2007 | Tanzania | Assisting women and children affected by AIDS
Community of Hope (Tucson AZ) and other individuals.
Contact: Curt Rosen through www.worldencounter.org for more information. |
| March 17 - 21, 2007 | Rio Bravo, Mexico | Optical mission
Lutheran Church of the Cross (Altoona, IA)
Contact: LCC: (515) 967-4818 |
| March, 2007 | Viet Nam | Medical mission
Good Shepherd (Sandy, UT) and other individuals.
Contact: Rick Mercurio or the Good Shepherd office: (801) 255-8181 |
| Spring, 2007 | Guatemala | Medical mission
Morningside Lutheran (Sioux City, IA).
Contact Christy Rice at Morningside: (712) 276-2511 |
| Summer, 2007 | Russia | English Bible camps
East European Mission Network
Contact Bill Moberly at 505-296-0762 |
| June 24 - 30, 2007 | Nogales, Mexico | Youth outreach
Community of Hope (Tucson, AZ).
Contact: Cheryl Mattingly at cohmadre@gmail.com |
| July 15 - 30, 2007 | Russia | Good Shepherd (Sandy, UT) and other individuals.
Contact: Rick Mercurio or the Good Shepherd office (801) 255-8181 |
| June 17 - 20, 2007 | Fargo, ND | White Earth Reservation
Atonement (Fargo, ND) Pre-Rally work camp in conjunction with 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally
Contact: Rebecca Meidinger at (701)237-9651 or email lcmcyouthrally@atonementfargo.org . |
| August, 2007 | Monterrey, Mexico | Good Shepherd (Sandy, UT) and other individuals.
Contact: Rick Mercurio or the Good Shepherd office (801) 255-8181 |
| October 5 - 22, 2007 | India | Outreach to Orissa Evangelical Fellowship
World Encounter
Contact: Curt Rosen at www.worldencounter.org |
| November, 2007 | Monterrey, Mexico | Medical mission
Lutheran Church of the Cross (Altoona, IA)
Contact: LCC: (515) 967-4818 |

Great Lakes District

-- from Pastor Ron Winslow, Coordinating Pastor for the Great Lakes District

NOTES ON THE 2006 LCMC CONVENTION

Attending our national gathering in Albuquerque last October, I was impressed to see how our LCMC church family is growing. We heard that we are 185 member churches strong. God has blessed our church for making the decision to leave the ELCA and help establish the new LCMC. It took a lot of courage for us, as I'm sure it did for you. We have known the kind of courage Peter had when he tried to walk on water. Try putting yourself in Peter's place for a moment. It's one thing to have the INSIGHT into what Jesus was saying and doing in His WORD. But when He invites us to go on the adventure of our lives, we have to decide...and act. I thank God for everyone who has chosen to follow.

GREAT LAKES DELEGATES MEET IN ABQ

At the LCMC national gathering, the Great Lakes District delegates met for supper and business on District Night. We elected Pastor Ron Winslow of Zion Lutheran Church in Ottawa Lake, Michigan as District Chairman. The members of the district steering committee agreed to stay on until the next District meeting, possibly in October 2007. Our steering committee includes Ron Dale of St. Andrew, Farmersville; Pastor John Fults of Faith, Detroit; and Pat Ortman of Zion, Ottawa Lake.

GLD FALL MEETING

We had a successful fall meeting of the Great Lakes District at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maumee, Ohio on October 22, 2006. The day's activities included a presentation on church planting by a group from St. Paul's. They have about 100 people meeting in a local theater in Maumee. The name of the Church is 10:35. It is very contemporary in style with most of the attendees being seekers (non-churched). St. Paul's helps to fund this church.

The second presentation was on missions. Bill Schmidt and Susan Peth shared with us about two groups of girls (60 in all) in Guatemala to whom they minister. The young girls are taken off the streets and given shelter, food and schooling. St. Paul's sponsors three trips to Guatemala each year.

Newly ordained Pastor Paul Doerfler of St. Paul's was the host and led us in worship. A very special thank you to Pastor Paul, who arranged for the key speakers from St. Paul's; to Pastor Mark Gibbs from St. Michael, our facilitator; and to Pastor Ron Winslow of Zion Lutheran Church for his sermon, "The Church: Let it Run!"

Great Lakes District will next gather in April at Grace Lutheran Church in West Carrollton, OH.

Why ReClaim?

by Pastor Bryan S. Anderson, Clear Lake, Wis.



Classic Lutheran Alternative Hymnal
www.ReClaimLutheranWorship.org

1. The ReClaim hymnal views liturgy as the work of God; the ELCA's hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, views liturgy as the work of the people.
2. ReClaim hymns will proclaim the gospel and praise God, not tell God what we are doing in worship.
3. The baptismal theology in ReClaim strongly asserts the biblical notion that baptism is a death of the old self and not simply an initiation into the church.
4. The communion liturgy emphasizes Jesus' last will and testament and is not primarily a thanksgiving or participation in Jesus' sacrifice.
5. The ReClaim liturgy is evangelistic and to this end it includes an absolution with both keys and an exhortation before the communion.



BEYOND THE RIVER ACADEMY: A Revolutionary Approach to Fill Pulpits

-- Pastor Lee R. Harder, *Beyond the River Academy*

The Beyond the River Academy is a revolutionary new approach to answer the call to fill the countless pastoral positions in congregations throughout the Lutheran Church. Created by a few clergy in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the Academy seeks an alternative to the traditional approach to making a pastor. This is necessary because there is a desperate need for pastors now that is not being met.

The Academy has created a website for getting information out to the public on its mission and courses. Located at www.beyondtheriveracademy.org,

this site will give the interested an overview of its goal to raise contract ministers from among the people of the church to fill the thousands of empty pulpits out there. The first class is about to begin with additional students testing out because of academic and life experience qualifications.

The Epiphany Lutheran District has established a close bond with the Beyond the River Academy. The district web site at www.epiphanydistrict.com will be the site to find potential contract ministers. There are the persons who have fulfilled the requirements of the

Academy's curriculum and been certified by the Colloquy Board of the district and Academy.

In the near future, congregations and interested persons will be able to order a CD/DVD that will provide a thorough explanation of the Academy and its work. At present, more information can be obtained by contacting Pastor Lee R. Harder at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 805 Birch Street, P.O. Box 67, Lamberton, MN 56152 or call 507-752-7334. Other sources of contact can be found on the Academy website.

***"Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—
that fine hill country and Lebanon."***

- Deuteronomy 3:25

6. The liturgical year is restored in that Advent becomes a time to receive Christ, and Easter is purged of the notion of the Triduum (i.e., the Three Days—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil.)

7. The psalms will return to proclamation and avoid an undue emphasis on politically correct language.

8. The ReClaim hymnal is not hypersensitive about traditional masculine language in hymns and liturgy.

9. The Trinitarian name (i.e., Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is not optional.

10. ReClaim purges the "Thanksgiving for Baptism," which the ELW uses as an alternative for confession and absolution (see ELW communion settings, pp. 97,

119, etc.).

11. The ReClaim funeral service focuses on the mourners and avoids prayers for the dead in the service of commendation.

12. Again, in the funeral service, ReClaim focuses on the mourners, not the dead, by proclaiming the gospel in the "Way of Salvation" texts.

13. ReClaim will include the Augsburg Confession in its full hymnal resource.

14. Unlike ELW, which is designed primarily for congregational worship settings, ReClaim's current Introductory Edition and upcoming complete hymnal resource are designed for use in family home devotions as well as congregational worship settings.

Dates to Note

April 22 - 24, 2007	Leadership Conference
April 24 - 25	Board of Trustees Meeting
June 17- 20, 2007	Pre-Youth Rally Mission Experience
June 20-24, 2007	Annual Youth Rally hosted at NDSU by Atonement LC, Fargo
July 11 - 13	Board of Trustees Meeting
October 6	Board of Trustees Meeting
October 7 - 10	Annual Gathering & Convention
November 14 - 16	Board of Trustees Meeting

