

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.

2nd Quarter 2005

5th Annual Gathering

October 2-5, 2005

Lutheran Church of the Cross - Altoona, Iowa

Come and See!

Developing an Invitational Lifestyle

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "**Come and see.**" They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

- John 1:35-42 (NRSV)

Members of LCMC are called to "Come and See!" this fall as we meet at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa. Information on our next annual gathering has already been posted to the LCMC web site (www/lcmc.net.) Click on the links and you'll find an agenda, registration forms, information on hotel accommodations, and profiles of the keynote speakers

LCMC annual gatherings are not like the "Brand X" assemblies you may have been accustomed to in the past. Rather, they're specifically designed to inspire you, to challenge you to grow in faith, and to provide an opportunity for worship, Bible study, praise, rejoicing and fellowship. While LCMC congregations are entitled and encouraged to

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**Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ**

An Open Letter to the People of St. Michael: We Thank God for You

*Rev. Jerry Yarnell
St. Michael Lutheran Church
7000 Sheldon Road
Canton, MI 48187*

Dear Pastor Yarnell,

Too often we take for granted the blessings God showers upon us. The generosity extended to LCMC by the people of St. Michael represents one of those blessings and we would be remiss if we took it for granted. Therefore, on behalf of our association and the LCMC board of trustees, I want to extend our most sincere thanks to you all for being such a blessing to us.

There is no question our association owes much to you for continuing to host our national offices. This is no small gift, and I assure you it is not taken lightly! The trustees have often discussed your leadership role and expressed appreciation for its importance to the very life of LCMC.

Please convey to your staff, your council, and especially to the congregation how valued St. Michael is. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we ask God's continued blessings on your ministry.

In His service,

*Debra Adams Lingen
Secretary, LCMC Board of Trustees*

Staff, Board of Trustees

National Service Coordinator: Rev. William Sullivan - wsullivan@ameritech.net
Dir. of Operations/Financial Sec'y: Sharon McFadyen - lcmadmin@sbcglobal.net

7000 Sheldon Road
Canton, MI 48187

(734)-207-5400
Toll Free: 866-720-LCMC (5262)

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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:
lcmboard@wordalone.org

BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 4

EDITOR: Deb Lingen; DESIGN: Jan Larson

CONTRIBUTORS: Barry Anderson, Paul Braafladt, Doyle Karst, Kellie Kirk, Deb Lingen, Lenae Rasmussen, Bill Sullivan, Bruce Wilder,

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PHONE: Toll Free (866) 720-5266

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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

LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Retiree Medical Benefits Program Now Available

Gayle McCann of Johnson, McCann met with the LCMC board of trustees at its April meeting to discuss the retiree medical program plan now available under the LCMC benefits plan. Gayle will prepare a communication regarding the details of the plan and will also plan to be available for a presentation at the annual gathering this fall.

Below is a table summarizing the requirements of the program, and responses to some FAQ's about this new option:

Who pays the required employer portion of the premium?

The congregation from which the employee retires would be the congregation that pays the employer part of the premium.

How did the Retiree Medical Benefits program come about?

St Andrew's, Mahtomedi, wanted to offer it to all of its employees and it has. There are certain time of service requirements in the plan, but any and all congregations are now eligible to take part in the plan. Congregations contemplating this plan should be aware they will be agreeing to pay premiums for what may turn out to be a significant time frame.

Can you give a brief synopsis of why a congregation might choose to offer this?

Congregations who want to be very generous to a long-term employee may wish to offer this plan.

Bylaw and Constitution Changes

The National convention of LCMC will consider proposed changes to the Association's bylaws subject to the right of members of the association to reject those changes as provided in the bylaws. Any member of the association, or other interested party, who has a proposed change for the convention to consider, should submit the proposal in writing, with a discussion as to the reasons for adopting the change, to Service Coordinator Bill Sullivan. The board of trustees of the association will ultimately make recommendations to the national convention regarding proposed changes to the association's organizational documents. Proposed changes should be submitted as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than August 1, 2005.

-- Barry Anderson
LCMC Constitution Committee

WordAlone Network/LCMC Retiree Medical Benefits Program Requirements

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Vesting Period: | 7 years eligibility on Benefit Plan |
| Plan- BC/BS: | Word Alone/LCMC Retirement Plan |
| Effective Date: | 62nd birthday |
| Terms: | Retiree Contribution = 90% of premium until age 65.
At age 65, retiree will obtain Medicare A/B and pay 33% of premium |
| 2. Vesting Period: | 10 years Eligibility on Benefit Plan |
| Plan - BC/BS: | Word Alone/LCMC Retirement Plan |
| Effective Date: | 65th birthday |
| Terms: | Retiree Contribution - 33% of premium. Medicare A/B required |
| 3. | In the event of death of the retiree, the family shall remain on the plan under the amended premium scale as stated in 1 and 2 terms listed above. |

Come and See! -- continued from page 1

send delegates to represent them for the business portion of the gathering, the gathering is open to all LCMC members and interested parties. (Keynote speakers were profiled in the Q1 newsletter; bios appear on the LCMC web site.)

MEMBERS OF REGIMENTAL BRASS TO PERFORM

In addition to our great keynote speakers, those attending will be treated to a performance by two members of the Regimental Brass and their accompanist from the Army academy at West Point, New York. As one of several chamber ensembles at the U.S. Military Academy, the group performs throughout the year at official military functions and presents concerts for church, school and civic groups. (RBQ members who will perform are profiled below.)

Information and registration packets will be mailed to all congregations, associate members and everyone on the LCMC mailing list. Early registration is encouraged; the registration form may be downloaded from the website (www.lcmc.net) or obtained by contacting the national office.

Regimental Brass to Perform at Annual Gathering

Sergeant First Class Martin Tyce has been the trombone section leader of the United States Military Academy Concert Band, West Point, New York since January of 1998 and is originally from Rock Springs, Wyoming. Marty joined the band in 1989 after receiving his bachelor of arts degree in music performance from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, and completed a master's degree in counseling from Long Island University, C.W. Post, in 1997. In November of 2002, he performed the U.S. premier of Trygve Madsen's Trombone Concerto with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, and performed the Canadian premier in April of 2004. Marty has been a guest artist individually and as part of the Regimental Brass quintet at eleven different colleges and universities. Additionally, Marty is an adjunct faculty member at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, directing the brass and jazz ensembles.



Prior to joining the USMA Concert band, Staff Sergeant Denver Dill was a Doctoral Candidate at the Eastman School of Music. He holds a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School, and a Bachelor of Music Merchandising Degree from Eastern Kentucky University. Mr. Dill has had a successful career as a soloist, winning prizes in several international and national competitions. Mr. Dill also performs numerous recitals and master-classes throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as a member of the duo Equinox.

Accompanist Ruthanne Schempf studied piano with her mother until she entered Michigan State University to study with 1962 Van Cliburn winner, Ralph Votapek. There she completed bachelor degrees in piano and music literature, and returned to New York for graduate study at the Manhattan School of Music; ultimately earning a DMA. She is the pianist for the West Point Cadet Glee Club and is on the faculties of SUNY-New Paltz and Marist College. She teaches music history, theory and piano.



NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENES!

On Friday night and Saturday of **April 22 & 23**, the Northwest District of LCMC met for its annual GATHERING and CONVENTION. The place was Burien, Washington (near Seattle). The location was Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC), a charter member of LCMC.

As people arrived from all directions, they sat down to a **"WELCOME"** that said;

"This is not a perfunctory welcome. There is nothing ordinary about this Gathering & Convention! Not one of us has been to such a meeting. Why? It's never happened before. There has never been a Northwest District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. This is our first official meeting, our first step on the path the Lord has set before us."

So we gathered for our first official convention. 18 congregations were represented. Of this number 13 were ELCA and 1 LCMS. 4 churches were members of LCMC. They stretched from Burien to Plains, Montana, with Kellogg and St. Maries Idaho in between. In other words this required no small effort. Except for OSLC members, all came by car many hundreds of miles each way. In all 58 people registered for the convention not including many visitors.

But that's what hungry and eager people do. They came for spiritual food, for fellowship and for inspiration. They came to focus on "God's Resurrected People", our theme. **They listened to John Fahning preach two sermons, give a morning Bible study and lead a major presentation on "Our Heritage and Hope as Lutheran Christians". They received an encouraging report from Bill Sullivan on what is happening across the country and overseas regarding LCMC.** It was a delight to hear, especially his progress reports on Mexico, Vietnam, Haiti and India not to mention the U.S.

One man wrote afterwards, *"Great job on the Gathering. Everything went very smooth and I really enjoyed the time spent there."* A woman wrote, ***"What a truly wonderful gathering and convention...It was uplifting and inspirational! We pray we (our congregation) will be joining LCMC soon."***

A relatively small amount of time was spent on convention business. Because of expanding responsibilities the NWD council was enlarged from five to six members as follows: Paul Braafladt, Chair; Robin Lake, Vice Chair; Pastor David Herwick, Secretary; Candy Pugh, Treasurer, and Sherman Watts and Pastor David Shine members at large.

Not least, a generous offering was received at the opening Service and is being sent to Lutheran work in Haiti and to the Vietnam Lutheran Ministry under Pastor John Dovich.

Task Force Forming for Heartland House of Studies

The Heartland District Council, at its April meeting, voted unanimously to research the need for a House of Studies. A task force will be called, with volunteers from each of the 12 Heartland District congregations. The first task force meeting will be held in the next two months. Goals, mission ideas, and objectives will be explored.

Members of the Heartland District council recognize there is a growing need to establish a training program for church leaders. Congregations and individuals are asking about the process of calling pastors and leaders. The Ministry Task Force is conducting interviews with people who are interested in serving the church yet may not be free to move their whole family to another city for several years.

The Heartland District wants to encourage and support leaders that have solid training and that builds confidence with congregations. The House of Studies can be flexible in order to serve both contract call as well as ordained clergy. As this program develops under the leadership of the Holy Spirit we will share the new ideas.

- Rev. Doyle Karst
Heartland District Council

A Story of Faith

- Pastor Bruce Wilder
Faith Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The history of Faith Lutheran Church is a dynamic story of God at work among his people. It is a story of God's people responding in faithful obedience to the Lord and his purposes.

ROOTS IN THE ALC

We begin in the fall of 1955. Through the support of the American Lutheran Church, Garland E. Gotoski arrived in Albuquerque with his family from Duluth Minnesota. His assignment was to start a new Lutheran congregation. The first worship service was held on November 13, 1955, in a storefront with 37 people present. In 1956, eight city lots were purchased and under the supervision of a building contractor, the members built a church sanctuary with their own hands which was dedicated on September 16th of that year.



Easter worship in the new sanctuary, April 2005

EARLY GROWTH

The congregation was blessed with growth and by 1959 over 500 people had joined Faith. In the years to follow, Faith continued to grow in membership and to make plans for its future both spiritually and by making facility improvements and purchasing additional land. The congregation also was blessed with strong leadership, being faithfully served by a number of former pastors and their families, including founding Pastor Gotoski, Rev. Elmer E. Christiansen, Rev. Russell C. Lee, who faithfully led the congregation for 33 years before his retirement, Rev. Orval K. Moren, Rev. Russell Sorensen, Rev. Kevin Lee, Rev. Lester R. Spies, and Rev. Luther M. Mathsen.

In 1973, the congregation voted in favor of relocating to a new site with room for growth. The present seven-acre site on Spain Road NE was purchased with ground breaking activities in September of 1974. The first worship services in the new facility were held on June 29th of 1975. By 1990, a new 700-seat sanctuary, centrum, and office wing were added.

FAITH'S CURRENT MINISTRY TEAM

In 1998, Rev. W. Bruce Wilder accepted the call to become Faith's senior pastor and now leads a ministry team including Rev. Mike Easton, pastor and Director of Discipleship, David Breidenbach, who is preparing for pastoral ministry at Trinity Southwest Seminary in



A Story of Faith -- continued from page 6

Albuquerque and serving as a pastoral intern at Faith; and three youth ministers: Debbie Peres, Dawn Selberg, and Jeremy Nilson. This team of three lay ministers shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with the young people of Faith through outreach events, Bible studies, small groups, retreats, fellowship opportunities and worship.

OUTREACH: CHILDREN OF FAITH PRE-SCHOOL

In 2001, the congregation saw the need for and voted in favor of establishing a new preschool with a Christ-centered mission and curriculum. Nearly forty boys and girls were enrolled during that first year when the Children of Faith Preschool opened its doors for the first time. Today, nearly 100 students are enrolled in this vital ministry to our community.

FAITH NOW ONE OF LARGEST LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN U.S.

By 2003, Faith's membership had grown to 2,827 people making it one of the largest Lutheran congregations in the entire nation. That same year, a new 16,000 square foot addition to the facilities was constructed and dedicated to the glory of God. This addition has received professional recognition and awards for its excellence in design and construction. It will provide this growing community of believers with much needed space to continue the Lord's work through the Children of Faith Preschool and our ever expanding youth and adult ministries.



Pastor Bruce & Kirsten Wilder enjoying Albuquerque's International Balloon Fiesta

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

On July 18, 2004, the people of Faith voted to join Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and on April 10, 2005, the people of Faith voted to end their affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There is much rejoicing in the new energy that will now be devoted entirely to mission, both locally and globally.

Only 17,000 people in the entire state of New Mexico identify themselves as Lutheran Christians and there are thousands of unchurched people in Albuquerque. The opportunity for evangelism and outreach is great.

Every spring the congregation sends a team of 20-30 youth and adults to Mexico to build a house for a homeless family through Casas por Cristo. This coming summer, Pastor Wilder will join a team of five servants from Faith who will be participating in the Eastern European Mission Network's ministry in Poland.

CALLED AND EQUIPPED

The people of God at Faith are thankful for their great facilities and the faithful pastors who are part of their life and history, they know that the Body of Christ is more than a building and more than the pastors who serve at any given time. All the baptized people of God are the Body of Christ. Every Christian is called to ministry, not just pastors or missionaries in distant lands.

The most important growth is that which takes place in the hearts and minds of those who seek to serve God each and every day. The history of Faith is really a history of God working in the lives of each and every member, one person at a time. Faith Lutheran Church continues to be guided by God's word and driven by its mission to "lead people to Christ, incorporating them into the life of the church and equipping one another for effective Christian living." They embrace the future with the hope and expectation that God will be with us always, even in the midst of changing and challenging times.

Learn more about the people of Faith at www.faithlutheranabq.org.

Getting to Know...

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Sandy, Utah

-- Kelli Kirk, Communication Director
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

45 YEARS AND GROWING

The first worship service of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, Utah was held November of 1961 with 50 charter members in attendance. God has been faithful and Good Shepherd now has over 1300 members and continues to grow.

The original structure of Good Shepherd was completed in 1962 and dedicated in December of that same year. In 1969 an addition was built for education space. Another addition, this one major, was completed in 1986 and our last facility renewal was completed in 2004.

The God-sized vision of Good Shepherd's charter members has grown to encompass the surrounding community and all of the rooms at the church are used daily. Even with our most recent facility growth, the schedule is juggled regularly to accommodate as many as possible.



Altar, Good Shepherd



Pr. Jeff, Mim and Lynn sharing and caring

A PURPOSE DRIVEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

At the heart of every organization is a mission statement, the purpose for being, the real reason for existence. Good Shepherd is a purpose driven Lutheran Church and our mission is to continually bring people to a personal relationship with the living Christ and membership in his family, developing them to Christ-like maturity and equipping them for their ministry in the church and mission in the world, in order to worship God with their lives, prayerfully abiding in Christ and serving one another in all humility and love.

Good Shepherd offers six different worship experiences each week, all designed to facilitate praise and worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In addition, you can find members and guests of all ages attending superior education classes and small group studies throughout the week. To borrow a phrase from Luther, the Bible is "the manger in which the Word of God is laid." At Good Shepherd, we recognize the differences in the way the Bible should be studied and interpreted, and

- *Good Shephred* -- continued on page 9 -

THE UPPER ROOM: The 2005 ALC Youth Retreat

Youth from six churches in Iowa and Texas gathered on the Heart Ranch in the high desert mountain wilderness of West Texas, June 8-12, 2005, for the second annual ALC Youth Leadership Retreat.

As the theme indicates, the purpose of the retreat was to help youth understand the Lord's Supper and the wonderful affirmation that in this meal Christ comes to us with forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Pastor Ron Rasmussen led the large group sessions on the Lord's Supper, which answered questions like, "What is Holy Communion?" "Who is worthy?" and "How do I know these gifts are for me?"

Pastor Lawrence Lystig, retired Navy chaplain, led the sessions on what it means to be a Christian and a leader. Small group sessions in the afternoon gave "Upper Room" participants the

opportunity to learn more about the Lord's Supper and leadership as they rode six-wheel all-terrain vehicles into the mountains, hiked, and swam. Everyone enjoyed the Artesian pool at Balmorhea State Park, the McDonald Observatory, and the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.



The retreat concluded with worship and the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dubb Duff, Ms. Kedron Dean, the ALC Youth Retreat Coordinator, Mr. Duane Holman, Rev. Ron Rasmussen, Rev. Larry Lystig, Mr. Bill Duff "the safety officer," and Lester "the cook" for making this a fabulous event.

- Rev. Lenae Rasmussen
Augsburg Lutheran Churches District

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accept it as the primary and authoritative witness to the church's faith.

Good Shepherd provides a variety of opportunities for people of all ages. There are weekly and monthly ministry events as well as several camps and retreats throughout the year. The events planned vary from fun and exciting fellowship events to life changing discipleship training. There is always a strong emphasis on prayer, worship, and Bible study. Friends and visitors are welcome at any and all of our events.

HOSTING LCMC YOUTH RALLY 2005

Good Shepherd is excited to host the LCMC Youth Rally in Salt Lake City in July 2005! At the University of Utah Campus, while surrounded by the beautiful mountains of the Wasatch Front, it is our prayer that everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to connect, develop relationships and grow with other believers.



Mark your calendar!

JULY 10-13
LCMC Youth Rally
Salt Lake City, UT

JULY 24 - 26, 2005
Augsburg District Convention
Florence, AL

JULY 11 & 12
Trustees Meet
Hilton Garden Inn
Eagan, MN

OCTOBER 2 - 5, 2005
LCMC 5th Annual Gathering
Lutheran Church of the Cross
Altoona, Iowa

LCMC
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
