

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 2006

LCMC Attains Endorsing Status

Following many months of working through a government process that can make congregational decision processes look like they happen at the speed of light, the following news was received recently at the LCMC office in Canton, Michigan:

"It is with great pleasure that I inform you that your religious organization, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, has met all of the administrative requirements to become an endorser of chaplains for the military services. According to your application, Reverend William Sullivan is designated as the endorsing agent able to grant and withdraw ecclesiastical endorsements..."

The letter was signed by Richard K. Hum, the Executive Director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board and dated May 1, 2006. Even though the process was time consuming, Colonel Hum was very helpful to LCMC in the process of securing endorsing status for LCMC.

Prior to this approval, any LCMC pastor interested in serving as a chaplain to the armed forces had to obtain endorsement through the National Association of Evangelicals or similar organizations.

In an example of how God has used a variety of folks to further the work of LCMC, it is noteworthy that it was the Director of Chaplaincy of the Full Gospel Churches that pointed LCMC in the right direction regarding the endorsement process.

Rev. Jim Ammerman, the Director of Chaplaincy for the Full Gospel Churches, invited LCMC Service Coordinator Bill Sullivan to be his guest at a conference held in Washington DC in the fall of 2005. It was at that conference, attended by Colonel Hum and other military officials, that we received accurate information about how to go about applying for endorsing status with the Department of Defense.

LCMC will now be able to approve chaplains for all branches of the military and chaplains will be able to have LCMC as their endorsing agency. Because of this development, two chaplains who had their endorsement through other bodies, have applied to have LCMC become their endorsing agency.

- CHAPLAINS cont'd page 7

Trustees Invite Input and Help

Due to the increase in inquiries regarding LCMC, the Board of Trustees has identified the need for a DVD that could be distributed to congregations or even viewed on our website.

The DVD would introduce churches to LCMC, tell our history and vision for our association, and introduce some of our churches. Such a tool would be cost effective in the long run and would be something people could pass on to friends and relatives who are unaware of our association.

Your Board of Trustees invites thoughts and comments from anyone who might have some ideas or input. The Board is also aware that producing a DVD at the quality it would need would come with a considerable cost. If you are interested in helping, please contact the LCMC office.

Your Assistance, Please!

We have a "Very Special Project" we're working on, and we need YOU to help. We're looking for pictures that tell our story, so we'd appreciate it if you can share your snapshots of LCMC events. We'd also like pictures of our LCMC churches, including regular ministries or any special events you've held.



We'd prefer digital photos, but will also accept prints. Please contact Deb Lingen at ddalingen@netscape.net or Sharon MacFadyen at lcmeadmin@sbcglobal.net. (Phone Deb at 952-686-7333 or Sharon at 866-720-5262 if you have questions.) — Thanks!

New Contact Info for LCMC Plan Administrator

Fred Jensen, our representative with Edward Jones Investments (the company that administers the LCMC pension plan) has moved his office. The new phone/address:

**Edward Jones
10996 Cedar Lake Rd
Minnetonka MN 55305**

**Phone: 952-544-0088
Toll Free: 866-544-0088
Fax: 877-206-4124**



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BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter 2006

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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

Plans Solidify for "All Things New" in Albuquerque, 10/1-4



"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" - Revelation 21:5

FEES SET; INFO PACKETS MAILED IN AUGUST

Registrations are already arriving and significant numbers of rooms have already been booked at Albuquerque hotels for the Sixth Annual Gathering of the association at Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico from the 1st through the 4th of October. Information on the event can be found at the LCMC website (www.lcmc.net). Packets of information will be sent in early August to member congregations and individuals on the LCMC mailing list.

The registration fee for the event has been set at \$95.00 for delegates, other congregational members and associate members, and visitors. The fee for any one day of the event will be \$50.00 per day. As has become our custom, LCMC seminarians will pay no registration fee for the event.

Registration will begin Sunday afternoon, followed by dinner, worship and a fellowship dessert at Faith Lutheran Church, our host congregation. Rev. Bruce Wilder, Senior Pastor at Faith, will preach at the opening worship service on Sunday evening at 7:00 pm.

Monday's events will include a morning of Bible study and singing, introductions of board, staff, new congregations, new pastors and seminarians plus a report on the State of the Association by Rev. Dale Wolf and Rev. Larry Lindstrom, chair and vice-chair of the LCMC Board of Trustees. Delegates will be called to order for the opening business session of the gathering on Monday morning as well.



ORTBERG AND ESTRADA TO KEYNOTE

Monday afternoon will feature a keynote address by Rev. John Ortberg, internationally known Christian author and the teaching pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California. Pastor Ortberg will take part in a question and answer session following his presentation. Monday evening will provide opportunity for LCMC districts to gather at popular restaurants in the Albuquerque area for food, fellowship and networking.

Rev. Enrique Estrada from Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, an LCMC congregation in Monterrey, Mexico is on deck as Tuesday morning's keynote speaker. "Fresh winds from the Spirit are coming our way. They are winds of hope, growth and excitement. God is on the move now for Monterrey and for Mexico," says Pastor Estrada, who will share that enthusiasm with the gathering.



Once business is concluded for the day, our hosts at Faith have planned a "Spirit of the Southwest" Fiesta that will feature an authentic Southwest menu and a live mariachi band during dinner.

LCMC OUTREACH, MISSION CENTER STAGE

And there's more! Wednesday we'll hear from Pastor Michael Bonham on hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf Coast, Pastor Bob & Karen Nordvall on their adventures doing the Lord's work in eastern Europe this spring, Rev. Curt Rosen on the mission field in India, and Rev. Dr. Paul Braafladt on what's going on with the growing Lutheran congregations in Nicaragua. The LCMC Ministry Board will also make a presentation to the gathering, sharing news about theological education in the association and updating the participants on their work during the past year.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS . . .

The 2006 LCMC Leadership Conference was held from April 23-25 at the Mall of America Homewood Suites by Hilton in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Nearly 100 participants gathered for three days of fellowship, networking, worship, teaching and relaxation. Gathering around the theme of "Equipping the Saints", those in attendance reported coming away encouraged and strengthened for ministry in their local setting.

The conference relied primarily on the knowledge and expertise of "homegrown" talent as most of the presenters were members of LCMC congregations around the country. Presenters included Dan Scharnhorst from Altoona, Iowa; Rev. Randy Upgren from Charity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota; Rev. Jeff Neller-moe, assisted by several members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sandy, Utah; and Rev. Paul Spaulding from Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa.

Rev. Tony Stoutenburg, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Hayward, Wisconsin brought the meditation during the opening devotions on Sunday evening and April Dietz, student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul preached at the closing

worship service on Tuesday morning.

Dale Wolf, chair of the Board of Trustees, led the gathering in a presentation and question and answer session on the state of the association. Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, updated those in attendance on a number of things happening in the association as well.

Expecting a somewhat smaller turnout because of the distance involved in traveling to the annual gathering in New Mexico this year, event planners chose a facility that would comfortably hold about 75 people. When nearly 100 folks attended, reflecting an increase over participation in last year's conference, it made for some cozy quarters for the large group sessions. Nobody seemed to mind much, since the fellowship was great and presentations were excellent.

The LCMC Ministry Board assumed responsibility for planning this year's event. Members of the ministry board are Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Rev. Bruce Wilder, Rev. Kathy Sukke, Rev. Bob Nordvall, Rev. Kip Tyler and Rev. Dave Drum. The board is to be commended for another outstanding conference.





*2006 Leadership Event
Draws Capacity Crowd*





ANNOUNCING--

The 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally!

SO LONG, SELF

**"I have been crucified with CHRIST,
and I no longer live, but CHRIST lives in me."
-- Galatians 2:20**

June 20-24 at Atonement, Fargo

We are excited to invite you to the 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally! The Rally, sponsored by Atonement Lutheran Church, will be held in Fargo, North Dakota, Wednesday, June 20 to Sunday, June 24, 2007. Our theme is "So Long, Self." Students will be empowered to daily let go of their worldly desires and let Christ be Lord of their lives. We are thrilled to bring back TJ Anderson of Youth Encounter to teach us throughout the Rally.

The Rally is for students who will be entering into 9-12 grades and 2007 high school graduates. The Rally will be held on the campus of North Dakota State University.

Outdoors Adventure Day

We love our summers up here, so we are planning to give everyone a taste of some North Dakota/Northwest Minnesota summer fun on Friday, June 22. This will be a special "Outdoors Adventure Day," including activities such as canoeing, hiking, biking, etc.

Pre-Rally Mission

For all of you who would like to spend more time in the great state of North Dakota, we're offering a pre-Rally Mission Experience. The Mission Experience will begin Sunday, June 17 and go through noon on Wednesday, June 20. All groups who choose the Mission Experience will be staying at Atonement during that time, then moving over to NDSU on Wednesday afternoon before the start of the Rally. During the Mission Experience, students will be given the opportunity to serve those less fortunate than themselves in our community. In the evenings we'll have outdoors activities, barbecues, campfires, and worship times.

The 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally promises to be an incredible and life-impacting experience for everyone. We will be praying that you'll be able to join us next summer in Fargo! Look for your brochures later this summer.

Warm Welcome to LCMC's Newest Congregations

Congregations that have joined LCMC in the last three months include a new mission congregation, our first congregation in Canada and a group of congregations in Nicaragua.

New Creation Lutheran Church is a new mission congregation of the association in **Perham, Minnesota**. The congregation is growing rapidly and hopes to call its first pastor in the next month or so.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Leader, Saskatchewan became the first Canadian congregation to join LCMC. Rev. Garfield Vikse pastors the congregation. The members of Trinity hosted a recent meeting attended by representatives from a number of congregations in the area where LCMC Service Coordinator, Rev. Bill Sullivan, talked about LCMC.

After visits by its President, Rev. Pavel Guevara, at an LCMC board meeting last fall and by LCMC representatives who went to Nicaragua earlier this year, the first churches in Central America have joined LCMC. **14 congregations from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua** became the most recent additions to the roster of LCMC congregations.

God continues to lead like-minded Lutheran Christians to join the association and we rejoice to welcome our newest member congregations!

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

- Sharon MacFadyen, Director of Ops / Financial Secretary

A midyear review of the financial picture for the association appears to point toward a sound future. While we have fallen into a similar pattern of the previous two years where, due to quarterly donations we see one month that is strong followed by two weaker months, the overall picture is positive. In general, shortages during the weaker months of 2006 are lower by half, on average, as compared to our previous two years.

Because we started the year with a revenue overage that was higher than last year, we may cautiously project that we should come close to breaking even for the year as you compare revenue to expenses. We are still falling short of budget, which means that any unnecessary spending will still need to be curtailed.

Overall, our congregational donations have increased from previous years. The trend seems to be approximately 10-15% higher each month with an overall increase compared to the first six months of 2005.

Combining the increased income with our continued diligence on spending should provide a positive outcome for the year. With guarded optimism we project that we will end the year with a surplus when comparing revenue to spending.

CHAPLAINS - from page 1

Rev. Paul Anderson has completed the process to switch his endorsing agency from the ELCA to LCMC. Rev. Chris Magnell has also transferred his, from the National Association of Evangelicals to LCMC. Anderson and Magnell become the first chaplains to be endorsed by LCMC. Chaplain Magnell will be deployed to Iraq later this summer.

Rev. Sullivan will be attending a conference of military chaplain endorsers in Arlington, Virginia in December presented by the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF). A special feature of the conference will be a gathering of new endorsers, who will be introduced to the procedures the military requires in the endorsement process.

It is a significant step in the development of LCMC to have this process completed and we look forward to working with a number of men and women who want to represent LCMC as chaplains in the nation's armed services.

Pastors Write, Share Order of Confession and Forgiveness

The pastors of the CrossAlone District of LCMC have joined together in producing an “Order of Confession and Forgiveness,” which they offer for use at no cost to all LCMC churches. CrossAlone congregations have now integrated the new Order in their worship. The CrossAlone pastors will continue to work cooperatively on other portions of the worship service and intend to offer them to the rest of LCMC as they are completed. From Cross Alone’s district publication The Lutheran Hedgehog, printed with permission:

For Use in Worship

(Hedgehog) Editor’s Note

On the right side of this page is an Order for Confession and Forgiveness. You could attach it to the inside back cover of a hymnal or reproduce it in your bulletin. No permission is needed nor is any cost involved.

As a help to understanding this text, it is also found on our website with its Biblical basis (www.crossalone.us).

Is there a need to have a new liturgy just to be new? No. Or a need to be different just to be different? No.

There is, however, a need for Biblical/Lutheran worship resources written in the language of today.

* * *

What is Confession and Forgiveness (Absolution)?

“The sacraments are actually baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and absolution (the sacrament of repentance). For these rites have the command of God and the promise of grace, which is the essence of the New Testament” (Apology, 13:4; *Book of Concord*, p. 219, Kolb edition).

“Thus a Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism, begun once and continuing ever after Therefore we see what a great and excellent thing baptism is, which snatches us from the jaws of the devil and makes us God’s own” (Luther’s Large Catechism, Baptism, 65, 83; *Book of Concord*, pp. 465-66).

“Here you see that baptism, both by its power and by its signification, comprehends also the third sacrament [Confession and Forgiveness], formerly called penance, which is really nothing else than baptism. What is repentance but an earnest attack on the old creature and an entering into new life? If you live in repentance, therefore, you are walking in baptism” (Large Catechism, 74).

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Stand

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Lord of heaven and earth, we bow our hearts before you, asking for forgiveness:

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
he forgives all your guilt,
he heals all your diseases**

**As far as the East is from the West,
so far does he remove our sins from us.**

**As tenderly as a father treats his children,
so the Lord treats those who stand in awe before him.**

P: Father of all:

**C: We confess that we are caught in sin and death.
We rebel against you in whatever we think, say, and do,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
Even our righteous deeds are filthy rags.
We refuse to let God be God.**

In Jesus Christ, your Son, judge us, forgive us, and free us.

P: For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P: On the cross Jesus Christ conquered sin and death. Through baptism he has made us his own. In him we begin anew every day, confident of living in glorious freedom as children of God.

C: Amen



September Gathering Set for Epiphany District

Leaders of the Epiphany District invite all members as well as any interested parties to join together for the Second Annual Epiphany District Gathering. Gracia M. Grindal, Professor of Rhetoric at Luther Seminary, will keynote the event, scheduled for September 23, 2006 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Lamberton, MN. Professor Grindal will be addressing current trends in worship liturgy and music. Details are being finalized; for further information, contact:

Dennis Sandmann
District Chairperson
507-723-6547
dennissandmann@yahoo.com

-OR-

Pastor Lee R. Harder
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
507-752-7334
lcmc@centurytel.net

About the Epiphany District

The Epiphany District of Southwest Minnesota continues to work toward fulfilling the mission agreed on at our organizational meeting three years ago:

"We seek to provide educational resources that have their foundation in the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions for all who wish to remain true to God's Word. We will further the awareness of His truth by every means available to us. In doing so, we are fulfilling the Great Commission given to all believers by our Lord. We are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people."

The Epiphany District has identified other areas of focus to include:

- ◆ Development of additional educational material;
- ◆ Community service and world mission;
- ◆ Prayer;
- ◆ Women's and men's organizations;
- ◆ Youth events; and a
- ◆ Local speakers bureau.

The District meets monthly in fellowship to support efforts in local congregations and invites speakers addressing issues of concern to the group. Speakers have ranged from a Salvation Army representative explaining what would help the most in supporting hurricane victims in New Orleans, to mission opportunities in Mexico, to what our creeds mean to all Christians.

Educational Materials Offered via District Web Site

Formed as a district with educational emphasis, Epiphany District reaches out to other Lutherans through its website www.epiphanydistrict.com and educational materials.

Four pamphlets explaining the crisis in the Lutheran church and one pamphlet, "LCMC: A New Way to Reaffirm the Truth of God's Word," are offered downloadable free on the website. An order blank for other educational materials focusing on Sunday School and Vacation Bible School is provided.

For more information on events and activities in the Epiphany District, go to www.epiphanydistrict.com.



Heartland District Convenes at Morningside in Sioux City, Iowa

The Heartland District held its annual convention on Saturday, June 17, 2006 at Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa.

Over 75 people attended the daylong event that featured an opening worship service led by members of "Jubilation," one of Morningside's worship teams. Rev. Kevin Lee, Sr. Pastor of the congregation brought the message at the opening service.

Harvey Rabe, a member of the congregation shared the history of Morningside with those gathered and Pastor Paul Spaulding shared the story of the congregation's journey into LCMC.

Rev. Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, brought greetings from the LCMC office in Canton, Michigan and updated those in attendance on a number of things happening in the association.

Rev. Doyle Karst led the business sessions of the gathering. Don Wagner and Willard Went were elected to the Heartland District Council. Richard

Daberkow from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, Iowa was elected as Vice-President of the District Council.

A delicious lunch was served by members of Morningside who also provided refreshments throughout the day's events.

Rev. Kip Tyler brought a report to those in attendance about the Heartland House of Studies which will offer its first courses in the fall. Rev. Tyler will lead a course on an introduction to the Greek language and Rev. Paul Spaulding will lead a course on early church history.

A number of breakout sessions were held in the afternoon, followed by a closing devotional before participants headed back to their homes and congregations.

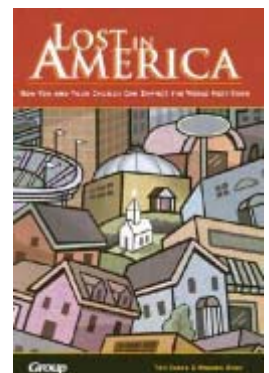
Heartland Women's Retreat to Feature Author Tom Clegg

Author Tom Clegg will be the guest speaker at the Heartland District Women of the Word Retreat July 15 at Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha. Women are welcome to come for registration at 8:15 a.m. Clegg will speak at 9 a.m. and there will be a noon lunch from Wheatfields, a popular local restaurant.

Clegg is the author of "Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door." He has consulted with many churches regarding church growth and evangelism, in addition to having served as a pastor in the US and as a missionary in Africa. Clegg will speak about the very real ways one person can make a difference to reach our neighbors with God's love.

A second guest speaker will be missionary Rodney Hinrichs of Lincoln, NE, who served in Africa and India. He will speak at 1 p.m. The retreat will conclude with worship and a communion service.

Cost is \$10.00 including Wheatfield's lunch, \$5.00 without. For lunch planning purposes the committee requests registration by July 14th, but welcomes you if you find you need to register at the door. For additional information or to register, contact Carol Rohrig at 402-333-9051 (crohrig123@aol.com.) or Elizabeth Donelson at 402-391-6821 (edonelson@msn.com).



Texas Women Organize, Set Mission

In just two meetings the Texas Women of the LCMC have claimed their future! They came together for the first time on February 6 at a breakout session during the initial meeting of the six Tex-Mex congregations of LCMC, hosted at Zion Lutheran, Kerrville. With so much to accomplish, a follow-up meeting was held April 29th and was attended by representatives of four LCMC churches in Texas.



Peggy Peese of Zion took the lead in organizing both meetings, setting an ambitious agenda around a series of ten questions used at both gatherings. At the February meeting, guest speaker Barbara Dierker framed the discussion by noting they were entering “uncharted waters” but asked the women to boldly stretch as they studied how to proceed. Dierker suggested they concentrate on three phases: Spiritual Growth, Fellowship, and Service, making the Cross their focus in their efforts to spread the Word. The gathering adopted her suggestion as well as the logo representing it. They also voted to offer use of the logo, as pictured at right, above, to other women’s groups in LCMC, both nationally and locally. Each church, district or chapter could modify it by replacing “Texas Women of the LCMC” with their individual designation.

Lew Williams moderated discussion at both meetings in which the ladies shared hopes, dreams, and ideas on how they can work together. Betty Bauch spoke about continuing work on Lutheran World Relief projects, and each church had an opportunity to share their particular programs and service areas. Some interesting ideas

included Zion’s Fair Trade Fair, Bulverde’s Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Hondo’s adoption of the anagram “JOY” to remind themselves to place Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. The women also discussed selection of Bible studies, with Beth Murley describing and displaying many of the sources she has gathered, and others sharing from the floor.



By the end of the April meeting much had been accomplished: The group had chosen a name for themselves and settled on their purpose by adopting Dierker’s suggestions as represented in the triangle logo (above right.) They determined they would meet once a year in a 2-day retreat and formed a coordinating committee to plan the logistics and communication. Most importantly, they enjoyed Spiritual Growth, Fellowship, and set themselves on a course for greater Service!

(Editors Note: If you are interested in using the logo, or have comments or suggestions about Women of the Word activities, please contact Deb Lingen at ddalingen@netscape.net, or 952-686-7333.)



Barbara Dierker urges the women to boldly stretch!



Beth Murley and Dayna Leggett display the handiwork of Bulverde’s Prayer Shawl Ministry

A "COME AND SEE" Convention for the Northwest District

American Lutheran Church, Kellogg Hosts May 5-6 Gathering

People did come. They did see. They came from Washington, Idaho, and Montana. They even came from Iowa. They came to a small town in the Western Rockies, Kellogg, Idaho. And there in Kellogg is American Lutheran Church, an LCMC congregation.

That's where 57 registered persons plus visitors as well, came to see and hear preaching by Dr. Paul Braafladt, teaching by Pastor David Herwick and presenting by the Honorable Barry Anderson, who gave the key note address. Candy Pugh, NWD treasurer, gave an illustrated demonstration of what's happening in her congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran in St. Maries, Idaho. Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, couldn't have looked better nor spoken more effectively about what's happening across the country and around the world regarding the LCMC. Not least, the heavyweights gathered together in the chancel for a concluding panel discussion that lifted up numerous concerns of Northwest Lutherans.

Business? Yes. Two new persons were elected to the Northwest District Council. They are Juli LeMaster of Moses Lake, WA,

and Pat Ryan of Kellogg, ID. Pastor David Herwick of Burien, WA, was re-elected to a three year term. There are now seven persons serving on the NWD Council. (See photo) The council elected its own leadership as follows: Robin Lake, Chair; Pastor David Shine, Vice Chair; Candy Pugh, Treasurer; Pastor David Herwick, Secretary. Other members of the NWD Council are Juli LeMaster, Pat Ryan and Sherman Watts.

Note: Dr. Paul Braafladt, former chair of the NWD, declined a fresh nomination to a new term as he also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees, LCMC. Given the limitations of time and energy he will now wear one hat instead of two.

Perhaps the most important tangible result of the NWD convention was the special offering. It was given for the 14 Nicaraguan congregations that have recently voted to join the LCMC. It totaled exactly \$ 1,000. Thanks be to God!

- Paul Braafladt,
Board of Trustees, LCMC

Members of the Northwest District Council, pictured at left: Robin Lake, Juli LeMaster, Pastor David Shine, Sherman Watts, Pat Ryan, Pastor David Herwick and Candy Pugh



Getting to know . . .

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Saint Maries, Idaho

Saint Maries (pronounced "Mary's") is a north Idaho logging & timber industry town of 2400 people located southeast of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Spokane, Washington. The only mainline church denominations not represented are the Episcopalians and Methodists. St. Paul's Lutheran Church was organized on March 16, 1919, as a Norwegian congregation of the ELC and met in a log cabin. It wasn't until 1931 that services were held entirely in English.

At several times in its history, because of financial reasons, the church became part of a two or three-point parish. This was especially true during the Depression years. During the past 87 years the church has had four different locations, a major expansion in 1986, almost twenty pastors, and lived through numerous times when pastors were not available. No matter what the adversity, the congregation hung together and the doors were never closed.

The latest crisis occurred in the late 1990s between the ELCA and the congregation over obtaining a suitable pastor. Then came CCM. Thanks to interim pastor, Curtis Fox, the congregation was guided toward WordAlone, considered their future, and decided to seek a new direction.

In 2000, David "Spike" Shine, a non-rostered former ELCA pastor, had just retired as a hospital chaplain in Spokane, Washington, and came across an advertisement St. Paul's had placed in the "Clergy Connect" section of the WordAlone newsletter. After a phone call and an interview, Pastor Shine received a call to become the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Early in 2001, the congregation voted out of the ELCA and into the LCMC as a charter member.

Today, with a membership of fifty families, the church is a solvent, active and integral part of the Saint Maries community offering Word and Sacrament ministry from a confessional perspective. If you ever plan to visit the shadowy St. Joe River, Chatcolat State Park, or just like timbered mountains, stop in St. Maries and enjoy our hospitality.

- Rev. David "Spike" Shine

Orissa, India Trip with World Encounter Postponed

Many have heard that World Encounter Outreach in association with LCMC was leading a mission trip to visit the LCMC congregations in India. The focus of the workshop would be to encourage and support our Lutheran brothers and sisters in India and to lead a training event for Pastors and families. Due to timing, the trip will not happen in November of 2006, but instead in the spring or summer of 2007. For more information you may contact Curt Rosen at (651) 484 - 3010 -----
(missions@worldencounter.org / www.worldencounter.org)



Positive Developments in Theological Education

A number of interesting developments are taking place within LCMC pertaining to theological education.

Some of them have to do with degree programs that would satisfy the requirements to be added to the list of certified clergy within LCMC. Other developments are taking place that would provide training for persons desiring a contract call within the association.

At their recent convention, the WordAlone Network announced plans for a house of studies in conjunction with a yet undisclosed institution that would lead to a certified master of divinity degree. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt is the chair of a task force within WAN that is working on a program that hopes to be able to announce further details soon.

Meanwhile, a program is being developed by a group of pastors and theologians who have taken the name "ILTEP" (Independent Lutheran Theological Education Project). The group, which includes LCMC certified clergy Rev. Gerald Nerenhausen from Oskosh, Wisconsin and Dr. James Galezewski, as well as Dr. Oliver Olson from Minneapolis, Minnesota, recently presented their proposal for a certified master of divinity degree to the faculty and administration of Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio and to a similar group at Trinity Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.

Ashland is a multi-denominational protestant seminary in Ashland, Ohio with nearly 900 students from 90 different Christian faith traditions represented, Trinity is the first ATS certified seminary to offer a

degree that can be earned entirely through distance learning. Certified MDiv degrees would be earned in conjunction with both seminaries. Two years of the program would be spent at Ashland or Trinity. The last two years in ILTEP's program would include two weeks of every quarter spent at their house of studies in Oskosh, Wisconsin and the rest of the time in distance learning while working concurrently in a two year supervised internship.

ILTEP hopes to have their proposal accepted by both Ashland and Trinity and to be ready to begin training students either in the fall of 2006 or certainly by the fall of 2007.

On the contract call front, the Heartland District recently announced the first two courses to be offered in the Heartland House of Studies this fall. Courses would be open to all interested parties but would be especially helpful for those who would be interested in serving in a contract call in a Heartland District congregation. The Heartland program is similar to one being worked on by a group of pastors and lay leaders in Iowa. Other districts are also interested in finding ways to provide basic theological and practical training for those who might want to serve in contract calls in the association.

It is exciting to see the opportunities that are beginning to take shape as concerned groups of people at the grass roots of the association and in partner groups around the country work together to insure that solid Biblical, Confessional Lutheran Theological education will continue to be a part of the fabric of LCMC.

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

A Satisfying Sabbatical



"Come away . . . and rest awhile. (Mark 6:31)

- Pastor Bob Nordvall, Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND

"Have you thought about taking a sabbatical?" one of the best encouragers at Charity asked me. After 20 years in this call, the congregation was open to letting us go away for a few months to do something rejuvenating. We knew Pastors Scott Bauman and Randy Upgren and the other staff here would be more than capable to fill any gap.

The idea of going off to the seaside was appealing. But what did God want?

In God's perfect timing, we met Pastor Bill Moberly, Director of East European Mission Network, a presenter at the 2004 LCMC convention in Fargo. When we mentioned our interest in a working sabbatical, he saw an opportunity that would synthesize our parish experience, missions passion, Bob's chaplaincy in alcohol and drug rehabilitation, and Karen's work in ESL.

So in late January we headed for Estonia and Latvia, to teach at two remarkable schools with deep Lutheran roots. Both countries had suffered through both World Wars, plus 52 years of brutal Soviet occupation. Two-thirds of the Lutheran clergy were either killed or sent to Siberia, where 99% died. Many people who did stay alive in "the Soviet time" turned to vodka in the dead hope that it would ease their grief and pain. Yet the Christians who befriended us were warm, vibrant and hopeful.

The churches were decimated, going from an era of deep piety and lay participation to just remnants. When freedom came to both countries in 1991, church buildings were in disrepair and congregations were nearly leaderless. Into this gap stepped two institutions, the Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) in Tartu, Estonia, and the St. Gregor's School of Christian Ministry in Saldus, Latvia.

The vision for TAT was given to Eenok Haamer, who had lived in an underground bunker for many years to escape the KGB. They came for the rest of the family after his pastor father was taken away. Even as a teenager, he prayed for a way to rebuild his church and his culture when the hoped-for liberty would come.

TAT is a conservative Christian college that welcomes all faiths. It offers several degrees in lay training, and also prepares students for the seminary in Tallinn. Currently, half of all new pastors are TAT trained.

St. Gregor's, on the other hand, offers a 1-2 year Bible course that equips students to make a difference in their world. Many go into church vocations such as youth work, or counseling. One student feels called by God to give her life to serving orphans in an incredibly loving place called Grostona. She will get no pay, no retirement plan, and will sleep in her classroom, yet she glowed with joy just telling about the children there.

Both of these schools are strapped financially. We would welcome your interest in becoming involved with opportunities to serve at them, or to support these worthy ministries in these lovely countries. We didn't get a great tan, but we did come to love the church and the people in these recovering, growing countries.



Pastor Bob, seated in front, with students

"FROM WHISPER TO PUBLICATION"

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RECLAIM RESOURCES . . . www.ReclaimLutheranWorship.org

"What you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops." Matthew 10:27 ESV

What you heard whispered this past year about a forthcoming, alternative hymnal with classic Lutheran worship resources, today became housetop news. The printing presses began the first press-run of ReClaim, Introductory Edition: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home. (LHCH)

Also to be released this October is the well financed and highly publicized "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnal being produced and sold by the ELCA. Notably neither of the two hymnals has been officially approved by the ELCA's Church Wide Assembly (only the Renewing Worship "process", not the final "product" was approved in '05) And both hymnals are sure to stir controversy as new hymnals always do. However there is a stark difference between the two in regard to: the naming of God: the censorship of masculine pronouns for God in both liturgy and hymns: the "emending" (improving) of the entire Book of Psalms, changing the direction of some Psalms from proclamation to prayer simply to avoid the masculine pronoun for God: etc. The Orders for Baptism and Funeral also display the breach between the two hymnals. Therefore it would seem to make good sense to delay a hasty decision until pastors and congregations can carefully examine both resources in terms of their heritage and their worship challenges.

Recently, editor Frederick J. Gaiser of "Word & World" wrote: "...only God can renew worship"...and.."the purpose of our renewed worship is that worship might renew us...". "No musical or liturgical style will guarantee the proclamation of Christ (and, thus, true renewal of worship). What will matter,

above all, are sermons, hymn texts, and liturgical language that are firmly based in Holy Scripture...". (Spring 2006, pp.119-120) Amen!

The 128 page "Introductory Edition" now available at a cost of \$6.00 per copy, (\$5.00 for 50 or more) is designed as an addition to your hymn rack for use as a supplement resource to worship. It contains Luther's Small Catechism with Morning and Evening Prayers for a home hymnal as well, and of course the liturgy for the ante Communion and Holy Communion, as well as Orders for Baptism, Weddings, and Funerals. In the hymn section are 47 of our best loved, Scripture based, teaching hymns, which we love to sing, and want to commit to memory through repeated use. It's a treasury of resources for worship in church and home.

The "Introductory Edition" is also a "down payment" of sorts, for later reclaiming Lutheran worship with a full hymnal that will be available in both beautiful print and electronic format for downloading, sometime during the winter of 07 - '08. It will contain four (4) seasonal musical settings, the first composed by John Ylvisaker, using an updated liturgical text of the Lutheran Common Service, which has been the staple for all Lutheran

worship for over 115 years and still inspires.

Proclaiming it from the housetops is a daunting task for only seven (7) people and some advisors, who are dependent upon voluntary gifts. We covet your prayers, convinced that this is the Lord's work. We need you on the housetops speaking supportive and encouraging words. And to meet expenses of \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year in the next few years, we especially need your generous gifts both small and large. Check out "Gideon's Garrison" for information on our search for 300 people (or more) who will each give \$100 (or more) for the hymnal project. (See *Judges 7 for the story of Gideon*)

We also need people to serve as regional trainers and advocates, to tell the exciting story of reclaiming Lutheran worship and help usher in this renewal. To help please contact:

**Reclaim Resources
Box 8202
St. Paul, Mn. 55108.**

To order the Introductory Edition call 1-800-590-6001. For more information check our website at: www.ReclaimLutheranWorship.org and sign on for "more information" to be sent to you. Introductory brochures and informational DVD's are in the making.

- (Rev) Norman P. Olsen (ret.)

A Message from the Pastor of an LCMC Mission Start

The article below is from Pastor Bob Schefter of Living Word Lutheran Church in Phoenix, AZ. His purpose in writing is to introduce the congregation to others in LCMC--

Friends:

I write this with Pentecost, the “Birthday of the Church” fast approaching! At times like this it is good to consider just what kind of a church we are. We are first and foremost a “Principled” church. A few years ago, a group of believers, concerned with the direction that the ELCA was headed, withdrew from their congregation. They resolved to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and to stand on the principles found in God’s Word. A quick look at the resolutions of recent ELCA Synod Assemblies will tell us that the direction of the ELCA still has not been corrected. The guidance of God’s Word is needed today more than ever before.

We at Living Word are also a “Precious Few”. By any standards we are small in number. Some would wonder why such a small group thinks that they can form a church in the first place! But size is not everything. David was small in stature. That is why so many laughed at him as he went to face the giant Goliath. God judged that Gideon had “too many” men so he worked them down to three hundred and He led them to glorious victory! With God in charge, nothing can be considered too small.

Living Word is also a “Praying” church. Because of our size and our situation we are keenly aware that we need to rely on God for our direction and our strength. After all, we did things backwards! We did not leave the ELCA with a building and resources and a whole congregation. We determined that God was calling us to leave with what we had – our selves and a trust in him. And so we strike out, seeking to follow his lead and do his work in our section of Arizona.

But we are also aware of the fact that we are not alone. There are other congregations throughout the world that stand on principle and rely on prayer. All congregations in the LCMC have taken the step to rely on God’s Word and raise their voices in opposition to the things that are going on in the church. We need to uplift each other in prayer. We depend on the support we can give each other.

Living Word is excited at what the future holds. This September each congregation in LCMC will receive a DVD describing the ministry that we are involved in and the direction that we see God leading us. We ask that you get to know us and pray for us and if you feel God calling you, help support us in any way that you can.

Pentecost tells us to consider the kind of church that we are. But what kind of church will we be?? With God’s guidance and the power of His Holy Spirit, the early church grew in strength and touched the world. That is as true today as it was 2000 years ago. What is the future of Living Word?? Only God knows for sure, but with His guidance and His Holy Spirit we can reach out far beyond our own space to touch all around us with His love and His peace.

Rev. Robert Schefter
LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH, Phoenix, AZ

Mark Your Calendar!

July 7 - 11 **EDGE! - LCMC Youth invited to Youth Encounter, Nashville, TN**

July 12 - 14 **Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN**

September 30 **Board of Trustees Meeting, Albuquerque, NM**

October 1 - 4 **LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention, Albuquerque, NM**

November 12 - 14 **Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN**

