

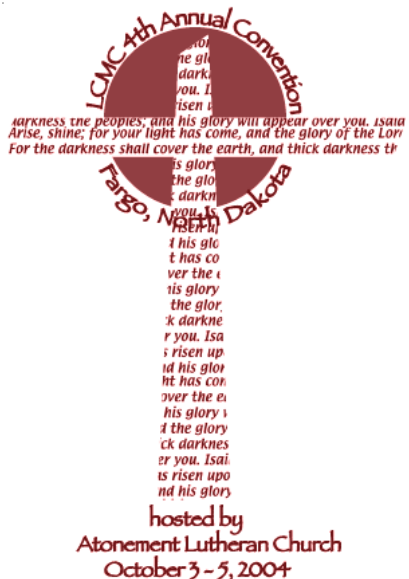
# BY THE WORD



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

Volume 3, Issue 3  
3rd Quarter 2004

## *Yah, sure, you betcha-- We're goin' to FARGO!*



*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.* (Isaiah 60:1-3)

If you haven't already made plans to meet your LCMC brothers and sisters at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo on October 3rd, **what are you waiting for?!**

### "ARISE, SHINE!"

While delegates representing member churches will conduct the important business of the association, we also encourage guests to participate-- the LCMC annual gathering is deliberately planned to spend as much time as possible focusing on how we can carry out Christ's charge to take His name to the world. In addition to a wonderful opportunity to worship together and praise the Lord, you won't want to miss out on the opportunities for fellowship, inspiration, and sharing of information. To that end, we thought you'd enjoy a preview of the breakout sessions that will be offered. Check it out beginning on page 4, then get your registrations mailed. Oh, and by the way, bring a friend-- or ten!

**Lutheran Congregations  
in Mission for Christ**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**October 2-3**  
**Trustees Meeting**  
Atonement  
Lutheran Church  
Fargo, ND

**Oct 3 - 5, 2004**  
**National Convention**  
Atonement  
Lutheran Church  
Fargo, North Dakota

**December 2-3**  
**Trustees Meeting**  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Eagan, MN

# LCMC-LM READY-TO-USE BULLETIN INSERT AVAILABLE

The bulletin insert shown below can be found in dual-side, ready-to-use format on the LCMC website ([www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)) With it, LCMC members can participate in LCMC-Lutheran Men's Gift Fund emphasis. Please prayerfully consider making this opportunity known to your congregation.

## SEPTEMBER IS LCMC-LUTHERAN MEN GIFT FUND EMPHASIS MONTH

The Purpose of LCMC-LM: To worship God by supporting LCMC Mission Congregations through two funds:

1. The Mission Gift Fund (September Emphasis)
2. The Mission Loan Fund (March Emphasis)

### WHAT IS THE LCMC-LM GIFT FUND?

The Gift Fund is a fund that supports LCMC mission congregations by an outright gift to the congregation. Gift Funds are to be used primarily, but not exclusively for start-up office equipment. Gifts must be approved by the Grant Request Committee by a two-thirds majority vote. Gift Fund monies come from a September emphasis called "The Committee of 100." It is a committee that never meets! You join by giving \$100 or more. Gifts to LCMC mission congregations are announced or presented at the LCMC national convention.

### WHO HANDLES THE MONEY?

All funds are handled out of the LCMC national office with LCMC Director of Operations/Financial Secretary Sharon MacFadyen working with LM treasurer Pat Lukasik. Checks are to be made to LCMC-LM and sent to LCMC-LM, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton, MI 48187.

### WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS ABOUT GIFTS?

The Grant Request Committee is composed of John Leistad (Iowa), Barry Brown (SC), Steve Hutchinson (NE), and David Drum (pastoral advisor, AZ). They seek advice from the LCMC National Service Coordinator and others.

### MY GIFT TO THE GIFT FUND

(please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount \_\_\_\_\_



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### BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER  
 VOLUME 3, Issue 3

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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

# **“A SPECIAL THANKS TO BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CONGREGATIONS OF LCMC”**

*My dear Brothers and Sisters...you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

I have returned from Vietnam after two and a half months and I want to greet you with gratitude! I am anxious to share with you some of the experiences that I had while in Vietnam with the Lutheran congregations . . .

I flew, rode buses (and) motor scooters, and walked to many places in Central and South Vietnam. I met many Christians and non-Christians at the churches, in their homes and in their communities:

- ✠ We had gatherings for the "Lay Leaders" (Preachers/Deacons & Deaconesses) for 12 congregations where we met for worship services, prayers, refreshments, trainings, and recruiting. Church members also came to the worship and church services. There were special training sessions for the men's and women's groups of our congregations.
- ✠ The young people came to Bible camps and "Summer Bible Schools" (like VBS in the US.)
- ✠ We had young college women gathered for Bible study, worships and spiritual renewal.
- ✠ We visited orphans at the orphanages "Orphans Family" and "The Center for the Street Kids."
- ✠ We gave Bibles to churches / congregations and to people who are afraid to go to church because of the government but still wanted to read the Bible. Each place we visited, we joined their services and shared the good news of our Lord, as well as some financial support.

One Sunday, a congregation was raided; they had their Bibles burned to ashes. The gathering was disbanded and received a warning from the local police! Another congregation was raided on a Thursday and had to disband their Bible study and prayer meeting! Almost all the congregations run into a lot of difficulties with the local governments during their services or church-meetings. The reason for these difficulties is that the government claims our Lutheran Congregations "DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO OPERATE"! Even though we have applied for this "permission," the government continues to tell us "YOU HAVE TO WAIT" -- BUT WE CANNOT WAIT FOREVER!"

Our brothers and sisters in Vietnam serve the Lord in broken tears every day, sometime with their blood! It is hurtful and painful to see these Christians serving the Lord faithfully. Most of these "illegal" churches/congregation /groups are endangered. However, the churches are getting used to the persecutions. Our Lutheran Congregations at any time are to "be ready to be sacrificed for the Lord!" Believers are reminded that "Every person, in whatever way, will die once; but we the children of God have two lives: NOW and AFTER, so we are NOT to be afraid of anything AT ALL!" Therefore, they have decided and have confirmed for good, to worship and serve the Lord.

Thank you so very much for the prayers and financial support that you have given to Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries (LVM). I especially want to thank those that sent e-mails to me while I was there. They were a great encouragement to me. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

**By God's grace and with your love and support, some day I will be able to return to Vietnam and continue the Lord's ministries. Your prayers and involvement are always and deeply appreciated--  
THANK YOU SO VERY, VERY MUCH!**

*John Dovich,  
Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries*

# Breakout Sessions - 2004 LCMC Annual Gathering

1.

## **Hope for the Sexually and Relationally Broken**

Presenter: **Mary Lou Garves**, LIFESource Ministry Coordinator - Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

"The church is being pulled in many directions, as our culture is becoming more "fluid" in its definition of "truth," especially in the area of sexuality. At Upper Arlington Lutheran, we believe there is a higher ground above the arguments of total acceptance or rejection of those who struggle sexually, be it heterosexual or homosexual in nature. This session is a presentation of the ministry we have begun (LIFESource) to reach out with hope and healing to all who are touched by these struggles."



*Mary Lou Garves*



2.

## **"One Man Band" - Creative Worship on a Budget**

Presenter: **Chris Elmore**, Worship Director - Hosanna! Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC

You can do a lot to enhance worship with just one musician and a few hundred dollars worth of equipment. This session will provide practical information on what can be done and how you can do it in your congregation.

*Chris Elmore*

3.

## **LCMC Pension Plan Information**

Presenter: **Fred Jensen**, Investment Representative - Edward Jones Investments, Hopkins, MN

This session will provide a wealth of information about the LCMC pension plan. Our account representative will be with us to share all about plan investment options, to provide details on rolling your pension accumulation from the ELCA plan to the LCMC plan and to answer questions you may have about the LCMC pension program.

*Fred Jensen*



4.

## **LCMC Benefits Plan Information**

Presenter: **Gayle McCann**, President - Johnson/McCann Benefits, Shoreview, MN

This session will provide information on the LCMC medical, dental, disability and life insurance programs. Participants will have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the benefits program.



5.

## **LCMC Board Chat**

Presenters: LCMC Trustees **Debra Lingen** - Omaha, NE, and **Rev. Larry Lindstrom**, - Farmersville, OH

LCMC Board members Deb Lingen and Larry Lindstrom will share some basic information about LCMC and then lead a time of discussion, in which delegates and guests can share concerns, raise questions, and help the board "take the pulse" of the association.



*Deb Lingen*

*Rev. Larry Lindstrom*

## 6. *Partnerships in Theological Education*

Presenter: **James Wakefield** - Salt Lake Theological Seminary, Salt Lake City, Utah

LCMC is developing partners in theological education around the country. Come and hear about one such partnership taking shape in the state of Utah.

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## 7. *Light at the End of the Tunnel*

Presenter: **Rev. David Herwick**, Pastor - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Burien, Washington and **Rev. Dr. Paul Braafladt**, LCMC Trustee - Seattle, WA

What can you do to protect your church property when leaving the ELCA? Here is how one congregation did it!

*Rev. Dr. Paul Braafladt* \_\_\_\_\_ *Rev. David Herwick*



## 8. *Building Strong and Ready Families - PREP*

Presenter: **Lenae Rasmussen**, LCMC Trustee - Vass, NC

PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program) teaches couples how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment, and friendship. Designed to help families function better and be prepared to face difficult situations together, it addresses marital and family issues from a Christian perspective.

*Lenae Rasmussen* \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. *Districts in Mission*

Presenters: **John Chatelain**, LCMC Trustee - Omaha, NE, and **Lenae Rasmussen**, LCMC Trustee - Vass, NC

Partnerships are developing among congregations of the association to help start mission congregations and to develop other ministries. Come and find out what's happening in the various LCMC districts across the country.

\_\_\_\_\_ *John Chatelain*



## 10. *LCMC Youth Rally 2005 - Salt Lake City, Utah*

Presenter: **Mr. Jeff Stephenson**, Director of Youth Ministries - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sandy, UT

Come and hear about how you can be a part of next summer's Third Annual Youth Rally. The rally team from our host congregation, Good Shepherd in Sandy, Utah will share details about the event and let you know how you can be a part of the planning process.

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## 11. *International Mission Partnerships*

Presenters: **Rev. John Dovich**, Director - Lutheran Vietnamese Ministry, Altoona, IA, **Rev. Enrique Estrada**, Pastor - Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and **Rev. Mark Vander Tuig**, Sr. Pastor - Lutheran Church of the Cross, Altoona, Iowa

This session will feature sharing by representatives of our international congregations. Rev. Dovich will share about his trip to visit our congregations in Vietnam this past summer. Rev. Estrada will talk about the ministry of our three LCMC congregations in Mexico. Rev. Vander Tuig will moderate the hour.



## 12. *Personalizing the Great Commission*

Presenter: **Rev. Bill Moberly**, Director - East European Missions Network, Bloomington, MN

“The Great Commission is not optional, but is to be the primary task of the church. How can a church be meaningfully, strategically and effectively engaged in completing the Great Commission? We’ll explore practical ways for congregations of any size to be personally involved in the harvest field, and hear about fruitful opportunities for ministry in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.”

*Rev. Bill Moberly*

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## 13. *The Sending Place*

Presenter: **Rev. Darrel Deuel**, Director - The Sending Place, Elk Grove, CA

“The Sending Place” is a Lutheran Missionary Training Center currently based in Elk Grove. We have purchased property near Redding, California to construct an on-site Training Center, which will allow the training of about 50 missionaries at a time. Our only goal is to recruit, train and send short-term and long-term missionaries to go out and spread the Word of God all over the world. Come and learn more about this exciting ministry.

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## 14. *Training Leaders for Christian Service*

Presenter: **Mr. Rob Severson**, Director of Promotion -Tentmakers, New Hope, MN

Tentmakers trains people to be leaders, wherever they may be. The training process has been developed over 25 years using several sources including the Bible, The Townsend Institute and help from a Dale Carnegie franchisee. Christ centered, it trains people in various skills and provides time to practice the skill and experience it. The training is designed for anyone, including pastors, youth leaders and lay people.

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## 15. *World Mission Prayer League*

Presenter: **Rev. John Juhl**, WMPL Missionary - Kenya

Pastor Juhl will share information about World Mission Prayer League of Minneapolis, Minnesota and about his work as a WMPL missionary in Kenya.

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## 16. *Lutherans for Life – Who Are We?*

Presenter: **Ed Szeto**, Director of Outreach – Lutherans For Life, Nevada, IA

A basic introduction about Lutherans For Life. The presentation topics include: what it means to be “For Life”; Lutherans For Life’s mission, message, and manner; examples of what member of Lutherans For Life are doing in their communities; and what can be done in your congregation. There will also be time for discussion about specific life issues like stem cell research and cloning.

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## 17. *Ministry Standards and Procedures*

Presenter: **Rev. Kip Tyler**, Chair of LCMC Ministry Board - Omaha, NE

This session will focus on the work the LCMC Ministry Board has been doing to further develop ministry standards and procedures to be presented to delegates of the association for their approval. The ministry board has also developed a call packet for congregations and prospective leaders. Participants will have opportunity to ask questions before the ministry standards and procedures document is acted on during the business session of the gathering.

***Reaching Out and Growing Deeper***



**18.** Presenter: **Rev. Dave Drum**, Pastor - Community of Hope Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ and **Pastor Becky Lee**, Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND.

How do we reach out to new disciples, and continue to grow the faith of those already living a disciple's life? Some congregations are facing this challenge through worship, fellowship, and Bible study with programs like Alpha, The Old Testament Challenge, innovative youth programs, new ideas in VBS, and more!

*Rev. Dave Drum* \_\_\_\_\_ *Rev. Becky Lee*

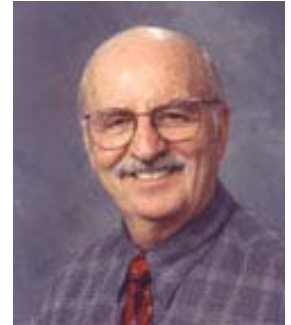


**19.** ***Life and Ministry Challenges in Rural America***

Presenter: **Rev. Carell Foss**, LCMC Pastor Emeritus, Fargo, ND

The presentation will include information about rural life in the Upper Midwest and creative options for addressing the unique challenges of ministry in a rural setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Rev. Carell Foss*



**20.** ***Weekday Ministry That Makes a Difference in Your Community***

Presenter: **Jan Wigen**, Administrator of Weekday Ministry - Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

For 10 years Atonement has operated a Christian preschool. The ministry has grown to include a day care and after school program that serves nearly 200 children in the greater Fargo area. Approximately 75% of the children are not from Atonement, but they all learn about Jesus. In this workshop you will learn about this ministry and the steps in its development.

**21.** ***Dynamic Worship and Music***

Presenter: **Jarl Iverson**, Minister of Worship and Music at Atonement.

Join this discussion of trends and "how to's" of offering and planning contemporary worship services. Information will be presented on setting up a band, finding music, dealing with copyright issues and planning the worship experience itself. Come with your own ideas that have worked and questions that may need answering.

*Jarl Iverson* \_\_\_\_\_



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

# Resurrection Lutheran Church - Mitchell, SD

by Rev. John Hansen & Shirley Little

## A BRIEF HISTORY

*A group of approximately 80 people gathered for a worship service at the James Valley Community Center in Mitchell, South Dakota on Sunday, November 17, 2002. The following week a meeting was held by the people who had gathered for worship. A vote was taken to form a new congregation called Resurrection Lutheran Church. A call to serve as Pastor was extended to Rev. John L. Hansen. From that start . . .*

The Constitution and Bylaws of Resurrection Lutheran Church of Mitchell, Inc. were adopted at a congregational meeting on June 1, 2003. Resurrection Lutheran Church was then incorporated with the State of South Dakota.

By Sunday June 22, 2003 (Father's Day) the congregation gathered for worship at a piece of property on the north end of Mitchell, which was donated by one of its members, and the groundbreaking ceremony was held. The building project was underway! The congregation continued to worship at the James Valley Community Center until Sunday, June 20, 2004 (Father's Day) when the first worship service was held in the newly completed facility.



Charter membership of Resurrection Lutheran Church on December 31, 2002 was 184. As of August 25, 2004 the membership has grown to 311; 256 confirmed, 51 baptized, 4 yet to be baptized. (Praise God!)

## AN INVITATION

All members of LCMC are invited to celebrate at a ribbon cutting and dedication celebration scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 2 & 3, 2004. LCMC members making their way to the annual gathering in Fargo may find this a perfect opportunity for fellowship. The tentative schedule is as follows:



### Saturday, Oct. 2

- 2:00 – 4:30 pm Open House
- 3:00 pm Ribbon Cutting followed by Service of Dedication  
Open House continues
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm Potluck Meal –  
Members & LCMC Guests
- 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Service
- 7:30 pm Fellowship Time

### Sunday, Oct. 3

- 9:30–10:30am Worship with Communion
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- Noon Leave for Fargo, ND for the LCMC Annual Gathering!



All are welcome to come and celebrate with Resurrection Lutheran Church. If you would like to spend the night in Mitchell-- and maybe make a visit to the world-famous Corn Palace too!-- the people of Resurrection have block of rooms reserved which will be held until September 23. They have negotiated a rate of \$50.00 + tax at the Comfort Inn (exit 332 off I-90) - 1117 S. Burr St., Mitchell, SD 57301 - Phone (605) 996-1333.

## **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - FREMONT, NEBRASKA**

*By John C. Chatelain*

Peace Lutheran Church, one of our newest LCMC congregations, holds weekly services in the spirit of true ecumenism. At 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, 50 to 75 Lutherans share the attractive Calvary Methodist building at 2438 East 121 Street, in Fremont, Nebraska. "Our church meets when the Methodists are not holding services," said Marvin Suhr, pastor of Peace Lutheran. "They are doing a Christian mission in letting us use their facility after they are done on Sunday morning," said church council president, Wayne Francis.

Peace recently joined LCMC. Heartland District has recommended Rev. Suhr for Certified Call status. The pastor and the newly elected church council were installed on July 18th. Francis said Peace believes the literal interpretation of the Bible is the final authority. "We are believers in Jesus - and to reach out with others with that word is what we are about," he said.

On the evening of December 10th, 2003, LCMC Board members, John Chatelain and Deb Lingen spoke to a crowd of roughly 80 at the Holiday Lodge Convention Center in Fremont. Various ELCA issues were covered as well as the exciting possibilities to be found in LCMC. Wayne Francis was elected to head a steering committee to evaluate options for the group. Committees were formed from the beginning to make sure worship services occurred and that a constitution and bylaws were created, according to Duane Listen, a member of the original steering committee.

Services started on Sunday evenings in January at the Fremont City Auditorium. Heavy snow, near blizzard conditions, and cold temperatures failed to chill the little flock's determination to hear and share the Gospel. "We are not interested in numbers," Rev. Suhr said. "We are interested in people accepting Christ." Peace continues to formulate its goals around the needs of its members.

Rev. Suhr graduated from the United Lutheran Church in America seminary in Fremont, which closed in the 1960s. He also holds a degree in psychology from Drake University in Des Moines.

*Thank you, Peace Lutheran in Fremont, for being an inspiration to us all, and to the Fremont Tribune for the use of information found in its July 23rd, 2004 article by Janet Nitsick entitled, "Peace Lutheran Church open to all believers, followers of Christ." - JCC*

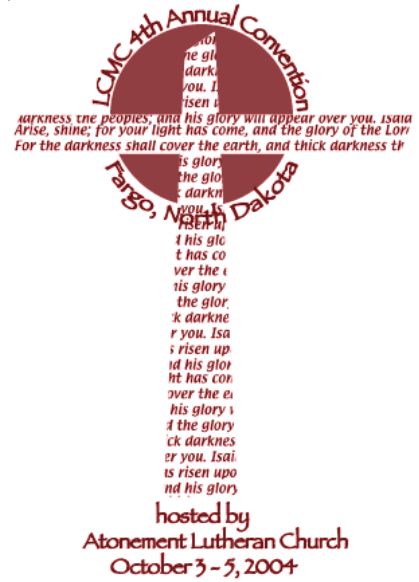
# "ARISE, SHINE!"

Oct 3 - 5, 2004

LCMC National Gathering

Atonement Lutheran Church

Fargo, North Dakota



Information available on [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net) and from the national office -- Register now!