

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.

3rd Quarter, 2007

The Call Challenge: Making Connections

- Rev. Dr. Meg Madson

Community of Grace Lutheran Church—Hopkins, MN / CrossAlone District

A leader's first job is to plan for succession. To be sure, you probably cannot hand pick your successor. But, you can help build a Lutheran future by helping pastors find calls and helping congregations around you find good pastors.

This past year a Minneapolis ELCA congregation, whose pastor was near retirement, hired a Luther Seminary senior to help with basic ministry. The congregation eventually decided to call the seminarian as their full-time pastor. He preferred to belong to LCMC. The congregation wanted him. They backed him, and now they are in the process of switching their affiliation from the ELCA to LCMC.

Also in this past year several Luther Seminary students have preached at

our LCMC congregation, *Lutheran Community of Grace*, and done a very fine job. These young people would prefer calls in LCMC but have few connections.

Many fine pastors in their 40's and 50's have also done supply preaching for Community of Grace. These are individuals who would like another call and have switched their affiliation from the ELCA/AFLC/Missouri to LCMC.

You can help connect clergy and congregations:

- Do you know of congregations looking for a solo pastor? An associate pastor?
- An interim pastor?
- Do you know of pastors or congregations who need a supply preacher?

We have good seminarians and pastors to recommend. Names, resumes, and recommendations will be provided.

Contact Meg Madson at mhmadson@comcast.net or 763-475-0577.

Additional assistance—

In addition to the assistance offered by Rev. Dr. Madson, resources are available at the LCMC web site (www.lcmc.net.) Check "Clergy List" for a link to a list of academically certified pastors "Seeking Call."

To provide guidance in the call process the LCMC Ministry Board has compiled a Call Packet which also can be accessed at the web site.

You may also contact LCMC Service Coordinator Bill Sullivan for assistance in navigating the call process and making connections.

Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ

News from our Congregations and Pastors ...

- ◆ **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Gaffney, South Carolina** will install their new pastor, **Rev. Kenneth Spitler**, on Reformation Sunday, October 28.
- ◆ **Pastor Paul Frerichs** has accepted a call to serve the people of **United Lutheran Church in Waterville, Washington**. He began his duties on September 1st.
- ◆ **Rev. April Dietz** was installed as Associate Pastor at **Lutheran Church of the Master in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota** on Sunday, July 15.
- ◆ **Christ Lutheran Church in Palm Coast, Florida** joyfully dedicated their new facility on Sunday, June 24.
- ◆ **Pastor George Qualley** began his duties at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Washington, Indiana** on May 1st
- ◆ **Rev. Chris Magnell** returned from his year of service as an Army Chaplain in Iraq in early August. He will begin serving as Associate Pastor at **Zion Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa** on October 15.
- ◆ **Pastor Christopher Martin** began serving **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon, Iowa** on September 1st.
- ◆ **Rev. Russell Grigsby** was ordained and installed as pastor at **Lebanon Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota** on July 1st.
- ◆ **Rev. Kathy Sandmann** has accepted a call to **Bethany Lutheran Church in McCallsburg, Iowa**.
- ◆ **Rev. Mark Jamison** will be installed as the first full-time pastor to serve **Lutheran Community of Grace in Minnetonka, Minnesota** on Sunday, October 7th.
- ◆ If you have news from your congregation or significant milestones you would like to share send them to the editor at dlingen@gmail.com.

This newsletter is a publication of LCMC, an association of churches and individuals. Inclusion of articles is intended to provide information and does not imply official endorsement. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect an official position of the Association or its board of trustees. We welcome comments, suggestions for stories, and submissions from our members. Contact Deb Lingen, editor, at dlingen@gmail.com or 952-686-7333.

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BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter 2007
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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

Notes from the GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

-- *Pastor Ron Winslow, Chair*

Great Lakes District Fall Meeting: The GLD Gathering will be the second or third week in November, exact date yet to be determined. Faith Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan will be the host Church and Pastor John E. Fults will be the Chairperson.

Free Worship Books Available: Zion Lutheran Church in Ottawa Lake, MI has some *Lutheran Book Of Worship* and *With One Voice* worship books available for free. You pay the shipping and we will send them to you at not cost on a first come basis. These are used books from an ELCA Church. Contact Pastor Ron Winslow at 734-856-3300 or pastorronzion111@verizon.net.

Great Lakes Ministry Committee: Thanks so much to Pastor Mark Gibbs of St. Michael (Ottawa Lake, MI) for the pioneer efforts he made in spearheading this committee. Pastor Mark has decided to step down at this time but he has agreed to help behind the scenes. The GLD will be discussing how to replace Pastor Mark at the next meeting in November and we will be making an appointment after our discussion. If you feel inclined to be on this committee please contact Pastor Ron Winslow of Zion Lutheran in Ottawa Lake, Michigan. You need not be close by to be a part of this committee. Interviews with prospective candidates could be done by conference calls. A complete description of the position will be available before the November meeting.

Need a Ride to the LCMC Conference? Jean Coleman, graduate of Ashland Seminary from Perrysville, Ohio, will be driving to the LCMC Conference. If you would like to ride with her you may call her at 419-651-1943 for details.

District Briefs . . .

HEARTLAND DISTRICT: Rev. Doyle Karst, chairman reports that the Heartland Council looks forward to welcoming four recently elected board members. They are Donna Saathoff, from St. John in Sterling, NE; Sandy Kristensen from Our Savior's of Audubon, IA; Steve Weatherly from Morningside of Sioux City, IA; and Ingrid Hoper from St. Paul in Hooper, NE. The first meeting for all board members is planned for Sept. 15th at Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha, where council members will organize themselves and take on new team assignments.

EVANGELICAL RENEWAL DISTRICT will hold their 2008 annual fellowship gathering January 21—24 in Monterrey, Mexico. The event will be hosted by Rev. Enrique Estrada. All LCMC members are welcome to join the members of ERD at this gathering in sunny Mexico!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE ERD MISSION TRIPS:

October 5-22, 2007 India Outreach to Orissa Evangelical Fellowship with World Encounter
Contact: Curt Rosen at www.worldencounter.org

November, 2007 Viet Nam with Lutheran Church of the Cross (Altoona, IA). Contact: Pastor John Dovich at johndovich@aol.com

Nov. 13-19, 2007 Monterrey, Mexico Medical Mission with Lutheran Church of the Cross (Altoona, IA)
Contact: Lisa Shadley at (515)967-4818

March 15-21, 2008 Rio Bravo, Mexico Medical & Construction with Lutheran Church of the Cross (Altoona, IA) Contact: Mike Biedenfeld at mbdnfld@aol.com

Other mission opportunities available through:
Pastor Curt Rosen of World Encounter (www.worldencounter.org) . . . Pastor Bill Moberly of East European Mission Network (www.eemn.org).

Additional congregational mission contacts:
City on a Hill (Manhattan Beach, CA) Melissa Baranik (melkal04@hotmail.com) . . . Community of Hope (Tucson, AZ) Joy Logan (jillogan@email.arizona.edu)
Morningside Lutheran youth (Sioux City, IA) Paul Peterson and Kurt Kobes . . . Zion (Oshkosh, WI) Jeff Knoll (zionlutheran@ntd.net)

Far Above Rubies— An Event for Teen Girls and Their Moms

- Rebecca Meidinger, Dir. of Youth Ministry, Atonement LC, Fargo, ND

Far Above Rubies is an annual event for teen girls, grades 7-12, hosted by Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. The hope and goal of Far Above Rubies is to empower teen girls to see themselves as beautiful daughters of a loving Father and to equip them to live healthy and abundant lives.

The event began four years ago as an attempt to reach out to girls struggling with body image and eating disorders. With an overwhelming success, we continued the event the following year.

Far Above Rubies has progressed into a more holistic ministry, addressing issues of sexual purity & abstinence until marriage, body image, eating disorders, interpersonal relationships, fashion & modesty, and understanding the differences between men & women.

What started as a six-hour conference has grown into a two-day event, beginning Friday evening and going through Saturday late afternoon.

Last year we saw a significant increase in the number of mothers attending with their daughters. Mothers have felt blessed to experience this event alongside their teen daughters.

In addition to first class speakers, we've had a number of great items that have made Far

Above Rubies into a meaningful event for teen girls.

For the past few years, we've partnered with a local teen clothing store and a modeling agency to hold a fashion show that highlights modesty within modern fashion trends.

Also, we've brought in a number of quality presenters to offer breakout workshops on a variety of topics: hair design, make-up

*"Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies."*

- Proverbs 31:10

design, serving Christ through mission work, beading bracelets, understanding

God's gift of fertility, God's design of men & women, dating & relationships, nutrition & health, weight-training & fitness, and more.

Another highlight of Far Above Rubies in the past years has been the Guys Panel. Each year we bring in a panel of young adult Christian men, ages 19-29, to participate in the Guys Panel. Girls are able to ask all their questions that pertain to men and hear honest responses from mature, godly, young men.

Far Above Rubies began as an event primarily for our Atonement girls, but has grown into an outreach event for the surrounding area. It's an opportunity for teen girls to come together as sisters in Christ and experience God's love and truth in an empowering and equipping new way.

Financial Snapshot

- Kirk Dean, LCMC Treasurer,
& Sharon MacFadyen, Dir. Of
Operations / Financial Sec'y

Through the first eight months of 2007 the finances of the association remain stable, following the continuing growth trend of previous years. As new congregations join LCMC and begin to contribute, the growing needs of the organization are being met.

Contributions have increased over \$17,000 from this time last year. Expenses are in line with projections with the exceptions of legal and newsletter costs. Future legal expenses are an unknown, but newsletter costs could be significantly reduced with greater member use of electronic delivery of the newsletter rather than postal paper delivery. Also, as with any organization in today's world, technology expenses are a growing and ever present issue. That is true of us as well certainly.

Any temporary excess funds are being invested in a money market account until needed so as to maximize the congregation contributions. Hopefully those congregations who have not contributed yet this year will make them prior to year end so LCMC can once again end the year with a positive cash position.

*If you would like information on how to organize a similar event for the young women of your church contact Rebecca at :
rmeidinger@atonementfargo.org.*

Exciting Developments on Horizon for Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries (LVM)

- Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Altoona, IA

We have some very exciting developments beginning to take shape for our outreach to the nation of Viet Nam. Pastor John Dovich, Lutheran LVM's missionary to Viet Nam, left for that country in July and hopes to be able to stay for up to six months. Pastor Mark Vander Tuig of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, IA, will again be meeting him there in November of this year.

The goal of the visit this time is two fold. First, we will be looking for a property in the Da Nang area of central Viet Nam to purchase so that John and Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries (LVM) may develop a more permanent presence in Viet Nam. This will also provide a place for John to base instead of either staying in the homes of our members or in hotels.

The property will also be a "Training Center for Discipleship"—a place where our leaders can come to grow in their understanding and application of God's Word, and in their skills in teaching and leading churches.

Our outreach in both the central and southern parts of Viet Nam is growing and we want to enable Pastor Dovich to be most effective in carrying out the Great Commission—we believe this is one of the ways that we can do so.

We expect that the cost of such a property will be around \$30,000 and hope to be able to secure those funds by the end of this year (2007)!

If you or your congregation might be interested in being a part of this effort, please contact LVM through Lutheran Church of the Cross web-site at: www.LccAltoona.org.

And, we are in a discussion with BILD to help us train leaders and pastors in Viet Nam so that our ministry there can go well beyond the efforts of John Dovich, Mark

Vander Tuig, Lutheran Church of the Cross, LCMC or LVM! BILD stands for Biblical Institute for Leadership Development. They are located in Ames, Iowa and have been training leaders in the way of Jesus and the disciples for over 30 years.

We are hoping that John Dovich and international leaders of BILD can meet in Saigon, in October. If things go as we believe the Lord is leading, BILD will make a 5-7 year commitment to LVM to train leaders and pastors to develop house churches in that nation.

BILD started working overseas in 1984, training pastors in northern India. They are now involved in training in over 20 countries and have over 30,000 church leaders in training from grassroots to national leaders. We hope to soon add Viet Nam to that list!

BILD can't keep track of the number of churches planted. India, for example, is planting churches like crazy, but BILD's role is to equip them to train their leaders so the churches last. This makes numbers really difficult to discern. But for example, one group in India has planted 2,450 churches and now, using their trained leaders, has a vision for planting 11,000 churches each of the next 3 years. Each of the 7 India groups that they work with has similar goals. It's truly remarkable.

In our last correspondence with John Dovich, the LCMC churches are doing well, the

numbers are growing and together, we continue to be grateful for what God is doing through John in Viet Nam!

For more information on BILD, please check out their web-site at: www.BILD.org. Information on LVM can be obtained from Mark at lccmark@msn.com.



Pastors Vander Tuig (above left) and Dovich (above right and below center) with LCMC churches in Viet Nam last November.



LCMC Churches Feel Impact of Devastating Hurricane

In November of 2005, Rev. Pavel Guevara, president of the IELNIC, an independent Lutheran body in Central America, addressed the LCMC board of trustees about the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua. His only request was that the people of LCMC consider an invitation to come to Nicaragua, share the faith, and get to know the Nicaraguan people.

In February of 2006 trustee Rev. Dr. Paul Braafladt, and Rev. Carell Foss and his wife, Bonnie, of Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, accepted Rev. Guevara's invitation. They toured several of the Nicaraguan churches, now international partners of LCMC. That trip became the basis for a mission focus presentation by Braafladt and Guevara



at the October 2006 LCMC gathering and convention in Albuquerque. Delegates and guests had the opportunity to meet Rev. Guevara and learn a little more about life as a Lutheran in Nicaragua.

The relationship between LCMC members in the US and Nicaragua was further strengthened in December of '06 when Pastor Pavel once again visited. The energetic young Nicaraguan

covered a great deal of ground, forging ties at LCMC churches in the Northwest District, including Living Word LC (Moses Lake, WA), Our Savior's LC (Burien, WA) and American LC (Kellogg, ID), as well as at Atonement LC in Fargo. During his visit to the Northwest District, LCMC members presented Guevara with a gift of money to the churches of the ELCN as well as a projector to aid in presentations.

Little did anyone realize that these bonds of Christian fellowship would soon lead to a unique opportunity to offer aid and comfort in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Twelve congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua are now members of LCMC. In the aftermath of Hurricane Felix they need you. These photos and Pastor Birnbaum's letter (next page) describe their distress. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help.



Felix Relief for Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua—

7 September, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now you have no doubt been made aware of the heart-breaking devastation of Hurricane Felix in Northern Nicaragua. Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua (ELCN) in that area have been particularly hard hit.

As the U.S. coordinator for the ELCN, I join the church President, Rev. Pavel Guevara, in asking you to consider a special relief offering this Sunday or to make an appeal through whatever means you deem appropriate and effective. We have arranged to use Good Samaritan Missions (www.aboutGSM.org) to receive and transfer funds directly to the ELCN, with no overhead costs (unlike most other relief efforts...). Please make checks to Good Samaritan Missions (GSM) and send to:

Good Samaritan Missions - Felix Fund
P.O. Box 60577
Corpus Christi, Texas 78466

An initial matching fund grant of \$1000.00 has already been pledged by GSM. Your gifts will be matched dollar for dollar (first \$1000). Gifts of more than \$250.00 automatically receive a charitable gift letter, but a letter to acknowledge any amount will be sent upon request. GSM is a 501(C)3.

I will be in Nicaragua Sept. 18-19 and will personally deliver funds pledged or received by that date. Funds received later will be sent ASAP.

Please feel free to contact me (509-710-3283) for additional information.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter. Please pray for the people of Nicaragua and our Lutheran brothers and sisters in particular.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael Birnbaum
President
Good Samaritan Missions

ReClaim Announces Publication of Olson Book

ReClaim Resources is pleased to announce the publication of *Blue Papers - One: Reclaiming the Lutheran Liturgical Heritage*, by respected scholar and theologian Oliver K. Olson.

According to Carolyn Lystig, a spokeswoman for ReClaim, the book is 96 pages organized into seven chapters, with an excellent introduction by Gracia Grindal. "This book will be used in adult Sunday School classes, seminary classes, and by individual lay persons and clergy," says Mrs. Lystig.



Olson's Th.D. degree was granted by the University of Hamburg. He has taught at St. Olaf College; Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn.; the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; and most recently at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. In 1987 he founded the second series of the theological journal, *Lutheran Quarterly*. He is the author of *Matthias Flacius and the Survival of Luther's Reform*, published in Germany in 2002.

Among several prominent theologians offering testimonials is Rev. Dr. Walter Sundberg, Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. He states, "For students who care about Lutheran identity and worship practice, however, Oliver Olson is a gift to the church and an inexhaustible resource."

According to Lystig, the initial small print run was snapped up immediately. ReClaim is currently determining how large the second printing will need to be.

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*ReClaim Resources, an independent organization and hymnal project, provided information for this article as a service to LCMC members.*

## **LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION FOR CHRIST**

7000 Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48187

### **“Teach Us To Pray” - 7th Annual Gathering of LCMC October 7-10, Arden Hills, Minnesota.**

Delegates, members, and visitors will gather for four days of worship, Bible study, keynote presentations, workshops, fellowship and networking, and to conduct the annual business of the association.

**Rev. Tony Stoutenburg**, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Hayward, Wisconsin will preach at the opening worship service on Sunday evening, October 7. **Rev. David Chancellor** from Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville, Texas will preach at the closing worship service on Wednesday morning, October 10.

Bible study leaders will focus on the Lord’s Prayer each morning of the gathering. Daily presenters will be **Rev. Kent Groethe** on Monday, **Rev. April Dietz** on Tuesday and **Rev. Larry Lindstrom** on Wednesday.

Nearly 30 breakout presentations will be offered in three different sessions on a host of topics including global missions, theological education, worship resources, special needs ministry, church planting, and others.

Keynote speakers include **Rev. Todd Wallace, Sr.** Pastor of Brooklyn Park Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota on Monday, **Rev. John Burke**, Lead Pastor at Gateway Community Church in Austin, Texas on Tuesday and **Dr. Paul Maier**, Professor of Ancient history and chaplain at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan on Wednesday.

Please join us in Arden Hills the first Sunday in October!

#### **2007 Dates to Note**

**October 6 :** *Board of Trustees Meeting*

**Oct. 7 - 10 :** *Annual Gathering & Convention*

**November 14 - 16 :** *Board of Trustees Meeting*