

# 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.

4th Quarter 2005

## *We Came. We Saw!*

### Developing an Invitational Lifestyle in Altoona

On the first weekend in October, several hundred delegates, members, associate members and friends of the association, along with scores more who were curious to learn more about LCMC, made their way to the nation's heartland for the Fifth Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. The theme of this year's gathering at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa was "Come and See!", with John 1:35-42 serving as the theme text.

The gathering began with dinner at LCC on Sunday evening. It was the first of several meals hosted by the congregation during the event. The volunteer team from LCC, coordinated by Mrs. Allison Brekke, did an outstanding job, not only at dinner that evening, but by showing attendees warm hospitality throughout the event.

Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, the Sr. Pastor at LCC, preached the sermon during the opening worship service at LCC on Sunday evening, October 2nd. The service was also highlighted by the leadership of a fine group of musicians from the congregation.

Each of the three mornings of the gathering began with Bible study led by an LCMC pastor. The presenters led us through a portion of our theme text. Rev. Mark Richardson, the pastor at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Dresser, Wisconsin got us started by asking "What are you looking for?" on Monday morning. Rev. Edith Bickford, pastor at Tecumseh Lutheran Community Church in Tecumseh, Nebraska invited us to be like Andrew on Tuesday morning, by challenging us to bring our friends to Jesus. Finally, on Wednesday morning, Rev. Randy Upgren from Charity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, challenged us to follow Jesus as he unwrapped the last part of the theme text.

Outstanding keynote speakers challenged and inspired those in attendance.

Rev. Bill Moberly, Director of the East European Missions Network challenged us to become strategically involved in carrying out Christ's Great Commission.

Janina Gazda from the Center for Mission and Evangelism of the Polish Lutheran Church

- Altoona -- continued on page 4 -

# Delegates Approve Proposed By-Law Changes at National Gathering

Delegates to the 2005 LCMC national convention approved two resolutions to change the Association's bylaws. Member congregations are being notified of the proposed changes and have one year from the date of enactment to reject the proposals.

This "negative ratification" process means that the approved changes will take effect October 3, 2006 unless a majority of member congregations reject the proposed changes. Rejection by a majority of member congregations terminates all action on the proposed bylaw or amendment.

From the minutes of the gathering, these are the proposed changes:

M/P To adopt the proposed bylaw change 7.08:

To insert a new bylaw section 7.08 and renumber subsequent paragraphs as follows:

"7.08 A member of the board of trustees may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the remaining board of trustees, following written notice to the board member of the grounds for removal. The national convention may, by resolution, further define cause permitting board member removal and may also specify additional procedures to be followed in connection with a motion to remove a board member."

M/P To adopt the proposed bylaw change 8.05 as follows:

To amend the last sentence of 8.05 as follows:

"The treasurer may be removed by the board of trustees only by a two-thirds majority vote of the remaining board of trustees and only for cause following written notice of the grounds for removal. The national convention may, by resolution, further define cause permitting removal and may also specify additional procedures to be followed in connection with the removal of the treasurer."



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## BY THE WORD

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 4

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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

# Leadership Changes to LCMC Board of Trustees

The LCMC Board of Trustees has accepted, with gratitude to God and thanks for their service, the resignations of trustee Rev. Lenae Rasmussen and treasurer John Chatelain.

Rev. Rasmussen's resignation took effect at the national gathering, thus allowing the area from which she had been elected to meet and elect a new representative to the board of trustees. Rev. David Chancellor of Kerrville, Texas was nominated and elected to serve the remaining year of the three-year term.

Mr. Chatelain opted to resign his position in October. A letter has been sent to all member congregations giving notice of the vacancy and offering them the opportunity to forward, by December 31, names of interested persons who may wish to serve as treasurer of this association until the next annual gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October 2006.

As required by the LCMC bylaws, an election will be held at the October 2006 gathering to elect the association treasurer to serve a three year term. The treasurer appointed by the board would be eligible for election to a full three year term.

Persons interested in serving as treasurer of the association should be a member of an LCMC congregation. Although no formal degree in accounting or similar disciplines is required, the applicant should possess a background in accounting, business, or financial or business management, or other similar credentials. The LCMC treasurer is a full voting member of the Board of Trustees of the association and, like all board members, is a volunteer. The association does reimburse expenses incurred by board members in performing board duties, however. The Board of Trustees retains a certified public accounting firm each year to perform an audit of the association's financial records and thus audit experience is not a requirement for service as treasurer.

Questions about the position may be directed to Barry Anderson at (612) 720 0744.

## Rev. David Chancellor Elected Trustee



*Rev. David Chancellor, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville, Texas, was elected to serve out the remaining year of a 3-year term on the LCMC Board of Trustees.*

*Prior to his call to Zion in April, 2002, Rev. Chancellor served churches in Iowa, and in Lufkin and Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, the University of Texas at Austin, and Luther Seminary in Minnesota. Originally from Odessa, Texas, David has also served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Cherí, have three sons, Camden, Phillip, and Greg.*

*Merry*



*Christmas!*



# *To the Ends of the Earth --*

## International Partnerships Continue to Expand

When LCMC accepted its first international congregations a couple years ago -- welcoming congregations from Mexico and Viet Nam-- we really had no idea what to expect in the future. But God is making it clear that LCMC is to be an international organization which means that we will need to find creative ways to expand our association around the world while meeting the needs of various church cultures.

The latest nations to be represented in LCMC are India and Sri Lanka. Member congregations of the Orissa Evangelical Fellowship in India and Calvary Christ Lutheran Mission in Sri Lanka have joined LCMC in the last months.

The Board of Trustees authorized Rev. Curt Rosen to visit the congregations in India in November on behalf of LCMC. Curt brought a report to the board at its mid-November meeting about his trip. The board looks forward to sharing more information with the members of the association at our gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October of 2006.

Calvary Christ Lutheran Mission in Sri Lanka found LCMC through the internet. The mission was devastated by the tsunami earlier this year and has appealed to LCMC for assistance as they seek to rebuild their facilities.

Other congregations - both individual congregations and groups of congregations - in places such as Poland and Nicaragua - have established contact with LCMC. Our friends in the Polish Lutheran Church have expressed an interest in pursuing a partnership with LCMC. And in November Rev. Pavel Guevara, president of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua, visited with the board and extended an invitation for representatives to come and visit with their congregations to begin developing a partnership with LCMC.

It is a wonderful thing to see what God is doing as this association develops. And we are confident that the challenges that exist in becoming an association without borders will be met as we move confidently into the future that God has planned for us.

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### *"Change Your World" . . .*

reports from pastors who weren't in attendance but have seen such noticeable and lasting changes in their students that they just had to sit back and praise God for what he did in July!

All of our worship times were led by a wonderful worship team from Salt Lake City named *Jeremiah's Fire*. The young people who make up *Jeremiah's Fire* have a heart for serving Christ and did a marvelous job leading the students in literally hours of praise and worship that won't soon be forgotten. There is so much that could be said about our time in praise and worship but it can be best summed up with a heartfelt "Thank you Lord!"

In addition to some great teachings with TJ and amazing music with *Jeremiah's Fire* our time together in Salt Lake was full of meaningful small group breakout teaching times, great food, and amazing scenery located at the base of the Rocky Mountains. The third annual LCMC Youth Rally was a tremendous success and we look forward with anticipation to many more years of great youth rallies sponsored by the LCMC.

This summer Youth Encounter has invited the LCMC to join their annual high school event, *EDGE!* It, too, promises to be an event to remember. Youth Encounter will be giving LCMC congregations time and space to network together during *EDGE!* and at the same time experience all of the larger event activities. This year *EDGE!* is being held in Nashville and if you would like more information about how you can get your youth ministry signed up to attend please contact TJ Anderson at [tj@youthencounter.org](mailto:tj@youthencounter.org).

# LCMC Ministry Board Meets

## Living Documents Presented

Members of LCMC's Ministry Board met in Eagan, MN in November and presented the LCMC Board of Trustees with recommendations for a Discipline Philosophy. The document, which had been presented for comment to delegates in Altoona by Ministry Board chairman Rev. Kip Tyler, was accepted by the trustees. It includes sections on discipline, consultation, and mediation, and is intended to be a guideline for congregations and districts dealing with conflict over pastoral leadership.

The Ministry Board also presented a draft document titled "General Expectations for Those Students Seeking a Certified Call in LCMC." The document addresses pastoral training in terms of academic, character and spiritual development, and leadership development, and was also accepted by the Board of Trustees.

## Terms, Appointments

In other action, the trustees accepted recommendations from Ministry Board members regarding its composition and responsibilities. Recognizing that the Ministry Board of LCMC provides advice and counsel to the members of the association with respect to the process of calling pastors to serve congregations; that LCMC maintains a list or lists of clergy serving or seeking to serve congregational members of this association; and that it is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to appoint members to serve on the Board of Ministry, the trustees accepted a resolution that:

- ◆ appointed the following individuals to serve for the following periods of time:  
Rev. Bob Nordvall and Rev. Mark Vander Tuig through October 2006,  
Rev. Kip Tyler and Rev. Kathy Sukke through October 2007,  
Rev. David Drum and rev. Bruce Wilder through October 2008;
- ◆ limited membership on the Ministry Board to two consecutive three year terms; and
- ◆ directed that the Ministry Board shall maintain the list or lists of clergy and shall have the authority to accept or deny any applicant seeking inclusion on the list or lists of this association, subject to a right of appeal to an appeals committee designated by the Board of Trustees

## 2006 Leadership Conference Announced

Finally, the members of the Ministry Board announced the LCMC Spring Leadership conference which will once again be held in the Twin Cities. Dates are April 23-25, 2006, and the theme will be "Equipping the Saints". The conference is open to both lay and ordained leadership.



### Wilder Appointed to Ministry Board

Rev. Bruce Wilder of Faith Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been appointed to a three year term on the LCMC Board of Trustees. Wilder, who is senior pastor of the congregation, received his B.A. degree in biology and religion from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1979. He was awarded the Skattum Memorial Scholarship for graduate theological studies from the Religion Department. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1984, and is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. Prior to his call to Faith in 1998, Pastor Wilder served Christ the King in Richmond, Virginia; Zion in Warroad, Minnesota; and Grace in Austin, Minnesota. Between college and seminary, he also served as director of youth ministries at Our Savior's in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota.

## **WOW! MEETS IN ALTOONA**

Women attending the national gathering in Altoona once again gathered to share ideas on what women's ministries might look like in LCMC. Like the member congregations of LCMC itself, the women of each congregation or district have the freedom to structure their Women of the Word group as they see fit. For example, there are no overarching national regulations regarding governance, officers, or required financial support. Some women's groups have already modified their documents and are willing to share them to avoid duplication of effort.

Benevolence and bible study continue to be areas of great interest to the women of LCMC. WOW groups have the freedom to choose the ministries they wish to support. That might mean maintaining connections with organizations and projects they have supported in the past, such as Lutheran World Relief or local agencies, or it might mean choosing to support missions other LCMC congregations bring to their attention. Those in attendance also discussed freedom and responsibility in choosing appropriate bible studies, and shared suggestions of some studies they would recommend. There are many resources available, including through Christian bookstores and on-line offerings. If in doubt, a group can ask their pastor to review and guide them on the material in question.

Finally, the group was eager to begin communicating regularly with each other and thought including items of interest on a regular basis in the LCMC newsletter, which is also posted at the LCMC web site, would be helpful.

If you have questions or comments about WOW, or you would like to submit news items or articles for this newsletter, contact Deb Lingen at 402-597-3362 or [ddalingen@netscape.net](mailto:ddalingen@netscape.net).

## **HEARTLAND DISTRICT ELECTS, MAKES PLANS**

The Heartland District Council met Saturday, Nov. 12th. Business conducted included the election of two new officers. Rev. Tim White, head pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus, NE will now serve as District Pastor and Rev. Doug Zurich, also of Trinity - Columbus, will lead the Professional Education Task Force. Rev. Doyle Karst was elected to another 3 year term as Heartland District Coordinator.

During its business session the council discussed ways to connect the congregations of the district. Rev. White has agreed to send a letter introducing himself and explain his role as District Pastor in helping to strengthen ties between the Heartland churches. Rev. Karst will be developing a list of discussion points centered on how Heartland can grow and mature as a district. After the first of the year, he intends to contact each member church and request meetings with the respective pastors and church councils. Some areas Pastor Karst hopes to cover with the district's church leaders include what associating with Heartland means, visioning the future direction of the district, ideas for building mission and ministry, and what intentional activities member churches are willing to participate in.

In related news, the district's Mission task force has had to council two meetings due to inclement weather. The group intends to meet in the near future to strategize; they would like to integrate information gained in Rev. Karst's discussion points with the congregations as they set their goals. The Heartland House of Studies task force has scheduled a planning meeting for Friday, Dec. 16th at Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City.

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## **NORTHWEST DISTRICT TO CONVENE IN MAY**

Members of LCMC's Northwest District will meet for their annual district gathering on May 5th and 6th, 2006. They will open Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. and plan to conclude Saturday at 4:30 P.M. Members of American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, ID, will host the gathering at their church. The convention planners have chosen to embrace the theme of the 2005 national gathering, "Come and See!" and will extend it in other directions. Featured speaker on Saturday will be the Hon. Barry Anderson, a Supreme Court Justice from the state of Minnesota, and member of the LCMC Board of Trustees.

More detailed information will be forthcoming in the Spring of 2006.

# A Story of Sharing

The people of Prince of Peace, Grandview, MO, knew they were being called to a difficult decision. They made it earlier this year, and sadly voted to disband as a congregation. Once they'd determined their course of action, they contacted Rev. Bill Sullivan, LCMC's Service Coordinator, and were put in touch with the people of First Lutheran Church of Erie, IL. First Lutheran is a mission start, the first LCMC congregation in the state of Illinois, and they were in need of... well, everything. Phone calls and e-mails flew between Prince of Peace and Erie and it was settled. Learning of First Lutheran's great need, Prince of Peace offered all they had. Instrumental in making the arrangements were Rev. Cindy Cone, Congregation President Cathy Welsh, and Music Director Jean Schwabbe, all of the Grandview congregation, and Jo Cohr representing the Erie congregation.

Through the generosity of Prince of Peace, First Lutheran has been abundantly blessed with material items for worship and administration. Included in Prince of Peace's gifts were a baptismal font, a processional cross, banners, parapets, robes, Christmas wreaths and costumes, various candles and holders, a communion set, offering plates, Sunday School materials, a huge library of informational books, a complete set of choir music, 3 sets of hymnals, the lectionary and stand, fellowship items, a computerized music system and a copy machine. The items were gifts of the heart and in some instances were particularly personal: the baptismal font, paschal candleholder, altar candleholders and lectionary stand were all inlaid



wood, hand made by a charter member of Prince of Peace, the late Howard Berglund. All of the banners were hand made by Betty Stenstrom.

Once the gift had been offered and accepted, an invitation was extended to the people of First Lutheran, inviting them to attend Prince of Peace's sending out service on October 16th. With vans, cars, and trailers, the delegation from Erie set out. Making the trek were Larry and Monty Thies, Jo and Don Cohrs, Rich and Diane Bull, and Curt and Laura Steffes. Pastor Cindy and her husband Ron welcomed them to their home the evening of the 15th, and introduced them to several of the members of Prince of Peace. That Sunday they worshipped together and the gift exchange was marked with a small ceremony in which Pastor Cindy presented Larry Thies, First Lutheran's president with a special candle lit from their paschal candle and a gift bag filled with red hearts with the names of everyone who has worshipped at Prince of Peace over the past two months. Each family of Prince of Peace was also given a lit candle, and they concluded their service with a Christian rock version of "This Little Light Of Mine". Says First Lutheran member Monty Theis, "It was an awesome experience! Since all of this, some of us have developed lifelong friendships with Pastor Cindy, Cathy Welsh and Jean Schwabbe. They are now family to us." First Lutheran was still in need of a place to worship. According to Marty, "We had all of these wonderful gifts from Prince of Peace still unloaded in a trailer and in all of our vans and cars, and no place to put them . . . BUT, as usual, and as God does if we trust Him, He provided a place to put all of these things just in

## *A Story of Sharing . . .*

the nick time.” In spite of several serious obstacles-- but with lots of faith and persistence-- they managed to close on their new building on schedule.

To complete the connection between the two congregations, Pastor Cindy and Cathy Welsh attended First Lutheran's Dedication Service on October 27th. Pastor Cindy was joined in conducting the service by Rev. Mark VanderTuig, Erie's mentor pastor from Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, IA . Pastor Mark gave the message and installed the new members and the council members while Pastor Cindy dedicated the items gifted to First Lutheran (*shown below*).



“What I would like for everyone to know is that if it had not been for us breaking away from the ELCA and forming our own church and immediately making our affiliation with LCMC, we would not be where we are today. And without LCMC and its help and willingness to work with us, we would not have what we have today,” says Monty Theis. “If I’ve learned anything in the past several months, it is that God truly does work in strange and awesome ways, and that if we are truly doing His will, He WILL and DOES provide. None of this happened for any other reason – our decision to walk out on the ELCA, our decision to start a church from the ground up (which is turning out to be a much bigger responsibility than we knew) and our decision to affiliate with LCMC and everything that has come to us since then is all because of one thing only – it is God’s will for us and His gift to us and it is absolute living, breathing proof that ‘all things work for good to those who trust in HIM!’”

## *Linked by Love*

Christmas came a little early for the people of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Community Church in Monterrey, Mexico. With a little help from some friends-- the congregations of Morningside Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, IA-- the people of Spirit of Joy are delighted to have a van to help facilitate their mission.

According to Rev. Paul Spaulding, one of Morningside's pastors, the story began when part of their group headed to Altoona for the annual LCMC gathering. Just outside of Des Moines, the church van they were driving broke down. It was coaxed into Altoona, and ultimately sent on to an auto shop recommended by folks at our host congregation, Church of the Cross.

Unfortunately, the estimate for repairs was almost as much as the van's “blue book” value. The Morningside group held a quick meeting and thought perhaps they should just sell the van. When they spoke to Pastor Chris Magnell of LCC about where they might take the van to sell it, he asked if they would be willing to give it away. Church of the Cross had money in their car fund for the Monterrey ministry and they offered to fix the van, making it a healthy vehicle again, if Morningside would donate it. A couple of calls were made to Morningside's property committee back in Sioux City and the deal was done. “We gave it, they fixed it, and the Monterrey Churches received it!” said Pastor Paul. And though it may sound like a cliché, these three congregations truly demonstrate that caring is sharing.



# End of Year Financial Appeal Mailed

The following letter from Rev. Dale Wolf, chair of the LCMC Board of Trustees, was mailed to everyone on the LCMC mailing list. It is included in this newsletter as a means of broadening the appeal to those who may view it at the LCMC web site:

December 6, 2005

Dear LCMC Congregations and Friends,

This has been an awesome year in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. What is most exciting is what God is doing in our local congregations. I have heard from so many of you that God is at work deepening faith and building His Kingdom through our hard work. Many, many of our congregations are experiencing numerical growth. Lutherans from around the world who share our concern about faithfulness to scripture and our Lutheran confessions have joined us or inquired about how we might stand together as we strive to fulfill the Great Commission. Leaders of our congregations came together in Altoona for worship, support, inspiration and growth. These are dynamic times in the churches of Jesus Christ and in our association. God is at work in powerful ways.

In our office in Canton, Michigan we continue to get daily inquiries about our Association. Most of those inquiries come from within the U.S. Others come from without. We are striving, the best we can, to respond. We want to work with all those who the Lord brings into our fellowship. For those in Altoona, you heard a bit about house churches in a persecuted territory of India who have joined us. We took a collection to send Curt Rosen of World Encounter to visit these churches on our behalf. The story is incredible. Curt visited villages that were as remote as most of us could ever imagine. Curt met Lutherans, brothers and sisters in Christ, who share our commitment to God's word and our Lutheran heritage and who desire to work with us to bring Jesus Christ to those who have not heard. It was awe-inspiring. You will hear more in Albuquerque in October.

I am writing this letter to invite you and/or your congregation to consider making an end-of-the-year gift to the work of LCMC. Our desire is to continue to meet the growing demands of congregations inquiring about who we are. As we grow we are committed to serving as a network between more and more member congregations. Our leadership realizes there are a number of developmental issues we still face. We continue to work on ministry, seminary and other organizational needs. All of them take time and money.

As always, we encourage your congregation to find direct benevolences to support, but a portion of those dollars for LCMC are necessary as we continue to grow. Your end of the year gift will help. In addition, if your congregation has not done so, we encourage you to put LCMC in your 2006 budget.

What a privilege it is to serve you in this association. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office or any member of the Board of Trustees. Our contact information is available on our website (lcmc.net). Thank you for your time and service to our Lord.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (NIV Luke 2:11). May God bless you and your congregation this Christmas season.

God is Good,

Pastor Dale Wolf  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# Albuquerque '06: "All Things New"

LCMC's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has graciously agreed to host the 2006 LCMC International Convention on October 1 - 4. "All Things New" based on Revelation 21:5 is the theme for this annual gathering of interested individuals and congregational delegates. Keynote speaker for the event will be John Ortberg, the best-selling author of *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* as well as several other well-known works (see *related story*.)

Faith Lutheran is New Mexico's largest Lutheran congregation and, according to senior pastor Bruce Wilder, is eagerly anticipating the opportunity to serve as host to their LCMC brothers and sisters. Faith sent several additional staff members to the Altoona convention so they could meet with the planning team at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Faith's task force has already begun working with LCMC's national staff on preparations for the 2006 gathering.



Pastor Wilder encourages LCMC members to make plans early because of the crowds expected for the city's 2006 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. With around 800 balloons, the 2005 Fiesta drew nearly 800,000 visitors from 41 states and 18 foreign countries. Next year's event, "Out of the Blue," will launch October 6 - October 15, and is expected to draw at least as many visitors.

Pastor Wilder also suggests that LCMC members may want to consider making plans to come early or stay on a few days: "New Mexico is called the 'Land of Enchantment' because of its beautiful geography and rich history. We believe this land is more than enchanted...it is blessed because of our loving God who continues to make all things new through the power of the Gospel. The people of Faith look forward to welcoming you to the high desert country of Albuquerque as your hosts for the 2006 Annual LCMC Convention. Bienvenidos!"

Watch future LCMC newsletters and the association's web site for further details as gathering plans are firmed up.

## Best Selling Author to Keynote 2006



Are you a fan looking forward to hearing John Ortberg at the 2006 LCMC national gathering? Or perhaps you've never even heard of John Ortberg? Maybe reading one of Ortberg's books or working together on one of his studies is for you and your congregation. Ortberg's bio says he is "passionate about 'spiritual formation,' which is how people become more like Jesus. His teaching brings Scripture alive and invariably includes practical applications and warm humor."

Ortberg has written for *Christianity Today* and is a frequent contributor to *Leadership Journal*. He is the best-selling author of "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" and "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Growth for Ordinary People" as well as several other well-known works including "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them," "Old Testament Challenge," "Stepping Out in Faith," "God Is Closer Than You Think," "Living the God Life," and "Now What? God's Guide to Life for Graduates." Perhaps one of them will challenge you to a deeper understanding of how to live out your faith.

## *Mark Your Calendar!*

January 15 – 18	ERD Leadership Summit, Salt Lake City, UT
January 26 - 27	Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN
April 23 - 25	LCMC Leadership Conference, Twin Cities, MN
April 25 - 26	Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN
May 5 - 6	District Gathering, Kellogg, ID
June 16-18	ALC Annual Gathering, Fontenelle, IA
July 7 - 11	EDGE! - LCMC Youth invited to Youth Encounter, Nashville, TN
July 13 - 14	Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN
October 1	Board of Trustees Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
October 1 - 4	LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention, Albuquerque, NM
November 16 - 17	Board of Trustees Meeting, Eagan, MN

