

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 2006

"All Things New" celebrated in Albuquerque, New Mexico

The warm and hospitable congregation of Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico welcomed 300 delegates, members and visitors of the association to the Sixth Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ from October 1-4, 2006.

Attendees were welcomed with friendly smiles and commemorative pins depicting the gathering logo with an international balloon fiesta flavor. The outstanding hospitality continued through our final worship service and departure for home. The folks at Faith made this a gathering to remember!

Setting for many of the gathering's activities was the striking sanctuary of Faith, with its southwestern architecture and expansive windows at the front allowing for a breathtaking view of the Sandia Mountains. Worshippers filled the sanctuary for Sunday evening's opening service, which featured many of the talented singers and musicians of Faith. The congregation broke into four-part harmony for many of the great hymns of the church as well as the contemporary songs of today's composers.



Rev. Bruce Wilder, Sr. Pastor of Faith, preached a powerful sermon at the service, focusing on the "All Things New" theme of the gathering. Pastor Wilder challenged us to be obedient to the Lord of the church as we behold the power of God to make us new in Christ and to fashion this new association of Lutheran Christians, which turned five years old in March of this year.

Each morning of the gathering began with singing, led by a variety of musicians from Faith, and a time of Bible study.

- Rev. Bruce Wilder, host pastor

Rev. Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, Rev. James Wakefield, one of the pastors of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, Utah and a professor at Salt Lake Theological Seminary in Salt Lake City, Utah and Mrs. Judi Stewart, a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, each took a morning and led studies on "new" themes from the New Testament.

Monday's activities were highlighted by the keynote address of Rev. John Ortberg, teaching

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Anderson Resigns: Cites Professional Demands, Offers More Limited Role of Service

November 5, 2006

Rev. Dale Wolf, Chair
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Dear Dale:

I write today to tender my resignation, effective immediately, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). The increasing workload associated with Board membership is no longer compatible with my professional duties and it has become necessary to pare back some of my volunteer activity.

But I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership of this association and to also express my appreciation to the Board of Trustees generally for all of the hard work, effort and time spent by the Board in building LCMC. I leave the board with full confidence that the affairs of the association are in competent hands.

I began my journey through the Lutheran reform movement in the late 1990's as a "resister" to Called to Common Mission and the mandatory historic episcopate. My service over the last eight years has included the proto-WordAlone movement, election as a member of the first WordAlone board of directors, participation in the organizing effort to create what we now know as LCMC and, finally, service on the Board of Trustees of LCMC (including a term as chair of that board). Each step of that journey has been interesting and rewarding, and I am grateful to have had these opportunities. I hope that I have contributed in some way to the growth and success of this association.

Finally, I want to assure the board that I remain available to help the association with projects and work of more limited scope including serving as convention chair, some committee duties and the like and you should feel free to contact me at your convenience to discuss these matters.

With warm personal regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Barry Anderson

Apple Valley, MN

gbarryanderson@gmail.com



Staff, Board of Trustees

Service Coordinator: Rev. William Sullivan - wtsullivan@sbcglobal.net
Dir. of Operations/Financial Sec'y: Sharon McFadyen - lcmcadmin@sbcglobal.net

7000 Sheldon Road
Canton, MI 48187

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

LCMC Board of Trustees:

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You may obtain individual contact information by phoning the National Offices of LCMC:
(734)-207-5400

Toll Free: 866-720-LCMC (5262)

or by e-mailing to:

lcmcboard@lcmcsvr.lcmc.net

BY THE WORD

NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter 2006

EDITOR: Deb Lingen
CONTRIBUTORS: Robyn Bezanson, Paul Braafladt, Kirk Dean, Doyle Karst, Larry Lindstrom, Deb Lingen, Margaret Lougheed, Meg Madsen, Rebecca Meidinger, Norman Olsen, Perry M. Petersen, Sharon MacFadyen, Dennis Sandmann, Bill Sullivan

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HEADQUARTERS: 7000 Sheldon Rd,
Canton, MI 48187
PHONE: Toll Free (866) 720-5266
WEB SITE: www.lcmc.net

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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

An Open Letter of Appreciation to Barry Anderson

From the minutes of the November, 2006 meeting of the LCMC Board of trustees:

The trustees acknowledge with deep regret the resignation of Barry Anderson from the LCMC Board of Trustees, and resolve that a letter be sent to him on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire LCMC, giving thanks to God and to Barry for his dedicated and tireless service as a trustee of this association since our beginning.

November 16, 2006

Dear Barry,

"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV)

What a privilege it has been to call you by your first name and consider you not only a brother in Christ, but a friend. I first met you when we served on the WordAlone Board. Immediately I knew I was in the company of a great man and a committed Christ follower. In addition to serving as a judge in the state of Minnesota it seemed you had endless energy to commit to the work of Jesus Christ in WordAlone and later in Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). When I would receive emails from you in the middle of the night (I of course would read them the next morning) I wondered if and when you ever slept. As a Supreme Court Justice, you have continued to serve LCMC faithfully with deep commitment, wisdom, vision and integrity. We would not be able to count the times your legal and practical experience have been invaluable to our association. Much of our organizational structure and foundation is from your hand. Barry, I thank you for your service to Christ, His church and our association of churches, LCMC.

It is with such regret that I and the Board of Trustees received your letter of resignation. I also wish to thank you for your tireless service on behalf of the Board of Trustees and our entire association of churches. We are indebted to you in so many ways. Thank you for your willingness to continue to serve as you are able. Your leadership and chairing of each and every one of our annual conventions has both made things run smoothly and has helped us avoid land mines.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your service to the state of Minnesota and our government. We are aware that the demands of your position on the State Supreme Court have contributed to your decision to resign at this time. You should know that I and many others consider it a blessing to have a man of God, as you are, serving in such a capacity. We pray God's blessings upon you and your important work.

Barry, we have been in the genesis of a mighty act of God in LCMC. Perhaps this time will only be a footnote in the history of our Lord's church. That does not matter. What matters is that we are faithful with what our Lord has entrusted to us. It is by His hand and power that the Kingdom of God grows. We are but His willing servants, and you my friend are a great one. It has been a joy to work along side you. You have taught me much. May God bless you and your family. May God continue to bless LCMC. May we continue our work tirelessly until every knee bows and confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Dale Wolf
Chair, Board of Trustees, LCMC

Recap of Report to Convention

- Kirk Dean, LCMC Treasurer

Annually there is an independent audit conducted of the LCMC financial position for the calendar year. Conducted by AMDG Business Advisory Services, P.L.C. of Plymouth, Michigan, the report was finalized July 15, 2006. The report, which covered the financial records for 2005, had no recommendations for change and offered the opinion that the LCMC accounting records, cash flows, assets, and statements had been presently accurately.

At the end of 2005 LCMC had assets of just under \$40,000, which was mostly in the form of cash. This is normal in that the only "hard" assets the organization has is office equipment. The cash deposit figure also fluctuates dramatically depending on the timing of contributions from member congregations and the cash needs for LCMC program expenditures. The major expenditures of the organization are to tell the story of LCMC across the country, the annual Leadership Conference, the annual gathering, as well as seminary debt relief and mission congregation funding.

An annual budget is prepared to aid the board in determining appropriate management of funds and assets. The budget for 2006 was done with the expectation of a continued 13% increase in congregation support, similar to 2005. This assumes additional congregations joining LCMC in 2006 and also some increased support from existing congregations. Expenditures are forecast to only increase 7%, barring unforeseen expenses of a different nature, with continued conservative management controls. We remain optimistic that 2006 will see positive revenue over expenses for the full year's activities.

This also assumes that a number of member churches that have not given to the LCMC yet this year will give their financial support to the organization before year end, as many have done in past years. As you prepare your annual budgets for 2007 please remember your LCMC as one of your key benevolence opportunities.

Financial Snapshot

- Sharon MacFadyen ,
Director of Ops / Financial Secretary,
and Kirk Dean, LCMC Treasurer

As we closed the third quarter of the year, our financial position is pointing toward a sound future. During the slower months of summer, we historically see lower giving; and while this was still true this year, the giving maintained a level high enough to meet our budget requirements for each of the three months. The month of September showed a loss of just over \$1,000, while the month of October showed a gain of just under \$800. Over the four month period, we see an overall gain of about \$2500.

Having started the year with a substantial revenue overage, we are positioned to end the year in positive territory assuming congregation contributions continue to come in. Our congregations continue to have increased giving with the trend of 10-15% higher totals monthly over those of last year.

Registrations for the Annual Gathering were very strong. While they were fewer than last year, they were very good considering the location of the gathering. All of the bills have come in and been paid, and we came very close to breaking even.

We enter the final months of the year with a surplus of just over \$10,000 for the first ten months. This number even includes the \$5,000 allocation for the DVD project. Very positive news for this time of year.

A Warm Welcome to LCMC's Newest Congregations!

New congregations to join the association since our last report in the third quarter newsletter include the following:

Arise! A Christian Community in Storrs-Mansfield, Connecticut

River of Life Christian Community in Lincoln, Nebraska

Olive Branch Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, Minnesota

We extend an enthusiastic welcome each of these new congregations to our growing fellowship in LCMC!

LCMC Service Coordinator Attends Endorsers Conference in Nation's Capital

Suburban Washington, DC was the site of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces from the 4th through the 6th of December, 2006. Representing LCMC for the first time as its endorsing agent, Rev. William Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator, had opportunity to network with a host of endorsers from around the United States as they gathered at the Mark Center Hilton in Alexandria, Virginia.

Being new to the whole endorsing arena, Sullivan reported learning much from those who do this important work on behalf of our nation's armed forces. Every military chaplain begins the road to chaplaincy by attaining an endorsement from a religious body recognized by the Department of Defense. Without such endorsement one cannot serve as a military chaplain.

Military chaplaincy has a rich history in our nation, dating back to the earliest days of our country. Soldiers in life threatening work become very attuned to spiritual matters and the chaplains who serve them are considered to be an indispensable component of the military.

Although some branches of the military have adequate numbers of chaplains, other branches are facing a critical shortage. The United States Army is currently short more than 600 chaplains and is recruiting extensively to address the shortage. The endorsers who were at the conference were challenged to become more active in the recruitment process.

Most of the endorsers representing the various faith traditions have had prior military experience or have served as military chaplains, or both. As one without experience in either venue, Sullivan is coming up to speed quickly. At the end of the second day, after hearing presentations by representatives from each of the armed services, he said to a fellow endorser, "If I had a dollar for every acronym I have heard the past two days I could take a week-long cruise to someplace warm!"

Sullivan went on to say, "The conference was a tremendous learning experience and also a great opportunity for networking. Many bridges were built with endorsers who have been doing this work for many years. What was learned will be very helpful as LCMC begins endorsing candidates to serve as chaplains for those who protect our freedom around the world."

Ministry Board Meets, Plans 2007 Leadership Conference

The LCMC Ministry Board met at the new west campus of Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha, Nebraska on November 30th and December 1st. The board welcomed two new members to the meeting - Rev. Paul Spaulding from Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa and Rev. Tim White from Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbus, Nebraska. The other members of the board include Rev. Kathy Sukke, Rev. Kip Tyler, Rev. Dave Drum and Rev. Bruce Wilder.

The board's primary business during the meeting was to begin planning for the LCMC Leadership Conference to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota from April 22-24, 2007. The theme of the conference will be "Being a Christian Leader in A Pluralistic Culture." Presenters will include Rev. Walt Sundberg from Luther Seminary and Rev. John Spaulding, who has done extensive study on Islam and works with a number of Twin Cities congregations who are reaching out to the Muslim community.

Presenters will discuss how those who lead in congregations can encourage others to be distinctively Christian in a culture that often has misinformed ideas about the separation of church and state, that is becoming increasingly secular, and that has other religions boldly asserting their truth claims as equally valid or superior to those of Christianity.

Detailed information will be sent to all congregations after the first of the year but the conference promises to be timely and challenging.

"So Long, Self" - 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally Update

- *Rebecca Meidinger, Director of Youth Ministry
Atonement Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND*

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

We are excited to invite you to the great state of North Dakota for the 2007 LCMC National Youth Rally. The Rally will be hosted by Atonement Lutheran Church of Fargo and held on the campus of North Dakota State University, Wednesday - Sunday, June 20-24. The Rally is designed for 9-12 graders (including 2007 graduates). However, if it best suits your youth ministry to bring 7-12 graders (having finished the 7th grade), we invite you to do so. Our Rally theme is "So Long, Self." Students will be empowered and equipped 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 as our keynote speaker.

The Rally will include great worship of our God, in-depth Bible teaching, a breadth of growth opportunities through breakouts, time for fellowship and fun, and even an Outdoors Adventure Day of hiking, biking, and canoeing at Itasca State Park, the Headwaters of the Mississippi River.

We're also offering a Pre-Rally Work Camp, Sunday, June 17 - Wednesday, June 20. We'll be serving with the White Earth Community Council, located at White Earth Reservation in Minnesota on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday morning we'll be serving our own local community of Fargo-Moorhead before heading to NDSU for the Rally.

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! **For more information, please contact Atonement at 701.237.9651 or email lcmcyouthrally@atonementfargo.org.**

LCMC- Lutheran Men Make Grants to Support Mission Churches

- *Perry M. Petersen, President - LCMC-Lutheran Men*

The grant committee of CMC-Lutheran Men is pleased to announce they have approved bequests totaling \$7700 this year to assist mission churches in LCMC. Recipients of the grants were:

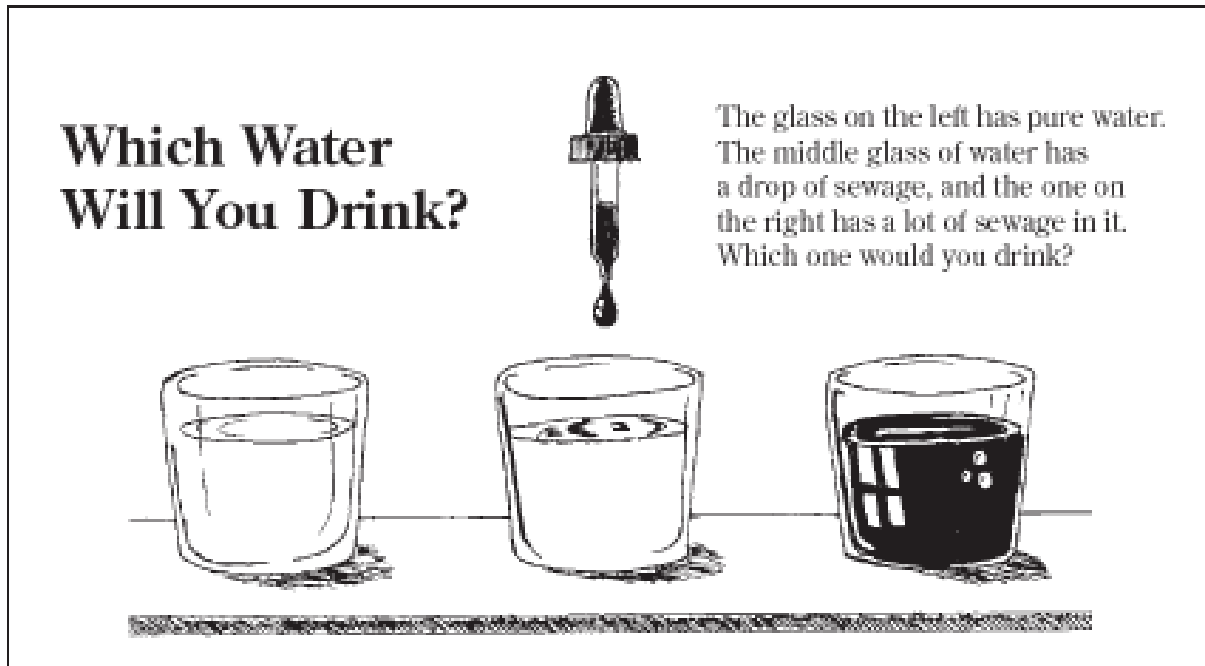
- Holy Temple Lutheran Church Fort Worth, TX. - an established mission church;
- The Harbor Christian Community Church, Bluffton, S.C.- an established mission church;
- River of Life Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE. - a new mission church start; and
- Living Word Lutheran Church, Glendale, AZ. - an established mission church.

The funds granted were from the "Committee of 100" fund which is money donated from Lutheran Men who give over \$100 each year. This fund is used to give mission churches gifts of money to assist them in getting new computer or sound equipment, publications, signs, etc.

There is a link on www.lcmc.net for information on LCMC-LM, as well as a grant request form that can be downloaded. If you are interested in participating or publicizing this program at your church or if you would like to apply for a future bequest, please contact:

Perry M. Petersen
President - LCMC Lutheran Men
522 Silver Lane
Sergeant Bluff, IA. 51054 - OR- perry@aol.com

The following article is excerpted from the Nov./Dec. issue of *The Lutheran Hedgehog*, a publication of the CrossAlone District of LCMC. Information about CrossAlone, and the complete *Hedgehog*, is available at www.crossalone.us.



“One Small Point”

Luther said:

“The world maintains, as do many people who do not understand, that we should not fight so hard about an article [the doctrine of justification by faith alone] and thus trample on Christian love. Rather, although we disagree on **one small point**, if we agree on everything else, we should give in and overlook the difference in order to preserve brotherly and Christian unity and fellowship.

“No, my dear man, do not commend peace and unity to me when thereby God’s Word is lost. . . The Word was given unto us for eternal life and not to further outward peace and harmony . . . Therefore, do not talk to me about love and friendship if that means breaking with the Word or the faith, for **the gospel does not say love brings eternal life, God’s grace, and all heavenly treasures, but instead “the Word”** (WA 34/II:387).

The pure gospel is “the Word of the cross” (1 Cor 1:18), that is, the message that the cross is all-sufficient for salvation and unity. This Word alone gives certainty and freedom. Adding a requirement is like adding a drop of sewage. Want to drink that?

“You don’t have to believe it; you just have to do it,” say those who choose to accommodate to the ELCA’s 1999 change in its Constitution (§10.81.01) to require the Episcopal historic episcopate. They talk

of love and friendship. Hey, it’s “one small point.”

But where the gospel has been sullied with sewage, there is no certainty of salvation. Only the pure gospel gives certainty and freedom.

Not “pure church.” There is no pure church. Yet the gospel has necessary consequences for the church: No particular structure can be required without polluting the gospel.

Not “pure doctrine.” Doctrine is always historical. To be sure, Luther spoke in defense of “pure doctrine.” But what he means in these instances is that pure doctrine points the way to preaching the pure gospel (AC 7).

Yes, “pure gospel.” Preaching the pure gospel includes preaching against the false security implicit in required add-ons. They are sewage which jeopardizes salvation.

Which Water Will You Give Your Children?

That middle glass with a drop of sewage? To preserve unity you would give that to your kids?

If you take up the cause of “pure gospel” for the next generation, you will lose some friends. You will be accused of being a trouble maker. But there’s no more important battle to engage in. And you will find new friends.

For more on pure gospel, see “Pure Church, No -- Pure Gospel, Yes,” and “Pure Doctrine, No -- Pure Gospel, Yes” at www.crossalone.us.

LCMC Board Activity Recap

Complete minutes of the meetings of the LCMC board of trustees are available at the association's web site, www.LCMC.net. Highlights of recent activity include:

LCMC's international congregations may have very different ministry standards, and may organize and govern themselves very differently than those in the United States. Trustees and staff discussed the implications of these differences, how best to honor them, and how that can be reflected on the LCMC subscription form. The trustees authorized Paul Braafladt and Dennis Sandmann to contact the LCMC pastors in Mexico, Nicaragua, Viet Nam and Canada to further obtain their views on how international members wish to be represented. The trustees also directed Bill Sullivan to investigate the process of filing for nonprofit status in Canada

Gordon Olson, Executive Director of Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, showed a DVD and talked about opportunities with the pan-Lutheran mission advocacy organization he represents.

The group discussed evaluation responses from the 2006 annual gathering and convention, which were resoundingly positive and enthusiastic.

Arrangements for the 2007 Leadership Conference and the 2007 and 2008 annual gathering and convention were discussed. Dates for the 2007 LCMC annual gathering and convention will be as published in the 2006 convention packet, October 7-10, reflecting a change from the motion passed at the April 2006 trustees meeting.

Officers were elected: Dale Wolf as chair, Larry Lindstrom as vice chair, and Deb Lingen as secretary.

Paul Braafladt updated the group on LCMC's Nicaraguan members.

Mr. Eric Tostrud of Lockridge, Grindal Namen, legal council for LCMC, consulted with the group.

The trustees acknowledged with deep regret the resignation of Barry Anderson from the LCMC Board of Trustees (see story pages 2-3.)

Larry Lindstrom accepted the assignment of preparing a letter to be sent to congregations in Area 4, soliciting nominations to fulfill the unexpired term of retiring trustee Barry Anderson, with a deadline for receipt of said nominations to be January 1, 2007.

Kirk Dean reported on progress on the LCMC informational DVD.



Heartland Supports Mission Start

The most significant item of note in the Heartland District is that its leadership has recently voted to support a new mission start in Lincoln, NE. This is an important move because it means the congregation, backed by the Heartland District qualifies for assistance from the Association of Related Churches out of Birmingham, AL.

Substantial funds have already been raised, and the target date to begin worship is March 2007. They hope to draw over 200 people for opening worship. If you are interested in supporting this mission start, questions can be directed to Rev. Dan Cloeter at 402-613-7157.

Northwest District Hosts Rev. Pavel Guevara

- Rev. Paul Braafladt, member, NW District & LCMC Board of Trustees

Thanks to a humanitarian organization called CORNER OF LOVE, based in the Seattle area, Rev. Pavel Guevara was made available to the Northwest District for nine days, December 2-10. Pavel is the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua (ELCN).

Pavel was scheduled to speak and preach immediately. After a long day of travel across Washington state on Saturday, December 2, Pavel spoke to the American Lutheran congregation in Kellogg, Idaho which eagerly awaited him. The photo shows Robin Lake, Chair of the Northwest District of LCMC, presenting a gift projector to Pavel on behalf of the district. The projector will aid in the many presentations Rev. Guevara makes in his travels.



On Sunday morning, December 3, Rev. Guevara preached to the congregation in Kellogg. That night he spoke again to a newly formed congregation, Living Word Lutheran Church at Moses Lake, WA, using the new projector. Two days later he was on a plane for Fargo N.D., to Atonement Lutheran Church. Atonement also has a direct connection to ELCN through Rev. Carell and Bonnie Foss. Both Carell and Bonnie, along with Paul Braafladt, visited Nicaragua in February of 2006.

After three full days at Atonement, Pavel returned to Seattle on December 9 for preaching and a presentation at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Burien (next door to Seattle) on Sunday. During the Service, Pastor David Herwick presented Pastor Guevara with another gift, a check for \$1130 in behalf of the Northwest District. The next day Pavel was in the air on his way home to Managua.

Three things are worthy of note. First, Rev. Guevara had a wicked schedule and he held up very well. (It helps to be young!) Second, he clearly communicated the ministry of the ELCN and the needs of his people there. Lastly, the Northwest District gladly gave Pavel both a projector and funds which together totaled \$2,000.

Pavel Guevara will not soon be forgotten. He is a rare combination of Christian commitment and personal charm. For members of the LCMC family, it was inspiring to hear from this brother in the Faith who gave witness to the power of God in Central America.

Assistance Requested: Setting Up a Foundation

If you or your church has experience in setting up a foundation in your parish, the council at St. John Lutheran Church would appreciate any information you can share. Please mail a copy of your guidelines to:

Rev. Doyle Karst
St. John Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 189
Sterling, NE. 68443

The people of St. John's would appreciate your help!

Epiphany District

The Epiphany Lutheran District is in the process of entering into cooperation with the "Beyond the River Academy." Discussions involve the district website as a clearing house for potential contract pastors to get in touch with congregations looking to fill their pulpit. The districts colloquy committee will also be involved with Academy graduates seeking a call to individual congregations.

As to the academy itself, Beyond the River's goals are

nearing completion for six courses of study which will include Old and New Testament Surveys, Worship Skills, Church History, Lutheran History and Doctrine, and Pastoral Care. The costs and means by which these courses can be taken will make it possible for students to study, receive support, and function in other vocations until such time as they are ready for a call.

When one considers the large numbers of congregations,

especially rural, who have endured with minimal or no pastoral presence, a program like Beyond the River Academy, which raises up laity, fulfills a desperate need. The Epiphany Lutheran District, whose mission is aimed at education of all kinds, is eager and grateful to be associated with this monumental endeavor.

- Dennis Sandmann
District Chairperson



"All Things New" Albuquerque

More photos are available on www.lcmc.net.



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.

Notes from W.O.W. Breakout Session - Albuquerque

- Robyn Bezanson

HISTORY: Women of the Word has developed over the last 3 years. Much initial groundwork has been done at the district level, especially by the women of the Heartland District.

PURPOSE: Mission and purpose statements have been developed by some districts; a suggestion was made that samples could appear on the LCMC website for other districts to use. The ladies from Texas recently created a W.O.W. logo (shown above.) The triangle depicts the values of Service, Spiritual Growth, and Fellowship, all centered on the cross. The Texas women have offered to share this with the other LCMC W.O.W. groups. The bottom identifier on the logo can be "personalized" to each church, district, or state.



DISCUSSION: Deb Lingen facilitated discussion on how W.O.W. should be organized and what women in the LCMC were seeking in a women's group. Some women are seeking resource materials and others wish to have a national organization related to the women of the LCMC. Deb stated that she would be happy to look into the feasibility of setting up a women's chatroom addition to the current LCMC host site. Many indicated they would be interested in receiving email or website information and some wanted newsletters via regular mail. Deb also reminded the group that some form of rules would be established similar to the LCMC talk site in order to maintain the purpose of continuing discussion and idea sharing in a Christian manner that is respectful of all others. She also reminded us that since the local congregations have total autonomy, any due diligence of your local women's group in joining or supporting various women's ministries in or outside of LCMC is the responsibility of the local congregation.

PRIOR MINISTRIES: It was discussed and affirmed that joining LCMC does not prohibit any women's group from participating in the ministries of other Lutheran bodies that they may have previously participated in.

RESOURCES: Some resources were shared for women's study groups. A few mentioned are:

1. "Big Girls Don't Whine"
2. "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Elizabeth Hart
3. A booklet created by Marsha Sabin of Scandinavia, WI that is 9 Psalms for study
4. "Lost in America" by Tom Clegg
5. Study on Galatians written by Rev. Edith Bickford of Tecumseh, NE
6. "The Case for Faith" or "The Case for Christ" - Lee Strobel
7. "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" by Kirkie Morrissey
8. web site of Concordia Publishing House (Mo. Syn.) - www.cph.org
9. web site of Northwestern Publishing House (WI. Syn.) - www.nph.net
10. Parables or other local Christian bookstores
11. Stonecroft Ministries Friendship Bible Coffee Studies, available at 1-800-525-8627 or www.stonecroft.org
12. The Wittenburg Project available at www.ProjectWittenberg.org. This is a very complete resource by and about Martin Lutheran and other Lutherans and can be printed and used as a guide for discussion leaders.
13. Heartland District members shared information on their annual Faith and Fellowship Festival retreat. Several others stated they would share retreat ideas with the group if we established a chat room for the women's organization.
14. Prior newsletters from LCMC with information about the activities of our women's groups are still available from the LCMC website (www.lcmc.net).

Communication and resources sharing is the primary concern.

Note: A chat room for Women of the Word is now available. Sharon MacFadyen has sent out welcome e-mails to those who signed up in Albuquerque. If you have not received an e-mail, or if you are just now hearing about the chat room and would like to join us in discussing matters of interest for our women's groups, go to http://www.lcmc.net/email_list.htm and click on the link for WOWTalk.

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pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California. Rev. Ortberg is the author of a number of books and was one of the teaching pastors at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois before accepting his current position at Menlo Park Presbyterian. Ortberg brought a challenging and thought-provoking message which was followed by an hour-long question and answer session with those in attendance.

District gatherings were held throughout the Albuquerque area on Monday evening which gave participants an opportunity to network with others from their area, or from around the country for those who are a part of a non-geographic district.

Attendees were deeply touched by a video greeting from LCMC's own Rev. Chris Magnell, who is now serving as a chaplain in Iraq. Chris' presentation included a virtual tour of his base as well as a brief look at how he ministers to the troops he serves.



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

- Revelation 21:5

Rev. Enrique Estrada, pastor of Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church, an LCMC congregation in Monterrey, Mexico was Tuesday's keynote speaker. His humble demeanor and straightforward and passionate presentation spoke to the heart of those who listened attentively during his simple, yet eloquent, talk.

Delegates representing LCMC congregations have the responsibility of handling the business of the association, so business sessions were also on the agenda. Our annual gathering was not without some tension. A number of congregations that formerly belonged to the Augsburg Lutheran Churches district of LCMC brought a motion to the floor calling for an investigative process to review allegations pertaining to the district and its leadership. There was considerable discussion. The

vote passed overwhelmingly. The motion has put forth a process whereby written testimony can be sent to a committee appointed by the Board of Trustees. The committee will in turn make a recommendation to the Board once the process is completed.

The discussion was handled maturely and prayerfully by those present at the gathering. How our association deals with conflict and difference of opinion will make a big difference in our health and future. Member congregations should be proud of the gathering in Albuquerque and how these matters were handled. For a copy of the motion and

the ensuing letter sent to members congregations contact the LCMC office.

In addition to the opportunities for Bible study, fellowship, and great presentations, attendees also had an opportunity to choose from over 30 options at three different breakout sessions, as well as to check out the tables of a wide variety of vendors and organizations.

Participants will not soon forget Tuesday evening's Southwest Fiesta celebration. An authentic mariachi band entertained the crowd as we gathered for dinner. Delicious southwestern Mexican cuisine was featured on the evening menu and then the scene shifted to the sanctuary for a memorable evening of music which once again featured the talents of the members of Faith. Traditional favorites such as "Beautiful Savior," sung by the congregation's choir, were mixed with the strains of pieces presented by the bell choir, a group which presented Celtic music, the contemporary worship band and other talented musicians.

Following the concert, those in attendance were invited out to the parking lot where a "balloon glow" awaited. Albuquerque is noted for its annual International Balloon Fiesta, which began just a few



days after our gathering ended. To give us a flavor of what that event is like, several balloons were inflated in the parking lot and each was set aglow by intermittent lighting of the gas that creates the hot air that lifts the balloons into the sky. Several times during the "glow" all of the balloons were lit simultaneously, providing a unique and memorable experience for gathering participants.

The final morning of the event featured presentations that highlighted activities during the past year in the various congregations of the association.

Rev. Mike Bonham, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama, made a moving presentation about the relief efforts the folks at Peace coordinated on behalf of LCMC congregations following hurricane Katrina. LCMC churches around the country sent funds and supplies to Peace for distribution. Having been through the ravages of hurricane Ivan the year before, many of the members of Peace had experienced firsthand the devastation a hurricane can cause. Still trying to recover themselves, they set about the task of helping their neighbors a few miles away, many who lost everything to Katrina.



Rev. Curt Rosen brought a report from his trip on behalf of the association to visit member congregations of LCMC in India. He discussed the importance of building relationships in our mission efforts.



Rev. Bob Nordvall made a presentation about his time spent in eastern Europe during his sabbatical from Charity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, where he serves as Senior Pastor. Bob and his wife Karen worked in Estonia and Latvia through East European Mission Network (EEMN), helping train leaders to rebuild the church in an area decimated by two world wars and decades of communism. They worked with two schools that have deep Lutheran roots: the Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) in Tartu, Estonia, and the St. Gregor's School of Christian Ministry in Saldus, Latvia.

Rev. Paul Braafladt shared a PowerPoint presentation of his visit to Nicaragua. Paul, along with Rev. Carell Foss and his wife, Bonnie, accepted an invitation from LCMC's Nicaraguan congregations to learn more about them and begin to build closer ties with our international partners. Paul then introduced Rev. Pavel Guevara, LCMC member and President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nicaragua, who also briefly addressed the gathering.



Rev. Kip Tyler preached at the closing communion worship service before attendees bid farewell to Albuquerque and our gracious hosts at Faith Lutheran Church. Renewed and refreshed, we returned to our various states and congregations, ready to resume the challenge of sharing the love of Christ with a hurting world.

Getting to Know . . .

New Creation Lutheran Church, Perham, MN

- Margaret Lougheed, Public Relations Director, New Creation



New Creation is located in Perham, in the middle of the lake country in West Central Minnesota, an area known for its great fishing and summer recreation.

New Creation had its beginning when a group of about 30 people, concerned with where their current church was going, began meeting in January of 2006. As people heard of these meetings the group grew to 85 and discussions turned to forming a new church. The group decided to study "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren. At the end of the 6 week study a church name was chosen, a Task Force was elected, and bylaws, mission and vision statements had been accepted. The local movie theater turned out to be the choice for a location for Sunday morning worship services. A building across the street from the theater, which had in the past housed a bar and a second-hand clothing store, became the office, nursery, Sunday school class room and fellowship hall-- better known as the "Garden". On April 1st the congregation took possession of

the building, which needed major remodeling. With a goal of having the first worship service on Easter Sunday, there was much to do, but only eleven days later a celebration potluck was held in the newly remodeled "Garden." The doors opened Easter Sunday to standing room only, with 267 people in attendance.

After Easter Sunday, attention concentrated on calling a pastor, hiring a secretary, church documents, and creating a full service church. Eight months later the church has called and is led by Pastor Paul Anderson, with a part-time secretary serving 92 members and an average 125 at Sunday morning worship. New people come every Sunday.

The congregation held Vacation Bible School and youth retreats last summer, and offered a wide range of youth and adult ministries and activities in the fall. Next year they plan to begin working with Stephen Ministry and Habitat for Humanity. They are currently looking into purchasing some land for the future home of their church, but their international mission goal is to build a church for someone else before building their own. This is becoming a reality as they are working with Pastor Pavel Guevara, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua, to eventually help build a church there.



Local missions began as the church became involved with Someplace Safe, a women's shelter in town, and "Mission Possible" which brings families of many churches together to help meet the needs of people in our area.

"We marvel at how God has worked with us to build His Church so quickly (our first worship service was only 8 months ago!) We can see progress every day as seekers come to worship, into the office or call on the phone to find out more about New Creation. Opportunities present themselves every day for us to do the ministry God is calling us to do. Praise God! Please hold us in your prayers as we continue to grow and discover God's vision and mission for our congregation."

New ReClaim Hymnal Available Now

A wonderful new hymnal is now available to us: **Reclaim, Introductory Edition:**

Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home.

The final hardcover edition will be available in 2007 (the Introductory Edition was available at our annual LCMC Gathering in October.) Electronic editions are being worked on right now.

The team working on this includes pastors, poets, professors, musicians, and laypersons. Their background is ELCA and LCMC. The team began as a task force in WordAlone and is now completely separate from them. Area and regional training seminars are planned by Reclaim Resources to present their new worship materials, according to retired Pastor Norman Olsen of Reclaim Resources.

"We encourage churches to delay their decisions on buying new worship materials until all options are examined," he said, acknowledging that both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are publishing new materials.

In late June, a first run of Reclaim: Introductory Edition was printed and sold for \$5 each in orders of 50 and more. The price for a single copy is \$6 plus shipping. "The Introductory Edition has been eagerly welcomed and enthusiastically received by those who have seen it," Olsen said. "We also have a coil bound edition that opens flat for musicians for \$10."

The 128-page Introductory Edition is seen as a supplement to Lutheran Book of Worship and is ready for church hymn racks. It is a transitional resource for use and consideration

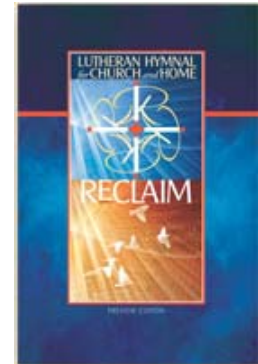
Order from:

RECLAIM RESOURCES
Bronze Bow Publishing
2600 East 26th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

toll free: (800) 590-6001

or on the Internet at:

www.reclaimlutheranworship.org/store.



until the complete hymnal, Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, comes out in the fall of 2007 with four musical settings and about 600 hymns.

The Introductory Edition is a worship and devotional resource that offers: a service with holy communion and a musical setting by composer John Ylvisaker entitled "Saint Paul's Setting"; orders for baptism, wedding, and funeral; 47 hymns, which are "pearls of great value" in building the faith and proclaiming the gospel; an introduction, Luther's Small Catechism, an outline for informal worship, and an article entitled "What Makes a Hymn Lutheran?"; and a brief commentary by John Ylvisaker.

Reclaim offers classic Lutheran theology applied in practical ways in hymns, names for God, liturgy, and the other orders. The hymn list includes several seasonal hymns so that the Introductory Edition can be used throughout the church year.

"Your continuing support in the form of prayer and financial donations are appreciated," Olsen said.

Contributions for this grass roots movement may be sent to Reclaim Resources, PO Box 8202, St. Paul, Minn. 55108.

- Reclaim Resources

CORRECTION: An article titled "Top 10 Reasons to purchase RECLAIM: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home" was incorrectly attributed to Carolyn Lystig. Author of the piece was Dan Baker. Our apologies, Dan!

Dates to Note

January 18-20, 2006	Board of Trustees Meeting
April 22 - 24, 2007	Leadership Conference
April 24 - 25	Board of Trustees Meeting
June 17- 20, 2007	Pre-Youth Rally Mission Experience
June 20-24, 2007	Annual Youth Rally hosted at NDSU by Atonement LC, Fargo
July 11 - 13	Board of Trustees Meeting
October 6	Board of Trustees Meeting
October 7 - 10	Annual Gathering & Convention
November 14 - 16	Board of Trustees Meeting

