

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 2006

LCMC Ministry Board Meets

Call, certification issues among those addressed

The LCMC Ministry Board met July 27th and 28th in Eagan, Minnesota. The board had a productive meeting at which they clarified who is responsible for a number of important steps in the call process and also discussed the process for being added to, and maintained on, the LCMC List of Certified Clergy.

LCMC is an association of congregations. As such, many rights and responsibilities are given directly to the local congregation. One of those responsibilities is to do a current criminal background check on any applicant for a position in their congregation. The Call Packet for Congregations and Pastoral Candidates, which can be downloaded from the LCMC website (http://68.73.43.225/call_packet1.htm) walks the congregation through the process of calling a pastor, and includes information on conducting the appropriate background checks of candidates they are interviewing.

The Ministry Board made it clear in their conversations that this important step would not be the responsibility of a ministry committee but would remain the responsibility of a congregation. Situations in people's lives change and current background checks are always important. Congregations need to make current checks a routine part of their interview process.

The board also made recommendations concerning the list that is maintained at the LCMC office to the LCMC Board of Trustees. The recommendations will be presented to the trustees at their October meeting. The most significant proposal is that any person who has gone through the certification process but has not taken a call in the association will need to provide an annual update to the Ministry Board and that continuance on the list will be on a year-to-year basis, subject to the annual review of the board. The Ministry Board is not proposing that retired clergy (LCMC Pastors Emeritus) should be subject to yearly review.

The board also made recommendations for new appointees to the board to replace outgoing members Mark Vander Tuig and Bob Nordvall, who will finish their service to the Ministry Board at the end of September.

Seminary Debt Relief Fund Applications Now Available

LCMC has an established Seminary Debt Relief Fund (SDRF) to help new pastors deal with the financial burdens they have encountered in seminary.

This fund provides new pastors a way to address the high costs of higher education. It also serves as a visible sign of our association's support for the new pastors God has called to lead the Church in the years ahead.

The Fund is available for pastors within their first five years of ordained service. They can submit application for grants from this fund. Application forms are available from the SDRF committee or through the LCMC website. The form asks the pastor for information about his or her theological education, as well as the current church that he or she is serving.

- **Larry Lindstrom**
Vice Chair - LCMC Trustees
SDRF committee member

Elections Scheduled for Albuquerque

Three positions on the LCMC Board of Trustees are up for election at the gathering in Albuquerque.

Trustees are elected by area of the country. Areas are not the same as districts but are roughly equal geographic groupings of LCMC congregations which are apportioned each year by the annual gathering for the following year's election. Areas exist only for the purpose of electing board members. Once an election has taken place, that area ceases to exist.

This year each of the three positions that is open for election is held by a trustee who is eligible for another term of office and is willing to serve another term.

Paul Braafladt, an LCMC Pastor Emeritus from Seattle, Washington is finishing his first three-year term in area 1 and is eligible for a second three-year term. David Chancellor was elected by area 7 last year to fill the unexpired term of Lenae Rasmussen. He is eligible and willing to serve his first three-year term on the board. Kirk Dean was appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve the unexpired term of treasurer John Chatelain. Kirk is eligible for and willing to serve his first three-year term as treasurer of the association. His office is elected at large by the delegates at an annual convention.

Further nominations, if there are any, will be accepted at area caucus meetings on Monday afternoon, October 2nd, during the annual gathering in Albuquerque. Elections, if any race is contested, will take place on Tuesday afternoon, October 3rd.



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NEWSLETTER

3rd Quarter 2006

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"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast." ...
 Ephesians 2:8-9

Albuquerque Anticipates "All Things New"



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

"The Lutherans are coming! The Lutherans are coming!" These are words that are heard frequently within the walls of Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico as we approach the start of the Sixth Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ on Sunday, October 1st.

Bruce Wilder, Senior Pastor of Faith will preach the sermon at the festive opening worship service at 7:00 pm that Sunday evening. His text for the evening will be Revelation 21:5: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

"All Things New" is the theme of this year's event and speakers throughout the gathering's four days will focus on various aspects of the theme.

John Ortberg, Teaching Pastor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Menlo Park, California will be Monday's keynote speaker. Enrique Estrada, Pastor at Spirit of Joy Community Lutheran Church in Monterrey, Mexico will address the gathering in a keynote address on Tuesday.

Bill Sullivan, LCMC Service Coordinator will lead Monday's Bible study from Mark 2 on "new wine and new wineskins." James Wakefield, one of the pastors of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, Utah will lead on study on the "new creation one is in Christ" on Tuesday morning. On Wednesday, the final morning of the gathering, Judi Stewart, President of Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque will lead a study on Jesus' "new commandment" from John 13.

Kip Tyler, Senior Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha, Nebraska will preach on the "new covenant" of Jesus from Luke 22 at the closing worship service on Wednesday morning.

The people of Faith will host gathering participants at a "Spirit of the Southwest Fiesta" on Tuesday evening. The menu will include authentic southwest cuisine and entertainment during dinner will be provided by a live mariachi band. A program featuring a variety of music performed by talented members of Faith will follow the meal and the evening will end with dessert and a time of fellowship.

Breakout sessions on Monday and Tuesday will feature 30 different presentations for gathering participants to choose from. Wednesday morning will feature presentations about a number of wonderful things happening within LCMC and the opportunities that God is laying before us.

Planning for this year's event began when a team of people from Faith visited the gathering in Altoona, Iowa in October of 2005. After a year of planning, praying and preparing, the congregation looks forward to hosting the hundreds who will gather at Faith in just a few days for "All Things New."

Warm Welcome to LCMC's Newest Congregations

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

New Life Lutheran Church, a new mission congregation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina;

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, a new mission congregation in Morrison, Colorado;

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Angora, Minnesota;

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin;

Romsdal Lutheran Church in Hudson, South Dakota;

Christ the King Community Church, a new mission congregation in Ponca, Nebraska;

Grace Lutheran Church in Erhard, Minnesota; and

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, our first Indiana LCMC congregation in Washington, Indiana.

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

Financial Snapshot

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

As we close 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 cash flow requirements for each of the three months.

Having started the year with a substantial revenue overage, we are positioned to end the year in positive territory. While our congregations continue to have increased giving with the trend of 10-15% higher totals monthly over those of last year, we have continued our conservative spending position, but this means we have several projects we are not yet able to fund. Registrations for the upcoming gathering have been steady. Provided that the expenses come in at or below budget, we should have yet another financially successful gathering as well.

These factors coupled with our controlled spending should provide a reasonable surplus at year's end when comparing revenue to spending. I believe our annual budget projections for income may not be met, but with our decreased spending we hope to end the year on a positive note.

DVD Task Force Begins Planning

With funding authorized by LCMC's board of trustees, a task force led by Kirk Dean recently met to make plans for a DVD that will tell the story of LCMC. Increasing interest in the association makes it necessary to have a communications tool that can be sent out to churches expressing interest in the LCMC. The intent is to provide a unified message giving a first look at LCMC, with follow-up personal visits as indicated.

The task force identified three areas that will be covered on the DVD: a 12-15 minute segment outlining the Vision and Mission of LCMC, based on our "What Is LCMC?" brochure; a second segment of approximately 45 minutes based on the contents of the "LCMC: Questions and Answers" brochure; and a final 12-15 segment called "Pastor to Pastor."

The task force met with LCMC members Mike Knoble, an employee of the Television and Multimedia Department of Concordia College (Moorhead, MN), and Dan Hammer, a professional broadcaster who has agreed to be "the voice of LCMC." The task force hopes to shoot some footage at the upcoming annual gathering in Albuquerque. The goal is to have a completed DVD available by early next year.

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 board activity include:

\$5000 was designated for the production of an informational DVD about LCMC. Kirk Dean will lead the project.

The board of trustees received preliminary results of our annual audit by AMDG Financial; final results will be reported to the national convention. At the recommendation of AMDG, the board appointed a financial committee responsible for making recommendations to the trustees based on findings of the audit. Larry Lindstrom, Kirk Dean, and David Chancellor have accepted appointments to serve in this capacity.

The trustees met with Dr. Joel Nordtvedt and Dr. Gene Boe of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren seminary to discuss areas of common interest.

Rev. Larry and Mrs. Carolyn Lystig shared information on the new "Reclaim" introductory hymnal now available.

Bill Sullivan presented the service coordinator's report. Highlights included his trips to visit several congregations to introduce them to LCMC; his participation in the Northwest and Heartland District conventions; an update on the Independent Lutheran Theological Education Project (ILTEP); questions he is fielding regarding the LCMC health care programs; and the attainment of official endorsing status for LCMC for military chaplains.

Trustees worked on final details for the 2006 and initial plans for the 2007 national gatherings.

The trustees discussed a proposed Continuing Resolution and suggested Bylaw changes related to relationships between the national association and LCMC districts. *(Note: Those documents have been sent for feedback to every congregation and to those district leaders for whom we have contact information. A final version will be brought to the convention delegates in Albuquerque for their consideration.)*

Dale Wolf presented an update on the recent meeting of the LCMC Ministry Board.

Server Issues Take Down LCMC Discussion Boards

Over the past month, a series of unfortunate events has disabled our discussion boards from normal operation. The boards are dependent upon software, hardware and the mechanics of the internet (most importantly the DNS (Domain Name Server) that maintains the actual account for lcmc.net.

All three of these variables have had technical difficulties which have made the return to normal operation a slow and frustrating process. During the initial phase of the software error, research was done to try to find a better solution for our list serves. The research indicated that Lyris was the best source for our overall needs. The software problem was eventually corrected with an upgrade and technical support from Lyris. This technical support lead to the second issue that related to our hardware.

Our internal server suffered minor damage from an attempted "hacking" by what our technician described as "an amateur hacker". The damage was quite minimal and easily repaired, but it has created a couple of dilemmas. First, in order to prevent such an attack in the future, stronger firewall protections were required. Second, because of these protections, our DNS settings need alteration. We are currently able to send messages through the Lyris software out, however, responses to any messages are not being accepted because of the combination of our DNS record and our current firewall settings. Unfortunately, the DNS is not in our complete control. As the newsletter goes to print we are awaiting response from the "owner" of our DNS record to give us the proper access so that it can be altered.

We appreciate your patience as we work through these challenges.

- Sharon MacFadyen,
Director of Ops / Financial Secretary



What's New in the Evangelical Renewal District

Welcome to our newest congregation, First Lutheran Church of Erie (IL)!

All are welcome to our annual ERD gathering, held next year in Salt Lake City, January 22-23, 2007. Come early or stay late for great skiing! More information will be available in the next few months, but block out the dates now.

- David Drum, Community of Hope - Tucson, AZ; ERD

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR LCC, AN ERD CONGREGATION IN IOWA

Lutheran Church of the Cross (LCC) in Altoona, IA, has had some great opportunities for growth the past few months. Their first challenge was how they would cover the absence of Pr. Chris Magnell, as he was deployed to Iraq to serve as an LCMC chaplain for the next year (see below.) God provided in the person of LCC's Director for Spiritual Development, Sharon Chittenden. According to senior pastor Mark Vander Tuig, the church saw her gift for ministry and decided they had a great opportunity to issue her a contract call, as provided for under LCMC guidelines. Pastor Chittendon began her service to the congregation in June, the same month Pr. Magnell left to prepare for his deployment. According to Pr. Vander Tuig, she is now "marrying, baptizing, preaching, and teaching-- and doing an outstanding job!"

Mission Ankeny . . . In other exciting news, LCC's church plant in neighboring Ankeny, IA, has called a pastor, Rev. Dennis Schwalenberg, and a dedicated core of leaders are forming ministry teams to develop the life of the congregation. Mission Ankeny plans to establish their vision for ministry and structure in the next few months. Once that is in place they will begin meeting for worship services.

Lutheran Vietnamese Mission . . . Pr. Vander Tuig will depart for Viet Nam on November 1 in the company of Lutheran Vietnamese Ministry director Rev. John Dovich and LVM board member Britt Adair on a ten-day outreach to visit current LCMC congregations as well as some new ones that have recently joined LCMC. Their meetings will be limited and discreet due to the delicate relationship between Christians and the Vietnamese government. Pr. Vander Tuig and Lutheran Church of the Cross have a strong and ongoing relationship with LVM. Rev. Dovich began his ministry 45 years ago, serving in Viet Nam before coming to the United States. Mr. Adair served in the US Army during the Viet Nam conflict, stationed south of Saigon. "Now he will be going back armed with the Gospel," said Pr. Mark.

Chris Magnell, LCMC Chaplain, in Baghdad . . . Rev. Chris Magnell, one of the pastors at LCC, is also an Army chaplain who has recently been deployed for a tour of duty in Iraq.

Chaplain Magnell's journey to Baghdad began in Altoona. He flew from there to Mississippi where spent several weeks of preparation. He then went from Mississippi to Iceland, on to Germany and into Kuwait. From Kuwait he was sent to his post in Baghdad.

Upon arriving in Kuwait, Chris wrote: "It's bizarre being here – kind of like the California desert without the mountains. I couldn't believe that the wind hurt my eyes like it did when I got off the plane. But I'm not sweating like I did in Mississippi!"

Chris will be deployed for a year, ministering to other men and women who are serving in our armed forces. He covets your prayers and welcomes your cards and letters. You can follow Chris's ministry in his blog at <http://armychaplain.blogspot.com/2006/09/back-online.html>. Or, he can be reached via e-mail at chris.magnell@us.army.mil or at his mailing address: Chaplain (CPT) Chris Magnell, HHC, 3-67 AR BN, Unit 41503, APO AE 09390-1503.



Making Connections for Mission Opportunities

A letter from the new pastor of Lifesong, an LCMC congregation in Newbury Park, California:

By the time you read this, you may have already received a letter and DVD in the mail. If not, keep your eye open for a packet from Lifesong Christian Communities in Newbury Park, California. The DVD is designed to be played in a worship setting, perhaps during announcements, the offering, a sermon based around mission...

I, Rich Gregory, am the Pastor of Lifesong, and I am also a full-time seminary student at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, a husband to Kristin, a father to Nathan (2), and a soon to be father to Corinne (due in November). I am writing to say thanks to all the congregations who are praying for us, and/or supporting us financially, and to humbly ask you and your congregation to pray for us and consider supporting us financially as well.

We are a mission congregation that is about ten months old comprised of about ten families from diverse religious backgrounds who are all looking to follow Jesus with our everyday lives. We are growing in faith, resources, and in our calling in our community. Our church began as two lay-people (Paul and Ginny) sensed a call to start a church that was spiritually alive and serious about mission. We have been stepping out in faith ever since, and God hasn't disappointed!

We are beginning public worship gatherings in a rented community center in early October, and are truly excited to be serving God in our community. The added expense of the rented facility leaves us needing roughly \$800 per month in additional income to continue to pay our bills. We are stepping out in faith, trusting that God will provide.

As you probably know, there is no central fund for mission congregations in the LCMC, so we are dependent upon our fellow congregations in order to get us on our feet so that we can (hopefully) one day help other mission congregations. Please prayerfully consider adding Lifesong to your budget next year . . .



Above all else, however, we covet your prayers. Please pray that we would be a church that takes God's grace seriously, that makes a difference in our community, and most importantly, pray that we would be a church that makes disciples. If you have a few minutes, check out our website or send me a quick email. Thanks so much.

*God's Peace,
Rich*

The leaders of Lifesong have been working with the Evangelical Renewal District and have established ties with the people of City On A Hill, another LCMC mission plant in Manhattan Beach, CA, as well as Community of Hope (Tucson, AZ) and Morningside Lutheran Church (Sioux City, IA). Rev. Gregory is receiving a contract call from the church and will be ordained November 12th. You may find more information about Lifesong at the church's web site, www.lifesongchristiancommunities.org, or contact Pr. Gregory at: thegregorys1@aol.com or (310) 408-9017.



The Heartland District Council has approved a job description for the position of District Coordinator, The description has been forwarded to all Heartland District churches for review. Congregations have been asked to prayerfully consider whether they perceive a need for such a position and whether they are able to contribute financial support for one.

The Heartland District is exploring the possibility of working cooperatively on a mission start in Lincoln, Nebraska's second largest city.

The 4th Annual Heartland Women of the Word (WOW) retreat was an outstanding success (*see story next page.*) The next meeting of the Heartland WOW council is set for September 16th; the current board will address plans to expand representation to include representatives from each church in the district.

- Doyle Karst, District Chairman

AMAZING GRACE: "Making a difference in the future of the Kingdom of God . . ."

The now defunct Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Englewood, CO faced a sad task, closing its doors and selling its church home, but the people responded in a unique way. When Grace's church council gathered to make final decisions regarding Grace's estate, they gave voice to the congregation's sadness about Grace's demise and concern about the "state of the church." On Holy Saturday this year they brought to life a new creation, and voted into being a daughter congregation, giving her the name "Amazing" - "Amazing Grace" that is! A generous portion of the proceeds from the sale of Grace's property has been designated to help this new LCMC mission church get started.

Amazing Grace will be served by Grace's former pastor, Rev. Janet Miller.

Anticipating such a resurrection, Rev. Miller "prepared the way" for Amazing Grace by placing in storage some of Grace's furnishings-- a sort of dowry. The organ, baptismal font, pulpit, and communion table/altar from the first church, along with some minor items are all in storage awaiting the day when they can be transferred into their new home. The leadership team is working diligently on finding a new location and they are hoping to hold their first worship service together in the near future.

(information provided by Janet Miller)

Heartland House of Studies Opens This Fall

The Heartland House of Studies, a training ministry for future pastors and lay leaders, begins this fall. On April 30, the Heartland District Council of LCMC voted unanimously to start the house of studies. "The dream is for our district to have a ministry which trains future pastors and lay leaders," Pastor Kip Tyler [of Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha] said. "The program also will provide continuing education for current lay and pastoral leaders and foster spiritual, academic and leadership opportunities for all

who want to grow in their faith and discipleship."

The House of Studies will not be a place so much as it will be about Christian theological education being brought to where it is needed, Tyler said. It will launch its first courses this fall. Pastor Tyler will teach Introduction to New Testament Greek. The 36-hour Saturday course began Aug. 26 at Lutheran Church of the Master's new West Campus. Besides vocabulary and language rules, its aim is to train students in the

use of Biblical Greek linguistic aides and to build a foundation of commonly used New Testament vocabulary. Pastor Paul Spaulding, Morningside Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa, will teach Early Church History. Once interest and students are established, the location will be determined partly by what is the most convenient for all. It may be a model of distant ministry learning. Both courses are open to all students without any prerequisite expectations.

- Jan Larson, LCM

Heartland Women of the Word - 4th Annual Retreat "Outstanding!"

More than 100 women attended the fourth annual Women of the Word Retreat July 15 at Lutheran Church of the Master (LCM) in Omaha, NE. They were all part of the Heartland District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. They came from as far as Resurrection Lutheran Church, Mitchell, S.D. Ten came from Trinity Church, Columbus, Neb. Donations received were sent to missions of the LCMC.

Members of LCM's circles, Thanking God on Wednesday and the Saturday morning Bible study were hosts, according to Elizabeth Donelson, retreat coordinator.

Pastor Kip Tyler welcomed the group. Author of "Lost in America" Pastor Tom Clegg of Point of Grace Church, Des Moines, Iowa, was the guest speaker. Love, he said, is the greatest gift that all of us should pass on to others, just as Christ has taught and shown us to do. It is a sure way, he said, of showing others how a life and relationship with Christ can be a true blessing and now is the time to begin.

Pastor Edith Bickford talked of her work in Tecumseh and Auburn area of Nebraska as well as in Honduras. Pastor Rodney and Melinda Hinrichs, missionaries to Ghana, Africa and India, gave a video presentation on their work.

More than 400 Bible studies from Parables were displayed. Included was a Beth Moore study that will offered this fall at LCM. The handiwork of LCM's Prayer Shawl Ministry was on display. Pastor Bickford was surprised with one during her speech. Many of the shawls, blessed by prayer, have been given as a reminder of God's unconditional, constant love.

- Jan Larson, LCM



"We seek a future which follows in the footsteps of the gospel as stated by Paul, rediscovered by Luther, and in our present day interpreted by Gerhard Forde. What kind of future is this? It is shaped neither by the antinomianism of the left nor the Biblical nomism of the right. Rather, the gospel calls us to a radical freedom which includes the two kingdoms, the *totus/totus*, the hiddenness of the Christian life, and the use of common reason in ethics."

With that declaration, the steering committee of the CrossAlone District has sent invitations to a group of pastors and laity who may share their concern for this Pauline-Lutheran-Fordian vision. They intend to come together at a seminar in the Twin Cities on October 16. The group has been asked to study selections from Forde's writings, which will serve as the basis for discussion.

- Meg Madsen, CrossAlone

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.

One Congregation, Two Locations

“Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.”

These words of Psalm 102 have been the rallying point for the people of Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha over the past few years. The congregation had outgrown its much-loved original site, but was landlocked. They struggled with their options and finally the solution became clear: they would remodel and update their existing church building to continue ministering to the needs of the people in that neighborhood. They would also purchase a large plot of land at the western edge of the city, and begin reaching out to people in that growth area. They would remain one congregation, stretching themselves to fulfill the Great Commission at two locations.

Two years ago they bought and dedicated a 28-acre piece of land; one year ago the congregation enthusiastically celebrated their 45th anniversary with a dedication of the remodeled East Campus and a groundbreaking ceremony at the new West Campus. And, finally, on August 19 they held a Commissioning Celebration to honor God for enabling the newly planted church to take root. With that, LCM formally opened their completed family life center and linked East and West sites in a new kind of ministry for the congregation.

To get to that point the past two years have been a flurry of activity. They worked together to set a vision for what their dual-site ministry will look like. The congregation embarked on a major funding plan, determined staffing needs and operating budgets, and organized to make choices for the



Phase I of the West campus of Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha, Nebraska..

services, programs, and buildings at both sites.

The task forces deliberately picked designs and materials that would emphasize the ties between the two campuses. One stunning example of how the two sites are tied is the dove represented in the 8-foot stained glass window of the west site. Representing the Holy Spirit, it mirrors the hand-carved dove suspended over the baptismal font at the east site-- a visual reminder they are one people worshipping simultaneously at two locations, commissioned to work together in co-Mission.

LCM members are also excited that, with the remodeling, they are now able to resurrect the Alleluia Preschool at the east campus as well as establish it at the additional site out west. There is a deep understanding among members that reaching out to youngsters and their families is essential in spreading the good news about our redemption through Jesus' death on the cross.

To celebrate their dual-site ministry LCM held its annual daylong Summerfest on August 20 at the west campus and invited the entire city. Hundreds attended the worship services and then were treated to a wide range of activities: a pancake feed, pony rides and games, a magic show, a pie baking contest and ice cream social, a talent show, dinner, and finally a concert by Peter Eide.

The people of LCM are just beginning to realize their dream of a dual site ministry with great hope for what they are doing so that “a people not yet created may praise the Lord.”



The new family life center on the West campus of LCM.

Northwest District Sends Support, Love -- and Dollars

The Northwest District gathered recently for their 2006 convention at Kellogg, Idaho. They came together at an opening worship service on a Friday night with about 65 persons present.

The reason I single out this Service is to underscore the offering that night. It was designated for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nicaragua. These Nicaraguan Lutherans, some 14 house churches, have a vision of developing a small coffee plantation to help support their ministries in a country in which 80% of the people live in poverty.

Their plan is bold-- and it's already underway, thanks in part to the offering given that night of May 5th. It took over a month to get there but the offering was hand delivered to Pastor Pavel Guevara by Pastor Michael Birnbaum from Alice, Texas (pictured at left.) The money given represented both the love and support of these convention delegates as they put exactly \$1,000 in the plate and into the check!



All these Nicaraguan churches have since become members of the LCMC. God be praised!

- Paul Braafladt, Board of Trustees, LCMC,
and former President of the Northwest District

Wrapped in the Love of Jesus

St. Luke's Church Women of Garfield, MN Quilt for Missions



Back row: Eleanor Norling, Jeanne Vickerman, Irene Booth, Bernice Winter. Front row: Jane Johnson and Anne Gran. Not pictured: Margine Norling and Joyce Gillespie.

"Wrapped in the Love of Jesus" has been the theme for this year of quilting by the ladies of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Garfield, Minnesota. The quilting ladies have produced more than 30 quilts that will be sent with the LAMP team (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) to northern Saskatchewan of Canada. The mission quilts are given to students who are members of the Cree tribe, as part of the Vacation Bible School program.

Eight women of St. Luke's meet monthly to quilt for missions. This year the women put labels in each quilt to remind the children of the love Jesus has for them.

- David Gran, St. Luke's

Creative New LCMC Pastor “Connects the Dots”

August 6, 2006 was a special day in the life of Tom Stover, his friends and family. On that date, Tom was ordained to the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament. It was a special day in the life of our association too; Tom is living proof that spreading the Gospel takes precedence over labels, associations and denominations. You see, Tom is an LCMC pastor, officially hired as a Mission Developer at Community of Hope Lutheran Church in Rosemount, MN (an ELCA congregation that was the site of Tom’s ordination) while serving as chaplain to Trinity First Lutheran School (an LCMS affiliate) and also sowing the seeds to plant Community of Faith, an LCMC mission church. Further, the German Lutheran saints of Trinity First Lutheran, the oldest LCMS congregation in Minnesota and sponsor of the school, have opened their hearts and their doors to allow Community of Faith to meet in their facility-- and they’ve offered prayers and significant financial assistance to make this mission plant a reality.

If all of that sounds a bit confusing, don’t be concerned. Pastor Tom is clear: his calling is to bring the Good News to an area that is estimated to be the most diverse gateway city in the US. The Phillips neighborhood of

Minneapolis has one of the highest populations of Somali immigrants in the US. It is

career for him Tom says he knew at 7 or 8 years old that God was tapping him on the shoulder, but he was a Prodigal Son.

He spent many years in an international business that took him to all corners of the globe. “I had great success in business. The Lord let me go right up the ladder. But when a friend told me about his experience at Master’s Institute all the dots in my life connected in a 5-minute period of time. My wife Darlene watched my face and she knew what was going to happen, it was that profound. My wife, God bless her, said, ‘Go. You know what you have to do.’”

Tom spent the next year preparing and getting his life in order, and began the 3-year program at The Master’s Institute in the fall of 2003. He served two years as Student Body President, and was recently named to MI’s Board of Directors. He is the fourth graduate of Master’s Institute to be ordained as a pastor who will serve an LCMC church.



Rev. Stover, flanked by Rev. Kevin Vogt (left) and Rev. David Drum (right) pastors of Community of Hope Lutheran Church (LCMC) in Tucson, AZ.



Rev. Stover, surrounded by family and friends praying for his ministry.

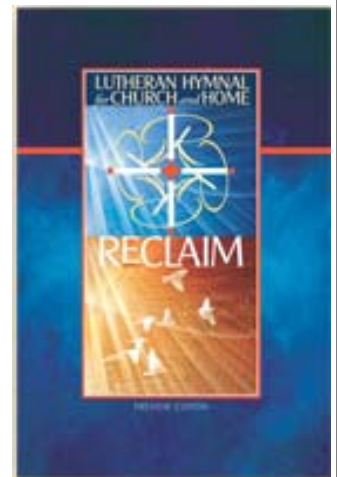
estimated that 120 to 150 languages are spoken in the area. Given that Tom is newly ordained, he has his work cut out for him.

Tom, however, has a wealth of life experience to draw on; ordained ministry is a second

Community of Faith will hold worship services on Tuesday evenings. Pastor Tom has also started a new middle- and high-school aged youth group called “Rock Bottom.” He’s recruited a group of street wise students from North Central Bible College (an Assemblies of God institution) to assist him.

Top 10 Reasons to purchase RECLAIM: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home

Reclaim Resources, an organization and a hymnal project, is helping us as Lutherans to reclaim our heritage, our purpose, our future, and our passion as Christians. We want this to be a gift for the whole church to use as we seek to be faithful witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our day and for ages to come. Here are 10 reasons to purchase Reclaim:



#1. It is distinctly and purposely a book and resource for Lutherans.

The proclamation of God's Word as both law and gospel is central in *Reclaim*.

#2. The way we worship will determine the way we believe!

We come to hear what God has done for us; to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.

#3. More than just a songbook, *Reclaim* teaches the faith while we worship and pray.

Reclaim includes Luther's Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, basic Lutheran doctrines.

#4. *Reclaim* helps equip families for devotions and worship both at church and at home.

Reclaim recaptures a largely lost tradition in Lutheran hymnals for daily prayer and devotions in the home.

#5. *Reclaim* celebrates hymns that help teach the faith.

Music from a variety of sources and styles exhibit classic Lutheran theology and tradition.

#6. *Reclaim* services are filled with Scriptures that teach basic faith principles and actions.

Orders for baptism, wedding, and funeral include Scriptures that outline how we are to live.

#7 *Reclaim* includes important worship resources; no need to buy or print lengthy bulletin inserts.

The lectionary readings, prayer of the day, and psalm will be printed together for ease of use in worship.

#8. *Reclaim* has memorable liturgical music, reaching both traditional and contemporary styles.

The hardcover edition will have a variety of settings that are easy to sing, beautiful to the ear, and stay with you through the week.

#9. *Reclaim* is revising the lectionary and other resources to better celebrate the church year.

For example, Advent focuses on the preparation for the birth of Christ, not the Second Coming.

#10. *Reclaim* restores the "Exhortation" as a standard ingredient in Lutheran hymnals.

This call to self-examination prior to receiving the Lord's Supper was once the norm in Lutheran hymnals.

You may purchase *Reclaim, Introductory Edition* now and be ready for the upcoming full hymnal in the fall of 2007! We are making steady progress in gathering hymns and service music, organizing and editing worship services, and appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Please call us at 800-590-6001, or visit the website and one of the discussion forums at www.ReclaimLutheranWorship.org.

Mark Your Calendar!

- | | |
|---|--|
| September 30 | Board of Trustees Meeting - Albuquerque, NM |
| October 1 - 4 | LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention - Albuquerque, NM |
| November 12 - 14 | Board of Trustees Meeting - Eagan, MN |
| June 17- 20, 2007
June 20-24, 2007 | Pre-Youth Rally Mission Experience
Annual Youth Rally
hosted at NDSU by Atonement LC, Fargo |

