





## From the Board...

— Rev. Kip Tyler, Chair

### Opportunities for mission

One of the many great things about LCMC is the ability for congregations to support ministries, missions and benevolence causes directly. This gives ownership and responsibility to examine God's call to them to be good stewards of His blessings. It also creates the opportunity for congregations to develop a working relationship with some fantastic organizations.

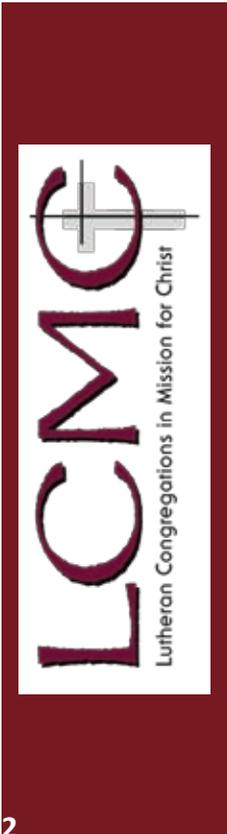
Many organizations had booths at the LCMC Annual Gathering in Denver last month. From education and worship resources to seminaries and camps to missionaries and relief groups, they were there. In

addition, congregations have local benevolence opportunities as well.

During this time of Thanksgiving, Christmas and budget planning, it is a great time for congregations to prayerfully examine their priorities. Ask questions of groups you consider supporting. Check to see who other congregations are supporting. Stay in contact with your recipients to see how they are doing, learn what prayer needs they may have throughout the year, and to encourage them.

Remember, have fun with this process, God loves a cheerful giver! ♦

This newsletter is a publication of LCMC, an association of churches and individuals. Inclusion of articles is intended to provide information and does not imply official endorsement. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect an official position of the Association or its board of trustees. We welcome comments, suggestions for stories, and submissions from our members. See contact information below.



#### Staff, Board of Trustees

##### Service Coordinator:

Rev. Mark Vander Tuig - mark@lcmc.net

##### Director of Operations:

Sharon MacFadyen - sharon@lcmc.net

##### Administrative Assistant:

Cathy Nichol - cathy@lcmc.net

##### LCMC Communications/PR Specialist

Kristy Thomas - kristy@lcmc.net

##### Pastoral Certification Coordinator:

Rev. Paul Spaulding - paul@lcmc.net

##### LCMC Military Endorser:

Rev. Tim White - twhite@megavision.com

7000 Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48187

734.207.5400  
Toll Free: 866.720.LCMC (5262)

##### LCMC Board of Trustees:

- Rev. Kip Tyler, Chair
- Rev. Becky Lee, Vice Chair
- Rev. Martha U. Nelson, Secretary
- Mrs. Laurel Swanson, Treasurer
- Rev. Enrique Estrada
- Mrs. Anne Gran
- Rev. Bruce Gamache
- Rev. Sean Kelly

You may obtain individual contact information by phoning the National Offices of LCMC at

734-207-5400

or toll free:

866-720-LCMC (5262)

or by e-mailing:

lcmcboard@lcmc.net



EDITOR: Joy Minion

##### CONTRIBUTORS:

Keith Aho, Alice Davis, Tim Deal, Kirk Dean, Joyce Foster, Jason Ginsburg, Eric Hulstrand, Dayna Leggett, Karen McConnel, Martha Uecker Nelson, Eileen Pressler, Frank Remski, Paul Spaulding, Tony Stoutenburg, Eric Swensson, Mark Vander Tuig, Kip Tyler, Cindy White and Bruce Wilder.

PUBLISHED BY: LCMC

##### HEADQUARTERS:

7000 Sheldon Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187

PHONE: Toll Free 866.720.5262

WEB SITE: www.lcmc.net

"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



# Today's Word: One

— Tony Stoutenburg

The Word of the Day is "One." Again.

Twice in John 17, Jesus prays that "they may all be one." This is not a word of Law to us, but a word of Gospel, so it is not something we do. Last issue we looked at John 17:11. Here we look at verses 20-21. Jesus prays,

*I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

Supposedly, lots of non-believers ask "Why are there so many denominations?" I do hear that question a lot, but mostly from structural-unity enthusiasts who claim that non-believers ask it. I offer three thoughts in response:

— Skeptics are skeptical. All Christians getting together in one big structure would not bring them to faith. Faith is the work of the Holy Spirit, not an intellectual assent.

— Most unity efforts I have witnessed require watering down key elements of identity. The only thing that gets better by being watered down is dry grass. Our local ministerium (Baptists, Wesleyans, AOG, TEC, LCMC) is very clear about the things that distinguish us, even as we celebrate the unity we have in Christ.

— Most importantly, the world will recognize us by our love for one another (John 13:35) and how we share it with the world. Anyone letting their denominational identity get in the way of serving our neighbors in love is doing denomination wrong.

From Scripture, we see that something resembling denominations was already occurring in the early church. The Council at Jerusalem sought to keep the number of unity requirements to a minimum. This allowed Paul to "become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

There is a lesson for us in that. ♦



Merry Christmas!

Has your church sponsored a short-term missions trip?

Have your youth worked on special projects in your community?

Are your women's groups serving in special ways?

We'd love to hear about it!

Send to:  
joyminion@gmail.com



CHRISTIAN WEEKEND  
YOUTH EVENTS

QUAKES  
and  
ZONES



Quality time and real discussions with your students. Transformational growth for your youth group. We take care of the details.

*"As a youth director, Quakes and Zones have become foundational events for our youth group to develop relationships and to foster spiritual growth."*

- Andrew, Youth Leader

[www.youthencounter.org/events](http://www.youthencounter.org/events)



## A Word from Mark...

— Mark Vander Tuig,  
LCMC Service Coordinator

**W**e had a great time together in Denver for our Annual Gathering and convention on October 7-10. The keynote speakers, the breakout sessions and the vendor/resource area were all amazing, inspiring, encouraging and greatly appreciated. Next year, we head to Dearborn, Michigan, for our Annual Gathering on October 6-9, 2013.

During one of the business sessions, we introduced all of our international partners who were able to be with us—and the stage was filled. Soon after that, one of our leaders from the Congo instructed us to no longer call it a “national gathering,” but rather we must acknowledge what the Lord is doing ... LCMC is now an “international association.” So, for our next *international* Annual Gathering, we head to Dearborn!

At the Gathering, I had an opportunity to share some things I think we need to consider. I see a very dim future if we do not begin to look beyond ourselves and start looking into the world around us for those who do not yet know Jesus. John 3:16 says, “*For God so loved the world...*” We are in this world and need to find ways to speak and proclaim the Good News of Jesus into every human life. One of the most effective ways of doing this is to plant new congregations.

I am challenging our association to plant 1,000 congregations over the next 10 years. If, ten years from now, we look back and have seen 1,000 new congregations planted, each one of us will know for certain that it was the Holy Spirit who did it! That’s where I want to be, where the Holy Spirit is at work!

How can this happen? I am not talking about one model of planting churches, but many. Some of our established churches are going to see that this is something that they can and ought to do. Some of our districts are already making strategic plans to plant congregations in their territory. There are some gatherings of believers already meeting who just need someone to call them to take the next step and form as a congregation, and there are some individuals who are sensing a call to plant a church. We simply need to tell them to “*go and make disciples.*”

Finally, one researcher suggests that 9% of American Christians are meeting in “house churches,” and we will encourage that to continue and expand. “One size does not fit all,” and there is not just one model that works everywhere for everyone.

The Board of Trustees has also decided to invest in this new direction by establishing a new, full-time position in LCMC called, “Coordinator for New Ministry Development.” The Board has established a search team, have begun receiving resumes and letters of interest, and hope to have the position filled by March 2013.

I think this challenge to plant 1,000 new churches will not only energize our new congregations, but *all* of our congregations as well. This will not happen without the direct involvement of all of our people, but together I believe we can be a part of what God is doing in our generation and in our part of the world. The U.S. is a major mission field and God is saying again, “*Go, make disciples of all nations,*” including our own! ♦



# 3 Days of Prayer

...continued from page 1

resources. Pray for your own church: for the Sunday school, the youth, the leaders of the congregation, the church council and others, and for the pastor. We are to bring every care and concern to God in prayer, for we know that He cares about us. Pray for ears to hear and eyes to see. Pray for those who serve Jesus in the mission fields around the world, many of whom face persecution and harassment because of Jesus. Pray for the congregations of LCMC, both here and abroad.

Go to our website at [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net) and pray for each of our international partners and the ministries listed there.

## Thursday, January 10, 2013: A DAY OF INVITATION

Let us together pray for the Holy Spirit to breath new life into the church across this nation, the congregations in your community, and in your own congregation as well. America has become one of the largest and most difficult mission fields in the world. We live in a time of great spiritual interest, but little interest in the forms of the church of the last generation.

Let's pray for renewal and revival in the church. Ask the Lord of the Church to raise up the church so that we might be a light in the darkness, salt for a tasteless life, and real and abiding hope for those who live in despair.

Pray that Jesus may be lifted up and that all might come to know Him as Savior and Lord. Pray that we might be a part of what the Holy Spirit is doing in the world and that we would find ways to fulfill the Great Commission in our generation. ♦

---

*Watch for more information on our website  
under the banner:*

## Three Days of Prayer



# Christ School of Theology

— Submitted by Eric Swensson

The training of Lutheran pastors has always involved theology. Christ is at the center of Lutheran theology. Faith lays hold of Christ. Therefore, faith lays hold of the center of Lutheran theology. However, what happens when people claiming to be faithful to the truth of Jesus Christ assert things apparently at odds with Scripture and tradition? Is the problem *theology*?

No. This is *not* the problem. Seminaries often marginalized teaching classical Christian theology, and seminarians no longer read the Patristics and Scholastics, deeply studied the Confessions, nor grappled with the Lutheran dogmaticians. The Bible often was taught as if it could be disconnected from 2,000 years of interpretation.

Since 2007 the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) has steadfastly witnessed to the ultimate truth that God is in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. While ILT's lay program provides quality non-accredited certificate and enrichment courses, its **Christ School of Theology** offers rigorous graduate studies, programs and degrees. Many are familiar with ILT, but have never heard of Christ School of Theology. While it has been part of ILT planning from its early days, it was not stressed—simply starting a new kind of school during an economic downturn, creating an institutional structure, and promoting classes occupied everyone's full attention.

The time has come to start speaking of our graduate division separately as **Christ School**. It offers master's degrees in Biblical Studies, Religion, and Theology; a One Year Lutheran Theology Graduate Certificate, the Master of Divinity degree and the Master's in Sacred Theology. Plans are underway for a Doctor in Ministry as well as the PhD degree.

Through Christ School, ILT looks forward to providing LCMC the faith-filled leaders they need, leaders who remain faithful to the central tenet of Christianity that God really is in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.

---

Call us today at: 605-692-9337  
or visit us online at: [www.ilt.org](http://www.ilt.org) ♦

# REVERSE MISSION TRIP

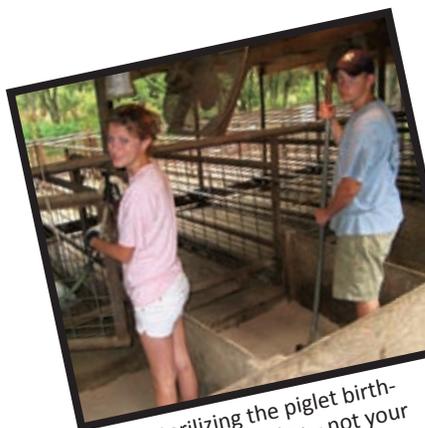
—Submitted by Rev. Dayna Leggett



Work crew taking short break from heat before unloading landscape mulch for one of the Blanco nursing homes



Washing sheep



Cleaning and sterilizing the piglet birthing pens – piglets due any day – not your ordinary mission trip assignment!



The job is done, now you have to keep the sheep clean

Trinity Lutheran in Blanco, Texas, joined with Blanco United Methodist Church (BUMC) and Northern Hills United Methodist, San Antonio, to offer a “reverse” mission trip. We offered 60 city kids the opportunity to do six days of mission work in Blanco with our 25 rural kids. Both Trinity and Blanco FUMC are small churches and we could not provide enough lodging for that many kids without joining forces...boys at one church, girls at the other. By joining forces, we could offer a low-cost mission trip.

Blanco is a rural, agricultural community. We are strong in FFA and many of the rural, small town activities. The San Antonio youth had never been exposed to rural life. Most were from affluent neighborhoods on the north side of San Antonio.

Mission work projects included doing “unorthodox” tasks for many of the rural elderly citizens. Besides spending time with nursing home residents, the youth washed sheep, cleaned out piglet birthing pens, cleaned out overgrown gardens for the elderly, painted a storage building for an assisted living facility, cleaned overgrown landscaping for two nursing homes, landscaped a shut-in’s new ramp entrance to her home and so much more. This was an impressive project when we take into consideration that Texas heat can be very oppressive.

Each evening consisted of worship time as well as fun and fellowship time. The city kids were amazed that they could actually walk from place to place in large groups and the police didn’t stop to ask what they were up to. What was most amazing was to watch the two groups finally merge spiritually during a foot washing service. It was an intense, yet cleansing service.

The mission field isn’t always in some distant place! ♦

For more information, contact Pastor Leggett:  
**daynal3@verizon.net**  
 or call **210.275.5638**



Playing games with Live Oak Nursing Home residents



Drying sheep. The opportunity to get wet on a very hot day was a premium job - the city kids argued over who got to wash sheep!



Lunch break provided by a thankful couple who needed their garden prepared for fall

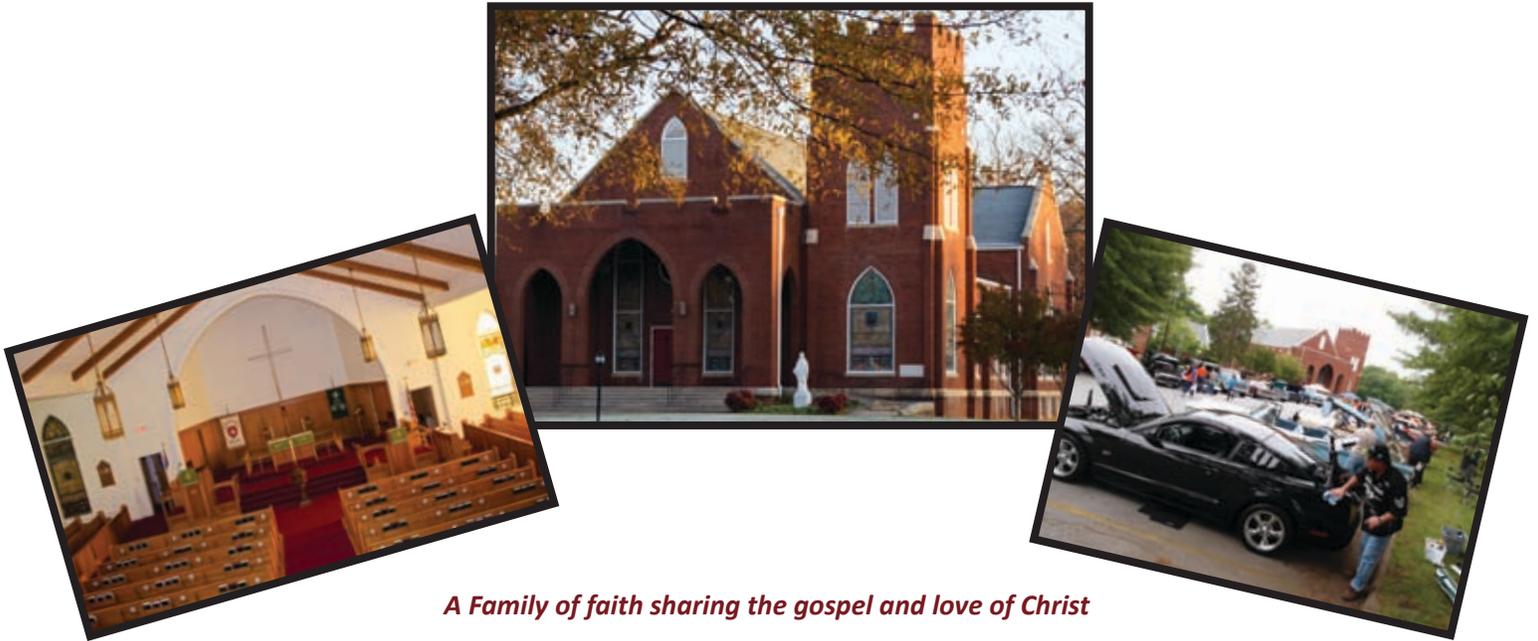


This young city boy was delighted at the thought of washing sheep – he’d never even touched one before

# GETTING TO KNOW. . .

## *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

Salisbury, North Carolina



*A Family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ*

**S**t. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on March 30, 1830, by the Rev. John Lentz with 17 members. A new house of worship was started on the present site and completed in 1872. The present structure was erected in 1924.

Our congregation went through affiliation with the Lutheran Church, beginning with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, in 1962 becoming part of the Lutheran Church in America, and in 1990 becoming a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In 2002, the council appointed a committee to study the actions of the ELCA. Area churches were invited to informational meetings that led to the formation of a regional reform group known as "LASTing Word (Lutherans Affirming God's Word as Scriptural Truth), and hosted numerous presentations by noted Lutheran pastors and scholars. Following the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, over 500 persons attended a LASTing Word meeting and voted to become Lutheran CORE-N.C.

In 2010, St. Paul's disaffiliated from the ELCA by a vote of 99% and joined Lutheran Congregations in

Mission for Christ. We are currently experiencing a renewed commitment to missions here and abroad, enjoying the challenges and opportunities offered by LCMC's philosophy that the congregation is the front line of ministry.

Twenty-eight pastors have served St. Paul's, and 21 former members have entered the ministry. Following the retirement of the Rev. William Ketchie, Rev. David Trexler was installed on October 21, 2012, and now leads our congregation toward greater discipleship, inspired by our rich history and the Great Commission.

Our church offers many opportunities to be of service to our Lord. This year the church held two Cruise-Ins to help church families in need. Pastor Trexler has also begun a Dial-A-Story (704-633-1923) for anyone who needs an inspiring word for the day. Beginning January 13, 2013, Saint Paul's will offer a six-week class on Revelation three times a week.

If you do not have a church home or just need a place to be of service to our Lord, give St. Paul's a try. ♦

*—Submitted by  
Alice Davis, Tim Deal & Karen McConnel 9*

# Launching a New Church Plant

— Eric Hulstrand

*Part two of a four-part series on church planting in the LCMC. We are following ReaLife Church as they plant in the southwest metro of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)*

On November 11, 2012, ReaLife Church officially launched. As I write this, we have had a second and third Sunday mornings as well. It has been exciting! For the first Sunday, we had approximately 125 people in the building—100 in worship and 25 or so in children’s ministry.

Standard church planting wisdom says that you can expect about a 50% drop in numbers from week #1 to week #2. This is because the Launch Sunday typically has well-wishers, family and friends, and visitors checking out the new church. Week #2 we had 61 in worship and 12 in children’s ministry. Week #3 we had 62 and 17. In other words, not great, not bad...good. As my church planting coach (everyone planting a church should have a coach, someone who has “been there, done that” more than once) said, “Solid numbers, you can build on that.”

How did we get to those first three Sundays? God’s grace and a great launch team with vision, plus a lot of detail work. We had to plan out our marketing, including a flyer that went to 18,000+ homes, get a Conditional Use Permit from the city (not as easy as it might sound!), and choose a venue for Sunday mornings. God was gracious to us and brought all those things and many more into place. Our church planting training had said that this would be a lot of hard work. They were right. Thankfully, we have had a wonderful team to share in that load.

Just before we officially launched we had three practice Sundays with only our launch team and a few guests attending. We practiced both our worship service and the children’s ministry. We meet in a middle school and needed those Sundays to get the vibe of the place, both logistically and spiritually.

Everything had to be figured out—lighting, sound, how to set up, where to stand, how to receive the offering, how to move people to the children’s ministry area, how to set up the children’s

area in school classrooms, and how and where to greet people in this setting. We also had to decide if we should have a program (bulletin), and if so, what should it look like, how does the screen work in this place for music and sermon graphics and how do we fill out the worship team band, etc.

Making all those decisions was exhilarating and exhausting. After all, we were starting brand new and so many things were up for grabs! Every decision had to be put up against the vision God had given us for ReaLife Church. Does it fit? Does it reinforce who we are and our vision for this church? As you can guess from our name, being “real” is very important to us. Is this how real people talk? Is this what real people do? How would someone who is unchurched respond to this? Is it too “religious” versus authentic and real?

So, now what? The main thing is to keep Sunday morning up to speed in quality and impact. In Jim Griffith and Bill Easum’s book, *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Planters*, mistake #8 is “Failure of the Church to Acts Its Age and Its Size.” This means that church plants too quickly try to offer too much in terms of program. This stretches the volunteers too fast, too soon—and usually too far. This is why right now our ministry to young people only goes through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Sunday morning is our main focus on our launch team...for now. Our long-term focus is to make 24/7 disciples. We are not there yet, but are keenly aware that this is Jesus’ core calling to his followers.

Thus, over and over again, my coach and the training we have received have driven home that my most important long-term task as pastor is to continually emphasize our disciple-making vision: “Connecting Real People with Real Life.” We define “Real Life” as being “Connected with Christ, Community and (God’s) Calling.”

In the next issue of this newsletter, I will cover our plans and our progress to more deeply connect people with real life.

Finally, in terms of finances, we are waiting for 2013 budgets to be finalized and voted on from other churches. We are hopeful that at least some of the churches that have indicated interest are able to give us a commitment. Right now we have 30% of our budget needs met with commitments from our launch team and from one church. Those are the ongoing commitments. We have had other one-time gifts from individuals and churches, for which we are extremely grateful. In the LCMC, we have no central office from which donations flow to church plants. Each plant has to garner them individually.

At this point some will say that the people attending should be able to contribute. Yes, that's true. However, new or not-yet believers should not be relied upon too heavily in this area. As Martin Luther said, "The pocketbook is the last thing to be converted."

My prayer for LCMC is that EVERY church is involved in some capacity in planting a new church. Although it seems counter-intuitive, studies have shown again and again that church planting is the most effective way to reach new people for Christ. This does not mean that existing churches are ineffective! However, it should spur us all on to at least have a hand in extending the Kingdom in one of the strongest ways possible. ♦

---

*Eric Hulstrand is one of the founding pastors of RealLife Church, along with his wife Pam.  
For more information, contact Eric at:  
[eric@realife-church.org](mailto:eric@realife-church.org)*



*Photos courtesy of Eric Hulstrand*



# Lutheran Men

— Submitted by Keith Aho  
*Lutheran Men Promotional Secretary*

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of LCMC in Denver we reflected on the opportunities to be “Ambassadors for Christ.” We are reminded in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians that we are to be Ambassadors—to be missional in a ministry of reconciliation. We are to be Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. As the Rev. Dr. Buba paraphrased our requirements:

1. Be loyal to our leader, Jesus Christ;
2. Be compelled by love; and
3. Be lead by the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Reggie McNeal urged us to be missional—the church is a “body” not a “building”!

Lutheran Men (LM) held two break-out sessions. Breakout Session I reviewed the scope of funding activity and leadership opportunities available for the group. Perry Petersen announced that since 2003, \$72,647 has been given in grants to mission congregations and that \$58,354 seed money has been accumulated in the Loan Fund. In 2012, in response to the financial needs of mission congregations, Lutheran Men provided \$21,000 for six grants of \$3,500 each to:

- Highland Lutheran Church (Outlook, MT);
- LCMC Cambodia at Phnom Penh;
- Light of the Way Lutheran Church (Marana, AZ);
- Grace Lutheran (Hamburg, NY);
- Agape Lutheran (Frisco, TX); and
- Grace Community Church (Belleville, MI).

(See photos next page)

Volunteers for LM officers for three-year service were solicited. Ralph Myers (St .John’s Lutheran, Bridgewater, MI), offered his service as president following the retirement of Perry Peterson. David Knight (First Lutheran, Elcampo, TX) offered to assume Dan Gorrel’s seat on the Grant Request committee. Larry Belden (Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha, NE) will replace Barry Brown as 12 treasurer.

Breakout Session II was a presentation of *No Man Left Behind* by Rev. Wilson Metz (Word of Hope Lutheran Church, Ashland, NE). The goal of the program is to equip and train leaders to build a customized discipleship program for a sustainable ministry to men. Rev. Metz is available as a resource to any men’s group seeking a effective program of Ambassadorship.

The two breakout sessions were well received, with 60–70 in attendance.

We have received continuing support of LCMC congregations for 2012, but the need is great. LM has two funds needing your support.

## Mission Capital Loan Fund

The “Buck a Month” (BAM) program supports mission congregations (\$12 per member from 10,000 members would provide for \$120,000 each year) for revolving loans for start-up congregations.

## Fund for Non-capital Needs

The “Committee of 100” supports congregational needs for other needs, from office equipment to well drilling! This fund provides grants for congregations for current needs in their mission. Grant awards will be announced at the Annual Gathering

Father’s Day is a selected day for approaching your congregation for support. (Lutheran Men will accept gifts anytime during the year!) Take the initiative to be a “Key Man” in your congregation. LM will provide you with brochures and funding details.

*For more information, contact Keith Aho:*

**aho@accessmn.com**

**(800) 652-5233 (toll free) ♦**

*Mail contributions to Lutheran Men to:*

**LCMC-LM  
c/o Sharon MacFadyen  
7000 N. Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48187**

# Lutheran Men

...continued



Dennis Sandmann, LM Secretary and Perry Petersen, LM President



Keith Aho,  
LM Promotional Secretary



Pastor Dale Moe  
(Light of the Way  
Lutheran, Marana, AZ)  
accepts grant from  
Perry Petersen



Perry Petersen presents grant to  
Pastor Fred Schumacher  
(Highland Lutheran, Outlook, MT)



Pastor Wilson Metz during "No  
Man Left Behind" presentation at  
Breakout Session II



LCMC Service Coordinator  
Mark Vander Tuig accepts  
grant for Pastor Samuel  
Chim Pich, LCMC Cambodia  
at Phnom Penh

Photos courtesy of  
Keith Aho

## 2013 Leadership Conferences

### Navigating Mission in a World of Change

Two Conferences - The Same in Each Location

**February 10-12** Penasquitos Lutheran Church  
14484 Penasquitos Drive  
San Diego, California 92129

**April 14-16** Christ the King Lutheran Church  
611 Riverchase Parkway West  
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

Every Congregation is a living and hopefully healthy entity. Change happens. Health can improve or be challenged. God is ready.

*"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."* — Joshua 3:5

### Sunday

- 5:30 Registration
- 6:30 Doors open
- 7:00 Welcome
- 7:10 Opening Worship

### Monday

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:45 Singing & Reading of God's Word
- 9:00 Session 1: **Dr. Kent Hunter**  
*Church Health and Assessment*
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Session 2: **Dr. Darrell Puls**  
*Conflict Management*
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:00 LCMC Update: **Rev. Mark Vander Tuig**
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Healthy Mission: **LCMC Ministry Board**  
*Discussion of Local Ministry Goals and Experience*
- 4:30 Long Break
- 6:00 Dinner Hosted by the congregation

### Tuesday

- 8:45 Singing & Reading of God's Word
- 9:00 Session 3: **Rev. Dr. Sean Kelly**  
*Reconciliation and Healing*
- 10:30 Short Break
- 10:45 Closing Worship and Holy Communion
- Lunch

# ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS



*l-r: Pastor Steve and Lynn Bergeson, Julie and Pastor Stan Simonik*

## Rev. Stan Simonik

was installed as the first pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church, Kingman, AZ, on August 19, 2012.

Pastor Steve Bergeson (Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Fountain Hills, AZ) conducted the service.

Stan has served congregations in Alaska, New Mexico, Idaho and previously in Kingman, AZ. Stan's goal is to share in the spiritual journey of his congregation, investing emotionally in the people and growing in faith with them. His wife, Julie, is eager to share the joy of accordion music with the congregation. He and Julie are excited about serving the Lord at Living Word and making their home in Kingman again. ♦

—Submitted by Eileen Pressler



*Rich and Pastor Susan Westland*

## Rev. Susan Westland

was installed as pastor at Shepherd of the Falls Lutheran Church, American Falls, ID, on August 19, 2012.

Susan has an M. Div. from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, and a B.S. in Human Resources & Family Science from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She is a certified LCMC clergy. She previously served as Vicar in charge of pastoral care at Thanksgiving! Lutheran, Bellevue, NE. Her husband, Rich, is a retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel. They are both active in the Christian Motorcyclist Association. Susan and Rich have four adult children and two grandchildren. ♦

—Submitted by Joyce Foster



*l-r: Pastor Hartley Lee, Fr. James Halley, Bishop Tran, Pastors Frank Remski, Steve Gilbertson and Marv Combs*

## Rev. Frank Remski

was ordained and installed at Reformation Lutheran Church, Westminster, CA, on June 16,

2012. Pastors Steve Gilbertson (LCMC) and Marv Combs (NALC) presided, with Pastor Hartley Lee presenting the homily.

Frank served in the U.S. Air Force (1951-1959), worked as a banker for 35 years, then worked for the FDIC as a bank investigator and examiner. He graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2001. He has served as a hospital chaplain and interim pastor, and has taught Bible and confirmation classes. Frank and his wife, Ina, recently celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ♦

—Submitted by Frank Remski



*l-r: Daughter Beth Diven, husband David, Pastor Carol Clark, son-in-law Matt Diven, and Pastor Bruce Wilder.*

## Rev. Carol Clark

was ordained at Faith Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM, on October 14, 2012.

Senior Pastor Bruce Wilder presided at the service.

Carol will serve part-time on the staff at Faith as she continues teaching art history at Central New Mexico Community College. Her primary areas of ministry will be Christian adult education and pastoral care.

Carol completed her theological studies while serving the past year as pastoral intern at Faith. She was certified for ministry by the LCMC Ministry Board during the 2012 Annual Gathering in Denver. ♦

—Submitted by Bruce Wilder

## Unity in Christ's Church

— Pastor Jason Ginsburg

*“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” — John 17:21*

**H**ave you ever sat and listened to someone on his or her deathbed? I have had that sacred privilege a handful of times. As I listen in, what usually is talked about is who or what is most important in that individual's life.

As a young senior pastor (I'm 27) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, one of my passions is Christ's church. I was baptized as a baby in the Catholic Church, raised for most of my life Lutheran, and went to a Southern Baptist Seminary. I was actually chosen as my seminary's preacher of the year while I was there. I broke all the denominational rules, you could say. I guess you could call me an inbred Christian.

In John 17, Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethemene right before his betrayal. He knows His hour has come, and He prays for His disciples and then for those who would later follow Him—His church. He prays for unity among them. If we want to know what's important to Jesus, listen to one of His final prayers here on earth before the Ascension.

I accepted my first call out here in Colorado earlier this year, and right away hit the ground running. In that run, God has opened up the door for me to meet many pastors—and even a Catholic priest. Some of us LCMC pastors in Colorado try to meet quarterly, with NALC pastors joining us. I am truly thankful to have been able to make connections and be able to pray for and with my fellow Lutheran colleagues, but I don't want to limit God or myself to just Lutheran pastors.

My passion or BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal as Jerry Falwell used to say at Liberty to us students) is to see John 17:21 put into action. I have introduced myself to pastors and lay leaders of all denominations—from non-denominational to Baptist, Catholic, Methodist and even to the black

church community. In the southern Colorado Springs area, about a dozen churches of all denominations (mostly evangelical) come together to pray for each other and our churches. I believe that from this will branch off God-given dreams of how our churches can work together to have a biblical love for our community to see others come to know Jesus.

I share this with you because my challenge to us is to not limit our colleague relationships to just Lutherans. The body of Christ is way bigger than just Lutherans, as you know. I tell my church constantly that we are Christians who happen to be Lutheran; not Lutherans who happen to be Christians.

Faith Lutheran, the church I pastor, and I are learning what John 17:21 looks like. We have started to partner first with the other LCMC church in Colorado Springs, and I hope to partner with them in their mission field in El Salvador as well as help each other serve our community in hopes of being a biblical blessing. As Faith Lutheran learns what it means to partner with this other LCMC church, then hopefully that will lead to us partnering with other denominations.

The reason this is important is because of what church unity leads to—*“that they may know.”* Church unity is not just for us, but for a world who does not know Jesus. Fellow pastors—I know our schedules are busy and most of what we do is just within our congregations. I urge us to take Christ's prayer to heart and action, and take the initiative to meet pastors from different churches. Who knows how the Spirit will work because of it? May our Lord Jesus help us in this effort.

To Him be the glory,  
Jason Ginsburg ♦

BY THE WORD

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DULUTH, MN  
PERMIT NO. 1003

Lutheran Congregations  
in Mission for Christ  
7000 Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48187

DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 10-12 Leadership Conf. (West)**

*Penasquitos Lutheran Church  
San Diego, California*

**April 14-16 Leadership Conf. (East)**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Birmingham, Alabama*

