

## Three Days of Prayer Update

— Kristy Thomas

In America today, you can order customized versions of all kinds of products: sandwiches, t-shirts, frozen yogurt, cars...

But this winter, LCMC pastors, leaders and church members alike from all over the globe customized something completely different: Prayer.

From January 8-10, 2013, LCMC hosted its first ever worldwide Three Days of Prayer event, inviting association members around the world to set aside time for prayer each day. Each of these three days could be organized in any way that seemed the most effective.

Participating congregations set aside Tuesday as a day for confession and Wednesday for healing and restoration. Thursday was designated as a day to invite the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into the church.

Many of our congregations chose to hold special prayer services on all three days. Some chose to set up special prayer stations, and others encouraged their members to pray individually or in groups on each of the three days.

Rather than only targeting adults, some congregations, including First Lutheran Church in Washburn, ND, encouraged younger members to get involved by setting aside time to pray each day during lunch.

With a total of 86 RSVPs on Facebook alone, the event appears to have been well-received by those who decided to take part.

*"We had in the end about 120 people participate,"* reported Pr. Paul Gausmann of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in York, PA. He organized three separate prayer services, but also encouraged his congregation members to sign up for 15-minute time slots over the three days. *"The days of prayer were a great success and encouraged many people who do not pray regularly at our prayer vigils to do so,"* he said.

Aside from statistical changes, some pastors also reported a change in the attitude members of their congregations had toward prayer, as well.

*"On our day to confess, someone emailed me and said, 'I have never felt so CLEAN as when I left our church. God was with us for*

*...continued on page 12*



## From the Board...

— Mark Vander Tuig,  
for Kip Tyler

### Privileged to Serve

**S**erving on the Board of Trustees is a great privilege. It is one way that LCMC is able to hang on to its identity and its founding principles: the Great Commission, the authority of the Word of God, the freedom to act and the congregation as the front line of ministry. This is our DNA and it is the responsibility of the Board to safeguard that identity. The Board also takes other actions that are equally important.

At our last meeting (which normally last two and a half days with a very full agenda), we interviewed candidates for the new position of Coordinator for New Ministry Development. After a process of discernment and prayer, four candidates were brought to the meeting to be interviewed by the entire Board.

Each candidate would have been a great addition to our mission. After more prayer and calling the references (we did our due diligence), the Board came to a unanimous decision. Pastor Dan Clites of Rejoice Lutheran Church in Northfield, Minnesota, was chosen to fill the new position. Dan officially begins his work on March 1, and we look forward to having him as a part of the team. (See page 10 for more information about Dan.)

We also oversee the disbursement of funds out of our Seminary Debt Relief Fund. This fund was originally established by the Word Alone Network to contribute to pastors who have taken a stand for their principles.

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### Staff, Board of Trustees

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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:

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#### LCMC Military Endorser:

Rev. Tim White - twhite@megavision.com

#### New Ministry Development Coordinator:

Rev. Dan Clites - rejoicenorthfield@gmail.com

7000 Sheldon Road                      734.207.5400  
Canton, MI 48187                      Toll Free: 866.720.LCMC (5262)

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You may obtain individual contact information by phoning the National Offices of LCMC: 734-207-5400 or toll free: 866-720-LCMC (5262) or by e-mailing: [lcmcboard@lcmc.net](mailto:lcmcboard@lcmc.net)



EDITOR: Joy Minion

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Dan Clites, Kelli Crimins, Susan Fox, Eric Hulstrand, Jeff Johnson, Tom LoVan, Carolyn Lystig, Martha Uecker Nelson, Eileen Pressler, Ed Skutshek, Paul Spaulding, Tony Stoutenburg, Laurel Swanson, Kristy Thomas, Mark Vander Tuig and Kathy Yoder.

PUBLISHED BY: LCMC

#### HEADQUARTERS:

7000 Sheldon Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187

PHONE: Toll Free 866.720.5262

WEB SITE: [www.lcmc.net](http://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: Many

— Tony Stoutenburg

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recorded in four places in Scripture: Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22 and 1 Corinthians 11. All four record the Words of Institution as direct quotes from Jesus. The wording the four inspired authors use varies slightly, but they are very close.

Regarding the Cup, Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, and Luke agree that Jesus used the second person plural, "*this cup is for you.*" Matthew and Mark quote Jesus saying the Cup was "*poured out for many.*"

Most liturgies have combined these two, and say something like "*poured out for you and for many.*" The problem is that the trailblazers who prepared the *LBW* in the 1970s apparently decided that Jesus just wasn't being inclusive enough. That liturgy reads, "*poured out for you, and for all people.*"?!? (The Greek word translated "many" is πολλῶν. There is no legitimate way to translate it "all.")The cranberry book continues this ... um ... innovation.

Now maybe it is just me, but if we are going to tell people "*Jesus said*" something, I think we ought to tell them the words that Scripture says that **He actually said.**

It matters because the difference between "*many*" and "*all*" is the difference between biblical Christianity and the slippery slope toward a universalism that is contrary to the Gospel. ♦

### Editor's Note:

Tony would appreciate suggestions for words—  
send them to: [joyminion@gmail.com](mailto:joyminion@gmail.com).

*We wish you a  
blessed Easter!*

## Ladner Evangelical Lutheran Church Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

— Pastor Susan Fox



The faith community of Ladner Evangelical Lutheran Church, rural Buffalo, South Dakota, will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary June 22-23, 2013.

The first meeting to organize was June 20, 1913. Here is a synopsis of that meeting:

We, the undersigned met, June 20, 1913 at Ladner to organize a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. [17 men's names followed.] After hymn singing, scripture reading and prayer by Pastor O. Olson, the above named persons organized as a congregation. A motion was made and seconded that the congregation's name shall be Ladner Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, which carried. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Oluf Olson and singing by the group.

The Ladner church joined LCMC in 2010. As this congregation finalizes its plans for our two-day celebration, we are reminded that **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** We praise God for His steadfast love and faithfulness for the privilege of being a beacon on a hill.

For more information, contact Pastor Susan at:

[pastorsusanfox@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorsusanfox@yahoo.com) ♦



# A Word from Mark...

— Mark Vander Tuig,  
LCMC Service Coordinator

**M**y first call as a pastor was to an established congregation in Montevideo, Minnesota. It was 1980, and the American Lutheran Church (ALC) was encouraging the development of what was then called *home missions*—in other words, planting churches. I guess they decided that the congregations already around weren't going to grow the kingdom, and so it was all about *mission congregations*.

I remember feeling angry—it was as though they had given up on us and our only hope was to start new churches. It was an interesting process, because it was really about collecting Lutherans in towns where there was no Lutheran church. They said that there was no *Lutheran presence*.

I, too, am now hoping that we will *plant churches*. I have said it is my vision that we in LCMC will plant 1,000 congregations in the next ten years. However, I am not worried so much about a town without a *Lutheran presence*—I am hoping we will find a way to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard and to those who have given up on us.

We are living in a time where people are genuinely interested in a spiritual life, but not necessarily life in a church. We know that planting churches is one of the most effective ways to meet people who are not now connected to a local church or don't even know the Gospel—but it is not the only way to do so. If we are to accomplish this dream of mine, then we all will have to get on board, and we will all benefit.

The congregation I served for 20 years decided that since we were a church plant of the ALC, we wanted to do the same—plant a church. And so we launched our campaign. It didn't turn out the way we

imagined—as a matter of fact, it didn't really turn out at all.

But we learned so much. Almost every member of the congregation could recite Matthew 28:16-21 from memory. Even though our church plant didn't take off, we asked ourselves, “*What are we doing to fulfill the Great Commission?*” We started looking beyond the walls of our buildings to the lives of the people who surrounded us. We wondered how we might help others to hear, sometimes for the very first time, the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. We decided we needed to be a *mission church*, even though we had been around for many years. We learned that planting a church planted something deep in us—a passion for those who don't yet know Him.

We are part of an association who has at its very core the mission of Christ. That's why we named it Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. If we are able to plant congregations—especially where there is no clear witness to the Gospel of God—then each congregation of this association will have to be a part of it. Each will enjoy the fruit of it: passion, energy, joy and a genuine trust in the grace of almighty God.

As I left the parking lot of one of our congregations, I read a sign that said, “*You are now entering the mission field.*” On the letterhead of a different congregation, right under the name of the church were these words: “*A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ.*” And still another LCMC church had these words on a banner at the front of the church, “*We are in Mission for Christ.*” I believe we are catching the “vision”! ♦

# LCMC AND CALC AT BREAKFORTH 2013

— Pastor Ed Skutshek, CALC President

**W**hy would anyone travel to the City of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in January when temperatures can dip to -40 Fahrenheit? The answer: Breakforth Canada! It was truly a unique event. Demonstrating solidarity and partnership in mission above the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, representatives from LCMC and the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) participated in this year's Breakforth.

About 15,000 people—representing over 1,000 churches from all over Canada, the U.S. and the world—gathered in Edmonton on January 25-27. The goal: to equip and renew Christians. The conference featured internationally-known Christian speakers Francis Chan, Kay Arthur, John Ortberg, David Nasser and Tony Nolan.

The conference also featured world-class Christian recording artists who participated in worship twice each day. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights were capped by concerts. Performers included the Christian bands *Casting Crowns* and *Building 429*, Christian comedian Bob Cates, Kari Jobe, Brian Doerksen, Gary Park, Paul Baloche, Peter Fuhler, Phil Wickham and Amy Grant.

Breakforth offered 180 intensive workshops for participants. Topics ranged from Alpha, Bible study skills and children's ministry to prayer, spiritual renewal, stewardship and student ministry.

Breakforth was founded by award-winning contemporary Christian artist Arlen Salte and his wife Elsa. Arlen's background is Lutheran. His recordings include rock, pop, instrumental, worship, folk and children's music. He has sold over 250,000 albums, making him one of the top-selling Canadian Christian recording artists.

Edmonton's Shaw Center, which seats about 10,000, was Breakforth's primary venue. About 70% of the 10-story Center is built into the hillside above the North Saskatchewan River. The various levels

are connected by escalators, which are separated by cascading manmade waterfall features and lush tropical plants. Classes and events also took place in adjacent schools, hotels and church buildings.

Vendors filled a massive exhibit hall. LCMC's booth was hosted by Mark Vander Tuig, Sharon MacFadyen, and Martha Nelson. I was invited to join them at the booth and to provide information about CALC to those who came by. Breakforth's participants hail primarily from evangelical churches, including, Baptists, Pentecostals, Mennonites and many from the Reformed tradition. Much interest was shown in the LCMC/CALC booth by event attendees.

This was the first time LCMC or CALC participated in Breakforth. Participants from CALC and LCMC concluded that Breakforth is an important event, since both organizations have congregations in Western Canada. Sixteen of CALC's 21 congregations are in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. LCMC has four congregations in Alberta, two in Saskatchewan and one in British Columbia; two of these seven congregations are dually rostered as members of both CALC and LCMC.

The presence of leaders from LCMC and CALC at Breakforth may encourage our member congregations to network with one another. In the future, LCMC and CALC could intentionally plan events for members attending Breakforth. With interest in Martin Luther on the rise among evangelicals, Breakforth also may offer LCMC and CALC the opportunity to provide information to an audience that is eager to learn more about Luther and our Lutheran Confessions.

On behalf of all of the congregations of CALC, I want to thank LCMC's Board for permitting CALC to participate in Breakforth with you. It is my hope and prayer that we can brainstorm and find ways to use Breakforth as a venue for bringing Confessional Lutherans together and for sharing our faith. ♦



# GETTING TO KNOW. . .

## Morningside Lutheran Church

Sioux City, Iowa



***Our mission: "To bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, which results in changing lives and a commitment to follow his example."***

**M**orningside Lutheran Church (MLC), located in the Midwestern community of Sioux City, Iowa, was organized in 1918. In 1924, all services were conducted in English rather than Norwegian. In 1955, MLC purchased an area called Mayflower Hill. The congregation moved to its present location in 1957.

Through many changes over the past 95 years, Matthew 5:14-16 has remained a theme that MLC has taken to heart:

*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

— Matthew 5:14-16

In 2004, MLC voted to join LCMC, but to remain in the ELCA. A year later, the church voted to leave the ELCA.

Over the years, MLC has been known for many things:

- Great music
- A talented drama ministry
- Pastor Tom LoVan's multicultural ministry
- Vital children and student ministries

- Active women's and men's groups
- Meaningful Bible studies
- Outreach ministries
- Mission trips in the U.S. and abroad
- Summer praise and worship services at the river.

Pastor Darrin Vick became MLC's 14<sup>th</sup> senior pastor in July 2012. During Christmas, he introduced the theme of *Comfort and Joy*. Pastor Paul Andell directed *A Christmas Carol*. Carolers visited shut-ins and nursing homes. We adopted a needy elementary school. We baked cookies for them, read Christmas stories to the children, and gave the teachers and staff blessing bags. Some of our families spent Christmas day bowling with kids from the Boys and Girls Home.

Spreading comfort and joy is just one way that MLC seeks to fulfill its mission statement: *"To bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, which results in changing lives and a desire to follow His example."*

As we go forward in ministry, we pray that we continue to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. ♦

—Submitted by Kathy Yoder 7



*Congregational photo taken on Pentecost Sunday, 2012*

# WHAT ABOUT GUAM?

—Submitted by Rev. Jeff Johnson

*“For with God, nothing is impossible.” — Luke 1:37*

The Lutheran Church of Guam (LCG), the only Lutheran congregation within 3,000 miles, is looking for a pastor—an exceptional pastor for an exceptional call. Might this be a congregation for you?

Begun as a Lutheran Servicemen’s Center in the early ‘60s, the Lutheran Church of Guam became an independent Lutheran congregation in 1969. It was considered a mission affiliate of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the predecessor bodies to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), with each denomination taking turns to provide the pastor for a six-year term.



*Pastor Jeff and the children*

I had the pleasure of serving this unique, tropical, multi-cultural congregation for nine years—six years representing the ELCA, and then three more when both the congregation and I left the ELCA to join the LCMC. I left Guam last December for a Stateside call to be closer to our children and growing grandchildren, but a **big** part of my heart remains on Guam at LCG.

The Lutheran Church of Guam *is* a mission congregation, but it’s far from a hardship post. Guam is a U.S. Territory, so many signs of American life are evident: U.S. currency, U.S. postal service, pennies-per-minute telephoning, K-Mart, Macy’s, McDonald’s. In fact, because Guam is across the date-line (the island’s motto is **Where America’s Day Begins!**), Guamanians get to see all U.S. movies **8** the day *before* Statesiders see them.

The balmy tropical island is beautiful, and the church—situated right on the beach—provides an exceptional backdrop for worship. The large, four-bedroom parsonage with lovely lanai (deck) is located just above the church on the second story and offers the same gorgeous ocean view. Guam is a fantastic jumping-off point for many other exotic destinations: thousands of nearby Micronesian islands, Japan, China, Southeast Asia and Australia. We enjoyed visiting many of these exciting places during our years on Guam.

Guam is wonderfully diverse ethnically—and therein lies the mission challenge. The native people, 40% of the population, are called **Chamorro**. While culturally Catholic, they

are increasingly looking to a Christ-centered, Bible-believing church. They are a beautiful, generous and affable people. Filipinos constitute 25% of the population, while other Asians (Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Korean) make up the other 25%. The remaining 10% are **haoles** (Statesiders). You can imagine all the great restaurants on the island! During my

*The view from in front of the altar*



*Photos courtesy of David Lindee*

last Pentecost as the pastor of the Lutheran Church of Guam, I had my members recite John 3:16 in their native tongue: 16 different languages were spoken!

The Lutheran Church of Guam will continue to minister to its Stateside population, most of whom are military—the U.S. has a large Navy base and a large Air Force base on Guam. Its next pastor must continue to reach out to both the native population and to the many Asians who live and work on-island.

LCG is an amazingly educated, well-traveled and sophisticated congregation. In that respect, it more closely resembles an international congregation rather than a typical Stateside Lutheran congregation. LCG's motto is ***We're not just for Lutherans!***—and it means that: less than 20% of its membership comes from a Lutheran background. While LCG treasures its Lutheran heritage and theology, we celebrate the fact that we're a ***Christian*** congregation, seeking to reach the world—and much of the world has come to our island's shores!

Another amazing feature of life and ministry at LCG is its Tender Shepherd Pre-School. Considered by many to be the best pre-school on the island, this ministry to 50+ two, three and four-year olds is an excellent outreach opportunity. I loved the daily hugs I got from the

*Bird's eye view of the Lutheran Church of Guam during a bi-annual low tide, taken from a crane being used to construct the new Naval Hospital nearby*



*Preschoolers on the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school (hence the "100" hats)*



*Pastor Jeff preparing to baptize a member in the ocean right in front of the church*

children and the opportunity to visit with their parents who, quite literally, came from every continent. I would joke that Tender Shepherd was like a little United Nations. LCG also has a beautiful working relationship with the nearby Pacific Islands University, a small Christian college with a mostly Micronesian student body.

Many would-be missionaries may not be able to go to some developing country because of personal or family issues. Guam *is* a long way away from the U.S. mainland and there are plenty of cultural and religious challenges, but it is a delightful place to live. The congregation recently completed the first stage

of a building project, all with no debt! They are looking for a dynamic, evangelical, people-loving pastor who delights in diversity to take the congregation to the next level. Might that be you?

*For more information, contact LCG's congregational president, Jeff Moots, at:*

**tanker96950@yahoo.com**

*or call the church office at 671-477-8595.*

(Just remember Guam is 17 hours ***ahead*** of Mountain Standard Time.) While the website needs updating, checking it out will give you some idea of this amazing ministry:

**www.lutheranchurchofguam.org**

*Call me if you'd like to talk what pastoral ministry was like on Guam: 928-524-2718 (church) or 928-297-0617 (home). ♦*

# INTRODUCING LCMC'S FIRST COORDINATOR FOR NEW MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

—Submitted by Rev. Dan Clites

**Rev. Dan Clites** began his new LCMC position on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He has been the planter and lead pastor of Rejoice! in Northfield-Dundas, MN, for the last 10 years. Before that, he served Lutheran congregations in Clearwater, Brainerd and Cannon Falls, MN. Prior to his graduation from Luther Seminary in 1995, Dan worked 9 years as a television sports anchor/reporter in Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot, North Dakota. Dan and his wife, Joanne, have been married for 27 years. They have two adult daughters, a son-in-law and a grandson born this past Christmas Day.

When I was a kid, I dreamed of being an astronaut—a bold pioneer exploring outer space and the moon. At the time, it seemed like the coolest job ever with all its intrigue and danger. Trouble was, very few ever received the opportunity—and now the whole idea of space exploration is grounded.

Thanks, however, to LCMC's heart for bold ministry, we can *all* suit-up and blast-off again with a "God" dream!

As your new Coordinator for New Ministry Development, I've been blessed with what I now believe is the coolest job ever—to serve side-by-side with LCMC "astronauts" who are hearing Jesus' voice calling them to be pioneers exploring a space that seems ignored or grounded. Together, by the grace and wisdom of the Lord, we will plant and develop new ministries across the nation—ministries that are effectively focused on reaching the disappeared, the disconnected and the disappointed. This calling is filled with intrigue and danger...and I love it! It is so huge a mission that it will require all of us to radically depend upon the Lord's dream to ignite 1,000 new ministries over the next decade! But, as Romans 8 declares, "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*"



Rev. Dan Clites

**Why is starting new LCMC ministries important, even urgent?** Here are a few reasons:

- Eternal life or death are in the balance for those who don't follow Jesus;
- Practicing Christians get renewed in the Great Commission to Go and Make Disciples;
- It is the most effective way to reach new generations, new residents and new people groups with the true Gospel;
- It is the best way to grow quickly and have an immediate Christian impact in a community;
- It fosters new ideas and methods that can benefit other churches;
- It challenges and renews the whole Body of Christ to be one in a community;
- It triggers mission-mindedness rather than maintenance-mindedness; and
- It gives a mother church the excitement of giving birth to effective outreach.

Friends, I look forward to firing up our adventure by meeting many of you at our Leadership gatherings. Please register so we can connect and start developing friendships that blast-off a Great Commission movement. Over the next few months, I will also be developing and launching new ministry *boot camps*—opportunities for you to see if church planting is something you're wired for and called to do. My job is to help you get in-line with the Lord's mission, pray with you, coach/equip you, and love you like Jesus loves His Church!

Blessings.

Dan Clites

# Leadership Conference

## Navigating Mission in a World of Change

**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, April 14**

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

### **Monday, April 15**

- 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, April 16**

- 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

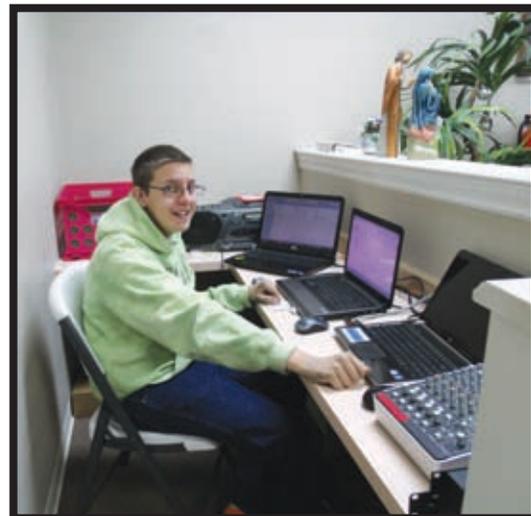
—Submitted by Rev. Paul Spaulding

# Youth in Ministry

— Submitted by Eileen Pressler

Jack Nix

Photo  
courtesy  
of Eileen  
Pressler



**J**ack Nix, a junior at Kingman High School, is a true blessing to the congregation of Living Word Lutheran Church in Kingman, Arizona. Working as a volunteer, Jack comes in early every Sunday morning to set up and operate the PowerPoint and sound system. Since the congregation utilizes YouTube and other music recordings at worship, Jack's service to Living Word is greatly valued and appreciated. Following his graduation from high school, Jack is planning to pursue a career in teaching and also be involved in youth ministry.

Folks at Living Word say, "We are so proud of this young man and his active involvement with our growing congregation!" ♦

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](mailto:joyminion@gmail.com)

# Launching a New Church Plant

— Eric Hulstrand

*Part three 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)*

**W**e are just over three months into our adventure of starting a new church, and have learned much.

## Getting the Word Out

For many years, the common wisdom has been to knock on as many doors as possible to get a nucleus for a new church. This strategy still has a powerful effect among rural and small-town areas. However, in larger metropolitan areas it is strongly discouraged due to the “creep” factor of coming to a stranger’s door unannounced. The emphasis now is on the triangle of outreach: Mass Mailing, The New “E” Word and Social Media. All three are needed.

## Mass Mailing

Our second mass mailing postcard will go to 10,000 homes. It is a demographically targeted mailing to households containing at least one person aged 22-55. As you go down the demographic ladder to younger generations, the percentage of people who regularly attend church gets very small—only 4% of 20-Somethings are in church regularly! Compare that with the +50% regular attendance from the World War 2 generation. Mass mailings are still effective in today’s electronic age. Although they lose some effectiveness in markets more saturated with mailings, oversized postcards still are the go-to method for reaching people.

## Social Media

A steep learning curve for us is the need for social media in getting the word out. Before we started ReaLife, I personally was not on Facebook. However, while visioning for this new church it became abundantly clear that I not only needed to get on Facebook, but also start a church Facebook page. We have also learned it’s important to write on the church’s Facebook page regularly, up to once a day. We’ve also begun advertising on Facebook on Friday and Saturdays. The jury is still out its effectiveness, **12** but judging by the statistics we get back from

Facebook we know it reaches many people. Our name is getting air play, but will it connect people with Christ’s church?

## The New “E” Word

“E”vangelism can be scary for people. We prefer to use the word “E”lbow. 80% of people who visit a church and get connected do so on the elbow of someone who invited them. This is an area we and our whole team need to grow in. We all need to continually get out of our comfort zones to invite those in our networks of relationships. We also hope to have more of a presence in the community through events and service so we can broaden those networks of relationships.

## High Schoolers Are Awesome!

One of the limitations of a brand-new church plant is the lack of across-the-board programming. The standard recommendation is to have only a nursery through fifth grade children’s program, at least for a season or more. This is very wise—there are limited resources to work with as you start a new church. This “weakness” is also a strength. There is such a need for everyone to help out that the phrase “All hands on deck!” is nowhere more true than in a church plant. Although we do not have a senior high youth group right now, all of our senior highers know that they are an integral and important part of our church. They run the lights and the screens in worship, man the nursery, usher, set up, tear down, etc. We need them!

In many ways it is like the old family farm. Both of my parents grew up on farms. Both were driving tractors and trucks before they were 10 years old. They were depended upon to make the farm operation work. So it is with the church plant as well. Compare this with the elongated adolescence of senior highers that is practiced in so many of our churches. They often are not given any real responsibility until

they're in college or beyond. Of course, by that time they are usually gone. Needless to say, we love our high school students and could not do what we do on Sunday morning without them!

## Numbers

We are currently in the 50s for our attendance on Sunday morning, which could be worse and could be better. We are very encouraged because we are developing a decent base of regular guests/attendees. We have some discouragement because there have been no new guests over the last two weeks, plus bad weather seems to hit quite often on Sunday mornings lately!

We also have some concern—we know we need to reach a critical mass of attendees to assure our long-term viability and momentum. Rick Warren said, *"If a new church doesn't reach 150 by about a year and a half, they probably never will."* I have to say, however, that this keeps us hungry. Too many churches get "comfortable" and quit pushing themselves to reach the lost. They become a Christian country club. Lord, may our church (and yours?) never be so comfortable that we forget about the disconnected and the never-connected! Keep us fresh!

And of course, as with every new church (and most existing churches too!), finances are a continual concern. This is one of the awkward pieces about planting a church in the LCMC. Because we have such a flat structure (which I support), church plants need to rely on networking for gaining support. At times, this is exhilarating and amazing to see the hand of God at work. At other times, it is awkward—I sometimes feel like "That Guy" at LCMC gatherings. You know, the guy who people know might very possibly be approaching them to ask if their church can support his new church.

Finally, I am excited to welcome Dan Clites to the New Ministry Development position in the LCMC. He will definitely help move LCMC forward in supporting and initiating new church plants.



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*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)*

## Three Days of Prayer, continued

*sure!"* said Pr. Sandy Miller of First Lutheran Church in Hope, MN. *"Praying out loud is not a comfortable thing for us yet,"* Pr. Miller said. *"This was a great first step to come together as a congregation to pray something other than the Lord's Prayer."*

Several of our international congregations took part in Three Days of Prayer as well, including members of Galilean Evangelical Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola, who, according to Pr. Thomas Stenzel, prayed and fasted beyond the three days.

While 2013 marks the first year the event was officially hosted by LCMC, the concept for Three Days of Prayer has been in the works for quite some time. *"I have believed for a long time that LCMC needs to become more and more a **People of Prayer**,"* said Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator of LCMC.

It was while attending the first-ever District Coordinators meeting in St. Charles, IL, that the idea for Three Days of Prayer began to take shape in his mind. *"One of the district coordinators said that every revival in the church was preceded by a time of intentional prayer. That got me thinking,"* Rev. Vander Tuig said. In his experience as a pastor, it was this act of coming together to pray out loud—in small groups, at meetings and at Bible studies—that truly began to change the heart of his congregation.

At a meeting in early 2012, the LCMC Board of Trustees agreed to call and encourage each of the congregations in LCMC to three days of prayer. This was the first event of its kind that has been hosted by the association, but certainly will not be the last.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next Three Days of Prayer event, which is set to take place January 7-9, 2014.

For more information on Three Days of Prayer, visit us online at [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net). ♦

# ORDINATIONS / INSTALLATIONS



Pastor Jim Reynen

## Rev. Jim Reynen

was ordained and installed as associate pastor at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Mission Viejo, CA on September 10, 2012.

Senior Pastor John Steward conducted the service, with Rev. Tom Brashears

(Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA) representing LCMC. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Reynen, Pastor Jim's father, also participated.

Jim joined Mount of Olives in 2000. He served as youth director, growing the youth programs from 35 students to over 300 middle school, high school and college students in 12 years. He now leads the Family & Children's Ministries, and will focus on family development programs. Jim and his wife, Jennifer, have two children: Grace and Noah. ♦

—Submitted by Kelli Crimins



l-r: Pastors Gene Sipprell, Tony Stoutenburg, Mark Granquist, Al Valerius, Jacob Kanoke, Steve Paulson, Wolfgang Laudert, Brian Crocker and Ben Hollingsead.

## Rev. Benjamin Hollingsead

was ordained and installed as associate pastor at Christus Lutheran Church, Clintonville, WI, on February 9, 2013.

Pastor Emeritus Al Valerius (St. John's Lutheran Church, Stacy, MN) led the service. Rev. Dr. Steve Paulson delivered the sermon. Pastor Tony Stoutenburg (Grace Lutheran Church, Hayward, WI) served as ordainer on behalf of LCMC. Christus is a member of LCMC's Augustana and WI-UP districts.

Ben is a graduate of Luther Seminary. As associate pastor at Christus, he will engage in all areas of ministry. Ben and his wife, Amber, have a newborn baby daughter, Addison. ♦

—Submitted by Tony Stoutenburg

## We are going to the Motor City!

Our Annual Gathering will be held in Dearborn, MI, October 6-9, 2013! The Adoba Hotel and Convention Center (<http://www.adobadearborn.com>) has more than enough rooms for all who want to attend!

The theme for this year's Gathering is: **The Grace of Giving** as we consider how we might fund the Great Commission in our generation. Our preacher for Sunday evening worship is Pr. Derek Johnson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Minnehaha Falls, MN.

Monday's Bible study leader is Pastor Sue Gunderson, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bailey's Harbor, WI. Monday's keynote presentation will be given by Pr. Kyle Idelman, author of the book, *Not a Fan*. Kyle is the teaching pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. He is also the author and presenter of the award-winning video and curriculum series, *H2O: A Journey of Faith and the Easter Experience*.

Tuesday's Bible study leader is Pastor John Lewis, Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha, NE. Tuesday's keynote presentation will be given by Chuck Bentley, CEO of Crown Financial Ministries ([www.Crown.org](http://www.Crown.org)).

The Bible study leader for Wednesday morning is Pr. David Gran, St. Luke's, Garfield, MN. Wednesday's keynote address will be given by Pr. Enrique Estrada, our first international partner and newly-elected member of the Board of Trustees. Enrique is a pastor in Monterrey, Mexico, and is the executive director of Mission Mexico International.

As usual, we will have over 40 breakout sessions, more than 75 vendors and great music. As a special treat, we have reserved the Henry Ford Museum ([www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)) for LCMC on Tuesday night, beginning with supper at the Museum—but you must register in advance for this special evening!

**Plan now to attend the Annual Gathering!**  
[www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

## Clicker News

— Pastor Tom LoVan,

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey every thing I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” — Matthew 28:18-20*

**W**e had some work done on the Prius this last week, and it took longer than expected (my fault, don't ask). My wife and I both had places to go, so I rented a car for the weekend. Since her car was shop-bound, I “borrowed” her garage door opener. I don't want to carry house keys, so I just use the garage door opener to get in and out. Sure, there's one of those number pads that run the garage door, too, but I can't ever remember the code. Anyway, to make a long story short, I left her clicker in the rental car.

Now, this wasn't a problem for me. When the Prius came home, I got my usual car back. I was not the family member standing on the front steps in the rain. No, I was still happily pulling my car into the nice dry garage. So, naturally, stopping by the car rental office to pick up my clicker wasn't a priority.

My wife would remind me in the morning to get the thing since I work just a few blocks from their office, but I'd forget. After a couple of days the requests stopped containing the word, “please.” Then they started to sound a little, well, angry.

What's the big deal? For all the years we lived in Leeds (suburb of Sioux City), we had a single garage, and my wife parked her car outside. Hey she wasn't forced to park outside; she just couldn't drive up to the house, push a button and pull in. I was busy. I'd get the stupid clicker when I had time.

Of course, you know what the big deal was. I was unconcerned because *I* was not the one who was

inconvenienced. Had I left *my* clicker in the rental car, I have to admit I would have gone and picked it up the very next day. And aren't we all like that some times?

Doesn't “I'm too busy” and “I don't have time” really mean “It's not a priority for me”? I hear it all the time. Sometimes, the people who haven't been to church in a while make a point of stopping me to say, “Gee, Pastor, sorry I haven't been in church. I've just been so busy.”

Yeah I get it. I try telling myself the same thing. I've got this mission trip coming up, so I'm just too busy to do anything else, especially stuff around the house. Not true. That trip is my priority and other things aren't.

So, think about what you mean when you say you're too busy to attend worship. You're really too busy for God? No, I don't think so; worship just hasn't been a priority lately. And if you think about that, you have to ask yourself if that's what you want.

The eternal, ever-loving God is waiting to offer forgiveness and redemption. The community of believers is meeting weekly to give encouragement and support to each of its members. Don't you want you want to be there?

Make sure you take time for worship this Sunday!

Pastor Tom LoVan,  
*Morningside Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa* ♦

BY THE WORD

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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

*Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Birmingham, Alabama*

**June 27-30 Youth Encounter IMPACT**

*St. Louis Union Station Marriott  
St. Louis, Missouri*

**October 6-9 Annual Gathering**

*Adoba Hotel  
Dearborn, Michigan*

