

MONTANA REFLECTIONS

Montana District-LCMS
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APRIL 2007



President Terry Forke, Montana District

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

On Palm Sunday I received a phone call from my mom. My grandmother is dying. Ninety-six years old, living in a nursing home, loss of sight, loss of hearing, loss of leg due to diabetes, congestive heart failure, have taken their toll. It is hard for my mother to watch all this. This chipping away, this inexorable loss, this descent into helplessness is crushing. For life to end in this apparent suffering is the last cruel blow of sin. It is also a strange premonition of our own future. What is left to her? What is left to any of us?

I am certain that many of you know the feeling. Either you have been witness to the losses of a loved one, or you are in the stage of life where one thing after another is being taken away from you. You cling to it and you grasp after it, but it is gone. We spend the first part of our lives acquiring things, abili-

ties, friends and family. We spend the last part of our lives watching them leave. Then comes death. This slide toward the absolute impotence of death can become overwhelming.

Has everything been taken away from Hattie Hohbein? Is she truly impotent, without hope? No, there is an odd steeliness about her that betrays a power left within. When told that her sister, (also nearing death), had said she didn't think God cared for her any longer, my grandmother said, "Oh no, you tell her that's not true." There you have it, the curtain pulled aside for just a brief moment of lucidity, to reveal the power of the resurrection at work with in her. All the trappings of life have been stripped from her. What evidence of God's care does she have? Resurrection, the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work within her.

The apostle Paul writes about this phenomenon in the third chapter of his letter to the Philippians.

"Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection..."

Loss is inevitable in a world of sin. It is the way of death. Paul recognizes this loss as a suffering. He doesn't try to minimize or spiritualize the suffering. Yet, strangely, the value of those

things lost was diminishing while a greater reality rose inside. His personal powers may have been limited but he was not impotent. The power of the resurrection was at work. The same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead lived in Paul.

By the time that you read these words you will have already celebrated the Day of the Resurrection. I want to remind you that Easter is not just a day to get up early and search for hidden eggs. It not just a day to end the Lenten fast by stuffing ourselves with the foods we have been missing. It is quite easy to overlook the power of the resurrection even on Easter. There are so many other things to think about. On a day of friends and family, of Easter lilies and baked hams, we may forget to connect the power of the resurrection to the Hattie Hohbeins of the world.

Jesus will not forget those who suffer loss. The day of resurrection is a day of raw power, God's power over sin and death put on display for the entire world. Jesus also suffered loss throughout His life. He was brought to the impotence of death by our sin. Yet, the power of the resurrection was at work within him. The losses of sin and death were brought to a screeching halt. He rose in victory. That victory is given to all who believe. This is what we celebrate during the season of Easter. The losses of the world are sure to come, but the power of the resurrection overcomes them all, for you, for me, and for my grandmother.

great way to equip volunteers with the training necessary to effectively lead a Sunday School class and to generate interest in this important ministry. Sunday school is an important part of many church ministries. We are always looking for new ways to re-energize our hard working staff and to encourage congregational support in our children's ministry.

Sunday School ministry is an exciting part of our church's outreach and a fun way for you to take part in spreading the Gospel. "See How They Learn"

is the theme of the training workshop. It will be a fast-paced, interactive event filled with tips and ideas for generating more excitement about our Sunday School ministry.

The workshop fee of \$20 includes an annual subscription to "Teachers Interaction" magazine

For more information call Patricia Stricker at (406) 652-1704 or e-mail mrsred39@juno.com or to register, log on to <http://sundayschool.cph.org/workshops>

prior to the beginning of the workshop, and a minimum enrollment is required in order for the workshop to be held. Housing and meals information is available by contacting Rev. Martin Kaarre at Kaarre@montanasky.net or (406) 862-0681.

To register or for more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis MO 63105; (314) 505-7123; ce@csl.edu

CALLS

Messiah Lutheran Church, Missoula MT has extended a call to Rev. Michael Warmbier of Cornelius, OR and he has declined.

Our Redeemer, Columbia Falls MT has extended a call to Rev. Matthew Nelson, Trinity, St. George UT and he has accepted.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Missoula MT has called a candidate from the seminary.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS 25TH ANNIVERSARY, ENNIS MT APRIL 29, 2007 2:00 P.M.

Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Psalm 115:1 & Matthew 5:16)

In gratitude of all our blessings, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Ennis Montana extends an open invitation to share in the service of joy and celebration as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. The

service will be Sunday April 29, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Guest preacher will be Reverend Terry Forke, Montana District President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Rev. Forke served Shepherd of the Hills as their first pastor from 1983 thru 1993.

The church is located at Madison and Armitage, one block east of the Post Office off MT Hwy 287. Refreshments will be served following the service. Please join us for this festive service

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIFE RETREATS AT TWO REGIONAL MONTANA PENITENTIARIES

Under the auspices of the MT District Division of Human Care, "Christ Crucified" spiritual life retreats have been scheduled at two of Montana's regional prisons. Both retreats, scheduled for Shelby and Billings, are in need of committed LCMS lay men and women to serve as retreat team members and ambassadors of Christ.

The first of the Friday night-Saturday retreats is scheduled April 27-28 at the 570-bed Crossroads Prison in Shelby. Crossroads is actually a private prison, operated under contract with the state of Montana by the Corrections Corporation of America, which builds and operates prison facilities throughout the United States. The second retreat is scheduled for the Montana State Women's Penitentiary, a 198-bed facility in Billings, May 11-12.

Both retreats will focus on 3 main items: First, using a rhythm-based memory method, inmates will learn Scripture passages. Those memory passages will be tied to two primary catechetical lessons in the Christian faith, "Christ Crucified" and "Sin and Righteousness." Each day's opening and closing devotions will be conducted by LCMS clergy. The primary instructor will be led by Pastor Jay Reinke (Concordia,

Williston, and Trinity, Plentywood), who has previously participated in prison retreats in North and South Dakota.

Other Montana Prison retreats are under consideration at two other regional penitentiary facilities (Great Falls and Glendive), and informal discussions have taken place for future retreats at the Montana youth correctional facilities in Miles City (boys) and Boulder (girls).

As many as 10-15 men and women are needed on the retreat team for both scheduled retreats. Team volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Cost of participation (motel, travel) will be the responsibility of each individual participant. For admission to the prison facilities, volunteers will also have to submit to a simple background check, conducted by each respective facility.

For more information or to register, please contact Pastor Jay Reinke at Concordia, Williston, at 1-800-With Him (1-800-948-4446) or 701-570-3536 (cell), or contact any member of the Prison Retreat Committee: Pastor Kent Stenzel (Trinity, Great Falls, 452-2121), Pastor Mark Schultz (St. Paul, Havre, 265-2115), Pastor George Wollenburg (Billings, 252-4232), or Mr. Dave Streufert (Deer Lodge, 846-2255).

MONTANA DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

The Montana District Parish Education Committee is partnering with Concordia Publishing House to promote and enhance our Sunday School ministry in Montana with two workshops.

April 28 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings

May 12 - First Lutheran Church, Helena

These workshops are a

CONCORDIA SEMINARY TO OFFER SUMMER WORKSHOP AT WHITEFISH MONTANA

A workshop for pastors, professional church workers and interested lay persons will be held July 9-11 at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Whitefish MT. "Two Kinds of Righteousness: A better Paradigm than Law and Gospel" will be offered by Dr. Joel Biermann, assistant profes-

sor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary.

This workshop will explore the liabilities of overextending the application of the Law-Gospel dynamic and allowing it to become a polarity, which inevitably swallows any ability to speak positively about the Law. The ultimate damage done to parishes and individual Christians as they succumb to antinomianism and/or legalism will be explored and discussed.

The cost for the workshop is \$115. Payment is due 21 days

SUBSCRIPTIONS FEES FOR REFLECTIONS ARE DUE

ANCHORED TO THE ROCK - GEARED TO THE TIMES

Written by Michelle Connor who serves as the Coordinator of The Center for U.S. Missions in Irvine, California and submitted by your Montana District Evangelism Committee

The catchy phrase that titles this article came from a recent evangelism conference, and was used by Youth for Christ when Billy Graham was working with them. It's a reminder that in evangelism, the content of the Gospel will never change. Yet our methods will change as the culture changes.

This challenge to connect an unchanging message with an ever-changing culture is daunting. Making it personal, how do I reach my non-believing friends and relatives, people who are immersed in today's culture? The conference helped me clarify some basics.

We first need to recognize what is actually going on around

us in today's culture. It's painfully obvious we've moved to a post-Christian era in which the church is no longer a key player in the culture and, in fact, is mostly ignored and often mocked. This reality makes it even more important that we remain faithful to God and find new methods of reaching the lost with the Gospel!

To reach the lost, we must meet them on their terms. Think of it as fishing. When you go fishing you do not wait for the fish to come to you. No! You go where the fish are. Better yet, think of how Jesus did it in his ministry. He was always meeting people where they were, hanging out with tax-collectors and prostitutes. He did not make them come to him at the synagogue.

To meet people on their terms, we need to know what non-believing people want. One desire is dialogue. They do not want to be preached at. They desire a safe place where they can be heard and respected and can ask questions of faith that

matter to them. They want us to be authentic and our actions to match what we say.

One of the greatest needs of non-believers is community. How great would it be if the church could be their answer for community! Perhaps it would be more likely to happen if we welcomed them and provided a place where they could dialogue about their questions of faith.

As both prayer and challenge, if you have a heart for the lost, may you ignite that same passion in your local church and work strategically to reach the people that God also loves! "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10

Some Questions for Reflection

- o Where does your church meet non-believers?
- o What entry points exist for non-believers in your church?
- o How does your church intentionally connect to non-believers who are touched by one or more of your ministries?

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK- PEW EDITION WINS THE FIBERMARK SPECIFIER AWARD

ST. LOUIS, MO-Concordia Publishing House's Lutheran Service Book-Pew Edition is honored to win the prestigious, 2007 FiberMark Specifier Award. This award recognizes excellence in finished products. Entries are judged on overall appearance, decoration and printing quality, design and use of color, construction quality, and the relationship of the material to the product.

Concordia Publishing House won the award in the religious publishing category, com-

peting with publishing companies from around the world. Representatives from FiberMark said the Lutheran Service Book design is "subtle, yet beautiful," and the "stamping and debossing took extremely well to the material."

Lutheran Service Book builds on the riches of the liturgical and hymnic heritage that Lutherans have received from past generations. To honor that tradition, Lutheran Service Book not only preserves significant portions of the Lutheran heritage but also makes its own

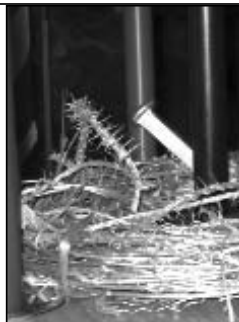
contribution for the 21st century. Lutheran Service Book introduces a significant body of new resources that faithfully celebrate Christ and His Gospel of forgiveness and life.

FiberMark's specialty fiber-based materials support industries and consumers worldwide. They provide value-added solutions to customers' needs with advances in fiber technology. The primary markets they serve include office products, publishing, luxury packaging, technical/industrial, graphic design, and more.

LENTEN WREATH DISPLAYED AT FIRST LUTHERAN BOZEMAN

During the holy season of Lent, First Lutheran Church, Bozeman, has a beautiful Lenten wreath displayed as part of their worship and devotional services. The Lenten wreath, woven from thorny branches and golden in color, includes three large nails symbolizing the weapons of torture used on our Savior: the crown of thorns placed on our Blessed Savior's head and the nails used to affix

Him to the cross. Six purple candles represent the Sundays in Lent and, in opposite order from that of the Advent wreath, one candle is extinguished each Sunday in Lent. This represents the rejection of Christ by His government, His church, and His own people, including His own disciples, and the rejection by His Father, God Himself, the punishment of which we deserved to suffer due to our sins. The black candle in the center is lit during the Good Friday service, for the Light of the World was never fully extinguished. This light remains until the eternal light of Christ's Resurrection is brought in on



Easter morning, announcing His defeat of sin, death, hell, and Satan. This little known and long forgotten tradition was brought to Bozeman by Rev. J. C. Menagh, who remembers this from his childhood in Detroit. Pastor Menagh has made this a tradition in each of the churches in which he has served since his ordination, and is now pleased to share this with the congregation in Bozeman where he is a member. The oak stand which holds the wreath and oil candles was made by member Bruce Breittling. For a complete description of this beautiful tradition, please contact First Lutheran Church (406) 586-5374 or Pastor Menagh (406) 222-9551.



KEEP A PRAISE JOURNAL

Submitted by BJ Mayer, Montana District Evangelism Committee

Every evening before you go to sleep, write in a small notebook an item that praises God for something of that day. Try to do this faithfully every evening. There may be a day when it will be hard to think of something to write. Little things like the sun was shining or I had a dish of ice cream that was so delicious will suffice.

When you are down or depressed, all you need to do is read your praise journal and it will lift you up. The praise item

may be very insignificant, but it would be meaningful to you. For example:

- 1) A stranger held a door open for me today. Chivalry is not dead!
- 2) I weeded my vegetable garden today. Halfway through, I wanted to quit, but thank you, God, for giving me the energy to finish.
- 3) Thank you for my two oil lamps which I used this evening when the electricity went out. It was fun checking papers by the light submitted.

You should try this for a while, and you will be surprised how it helps you to go to sleep without a disturbing thought in your mind. It really works!

"BROUGHT BY JESUS TO THIS PLACE"



Back Row: Cecil & Eva Neckels, Debra Nelson, David Nelson, Vickie & Dave Violette. Front Row: Laura and Sierra Jette. The Neckels and Violettes are the baptismal sponsors for Deb and her family.

On February 25th St. John at Deer Lodge celebrated two firsts: It was the first Sunday in a new Lenten season and it was the first time an entire family was received into Christ's kingdom of grace through Holy Baptism: Debra Nelson, her son David Nelson and twin daughters Laura & Sierra Jette.

Our sermon focused on the appointed Old Testament reading of Deuteronomy 26: 5-10, "Brought by Jesus to This Place." Members of the St.

John congregation had four visual aids to more deeply understand the holiness of our Suffering Servant. The One who is holy, holy, holy has set us apart to be holy. Our own sins and human frailty set us apart from Him. Yet our Triune God wishes to be with us, close to us. To that end He "Brought Us to This Place." Our physical location is no quirk of fate or chance happening.

To our Risen Lord Jesus be all glory, laud and honor -- now and forever.

A HOLY LAND & SINAI TRIP PLANNED

Submitted by Rev. Darold Reiner

A wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth is planned for this fall (October 3 - 14, 2007). It is a once-in-a-life-time opportunity to visit the land where Jesus walked and lived.

My wife, Janelle, and I took a large group to Israel in November of 2006 and we came back energized to take another group that could experience the spiritual blessings of being in the land where Jesus walked and most importantly died for all. Everyone in the group came back excited and amazed at how much they learned and saw with their own eyes. This is a faith-lifting experience. A Holy Land Tour experience is meant to keep and share.

The unique part of this trip

will be that we will go into Egypt for two days and see and climb Mt Sinai. In all the trips we have made, we have never been there and have always wanted to include that into the itinerary, but weren't able until this time.

The best part of this trip will be seeing both where Moses led the Israelites in the Sinai desert (present day Egypt) as well as the many places where Jesus, our Lord walked in the land God gave the Israelites such as the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, the Dead Sea, and two full days in Jerusalem. Each evening we will gather together for a Bible study where we will discuss what we saw that day as well as prepare ourselves for what we will see on the morrow. So this is more than a sightseeing tour, it is a Bible study & teaching tour.

For a brochure that provides details of the Holy Land Tour with prices and exact itinerary - call (406-752-1205) or email reiner@centurytel.net

THE LUTHERAN HYMNALS AVAILABLE

The district office has 12-15 red hymnals available for anyone who wants them.

250 MISSIONARIES NEEDED -- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

By Paula Schlueter Ross, LCMS News

LCMS World Mission staff says they can place more than 250 people as missionaries right now -- all they need are the people.

"People who have a love for people, people who love adventure, who have a love for other cultures and a willingness to be uncomfortable, an openness to change, and a heart for the lost, a heart for the Lord" are ideal candidates for missionary service, according to Erin Alter, placement counselor with the Synod's mission board.

Length of service is negotiable -- anywhere from a week to a year or more -- and no overseas experience or special training is required for most positions, says Alter. Just a willingness to serve, she says. The Holy Spirit will do the rest.

That sentiment is echoed by Allison Zehnder, 24, who took part in a 10-day mission trip last November with a trio of college students and a handful of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, students and their wives. The group helped teach English to teenagers at a Lutheran high school in Hong Kong and their experiences were memorable for all involved, according to Zehnder, who works full time at the Synod's International Center in St. Louis and is married to seminarian Zach Zehnder.

"Everyone was really into it, and everyone brought a different gift," she said. "It doesn't matter if you've been on 100 mission trips or you've been on one."

Zehnder, who was born and raised in Africa by missionary parents, said that "didn't make me any more qualified to teach in Hong Kong" than those who had never been overseas before. "As long as you have a heart for sharing God's Word that is the most important thing -- that's all you need to be qualified to go."

Zehnder said that a fellow seminarian wife -- a 50-year-old mother of four children -- had voiced many doubts about serving overseas, even as she was flying to Hong Kong.

"Coming back [home], she was the first person to say she would go back again," Zehnder added, because the experience drives home the need for world evangelism and is often "life-changing" for those involved.

Highlights of Zehnder's service, she said, included visiting the teenagers' homes and meeting their parents and grandparents, and spending time with students on excursions

such as shopping and sightseeing.

The teens were encouraged to pick their own English "names" -- which included unusual ones like "Pizza," "Porsche," and "Paper" -- and Zehnder said she and other members of her mission group still correspond with the students via e-mail and "instant messaging."

Going with a group, she added, "is a great way to serve."

No one would agree more with that statement than Bruce Wall, who manages LCMS World Mission's team-ministry program for short-term missionaries, or those who serve less than six months.

Wall says he has more than 200 short-term positions available right now for individuals or groups of 10 to 20 people, but the focus, he says, is on team ministry.

Mission teams can come from congregations, schools, organizations, youth groups -- even families. "Any good Lutheran group that has a heart to serve, we want to connect them [to opportunities]," he said.

Most short-term assignments are in Asia and involve working with nationals who are trying to learn English, although other positions are available, such as serving on a medical van in Kyrgyzstan.

Virtually all of the positions are "mission driven," Wall says, meaning they have been requested by missionaries or partner-church staffs who are based on overseas mission fields.

"It's a real need, not a perceived need," Wall says, and the short-term teams are "key" to "uplifting and growing our ministries overseas" as well as building "excitement about mission in our church body."

So "in demand" are LCMS mission teams that Wall says he wouldn't be surprised if the number of service opportunities "doubles or triples" by this time next year.

"The need is so huge that our congregations -- even for 10 days or two weeks -- can make a huge difference across the globe," said Wall, "especially in Asia, where the majority of the people in the world live."

"Huge differences" also are seen in those who serve overseas, according to Wall.

Afterwards, "they're more active in the congregation, they have a heart for mission," he said. "It's a win-win -- it's a really big win for the mission field, and it's also a really big win for those who go and serve because they come back excited about the mission ... and willing to do more at home."

Teams are responsible for their own travel and living expenses -- which typically run about \$2,000 per person for a

week or two -- and LCMS World Mission staff provide fundraising tips.

"We have a fundraising guide that we've produced that helps you raise money and prayer support before you go," said Wall. "We walk you through it."

Groups considering serving as mission teams are advised to contact World Mission to begin the planning process at least six months before they want to go. Although summer and other school breaks are popular times to serve, opportunities are available year-round.

Erin Alter, who places long-term missionaries for LCMS World Mission -- typically for a year or longer -- says more than a third of the 80 positions she would like to fill this year have already been taken by current missionaries who have decided to "extend" their service.

Of the 30 missionaries who are "re-upping" in a total of 11 countries, eight are doing so for the first time and the other 22 already have served two or more terms. Last year, 30 missionaries also extended their service, according to Alter.

"I'm still amazed that there are all these people who keep going," she said, adding that the trend is definitely a good thing.

"People who extend are able to continue building on the work that has already been done," Alter said. "The relationships and opportunities for ministry that they have developed can be deepened and expanded when they are able to stay for another year."

Among this year's requests for long-term missionaries, Alter is working to place four deaconess interns, and she expects to place three or four more professional church-work interns during the year.

Last year LCMS World Mission began paying tuition for those who serve two-year internships on the mission field, she said, "because we really feel that missionary experience is something that is very valuable to our church leaders."

If you are interested in serving as a missionary -- for a week or longer -- pray about it and talk about it, advises Alter.

"God has set everything in place. He's created these situations where there's a desire for ministry -- the people [in foreign lands] that we're working with are open to it," she said.

"He's put everything in place so that all we really need are the voices -- the people who can go there and actually share their faith."

To see all of the missionary opportunities now available, visit the Web site www.lcmsworldmission.org (click on "Service Opportunities").

To talk with a placement counselor, call (800) 433-3954

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2007

Month	Dates	Event	
April	20-24	COP Placement Service in Ft. Wayne	
	21	LWML Central Zone Rally, Havre	
	21	LWML Eastern Zone Rally, Colstrip	
	21	LWML Southern Zone Rally, Hardin	
	25	COP Placement Service in St. Louis MO	
	27-28	Spiritual Life Retreat, Shelby	
	28	Sunday School Conference, Trinity, Blgs	
May	30	Divide Circuit Winkel, Deer Lodge	
	4	BOD Meeting 8 am-5 pm, Great Falls	
	4-5	District Planning Meeting, Great Falls Committee chairmen & members meet w/the BOD 7pm Friday to noon on Sat.	
	11-12	Spiritual Life Retreat, Billings	
	12	Sunday School Conference, First, Helena	
	12	LWML Flathead Zone Rally, Libby	
	12	LWML Western Zone Rally, Hamilton	
	14	Southern Circuit Winkel, CTK, Billings	
	26	Divide Circuit Winkel, Picnic	
	27-29	Synodical Convention Floor Committees meet in St. Louis	
June	28	Memorial Day	
	4	Divide Circuit Winkel, Three Forks	
	17-22	High School Camp, Red Lodge MT	
	22-26	Jr. High School Camp, Red Lodge MT	
	26-30	5th & 6th Grade Camp, Red Lodge MT	
	21-24	Nat'l LWML Convention, Sioux Falls SD	
	24-29	7th & 8th Grade Camp - Trinity Camp, Bigfork	
	July	1-6	Girls Volley Ball Camp, Big Fork
		4	Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
		8-13	High School Camp, Big Fork
9-11		Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Workshop, Whitefish MT	
14-19		Synodical Convention, Houston TX	
15-20		Basketball Camp, Bigfork	
23-27		5th & 6th Grade Camp, Bigfork	
26-29		In't'l LLL Convention, Duluth MN	
29-8/1	Nat'l Youth Gathering, Orlando FL		
30-8/3	Pastors Continuing Education, Bigfork		
August	6-12	Deaf Retreat at Bigfork	
	20	BOD Meeting 8am-5pm Dist. Office, Billings	
September	3	Labor Day	
	14-15	COP Leadership Training Review	
	15-18	COP Meeting, St. Louis	

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Students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Christian Outreach (MACO) are in a cohort program completed over three years, attending a yearly two-week residency on campus with additional application-oriented practicums and online coursework during the academic year.

There are still openings for this year start. The program will begin on June 2 and the application deadline will be extended to make room for those, who might be interested.

For more information please contact:
MACO Office Phone: 651-641-8224
Email: maco@csp.edu
Visit our website: www.csp.edu/maco

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In our increasingly complex financial world, knowing where to invest your money is not an easy choice. There are brokerage firms, insurance companies, and banks--to name a few.

And there is also LCEF.

The dollars you invest at LCEF serve a higher purpose. While your funds earn a competitive interest rate for you, they also provide LCMS churches and schools the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with others. Your LCEF investments support the Great Commission by providing low-cost loans to LCMS churches and schools, giving new mission starts an opportunity to expand God's Kingdom, and helping rostered church workers with residential and consolidation loans.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
PO Box 229009 • St. Louis, MO 63122-9009
1-800-843-5233 • www.lcef.org



E A S T E R
"Christians, who stand under the cross on Good Friday and rejoice at the empty tomb on Easter

Sunday, should know better than to question whether or not God can work in and through suffering. The darkest suffering of all time--Jesus, suffering for humanity's sins on the cross--brought about the brightest good of all time--humanity,

redeemed from sin and eternal life to all who believe. To deny the power of God to bring meaning and purpose to **any** life is to deny the power of the cross and the empty tomb." Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, Executive Director, Lutherans for Life

MONTANA DISTRICT WORLD MISSION OFFERINGS

**FEBRUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007
SECOND MONTH OF MONTANA DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR**

MONTANA DISTRICT WORLD MISSION OFFERINGS							FEBRUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007 SECOND MONTH OF MONTANA DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR								
Comm Memb	Intention	%	Remitted This Month	Remitted Year to Date	Other Offerings	Total Remitted to Date	Per Comm Member to Date	Comm Memb	Intention	%	Remitted This Month	Remitted Year to Date	Other Offerings	Total Remitted to Date	Per Comm Member to Date
EASTERN							DIVIDE								
Colstrip	145	3,774	237.72	493.44		493.44	3.40	Anaconda	17	450		450.00	750.00	1,200.00	70.59
Fairview	62	2,000		0.00		0.00	0.00	Belgrade	109	3,000		0.00	370.19	370.19	3.40
Fallon	66	1,000		30.00		30.00	0.45	Boulder	43	0	10.0%	0.00			0.00
Forsyth	209	6,000		0.00		0.00	0.00	Bozeman	382	26,000		2,171.00	4,288.00	4,288.00	11.23
Glasgow	27	1,200	103.20	180.30		180.30	6.68	Butte	145	2,600			650.00	67.50	717.50
Glendive	847	27,000	2,237.00	4,294.00		4,294.00	5.07	Deer Lodge	101	4,800		1,200.00	1,200.00		1,200.00
Hysham	57			0.00		0.00	0.00	Ennis	48	3,000			0.00		0.00
Miles City	338	4,500	375.00	750.00	5.00	755.00	2.23	Helena	607	30,000		2,517.85	5,045.73		5,045.73
Plentywood	62	3,000	250.00	500.00		500.00	8.06	Three Forks	96	1,225	8.0%		370.19		370.19
Rock Springs	16	331		0.00		0.00	0.00	Whitehall	72	2,500	10.0%		625.00		625.00
Sidney	293	5,500	500.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	3.41	Totals	1,620	73,575		5,888.85	12,628.92	1,187.69	13,816.61
Wolf Point	81	2,000		400.00		400.00	4.94								8.53
Totals	2,203	56,305	3,702.92	7,647.74	5.00	7,652.74	3.47	WESTERN							
SOUTHERN							FLATHEAD								
Belfry	56	1,800		450.00		450.00	8.04	Columbia Falls	186	10,500	10.0%	812.00	1,524.00		1,524.00
Bigs/CTK	140	1,500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Creston	84	10,000		2,500.00	2,500.00		2,500.00
Bigs/Hope	155	3,600	880.00	880.00	41.26	921.26	5.94	Eureka	155	3,500		291.67	291.67		291.67
Bigs/Mt. Olive	524	31,000	2,869.83	5,545.93		5,545.93	10.58	Kalispell	1,197	38,000		6,666.66	6,666.66	5.00	6,671.66
Bigs/Our Savior	255	6,000	1,000.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	5.88	Libby	137	4,100			0.00		0.00
Bigs/Trinity	729	58,000	4,014.21	4,014.21		4,014.21	5.51	Polson	98	6,600	10.0%	1,628.00	1,628.00		1,628.00
Bridger	59	3,600		0.00		0.00	0.00	Ronan	89	7,500	11.0%	557.33	2,281.88		2,281.88
Crow	22	1,000	97.04	185.87		185.87	8.45	St. Ignatius	53	1,500	5.0%	250.00	250.00		250.00
Hardin	120	600		150.00		150.00	1.25	Whitefish	107	9,236	10.0%	1,623.00	1,623.00		1,623.00
Harlowton	33	1,000		0.00		0.00	0.00	Totals	2,106	90,936		14,328.66	16,765.21	5.00	16,770.21
Lame Deer	37	0		0.00		0.00	0.00	SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT							
Laurel	411	19,000	1,795.02	3,584.70	170.00	3,754.70	9.14	Eastern	2,203	56,305		3,702.92	7,647.74	5.00	7,652.74
Park City	173	500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Southern	2,764	129,300		10,656.10	16,310.71	211.26	16,521.97
Roundup	12	200		0.00		0.00	0.00	Central	1,390	36,870		3,242.42	8,138.70	3,055.67	11,194.37
Worden	38	1,500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Divide	1,620	73,575		5,888.85	12,628.92	1,187.69	13,816.61
Totals	2,764	129,300	10,656.10	16,310.71	211.26	16,521.97	5.90	Western	1,443	107,421		12,354.83	18,951.87	1,958.71	20,910.58
CENTRAL							FLATHEAD								
Chinook	75	500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Polson	98	6,600	10.0%	1,628.00	1,628.00		1,628.00
Denton	40	750	20.00	435.00		435.00	10.88	Ronan	89	7,500	11.0%	557.33	2,281.88		2,281.88
Fairfield	36	840	70.00	140.00		140.00	3.89	St. Ignatius	53	1,500	5.0%	250.00	250.00		250.00
Fort Benton	29	0		0.00		0.00	0.00	Whitefish	107	9,236	10.0%	1,623.00	1,623.00		1,623.00
GF/Deaf	41	0	300.00	300.00		300.00	7.32	Totals	11,526	494,407		50,173.78	80,443.15	6,423.33	86,666.48
GF/Peace	286	12,000	1,010.00	3,270.00	2,920.67	6,190.67	21.65	Year to Date Average Giving per Communicant Member for our District \$6.98							
GF/Trinity	436	8,000	666.67	2,000.01		2,000.01	4.59	Rec'd thru 2nd mo. 2007 \$80,443.15 2/12 of 2007 budget \$85,000 Deficit \$4,557							
Havre	200	8,600	675.75	1,311.00		1,311.00	6.56	Rec'd thru 2nd mo. 2006 \$76,403.50 2/12 of 2006 budget \$83,333 Surplus \$ 6,930							
Lewistown	86	3,100		182.69		182.69	2.12	When the comparative figures show an excess in giving, it simply means more has been given then we were told you had budgeted for; likewise when it shows a deficit it means less has been given then you had told us you had budgeted for. This does not mean we have income in excess of expenses for the district.							
Power	97	2,000	500.00	500.00	135.00	635.00	6.55								
Stanford	64	1,080		0.00		0.00	0.00								
Totals	1,390	36,870	3,242.42	8,138.70	3,055.67	11,194.37	8.05								

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GERMAN & NORWEGIAN EFFORTS?

Rev. Eugene W. Juergensen, Montana District Archivist

Quotes are from THE BEGINNINGS OF MONTANA LUTHERANISM (1881-1900) by Rev. Oswald F. Wagner. The article appeared in CHIQ Vol.52, No.3, Fall 1979 issue.

1886 - During March 1886 Rev. Pfothenhauer made a second trip to Helena for a month long ministry, while the German Lutherans were attempting to secure a resident pastor. Pfothenhauer stayed a month and returned to his home in Minnesota. To defray one fifth of the expenses a widow contributed a \$20 gold piece. "This is illustrative of the general lack of support for the German Lutheran mission on the part of the more than 250 persons who attended services conducted by

Pfothenhauer in the various cities during the month. Nevertheless, he persisted in the dream of establishing the German Lutheran church in the state and worked to intensify the efforts of the church in Minnesota to secure a resident pastor for Montana. In his printed report of his visits, he also shared his hope that the Lutheran Church in Montana would immediately begin doing mission work among the many Chinese that he saw in the state." [Der Lutheraner, 1887, p.56] Rev. Wagner says in a footnote: "I found no mention, in the limited materials that I used, of any similar concern for the native Indians in the state. Although the idea of 'manifest destiny' was foreign to Lutheran theology, it seems to have infected the thinking of immigrant Lutherans in connection with their coming to America, and Indian rights were not a part of Montana Lutheranism's concern. Several Lutheran Synods have attempted Mission work among the Indians in later years.

In September - both the German and Norwegian

Lutheran organized congregations and were able to secure their first Lutheran resident pastor. Records do not indicate which one arrived first. The Norwegian pastor was Rev. Ananias V. Paulson from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Beloit, Wisconsin. Rev. John H.W. Meyer began conducting regular German services in Helena at Engelhorn Business College. Pastor Meyer was a German immigrant and a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. A Sunday school was organized and there were 70-100 regular worshippers at services in Helena. He followed up on Pfothenhauer's work outside of Helena. Meyer was serving 16 preaching places (Butte, Deer Lodge and Great Falls, southward to Sheridan, Dillon and Virginia City, Bozeman to Miles City) and mining camps near Helena.

September 1886 - "both the German and Norwegian Lutheran efforts to secure resident pastors came to fruition. We cannot tell which group had the distinction of placing the first Lutheran pastor in residence,

since neither Montana church records nor denominational archives have record of the precise dates of their arrival. Pastor Ananias V. Paulson, who emigrated from Norway in 1870, had just graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Beloit, Wisconsin, when he came to serve the Melville Lutheran congregation, remaining for a little over a year until he moved on to Port Townsend, Washington. A log cabin school house served as the congregation's place of meeting. The congregation was listed as a member of 'The Norwegian Augustana Lutheran Synod' and within the decade was to become the hub of that synod's congregation - organizing efforts from Forsyth to Missoula. Paulson might have initiated some of these efforts, but four years were to elapse before a pastoral worker again became resident in the Sweet Grass Lutheran community." **Next time: Barriers to Germans and Norwegians Working Together.**

Editor's Notes

Let us know what's happening at your church and share what our God has done in your community. E-mail us w/photos attached for the best photo quality. Or you can mail original photos in color or black & white (photos will be returned). Send your news articles (even from your church newsletter) to the address below. If you are using an IBM or compatible computer, please save articles on a 3.5" or 5 1/4 diskette, (don't forget a hard copy) and send to:

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Revised Handbook By-Law 1.5.7:

"All agencies shall make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for executive session." A condensed version of the Montana District Board of Directors' meeting minutes are published in Reflections, our monthly newspaper. However, if you wish, you may request a copy of our approved minutes by calling the district office or requesting them in writing for a fee of \$2.00.

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ANUFO CHRISTIANS DEDICATE NEW TESTAMENT

God's Word from the New Testament became available to the Anufo people of Northern Ghana, Benin and Togo in their own language. About 137,000 people now have access to the Scriptures in their heart language.

Mary and Tom Holman, Lutheran Bible Translator (LBT) missionaries working under the auspices of the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible

Translation (GILLBT), Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT), and LBT have devoted 25 years of their lives to the translation and related literacy activities.

Thronges of people celebrated at the dedication ceremony, dancing, singing Christian songs with traditional melodies, listening to speeches and hearing the Scriptures read in Anufo.

While they were working with nationals on translating the Bible, the Holmans were also instrumental in spearheading efforts to teach thousands of Anufo speakers how

to read and write their language. They used the newly developed writing system to make language primers which help native speakers sound out and spell their language. They conducted language workshops, teaching Anufo speakers how to read and write their language and training them how to teach others to do it.

Since 1964, missionaries supported by Lutheran Bible Translators have translated the New Testament into 25 languages that previously had no written form of God's Word. As a result, Scriptures

are now available to 7,000,000 people who otherwise would not have access to the Good News of Salvation in the language of their hearts. There are 6,900 languages in the world. The 400,000,000 people who speak more than 4,500 of those languages still do not have access to the New Testament in their heart language.

Ghana is a West African country about the size of Oregon, with a population of more than 20 million. Subsistence farming is the primary occupation in the semi arid northern region of the country.