

MONTANA REFLECTIONS

Montana District-LCMS
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Billings, MT 59101
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MAY 2007



President Terry Forke, Montana District

"All we, like sheep, have gone astray..."

Last Sunday after having rejoiced with the people of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Ennis at their 25th anniversary, I spent the evening with Vicar Ken Stensrud and his wife Cheryl. Vicar, (soon to be Pastor), Stensrud, in addition to his many other endeavors, runs a sheep ranch. There, on a bench high above the Jefferson River, surrounded by luxurious spring mountains, I watched a shepherd care for his sheep.

It was a treat to watch Ken interact with his sheep, but what struck me most was a story he told about his sheep. Watching his sheep follow each other back and forth from one feeding trough to the other reminded him

of the time the whole flock got involved. It seems that one or two sheep were seen by one or two others disappearing around a parked truck. Assuming that something good was on the other side they followed. Then two more joined in, and two more, and two more. Soon the entire flock was following each other around and around the truck.

As funny as that picture may appear, I suspect that you have been there. I imagine that you, too, have had days where you feel like you are just going round and round. Sometimes you feel like you don't know where you are heading. Like the sheep you may feel that if you just keep following the crowd you might get somewhere, even if that somewhere is unknown to you. Have you stubbornly followed the path you were on, even when someone, (a shepherd perhaps), told you that you were on a meaningless and dangerous route? I am speaking now of a human condition, not an ovine one.

"All we, like sheep, have gone astray, we have turned, every one, to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him, the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

The human condition of sin means that we will follow ourselves around and around all the way to death and hell. Still, the text does not say that the Lord

stops us or turns us around. It has this strange line about laying our iniquity on someone else. That verse reminds us that there is no stopping or turning us unless someone deals with our sin. Our Good Shepherd did not come simply to teach us how to walk the straight and narrow. He came to take our sin into Himself.

When Jesus took your sin into His own body and then rose in victory over it He created a way out, the only way out, of the human condition. He created forgiveness. He created forgiveness for all the times you have stubbornly strayed, for all the times you turned to your own way, (without even knowing that it was the same way every other sinner was following). Through faith in this Good Shepherd you are forgiven. This forgiveness provides a new way of life far different than the vicious cycle of sin.

I am confident that sheep will continue to circle the truck, so to speak. They will get themselves into all sorts of trouble through that dangerous, yet enlightening habit. They need a shepherd to keep them safe. Likewise, we, not so woolly sheep, will continue to get stuck in the cycle of sin. Our good Shepherd has taken away the iniquity of us all, so that, through faith, we can hear His voice and follow Him.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN LEAGUE CONVENTION

The 58th Annual Convention of the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League Montana District was held April 13 - 14 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Glendive. Greg Lewis, Executive Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries, represented LHM and served as banquet speaker. Presentations were also made by Penny Johnson on a LHM Servant Event to Latvia and Regional Governor Don Brandenburg on the Orphan Grain Train. Pastoral advisor Kent Stenzel led the Bible studies.



Greg Lewis, LHM Executive Director and MT District President Bruce Duenkler way of teaching the memorizing of Bible work. Quilts were on display that incorporated several of the table runners from our July convention. These quilts will be sent to the Orphan Grain Train.

Election of officers included Ruth Linse, secretary and Brad Persinger, treasurer. Bruce Duenkler was appointed president following the resignation of Gene Suek. Emil Neumann was appointed Vice President. Pastor Stenzel has consented to serve another two year term as pastoral advisor.

Rev. Jay Reinke from ND dropped in and extended a special invitation to his prison ministries project. He has a unique

Good food, good fellowship and good faith sharing times were spent with others from Montana and North Dakota.

CANDIDATE DAVID HASSELBROOK HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOULA MT



David and Renee Hasselbrook and their 6 children, Silas (11), Athanasius (10), Preus (9), Lucia(5), Cyprian (3) and Simeon (2). Installation will on August 12th.

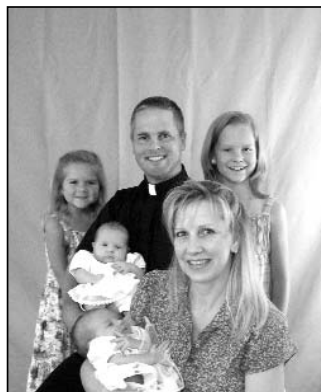
ASCENSION SERVICES AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH BELFRY MT ON THURSDAY, MAY 17TH

There will be a dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

VICARS ASSIGNED TO MONTANA DISTRICT FROM CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE IN



Vicar Gregory A. DeMuth, Seward NE has been assigned to Trinity Lutheran, Kalispell MT



Vicar Russell Fitch, Eureka MT has been assigned to Mount Olive Lutheran, Billings MT

DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP WELL ATTENDED

Sixteen people gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings for the first Sunday School Workshop led by Paul Berg of CPH. "See How They Learn" was an exciting up beat workshop providing attendees with a greater understanding of how students learn in relationship to age and developmental characteristics, thus equipping them as teachers to be more effective in sharing the gospel. The workshop offered helpful insights into building relationships in the classroom, creat-

ing an outreach focused Sunday School and setting the vision for the future of the Sunday School. The workshop is geared for all including Pastors, superintendents, teachers and lay people. Mr. Berg's goal was met as all who attended felt their time was well spent.

Watch for upcoming workshops to be held in Columbia Falls and possibly Helena in early fall. For more information call Patricia Stricker at (406) 652-1704 or e-mail mrsred39@juno.com

WHAT A GREAT TRIP TO BILOXI!

Submitted by Rev. Vern Sandersfeld, Grace Lutheran Church, Hamilton MT

Fifteen folks started out from Grace Lutheran to make their way to Spokane on nasty roads and then on to New Orleans by air and then Biloxi by van. Working with Habitat for Humanity and provided with helpful grants through Thrivent the group worked on 4 different homes and celebrated the passing of the keys to one thankful and tearful home-owner. *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col 3:17*

At the end of the road, where it used to cross Bay St. Louis, there is one peculiar pile of rubble. There is a hole, mostly filled with mortar and old brick and chunks of concrete, but behind it, rising defiantly is one rectangular room that was not knocked down, its door stands ajar and inside its walls are still solid and sound. The rest of the building has vanished, pulverized, piled up and hauled away, but this room remains. Its door is at least two feet thick. Its walls are twice that, and it is still standing. This old bank vault is the one thing the hurricane did not take on that stretch of coast line, but it took truer and more simple treasures from hundreds of thousands of people...familiar floors and peaceful porches and places where people had lived for decades. Katrina didn't just take buildings and possessions; it took homes. Today there are people in places like East Biloxi returning that sort of treasure - one home at a time, and proving in a little way that

God remains the real "fortress and rock" in times like these... **"They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer."** (Ps 78:35)

Our team of fifteen spent a week of work in East Biloxi, Mississippi with Habitat for Humanity restoring, remodeling and building. After arriving late on a Thursday in New Orleans, we slept on air mattresses at a local Lutheran church fellowship hall. The next morning we headed toward Biloxi and drove through the lower 9th Ward of east New Orleans. We were amazed at the 'slabbed out' homes; on lot after lot nothing remained but the cement. Other houses sat empty and battered as if the whole world had run out of energy; picnic tables rested next to old tires on roof tops. Much of the debris is gone but this is a part of town where few are rebuilding. Further along the coast we passed miles and miles of pilings and posts that poked up at the sky where beach houses once taunted the water's edge; the wind and waves had their day. Boats were still hunched up against trees and lay contorted at the edge of the highway.

Driving what was drivable of Highway 90 we studied a beautiful beach to our right and a tormented coast to our left for mile after mile. Arriving in Biloxi we threw our bags on the bunks of a Roman Catholic convent now serving the needy and homeless through the local St. Vincent de Paul society. It would be our bed and comfort for the next week. It filled with new friends that weekend and we proved how flexible folks must be on such trips; money and meals and making room. Doors were open at so many churches, in so many ways and daily hundreds of people might make their way from

bunks and cots, sleeping bags or beds to work shoulder to shoulder with travelers from everywhere in the United States.

The storm surge in east Biloxi swelled and didn't stop until water reached the bottom of the second story windows and remained there for fourteen hours before receding. Many homeowners were in difficult circumstances. They had no insurance and lived off Social Security. Some sat on a curb resigned to die. Mr. P is an 85 year old man who lost almost everything including three small buildings that included his machine shop. We had many opportunities to visit and to hear his stories, not only of the Katrina, but of his life, the sort of quiet storms that left him estranged and in some ways - alone. His house was now full - a dozen people poured through the rooms pounding, sawing, laying, hanging, painting and laughing.

Our host, Bart Tucker, like so many more, had mustered a crew of Habitat for Humanity people together a day after Katrina and headed out from Fairfax, Virginia. Their team from Northern Virginia had been working relentlessly since that time to get people back in their homes. It meant getting them out of the tiny FEMA trailers and into homes beautifully, newly floored, doored, roofed, resided, remodeled, painted and refitted with appliances for \$25,000 or less.

Organized for action and dedicated to hope, this branch of Habitat rehabbed some 20 plus homes in 2006 and hoped to double the number in 2007. It would mean finishing one house each week, so they gladly enlist Montanans, Indianans, Pennsylvanians, Minnesotans and willing workers from all over. Each noon we ate at a huge tent locat-

ed at Yankee Stadium; an old High School field purchased by the Salvation Army where they built 'bayou shacks' that serve as dorms, shower rooms, kitchen and a commons area for rocking chairs and weary workers -all under the bleachers. There you sit with college kids and retired folks and you see T-shirts representing more organizations, churches and groups than you could possibly count. They all had their stories of houses and projects, new friends and little steps toward recovery...one nail, screw, board and house at a time. A map on the wall is poked full of pins marking points all over the U.S. When you go you will see a pin there from this corner of Montana, too. Our group from Grace Lutheran Church in Hamilton happened to be sponsored by Thrivent. Thrivent offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to Habitat rebuilding projects while also providing for the folks that can journey to the Gulf coast; although transportation costs to the area are not paid, money is available for transportation, meals and lodging while there.

While many of us were not skilled tradesman, we all found lots to do and learned we could do a lot. By week's end an 18

year old girl was cutting siding, the women were climbing scaffolds and our 84 year old grandma couldn't be slowed down cleaning and sweeping and preparing for the dedication of another home. Tears flowed as Bart told the story of how the owner of the house, another grandma, kept climbing higher to escape the water with her teenage grandson. They found a boat and decided if necessary they would make like Noah and wait things out! At the dedication, her excited neighbors were there to hug and hope and sing, 'This Little Gospel Light of Mine' with gusto.

There will be years of work to do. It is good work. It is not just housing; it is giving back a home and for us it is doing it in the name of Jesus Christ. Look for Global Village Gulf Coast Teams on line-check there for Thrivent connections. Talk with friends and family around the country to make a special time for it. If your church is moved to connect with Habitat/Thrivent or if you are interested in more details regarding our trip contact Rev. Vern Sandersfeld at Grace Lutheran Church in Hamilton. 406-363-1924



LWML NEWS

Submitted by: Dawna Widmar Vice President of Communication

SCHOLARSHIPS: It's not too early to start thinking about Montana District LWML Scholarships. Scholarships are available to students who are members of our district's congregations attending Synodical schools, and are planning a career in full time church work. The forms are available from each LWML Society President, or they are available from the Montana District Scholarship Chairman: Edee Anderson 310 Washington Street, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406) 846-2589.

LWML CONVENTION IN SIOUX FALLS, SD: There is still

time to register to attend the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls June 21-24, 2007. Don't miss this chance for a weekend filled with faith and fellowship. The weekend will be filled with servant activities, Bible study, entertainment Christian fellowship, and the business of LWML for the next two years.

NATIONAL MITE GOAL: The mite goal for LWML on the national level was exceeded by over \$40,000.00. Thanks be to God that the goal was reached, so that LWML can continue to do the work that God has set before us.

MONTANA DISTRICT FALL RETREATS: Mark your calendars now for the Montana District LWML Fall Retreats. The theme this year is Rendezvous with God, and the theme verse is 2 Timothy 2:15. The Eastern retreat will be held at the historic Fort Peck Hotel in Fort Peck on

September 21 and 22. The Western retreat will be held at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln on September 28 and 29. Registration forms will be available in the summer issue of the Montana Missive.

MONTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION: The date for the Montana District LWML convention is April 25-27, 2008, in Billings Montana. There will be several offices that will be open for election. Now is the time to prayerfully consider having your name placed on the ballot for a District office. Information on offices and job descriptions will be available soon. If you are interested in serving on the Montana District Board of Directors, contact your Zone Vice President, or Nominations/Election Chairman Billye Roseleip 129 Eastside Road Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406)846-1733.

OUR MOTIVATION AS CHRIST'S WITNESSES

(Taken from the Equipping Newsletter of Lutheran Hour Ministries.)
Submitted by the District Evangelism Committee

Let us revisit why we share our faith.

1. Jesus commanded us!
"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 everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

2. God assigned us this mission.

"He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will

be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 1:7-8

3. We belong to God. He chose us.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

4. People are sick, sad and dying. We have hope.

"For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God... For in this hope we were saved." Romans 8:22-24

Surely you have a friend or family member, heavy on your heart, that you want to share this hope with. They do not have to struggle through life on their own! All you have to do is share the hope you have found in Christ.

CAMP DATES

RED LODGE CAMP
June 17-22 High School Camp
June 22-26 Jr High School Camp
June 26-30 5th & 6th Grade

BIGFORK CAMP
June 24-29 7th & 8th Grade Camp
July 1-6 Girls Volley Ball Camp
July 8-13 High School Camp
July 15-20 Basketball Camp
July 23-27 5th & 6th Grade Camp
July 30-8/3 Pastors Continuing education
Aug 6-12 Deaf Retreat

SUBSCRIPTIONS FEES FOR REFLECTIONS ARE DUE

REFLECTIONS ON SUNDAY SCHOOL: TWO PERSPECTIVES

From the perspective of a mother

Nancy Stinnett, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Polson, MT

"Mommy, let's read about Jesus." These were words that came out of the mouth of my then almost three-year old daughter, Lydia, when we sat down on our couch to have some reading time. I believe her request to hear about Jesus is a product of the faith that has been nurtured every week by her dedicated Sunday School teacher. Her teacher prepares her weekly lesson from CPH's Little Lambs Preschool curriculum and accompanies each lesson with a craft that is relevant to the week's Bible story. Not only does her teacher put thought into matching the craft with the Bible lesson, she is conscientious about passing along materials when my daughter cannot attend a particular Sunday. It is a joy that our church offers Sunday School to children as young as two and three and a delight to see my daughter looking forward to Sunday School with eagerness. Even at that young age, children can learn about Jesus Christ and the gift He has given them by dying on the cross and rising again to eternal life. They are beginning to learn the Bible stories that will stay with them for a lifetime and give them comfort and hope as they learn more and more about their Lord and His love for them.

While I have focused here on my youngest child, I am equally grateful that my older daughter Hannah (six years old) and son Noah (eight years old) also have committed Sunday School teachers that share their love for the Lord with them through their teaching and their examples of Christian faithfulness. Sunday School is a vital part of my children's lives, and over the past year it has been wonderful seeing their faith grow through the songs they have learned at Sunday School

opening and then shared with the congregation, the knowledge they have gained through the law-and-gospel Bible lessons, and the fellowship they have shared with their fellow believers. What a privilege and responsibility we have as parents to teach our children the faith, and what a blessing we have in our Sunday School teachers to help us with this responsibility. If anyone is hesitant about volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher or substitute teacher, then I hope the words to "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying" (LSB 826) can be a source of encouragement.

If you cannot speak like angels,

If you cannot preach like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus,

You can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked

With the judgment's dread alarms,

You can lead the little children

To the Savior's waiting arms.

From the perspective of a Sunday School teacher and director

Sylvia Moody, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Polson, MT

Our Sunday school began using the new "Growing in Christ" curriculum in the fall of 2006. One of the changes that immediately caught my attention was the "Director Guide". This is a wonderful resource for the opening sessions with the students. At Mt. Calvary we have a combined opening for students and teachers. This guide gives me the texts, hymn of the day, catechism connection, and a visual help. The seedlings devotional talks are short and to the point and easy to adapt to the size of the group. The director's CD allows me to print the lyrics and accompaniment for the hymns and songs

available during each 13-week session. I was excited to have music and lyrics for the catechism songs and Bible verse songs. Our students have learned the first article to the Apostle's Creed and it's meanings in song and also worked on Martin Luther's Morning Prayer in song. What a great way to have students and teachers learn and memorize God's word. The director's CD also has audio of the session hymns and songs that we can sing along. The format of the guide allows me to use as much of the material or as little as I desire.

I also have experience using the classroom materials of the "Growing in Christ" curriculum. I have found them to be very easy to use, and again a CD-Rom accompanies the teacher's guide to allow for printing extra materials, songs, Bible verses and much more. The student guides are simple and have thoughtful artwork depicting the lesson for the day. One thing that my class has enjoyed, and learned from, is our "word wall". We are given one to three key words with each lesson that ties into the story and connects to LCMS liturgy or Martin Luther's small catechism. My students have almost covered one wall with cards of these words and their meanings. The materials also come with memory cards that have questions and answers regarding each week's lessons. We have used these to review the previous lessons as well as a start to the new lesson.

This curriculum walks the teacher through each step of the lesson. It highlights important points to make and gives lots of flexibility for time constraints. I feel that it is easy for a new teacher to grasp and not be overwhelmed. I have always felt that as I prepare to teach a lesson that God, through His Word and prayer, continues to teach me. The children and I then learn about His great love for each of us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2007

May	26	Divide Circuit Winkel, Picnic
	27-29	Synodical Convention Floor Committees meet in St. Louis
	28	Memorial Day
June	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
	21-22	LWML Retreat, Ft. Peck MT
	28-29	LWML Retreat, Cane Ridge W, Lincoln MT
	28-29	Early Childhood Conference, Great Falls
October	10	District Work Programs are due in Dist. Office
	15	BOD Mtg 8 am-5pm Dist. Office, Billings Preliminary Budget Work

THE OSWALD HOFFMANN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

A blend of online and residency learning
Designed for those serving in ministry

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@esp.edu
Visit our website: www.esp.edu/maco

GRACE PLACE RETREAT COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

Join us for a week of health and renewal, August 5-10, at the Alderbrook Resort, (Union) Seattle, WA.

Grace Place Lutheran Retreats provides a haven for Lutheran pastors and other professional church workers and their spouses through education, restoration, and recreation. During the week-long retreat couples will learn new ways to be totally healthy - spiritually, physically, emotionally, intellectually, relationally, and fiscally. It is our hope that the couple will walk away from the retreat week renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

Grace Place charges only \$300 per church worker couple wishing to attend a retreat...a terrific fiscal investment for this unique health training. Many

congregations have assisted their pastors with these costs enabling them to participate in a retreat. The actual cost to retreat a couple is approximately \$2,000 - however, through grants and generous donations we are able to keep the price to \$300 per couple. This amount covers meals, room, and the program costs for the week.

If you are not available for the Seattle retreat, consider one of the other 2007 Retreats for Parish Pastors and District Staff Pastors:

June 18-23, Nebraska Pastors, at the Inn at Aspen, Aspen, CO

September 17-22, Michigan Pastors, Mission Point Inn, Mackinac Island, MI

October 7-12, Iowa Pastors, Camp Okoboji,

Milford, IA

* Pastors from any district are welcome to attend any retreat.

For more information and to register, contact our Executive Assistant, Annette Woehlke at annette.woehlke@graceplacere retreats.org or (314) 842-3077. Or visit our website (www.graceplacere retreats.org) for on-line registration and payment.

In the past six years Grace Place has successfully retreated over 1,000 pastors, district presidents, and seminarians in 67 retreats held at various locations around the country. Join us this year for an exciting week of health and renewal for yourself, your relationships, your congregation and beyond!

LCEF

LABORERS WANTED!

Laborers For Christ (LFC) is a ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. LFC is an organized group of dedicated Christians (both men and women) who spend some of their retirement years working for LCMS congregations and schools, helping them build their own facilities.

Becoming a Laborer:
LFC is currently looking to increase the number of Laborers to work for God's Kingdom. If you are looking to do something significant with willing hands and an open heart, consider joining other Christians who are eager to assist congregations in building up God's Kingdom. Workers are needed at every skill level (from those with a construction background to relative beginners). Laborers travel, meet new people throughout the United States, and share their commitment to the Church with others. All that's required is a love for the Lord with a desire to further His work.


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

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Investments • Loans • Services

MONTANA DISTRICT WORLD MISSION OFFERINGS

Comm Memb	Intention	%	Remitted This Month	Remitted Year to Date	Other Offerings	Total Remitted to Date	Per Comm Member to Date
EASTERN							
Colstrip	145	3,774	364.98	858.42		858.42	5.92
Fairview	62	2,000		0.00		0.00	0.00
Fallon	66	1,000	100.00	130.00		130.00	1.97
Forsyth	209	6,000	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	7.18
Glasgow	27	1,200	81.40	261.70		261.70	9.69
Glendive	847	27,000	1,859.00	6,153.00		6,153.00	7.26
Hysham	57	0		0.00		0.00	0.00
Miles City	338	4,500		750.00	5.00	755.00	2.23
Pleantywood	62	3,000	250.00	750.00		750.00	12.10
Rock Springs	16	331		0.00		0.00	0.00
Sidney	293	5,500	500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	5.12
Wolf Point	81	2,000	200.00	600.00		600.00	7.41
Totals	2,203	56,305	4,855.38	12,503.12	5.00	12,508.12	5.68
SOUTHERN							
Belfry	56	1,800	450.00	900.00		900.00	16.07
Bigs/CTK	140	1,500	750.00	750.00		750.00	5.36
Bigs/Hope	155	3,600	650.00	1,575.00	75.97	1,650.97	10.65
Bigs/Mt. Olive	524	31,000	2,869.04	8,414.97		8,414.97	16.06
Bigs/Our Savior	255	6,000	500.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	7.84
Bigs/Trinity	729	58,000	4,403.63	8,417.84		8,417.84	11.55
Bridger	59	3,600	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	16.95
Crow	22	1,000	39.22	225.09		225.09	10.23
Hardin	120	600		150.00		150.00	1.25
Harlowton	33	1,000		0.00		0.00	0.00
Lame Deer	37	0		0.00		0.00	0.00
Laurel	411	19,000	1,810.14	5,394.84	185.00	5,579.84	10.43
Park City	173	500		0.00		0.00	0.00
Roundup	12	200		0.00		0.00	0.00
Worden	38	1,500		0.00		0.00	0.00
Totals	2,764	129,300	12,517.03	28,827.74	260.97	29,088.71	10.43
CENTRAL							
Chinook	75	500		0.00		0.00	0.00
Denton	40	750	25.00	460.00		460.00	11.50
Fairfield	36	840	70.00	210.00		210.00	5.83
Fort Benton	29	0		0.00		0.00	0.00
GF/Deaf	41	0		300.00		300.00	7.32
GF/Peace	286	12,000	1,010.00	4,280.00	3,070.67	7,350.67	25.70
GF/Trinity	436	8,000	666.67	2,666.68		2,666.68	6.12
Have	200	8,600	708.50	2,019.50		2,019.50	10.10
Lewistown	86	3,100	440.41	623.10		623.10	7.25
Power	97	2,000		500.00	135.00	635.00	6.55
Stanford	64	1,080	270.00	270.00		270.00	4.22
Totals	1,390	36,870	3,190.58	11,329.28	3,205.67	14,534.95	10.46

**FEBRUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2007
THIRD 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
DIVIDE							
Anaconda	17	450		450.00		450.00	70.59
Belgrade	109	3,000	5,000.00	5,000.00		370.19	5,370.19
Boulder	43	0	10.0%	0.00		0.00	0.00
Bozeman	382	26,000	2,117.00	6,405.00		6,405.00	16.77
Butte	145	2,600	500.00	1,150.00	67.50	1,217.50	8.40
Deer Lodge	101	4,800		1,200.00		1,200.00	11.88
Ennis	48	3,000		0.00		0.00	0.00
Helena	607	30,000	2,397.83	7,443.56		7,443.56	12.26
Three Forks	96	1,225	8.0%	370.19		370.19	3.86
Whitehall	72	2,500	10.0%	625.00		625.00	8.68
Totals	1,620	73,575	10,014.83	22,643.75	1,187.69	23,831.44	14.71
WESTERN							
Condon	61	2,640	10.0%	353.12		353.12	5.79
Hamilton	221	17,700	3,083.74	7,409.84	1,886.96	9,296.80	42.07
Mt. Laurel	623	51,489	14.0%	7,818.29		7,818.29	12.55
Mt. Laurel/Messiah	119	9,592	10.0%	745.08	12.00	2,262.71	19.01
Salmon, ID	137	9,000	10.0%	664.51	1,846.23	1,846.23	13.47
Seeley Lake	72	3,500		783.52		783.52	10.88
Stevensville	130	7,500	6.5%	1,875.00	284.75	2,159.75	16.61
Superior	80	6,000	15.0%	675.22	1,783.71	1,783.71	22.30
Totals	1,443	107,421	5,168.55	24,120.42	2,183.71	26,304.13	18.23
FLATHEAD							
Columbia Falls	186	10,500	10.0%	781.00	2,305.00	2,305.00	12.39
Creston	84	10,000		2,500.00		2,500.00	29.76
Eureka	155	3,500		583.34		583.34	3.76
Kalispell	1,197	38,000		3,333.33	9,999.99	5.00	10,004.99
Libby	137	4,100		1,434.04	1,434.04	1,434.04	10.47
Polson	98	6,600	10.0%	953.00	2,581.00	2,581.00	26.34
Ronan	89	7,500	11.0%	550.55	2,832.43	2,832.43	31.83
St. Ignace	53	1,500	5.0%	125.00	375.00	375.00	7.08
Whitefish	107	9,236	10.0%	1,623.00		1,623.00	15.17
Totals	2,106	90,936	7,468.59	24,233.80	5.00	24,238.80	11.51
SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT							
Eastern	2,203	56,305	4,855.38	12,503.12	5.00	12,508.12	5.68
Southern	2,764	129,300	12,517.03	28,827.74	260.97	29,088.71	10.52
Central	1,390	36,870	3,190.58	11,329.28	3,205.67	14,534.95	10.46
Divide	1,620	73,575	10,014.83	22,643.75	1,187.69	23,831.44	14.71
Western	1,443	107,421	5,168.55	24,120.42	2,183.71	26,304.13	18.23
Flathead	2,106	90,936	7,468.59	24,233.80	5.00	24,238.80	11.51
Totals	11,526	494,407	43,214.96	123,658.11	6,848.04	130,506.15	11.52

Year to Date Average Giving per Communicant Member for our District \$10.73

Rec'd thru 3rd mo. 2007 \$123,658 3/12 of 2007 budget \$127,500 Deficit \$3,842
 Rec'd thru 3rd mo. 2006 \$117,810 3/12 of 2006 budget \$125,000 Deficit \$14,388

When the comparative figures show an excess in giving, it simply means more has been given than we were told you had budgeted for; likewise when it shows a deficit it means less has been given than you had told us you had budgeted for. This does not mean we have income in excess of expenses for the district.

BARRIERS TO GERMANS AND NORWEGIANS WORKING TOGETHER?

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.

Submitted by Rev. Eugene W. Juergensen, Montana District Archivist

September 1886 - It cannot be determined whether these two pastors - Paulson and Meyer knew each other while traveling the Northern Pacific railroad throughout southeastern Montana. However, there are BARRIERS to consider. "If Paulson and Meyer had met, the language barrier might have hindered fellowship. But other cultural/doctrinal barriers would more likely have prevented any cooperation or merging of their ministries. The ecclesiastical tradition of the Lutherans of the Sweet Grass and of their first resident pastor derived from the work done by a Norwegian Lutheran church leader named Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-

1824), who had given responsibility emphasis of the laity in church life in Norway. This had produced a lessened dependency on clergy and was even to cause some later division among Norwegian Lutherans in America. Hauge's emphasis, however, enabled the Sweet Grass Lutheran church to form and maintain itself through the earliest years in central Montana." On the other hand, "The German Lutherans were more dependent on pastoral leadership for counsel in doctrinal matters and the disciplined life. None of the German Lutheran groups in Montana are known to have carried on any church activities among themselves outside the circles of their immediate families prior to the coming of Glaess, Pfoenhauer, or Meyer." There were other BARRIERS. "The Haugeans were also more 'pietistic', practicing discipline against some things which were acceptable in German Lutheran cultural tradition, such as beer drinking and

card playing. This especially would have served to divide the Montana Lutherans of that day, had their pathways ever crossed. Even strong German cultural tradition did not allow Missouri Synod's Meyer to condone the way alcohol and card games were misused in Montana. When the Helena Germans first tried to organize themselves as a Lutheran congregation, Meyer re-acted saying: "They want a church and a pastor, but not if it is to interfere in any way with their accustomed way of life". [Der Lutheraner, 1888, p.156.] Meyer also lamented the fact that few, if any, of the people who were available to form a German Lutheran church in Helena had ever shared in a consideration of the Biblical purposes and functions of a Christian congregation. Laymen had little to say in Germany about such things in the church. Meyer cites this as reasons why they did not have such an understanding of starting a congregation. "A special problem developed because none of those whom Meyer served in Helena had previous contact with the

Missouri Synod's confessional restrictions against participation by their communicants in the religious rituals of the lodges, especially those of the Masonic order." We will see how this affected the Missouri congregations in Montana.

1887 - In the spring Meyer expressed his desire to the Missouri Synod to send 2 more pastors to work with him in the state. A special problem developed at First Lutheran, Helena, because of the lodge issue. The pastor did not encourage the congregation to write a constitution for the German Lutheran Church of Helena. While Pastor Meyer was away from the congregation a group of men drew up and signed a congregational constitution, meeting in the office of an architect name Heinlein. This probably explained why there is no recorded specific date for the organizing of "First Lutheran Church of Helena". The year was 1887. However, steps had been taken since Nov. 1886 to draw up a constitution. NEXT TIME: Another Norwegian Synod in Montana Arrives!

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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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 sight-seeing 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