



MONTANA REFLECTIONS

Montana District-LCMS
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JUNE 2007



President Terry Forke, Montana District

"LORD, HELP ME"

One of my favorite hobbies is to grow fruits and vegetables. This spring Cheryl and I decided to plant some fruit trees at our new home here in Billings. One Saturday we proudly brought home and planted two apple trees, a pear tree and a cherry tree. The next morning, (I am not making this up), one of the apple trees was dead. The local rabbit had neatly chewed all the bark off the tree all the way around. (This cause of death, by the way, is not covered by the one year guarantee from the nursery.) So we bought a new tree and surrounded it, as well as the other trees, with a protec-

tive coating of chicken wire to the height of a rabbit standing on its hind legs. A few days later we noticed that many of the new leaves had disappeared, and some of the ends of the delicate branches appeared to have been bitten off. I am not sure whether frustrated rabbits have deer friends or not. Still we learned we had deer "issues", for which, we have found, there are only slightly fewer folk-remedies than there are for the common cold. Two days later it was 94 degrees and the wind was blowing like a blast furnace. When I arrived home that evening the trees had the general appearance of wet wash rag.

Enough! I imagine that you have experienced this kind of attack at some point in your life. I'm not talking about your fruit trees, but about your life. There are far more sinister forces at work against our lives than the four-footed denizens of the night. Satan, the Scripture tells us, is like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. He is intent on preventing us from producing any godly fruit. He is intent on killing us, for eternity. This may sound like a quaint metaphor, until you find yourself on the bitten end, and attack after attack rolls over you. Then you won-

der, "Will I survive?"

This, I suppose, is how the young Canaanite mother felt when she brought her demon-possessed daughter to Jesus. (Matthew 15:21-28) The fruit of her womb was under attack. She had tried everything to protect her daughter, but was unable. Finally, she knelt in the dirt at the feet of Jesus and cried, "Lord, help me." There were no other self-inflicted answers, no folk-remedies, no desperate measures. There was only Jesus. This woman knew that she was in the presence of the almighty Savior. She knew that all she needed was a "crumb" from His bountiful table. She believed that Jesus could heal her daughter and make her fruitful, and He did.

This amazing story reminds us there is only One that can help us. Whether you experience the attacks of Satan against your fruit trees or against your children, or in any other arena of life there is only one that can save, Jesus. He has power over the spiritual forces of darkness that are set against us. In those seasons of your life when whatever fruit God is producing in you is under attack, I commend these simple words of faith, "Lord, help me."

REV. MATTHEW NELSON INSTALLED AT OUR REDEEMER, COLUMBIA FALLS MT



Rev. Aaron Slinnett, Polson; Rev. Steven Schlund, Peace, Great Falls; Rev. Ray Larson, Stevensville; President Terry Forke, Billings; Rev. Matthew Nelson, Columbia Falls; Rev. Mark Nicolaus, Ronan; Rev. Mark Cutler, Kalispell; Rev. Martin Kaarre, Whitefish; Rev. Chris Tabbert, Eureka

Rev. Matt Nelson was installed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on June 3rd, 2007. Pastor Nelson came from the Rocky Mountain District where he served as Missionary-At-Large in southern Utah from 2003 to 2007. He was born July 2, 1964 in Deland FL. He graduated from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL in 1986 with a

degree in Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. He graduated in 2004 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Prior to entering the ministry Pastor Nelson worked in natural resources management (forestry and hydrology). He has been married to Diane for 19 years and the couple has two children: Claire, 19 and Andrew, 13.

DEDICATED DELEGATES PREPARE FOR CONVENTION

The 63rd regular convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will be held July 14-19th in Houston. This convention is held every three years for the purposes of giving guidance, inspiration and nurture to the Synod.

On June 9 fourteen enthusiastic volunteers gathered in Great Falls to prepare for the upcoming Synodical convention. These people are your delegates. They were elected last fall at forums held in each circuit. They will not only represent Montana at the Synodical convention, they will also serve for the next three years as resource

people concerning Synodical affairs.

At the delegate orientation on June 9 we discussed the purposes of a Synodical convention, the job description of a delegate and the issues that will come before the convention. We also discussed the logistics of serving as a delegate at six very full days of convention. It is a lot of work and these people should be remembered in your prayers.

Some of the issues that will be debated at the convention include: the continuation of the Ablaze effort, the continuation of the Fan into Flame fund drive, stewardship on a congregational

and Synodical level, the possibility of a special convention to deal with structure and governance of the Synod, a new program that attempts to clarify distance education that leads to ordination for Pastors, conflict within the Church concerning the Commission on Constitutional matters, the role of women in the Church and proper behavior for Pastors participating in civic events. It sounds like a pretty full slate. If you have questions concerning what will take place at the convention this summer the following is a list of your delegates. Feel free to contact them and let them know what you think.

Circuit	Name	Home town
Central	Pastor Eric Stinnett	Stanford
Central	Bruce Kempff	Great Falls
Divide	Pastor Larry Miller	Helena
Divide	Dave Streufert	Deer Lodge
Eastern	Pastor John Vallie	Forsyth
Eastern	Brad Persinger	Glasgow
Flathead	Pastor Chris Tabbert	Eureka
Flathead	Karen Maurer	Polson
Southern	Pastor Arlo Pullmann	Laurel
Southern	Gregg Hein	Billings
Western	Pastor Dave Renfro	Missoula
Western	Marion Swanson	Superior
Advisory Pastor	Rev. Dick Thompson	Billings
Advisory Commissioned	Ken Krueger	Billings
Advisory BOD	Crow Buck	Billings

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Little Visits with God

This devotional for families offers easy, natural, active devotions that help children see Jesus in their lives every day. Familiar objects and topics are creatively used to show children God's love.

Every devotion includes "Let's talk" questions or activities to involve children, a prayer relating to the day's theme, and a Scripture reference. This special hardback edition also includes a ribbon bookmark.

Written by Allan Hart Jahsmann and Martin P. Simon, *Little Visits with God* was the first children's devotional that soon became a series for children of all ages. There are seven *Little Visits* devotional books available by Jahsmann

and Simon, and by Mary Manz Simon.

Over the past 50 years, *Little Visits with God* has been translated into nine different languages. In the English language alone, the *Little Visits* series has sold more than two million copies.

Allan Hart Jahsmann said *Little Visits with God* is unique because the stories and themes are based on simple passages from the Bible and includes questions to encourage family discussion. The devotional is best used with ages 7 to 10, but can be used with younger children and additional parental reading and guidance.

Contact CPH www.chp.org or 1-800-325-3040 to order a copy.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR THOSE WITH LOVED ONES NEEDING MEDICAL CARE

The Lutheran Center in Billings is a home away from home if you have a family member who comes to Billings for medical treatment, especially for long-term treatment. The purpose is to provide a home and appropriate services for a

Christian ministry to medical patients, their families and friends. The comfortable home has six bedrooms, two baths, and a complete kitchen and laundry facilities. A home manager is available on call to admit guests and answer questions. The house is located at 1024 North 30th St, which is within walking distance of the two hospitals and other treatment facilities. A donation of \$16.00 per night is suggested. For more information call the manager's phone at (406) 256-5756.

LCMS PRISON RETREATS IN SHELBY AND BILLINGS

What do some of the men at the Crossroads Correctional Facility in Shelby have in common with some of the women at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings? Inmates at both facilities recently gathered to memorize God's word, to study the connection with Jesus Christ, and to strengthen their skills in sharing God's word with their families.

In April and in May, LCMS pastors and laypersons from Montana and North Dakota joined with prisoners in Shelby and Billings to participate in a Friday night/Saturday retreat. Together with inmates, volunteer LCMS members memorized Scripture, learned "prepositional theology" (namely, that all God's promises are fulfilled in Christ), sang hymns, recited psalms, and encouraged one another to continue in the faith. Four lay-



Montana Women's Prison, Billings MT

men and two pastors served as a retreat team in Shelby. Six lay women and one pastor served as a team in Billings.

A particular highlight at both retreats was the invitation for prisoners to share the names and addresses of children or grandchildren, so that those children could be sent a CD of the 2007 CPH Vacation Bible School music. After the retreats were concluded, 60 packets-which included the VBS CD and lyrics, and a special prisoner newsletter-were sent to prisoners' families throughout

Montana. Other packets were sent to families in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Mississippi. Each packet included the name of the nearest LCMS church or churches. In addition, each of the LCMS churches identified in the packet was mailed the name of the prisoner's family in the area that had received a mailing.

Follow-up retreats, for just an evening, will be scheduled in the coming months at both facilities. Next month's Reflections will have a picture of the teams that participated in both of the original retreats, with information and a schedule for the follow-up retreats. Additional retreats may be scheduled at other prison facilities in Montana.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jay Reinke, Concordia Lutheran Church, 1805 Main St., Williston, ND, 58801, or email concordia@dia.net, or phone (church) 701-572-9021, or (cell) 701-570-3536.



Crossroads Correctional Facility, Shelby MT

MEMBERS OF TRINITY, MILES CITY WORK AT "CAMP RESTORE" IN NEW ORLEANS

Edited from Trinity's Newsletter

Gary and Bonnie Neuman spent a week in New Orleans work at "Camp Restore". There were 100 volunteers that week and the next week only a few. Bonnie was in charge of house-keeping. That included cleaning showers, rest rooms, dorm rooms, lounge and sanctuary. Everyday there were different volunteers, who were from all over the country. That week they were mostly college kids. One lady living in the neighborhood stopped everyday and put in a few hours of cleaning. She had two other paying jobs, but she felt she had to keep busy as she had lost her home and mom in the storm. What a worker she was!

The cooks at "Camp Restore" also lost loved ones and their homes in the flood waters. They were always smiling, working hard and cooking good southern meals.

Friends, Anna and Dale Richardson, worked at "Camp Restore" for six weeks. Anna was in charge of the dining hall and Dale kept volunteer crews working on homes. Sandwiches were made for the work crews going out the next day. Sometimes someone came in from the street needing to eat and they were always given a sandwich and a snack pack. No one went away hungry.

They attended a house blessing. The owner worked for the police department. She cried a lot and was so thankful for all the help. Her house is beautiful. She and three other neighbors were putting their houses in order; the rest of the houses on their street were standing empty or the lot was cleared. At the end of the blessing ceremony, she was given two boxes from Lutheran churches in Wisconsin and Virginia of household goods and letters from Sunday School classes. One letter was from a woman that had gone through a similar storm- it put us all into tears. She included a Bible with special passages marked to help the owner through these tough times.

The church worked out of was refurbished by Laborers for Christ after the storm. Gary helped put a water heater in a house and helped dry wall a house with 3 adult males and 7 girls from Indiana University. That was an interesting experience!

The Laborers for Christ continue to be in charge and volunteers come from all over the country. People have to provide the materials to rebuild their homes and "Camp Restore" volunteers provide the labor.

To volunteer, check out the website at www.camprestore.org or call 1-888-248-2636.

SHARING YOUR FAITH BOLDLY!

Some Words of Encouragement from the Lutheran Hour Ministries and Your District Evangelism Committee

The Lord Jesus calls every believer a witness for Him. We are to boldly proclaim that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

However, in spite of Christ's clear command to witness, we all fall short. Often we're fearful of what others may think of such a "narrow way" and eager not to offend them.

So how do we overcome the fear of witnessing? By confessing our sin and receiving forgiveness in the name of Jesus.

And as we do, the Holy Spirit can replace our fear with confidence that will reflect the light of Christ and draw others to Him. There is no better example than the contrasting action of two men almost 500 years ago.

The Two Martins

In the early part of the 16th century, two men, both sharing the name Martin, came to faith and were saved by the grace of God that comes to those who

believe in Jesus as their Savior.

The first Martin, fearing public disfavor and persecution, wrote on a piece of parchment: "Oh, most merciful Christ, I know I am saved only by the merit of Your blood. Holy Jesus, I love You." Then, he hid that parchment behind a stone in the wall of his bedroom. It was only by accident several hundred years after his death that his hidden testimony to Christ was discovered. Martin of Basel never had a faith which could conquer his fear of witnessing. How different was the other Martin.

From Fear to Boldness

A fearful man who dreaded his ability to ever escape God's wrath, the second Martin was utterly transformed by reading God's Word and being quickened by the Holy Spirit to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

Formerly trapped in fear, Martin now no longer trusted in the fasts he once thought were necessary. He put away the whips he formerly used to "attain" God's forgiveness through self-humiliation. He rejoiced in God's absolution.

That Scripture-based faith gave him courage to be the Lord's champion-even when his life and career were threatened. Sure that the Savior was by his side, this Martin did not waver. Sure that the Lord would never leave him, he used every means and method, pulpit and printing press, school and church service, hymn and hall, to share the Gospel of salvation. Once Martin Luther met Jesus, he boldly witnessed to others about Him as well!

Pray for boldness!

What about you? Which Martin do you most resemble? If witnessing is difficult for you, resolve now to request God's help. Make this a matter of focused prayer. Ask God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to fill you with a new boldness and zeal for witnessing. God has made each of us different so that we will not witness to Jesus, our Lord and Savior, in the same manner. However, we can be assured of the presence of God's Spirit in our testimony, using that witness to bring hope, faith, and strength to someone. As always we must remember it is the Spirit's power, not our own, that brings those blessings to others.

VISIT TO TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL, KALISPELL, MT

Submitted by President Terry Forke

In early May I made an official visit to Trinity Lutheran School in Kalispell. There I officiated the Chapel devotion for the school body. I talked about the epistle lesson for that week which was from Revelation 21. I reminded the kids of God's promise to wipe away every tear from their eyes, and how God would use them to wipe the tears from the eyes of others who were hurting.

Later on in the day I was able to visit each of the classrooms. It was an inspiration to see faithful teachers caring for the children God had put under their care. Please remember our teachers, who day after day, love, guide, instruct and discipline our children. They care not only for the physical, social and academic welfare of these kids. Most importantly, our teachers give of themselves to see after the kid's spiritual welfare.

One of the classes had paid careful attention to the chapel

talk I had presented. Their teacher had asked them to write songs to convey the main theme of my message. Here is one of the songs written by the kids.

They see me with a tissue,
Trying to catch me wiping
tears,

To catch me wiping tears, to
catch me wiping tears.

They all are dry now, we're
happy

Jesus is always in our lives,
He's always in our lives,
he's always in our lives.

He wipes our sins away
So we don't always have to
live in guilt,

We don't have to live in
guilt, we don't have to live in
guilt.

Jesus saves us from all sin
Saving us from all sin,
death, and the devil
Saving us from the devil,
saving us from the devil.

WHEN JESUS RETURNS

Around 1910, at least so the story goes, a man was waiting to ride the New York Subway. He was bumped and found himself

falling onto the rails. His death was averted by the firm grasp of another waiting passenger who grabbed his arm and pulled him back. About four years later the passenger who had been rescued found himself standing before a judge, rightly accused

of a capital offense. Surprisingly, when the jury pronounced their findings he seemed rather cavalier about the matter. His attitude was influenced by the fact that he recognized the judge - it was the same man who had rescued him at the subway. When the

judge asked, "Have you anything to say before I give the sentence?" the young man rose and said, "Judge, you remember me, don't you?" The judge repeated his question: "Have you anything to say before I hand down your punishment?"

The condemned shouted, "Judge, I'm the man you saved at the subway. You remember me." And, with sadness, the judge replied, "I do remember you, but that day I was your savior, today I am your judge."

"THE 72 -PARTNERS ON THE ROAD" TRAINING EVENT

"The 72" is an outreach ministry of LCMS World Mission. Interested volunteers may request applications for an Oct. 17-21 training event in Concordia, Mo., for "The 72 -- Partners on the Road," formerly known as "Harvesters for Christ."

The training equips volunteers for helping host congregations start, enhance, or expand outreach ministry in their communities.

Applicants may be couples or

individuals, according to Rev. Al Tormoehlen, director of "The 72." He explained that while one married couple might serve as a congregation's "team," individuals make up three or four-person teams.

Each volunteer team serves a congregation on-site for three or four weeks. The host congregation covers the cost of its team's housing, transportation, and meals.

When an application is submitted for "The 72" training event, it must include a letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor, as well as information on each application that would be necessary to complete a basic

background check.

All expenses for new team-member training for "The 72," including travel, will be covered by grant from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

To request an application, call (800) 433-3954, or send an e-mail to the72@lcms.org. Applications are not available online. July 30 is the deadline for requesting applications.

"The 72" will help realize the Synod's Ablaze! goal of sharing the Gospel with 50 million unreached or uncommitted people in the United States by 2017, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

WHY DID THE LC-MS GET RID OF THE WALTHER LEAGUE?

Submitted by Rev. Eugene Juergensen, Montana District Archivist

Perhaps a little information on the history of the Walther League will help answer the question that LC-MS members have been asking since action had to be taken by the Synod telling congregations by resolution, "Do away with all Walther Leagues in congregations and do not use the name any longer. Otherwise your congregation may be in a lawsuit", or words similar to this. Let us review a brief history of the Walther League.

By 1891 societies were on the rise in America. Hundreds of other religious organizations like the American Bible Society, the American Sunday School Union, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, etc. Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations were founded in 1845 and 1866.

1847 is the year of organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. 1848 - C. F. W. Walther oversaw the founding of the first young people's society among Lutherans anywhere in North America. The purpose of Trinity's Jungmaenner-Verein (young men's society) set out clearly the goal of their society: "The purpose of this society is to provide one or more students desiring to prepare themselves for the ministry with the necessary means. Eligible for membership (in the society) are confirmed young men who belong to the Lutheran Church... Meetings shall be held every first Sunday of the month. The monthly dues shall be at least ten cents. The society shall choose a chairman, secretary, and treasurer."

There were clear limits needed for membership, "If a member gives offense through open sins, particularly through drunkenness, attendance at balls, or by exhibiting a heretical mind, he shall be expelled if he has disdained admonition".

By 1851 Trinity had 70 members in their young men's society. By 1855 there were some 23 congregations with a

similar type of young men's societies in the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other states. By 1856 Walther in "Der Lutheraner" invited "all German-Protestant-Lutheran young men to join a newly established "Evangelical Lutheran Youth Society for Missouri, Ohio and Other States." For a variety of reasons this society had a short life. A nationwide organization of Lutheran young people folded.

Three groups in America were working toward Lutheran cooperation:

1. The General Synod (largely Eastern, mostly English speaking), which existed since 1820.

2. The Synodical Conference (almost exclusively German, a federation of congregations formed in 1872, confessional documents of Lutheranism was upheld, made up mostly of congregations from the Midwest area of the country.)

3. The General Council (13 synods in 1863), that generally stood between the General Synod and the Synodical Conference on questions of language and doctrine.

There were young people's societies among these three groups in the United States of America.

The Lutheran young people's society - the Walther League - was born within some Synodical Conference, the least Americanized group of Lutherans in America. Some Synodical Conference pastors found reasons to suspect the wisdom of letting youth form societies. A Pastor Johannes in the east was one who opposed doing this.

1875 - First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Buffalo, New York, is the place where the Walther League was born. Pastor Carl Gross of the congregation was the same seminarian that received funds for his schooling from the 1851 young men's group formed at Trinity in St. Louis. The 1875 Buffalo group grew to 26 young men, between 16-30 years of age. By 1876, 50 members joined, ten dropped out. Women were prominent in the activities of this society since a so-called "Women's Section" was organized as a part of the young men's society but had

separate meetings, etc. An early project - to purchase a bell for the church. The one ton bell arrived by Easter 1879. The youth were going to hang the bell in the tower of the church building, three stories up. When they were about to place the bell in place it fell three stories down to the bottom taking with it everything in its way. No one was hurt. It was taken out of the rubble and hung without further incident. Some years went by. In 1881, Pastor August Senne became pastor at Buffalo and wrote in Vol.1 No.1 issue of *Der Vereinsbote*. He made a plea for a union of young people's groups, an association between the different young people's societies in the Synodical Conference.

A convention was planned to begin May 20, 1893, invited by Trinity, Buffalo, New York. Overall, 16 delegates from 12 societies voted, representing 693 young people across Synod. Clergy were welcome to attend but it was led by laymen. On May 24 the convention ended and the headline the Buffalo Enquirer was "All Join Hands".

Die Walther Liga 1893-1899. Young Lutherans across America would feel the importance of the youth organization, the Walther League. The name Walther League was used thereby guaranteeing that the Walther League was not to become a church within the Church (The Lutheran Church), but that in all its operations it must be and remain within and under the supervision of the congregation.

Delegates (I noticed 21 pictured) were young men. The picture was taken under the Walther League symbol, the ten-pointed star. Some early things discussed were: "Christianity and Heathenism", "The Name of Jesus and the Lodge", and skits were prepared in regard to Jews and Catholics, which was considered humor. Germans were not liked much. It was considered anti-Semitic and anti-Roman Catholic. The Walther League saw the need to deal with issues that would identify them with the American culture. e.g. "Religious Freedom, the Golden Crown of Freedom in our Land".

To be continued next month

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2007

June	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	
	6-8	LFL National Conference, Omaha NE	
	8-13	High School Camp, Big Fork	
	9-11	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Workshop, Whitefish MT	
	14-19	Synodical Convention, Houston TX	
August	15-20	Basketball Camp, Bigfork	
	23-27	5th & 6th Grade Camp, Bigfork	
	26-29	In'tl LLL Convention, Duluth MN	
	29-8/1	Nat'l Youth Gathering, Orlando FL	
	30-8/3	Pastors Continuing Education, Bigfork	
	6-12	Deaf Retreat at Bigfork	
	20	BOD Meeting 8am-5pm Dist. Office, Billings	
	September	3	Labor Day
		10	Southern Circuit Winkel, St. John, Laurel
		14-15	COP Leadership Training Review
17		Central Circuit Winkel, Trinity, Gt. Falls	
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	9-11	District Pastors' Conference	
	10	District Work Programs are due in Dist. Office	
	15	BOD Mtg 8 am-5pm Dist. Office, Billings Preliminary Budget Work	



2007 NATIONAL LFL CONFERENCE JULY 6-8, 2007 AT DOUBLETREE HOTEL & EXECUTIVE CENTER, OMAHA NEBRASKA

IN THE HANDS OF GOD

The conference offers a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to come together for encouragement, education, fellowship, and renewal of strength in our work of upholding the sanctity of all human life. To find out more go to: www.lutheransforlife.org

Those speaking at the conference:

Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz, Dr. David Menton, Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe, Buddy Davis, Rev. Dr. Francis Monseth, Linda Bartlett, Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss, Rev. Jonathan Unverzagt, Rev. Dr. Eugene Boe, Grace Kern and Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb.

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MONTANA DISTRICT WORLD MISSION OFFERINGS

**FEBRUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH MAY 31, 2007
FOURTH 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	501.53	1,359.95		1,359.95	9.38	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		5,000.00	370.19	5,370.19	49.27		
Fallon	66	1,000	70.00	200.00		200.00	3.03	Boulder	43	0	10.0%	0.00		0.00			
Forsyth	209	6,000		1,500.00		1,500.00	7.18	Bozeman	382	26,000		2,181.00	8,586.00	8,586.00	22.48		
Glasgow	27	1,200	127.10	388.80		388.80	14.40	Butte	145	2,600		1,150.00	67.50	1,217.50	8.40		
Glendive	847	27,000	2,622.00	8,775.00		8,775.00	10.36	Deer Lodge	101	4,800		800.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	19.80		
Hysham	57	0		0.00		0.00	0.00	Emiss	48	3,000		3.00		3.00	0.60		
Miles City	338	4,500	375.00	1,125.00	5.00	1,130.00	3.34	Helena	607	30,000		3,074.54	10,518.10	10,518.10	17.33		
Plentywood	62	3,000	250.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	16.13	Three Forks	96	1,225	8.0%		370.19	370.19	3.86		
Rock Springs	16	331		0.00		0.00	0.00	Whitehall	72	2,500	10.0%	6,680.54	29,324.29	1,187.69	1,250.00	17.36	
Sidney	293	5,500	500.00	2,000.00		2,000.00	6.83	Totals	1,620	73,575		6,680.54	29,324.29	1,187.69	30,511.98	18.83	
Wolf Point	81	2,000		600.00		600.00	7.41	WESTERN									
Totals	2,203	56,305	4,445.63	16,948.75	5.00	16,953.75	7.69	Condon	61	2,640	10.0%	480.32	833.44		833.44	13.66	
SOUTHERN								Hamilton	221	17,700		1,913.70	9,323.54	2,052.46	11,376.00	51.48	
Belfry	56	1,800		900.00		900.00	16.07	Msls/First	623	51,489	14.0%	4,847.91	12,666.20	12,666.20	20.33		
Bigs/CTK	140	1,500		750.00		750.00	5.36	Msls/Messiah	119	9,592	10.0%	913.05	3,163.76	12.00	3,175.76	26.69	
Bigs/Hope	155	3,600		1,575.00	75.97	1,650.97	10.65	Salmon, ID	137	9,000	10.0%	858.47	2,704.70		2,704.70	19.74	
Bigs/Mt. Olive	524	31,000	3,807.73	12,222.70		12,222.70	23.33	Seeley Lake	72	3,500		882.37	1,665.89		1,665.89	23.14	
Bigs/Our Savior255	6,000		500.00	2,500.00		2,500.00	9.80	Stevensville	130	7,500	6.5%	625.00	2,500.00	546.75	3,046.75	23.44	
Bigs/Trinity	729	58,000	5,064.13	13,481.97		13,481.97	18.49	Superior	80	6,000	15.0%	849.36	2,633.07	100.00	2,733.07	34.16	
Bridger	59	3,600	100.00	1,100.00		1,100.00	18.64	Totals	1,443	107,421		11,370.18	35,490.60	2,711.21	38,201.81	26.47	
Crow	22	1,000	114.36	339.45		339.45	15.43	FLATHEAD									
Hardin	120	600		150.00		150.00	1.25	Columbia Falls	186	10,500	10.0%	918.00	3,223.00		3,223.00	17.33	
Harlowton	33	1,000		0.00		0.00	0.00	Creston	84	10,000		291.67	2,500.00		2,500.00	29.76	
Lame Deer	37	0		0.00		0.00	0.00	Eureka	155	3,500			875.01		875.01	5.65	
Laurel	411	19,000	10.0%	2,497.49	7,892.33	185.00	8,077.33	19.65	Kalispell	1,197	38,000			9,999.99	5.00	10,004.99	8.36
Park City	173	500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Libby	137	4,100			1,434.04		1,434.04	10.47	
Roundup	12	200		0.00		0.00	0.00	Polson	98	6,600	10.0%		2,581.00	250.00	2,831.00	28.89	
Worden	38	1,500	500.00	500.00		500.00	13.16	Ronan	89	7,500	11.0%	775.48	3,607.91		3,607.91	40.54	
Totals	2,764	129,300	12,583.71	41,411.45	260.97	41,672.42	14.98	St. Ignatius	53	1,500	5.0%	125.00	500.00		500.00	9.43	
CENTRAL								Whitefish	107	9,236	10.0%	1,930.00	3,553.00		3,553.00	33.21	
Chinook	75	500		0.00		0.00	0.00	Totals	2,106	90,936		4,040.15	28,273.95	255.00	28,528.95	13.55	
Denton	40	750	15.00	475.00		475.00	11.88	SUMMARY OF CIRCUIT									
Fairfield	36	840	70.00	280.00		280.00	7.78	Eastern	2,203	56,305		4,445.63	16,948.75	5.00	16,953.75	7.70	
Fort Benton	29	0	5.0%	0.00		0.00	0.00	Southern	2,764	129,300		12,583.71	41,411.45	260.97	41,672.42	15.08	
GF/Deaf	41	0		300.00		300.00	7.32	Central	1,390	36,870		2,581.67	13,910.95	3,377.67	17,288.62	12.44	
GF/Peace	286	12,000	1,000.00	5,280.00	3,242.67	8,522.67	29.80	Divide	1,620	73,575		6,680.54	29,324.29	1,187.69	30,511.98	18.83	
GF/Trinity	436	8,000	17%	666.67	3,333.35	3,333.35	7.65	Western	1,443	107,421		11,370.18	35,490.60	2,711.21	38,201.81	26.47	
Havre	200	8,600		830.00	2,849.50	2,849.50	14.25	Flathead	2,106	90,936		4,040.15	28,273.95	255.00	28,528.95	13.55	
Lewistown	86	3,100		623.10		623.10	7.25	Totals	11,526	494,407		41,701.88	165,359.99	7,797.54	173,157.53	15.02	
Power	97	2,000	5.0%	500.00	135.00	635.00	6.55	Year to Date Average Giving per Communicant Member for our District \$14.35									
Stanford	64	1,080	10.0%	270.00		270.00	4.22	Rec'd thru 4th mo. 2007	\$165,360	4/12 of 2007 budget	\$170,000	Deficit	\$4,640				
Totals	1,390	36,870	2,581.67	13,910.95	3,377.67	17,288.62	12.44	Rec'd thru 4th mo. 2006	\$159,270	4/12 of 2006 budget	\$125,000	Surplus	\$34,270				

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.

ANOTHER NORWEGIAN SYNOD ARRIVES IN MONTANA!

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

Rev. Eugene W. Juergensen, Montana District Archivist

November 1887 - About the time Rev. Meyer of Helena was reaching out to the Great Falls area another strand of Norwegian Lutherans arrived there. "The first Great Northern passenger train arrived in Great Falls in November 1887. According to a conversational account by an old-time, longtime Lutheran pastor in the state,

there was a passenger on that train from Mayville, North Dakota, who came seeing opportunity to expand the work of his synod into the Treasure State." The Rev. Bjug Harstadt, president of the Minnesota District of the "Norwegian Synod" arrives in Great Falls. The Minnesota District extended to the Pacific Northwest. Some Lutheran Fellowship groups were functioning in the Pacific Northwest since 1885, with pastoral leadership coming up from California.

There were no listings for this man in the newspaper or in the denomination's archives.

"We know that the 39-year-old Harstadt was an energetic promoter of his synod who visited the Pacific Northwest about this time, and if he did not arrive on the first train into Great Falls, he must have arrived shortly thereafter. He probably also vis-

ited Helena. Whatever contacts and arrangements he made were soon to bring the 'Norwegian Synod' strand of Lutheranism into Montana." There are these facts of interest in regard to Rev. Harstadt. Even though he was Norwegian he attended and graduated from our German Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He would encourage a closer tie with the Missouri Synod than with many other Norwegian Lutheran synods in existence at that time. This minister developed several Lutheran boarding academies in the Dakotas, became pastor in the state of Washington (1890), founded a similar school in Tacoma (which became Pacific Lutheran University), and eventually became president of the entire "Norwegian Synod", fostering closer ties with Missouri. Many Scandinavians from Montana have been close to

Pacific Lutheran.

September 1888 - A second Missouri Synod candidate, Adolph Bartling, a German born Concordia Seminary graduate, was installed as pastor in Butte. His reaction has been noted: "Bartling reacted with shock to the social, cultural, religious, and moral situation there, even as Meyer had done on his arrival in Helena. And it was not long before sharp conflict developed between Bartling, representing the 'Missouri Synod' position opposing lodge membership, and the German community of Butte, a considerable, influential number of whom were Masons".

Next time we will consider some things happening and heating up in Helena in 1889.

What Happened to Rev. John Meyer in Helena? And, What Happens When a New Strand Comes to Town?

CONCORDIA SEMINARY FACULTY BOOKS DONATED TO SEMINARY IN MADAGASCAR

ST. LOUIS-On a mercy mission to Madagascar, held Feb. 23-March 3, copies of several books authored by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, faculty members were donated to the Malagasy Lutheran Church's regional seminary in Antsirabe. They include "That I May Be His Own" by Dr. Charles Arand; "Teaching God's Children His Teaching" by Dr. Robert Kolb; "Fundamental Greek Grammar" by Dr. James Voelz; and "Just

Words" by Jack Preus, former Concordia Seminary professor, now president of Concordia University-Irvine.

The donation of books was a response to the Malagasy seminary's need for more adequate library resources. Through these valuable new resources, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) hopes to strengthen the understanding of the Lutheran Confessions, and aid in the training of future pastors and the teaching of the theology of the Small Catechism in the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

"The Malagasy Lutheran Church is looking to the LCMS and its seminaries to provide theological education and integrity," commented Dr. Albert Collver, executive pastoral assistant for

LCMS World Relief and Human Care. "In exchange, they show us how, through acts of mercy and human care-a theology in action of word and deed-the Gospel is proclaimed in difficult situations."

The mercy mission was sponsored by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Six seminarians and a professor from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, traveled to Madagascar and were accompanied for a portion of the trip by LCMS World Relief and Human Care staff members Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director, and Dr. Albert Collver, executive pastor assistant.

"LCMS World Relief and Human Care began the mercy mission to Madagascar as a pilot

project with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.," said Harrison. "It was established to provide an opportunity for students to see Lutheran theology in action, confessing Jesus Christ and expressing compassion to people with profound needs and challenges."

"The Lutheran church in Madagascar is very interested in having further contact with the LCMS seminaries' faculties and students," said Collver. "We at LCMS World Relief and Human Care anticipate partnering with both seminaries, especially expanding the program to include Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2008.

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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