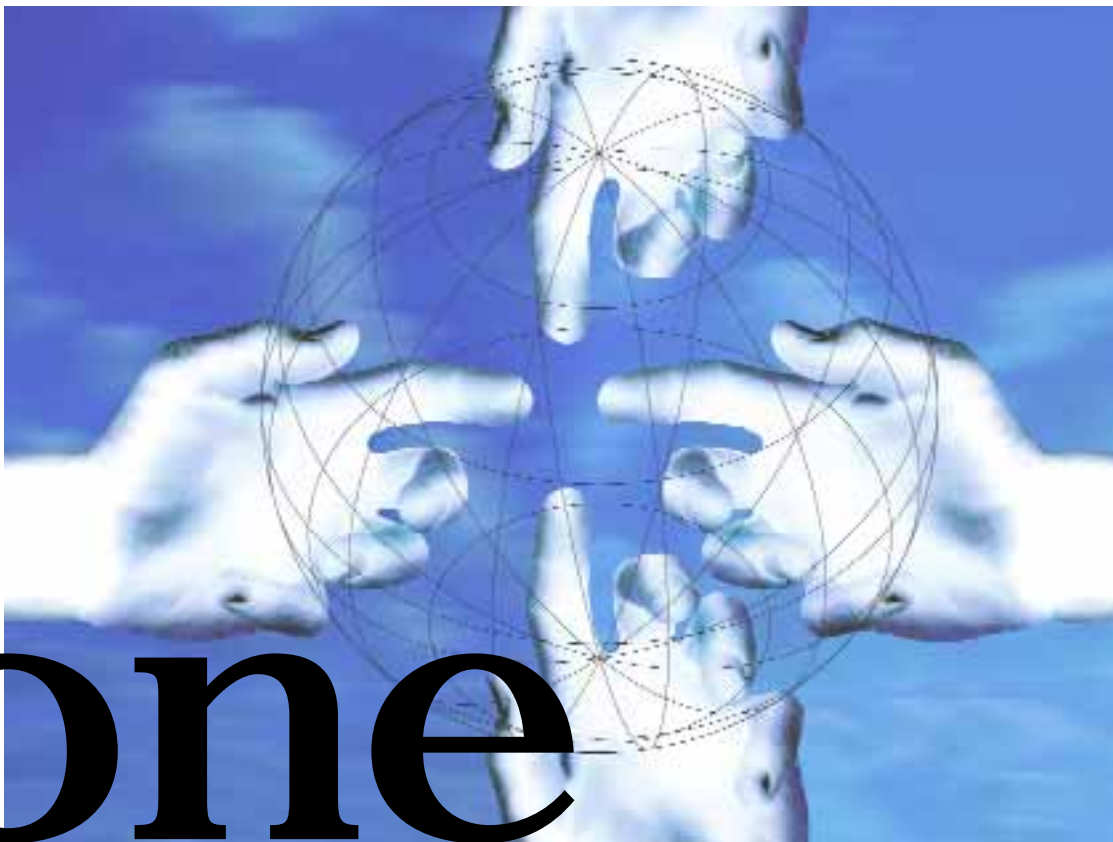


# *The Lutheran* WITNESS

FEBRUARY 2003

VOL. 122 NO. 2



# one

Mission • Message • People

A SPECIAL REPORT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  MISSOURI SYNOD

# Counting our blessings—beginning with One

**D**o you recall God’s promises to Abram? “If a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered” (Gen. 13:16 NKJV) and “Count the stars if you are able to number them. ... So shall your descendants be.” Abraham believed in the Lord, and God accounted it to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:5–6 NKJV).

Surely, to Abram, the task of counting dust and stars appeared daunting and the promise unimaginable. Yet, he believed everything God had promised. He began this counting as only he could—with *one*. And Abraham called the name of his son—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac (Gen. 21:3).

Likewise, we personally count the immeasurable promises and blessings of God by beginning with *One*—God’s only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness becomes ours in Baptism. One by one, He calls us by name, counting us among the descendants of Abraham.

As fellow believers of the promise, we count our blessings—individually and as His Church—beginning with one. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4–6 NKJV).

We count it a blessing to share Christ’s love in **One Mission**—to win the world for Christ by reaching the lost—a mission we share with Jesus, who came to seek and to save people who are lost (Luke 19:10).

We are blessed with **One Message**—the greatest message in the world—the message of “Christ and Him crucified.”

As **One People**—living and acting as those who are blessed—we stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27). Thanks be to God who blesses us through the Lord Jesus Christ!

This special report recounts the blessed work of our gracious Lord through the 6,150 congregations and 2,540,045 people who are The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. God pours out His grace in mission and ministry being done and *yet to be done*. While a glimpse toward heaven and earth reminds us these works under God’s promise are innumerable, we believe and take joy in what God has done.

We give glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit, counting our blessings—beginning with One.



**Jerry Kieschnick**, President  
The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

**Jerry Kieschnick**

John 3:16–17

# W *The Lutheran* WITNESS

A MAGAZINE FOR THE LAYPEOPLE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

## A SPECIAL REPORT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  MISSOURI SYNOD

## features



### 4 Congregations

6,150 congregations are the “front line” of mission and ministry. Here are examples of ministry and how they are assisted by the Synod.



### 16 World Mission

LCMS World Mission is spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an effort to reach 100 million people by 2017.



### 10 Districts

35 districts support the work of congregations. Stories from three districts examine ways they are meeting today’s challenges.



### 22 Higher Education

10 colleges and two seminaries strive to prepare church workers and to educate lay leaders for Christian service in church and society.



### 12 World Relief/Human Care

5.8 million people were touched last year through agencies supported through LCMS World Relief/Human Care.



### 26 Funding the Mission

At \$88.6 million, the Synod’s current budget reflects a trend toward direct giving from congregations and individuals.



Official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the Board for Communication Services, Dr. Martin G. Schramm, chairman; Rev. J. Thomas Lapacka, executive director.

Staff: Rev. David L. Mahsman, executive editor; Don Folkemer, managing editor; Joe Isenhower Jr., news editor; Paula Schlueter Ross, contributing editor; John Krus, senior designer; Jared Neisler, designer; Darla Broste, marketing manager; Pam Burgdorf, coordinator; Marcy Hanewinkel, advertising sales; Carla Dubbelde, editorial manager, district editions; Karen Higgins, editorial assistant; contributors: Roland Lovstad, Kim Krull, Robin Mueller, James Heine, Steve Gruenwald, Linda Olsen, Kevin Wickham; editorial office: 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; (314) 965-9917, Ext. 1228.

© 2003 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Reproduction of a single article or column for parish use only does not require permission of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS. Such reproductions, however, should credit THE LUTHERAN WITNESS as the source. Cover images are not reproducible without permission. Also, photos credited to sources outside the LCMS are not to be copied.

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968. Individual subscription \$18.48 per year. Organized congregation subscriptions and district editions offered at reduced rate if submitted through local churches. Standard A postage paid at St. Louis, MO.

For subscription information or address changes,  
e-mail: [cphorder@cph.org](mailto:cphorder@cph.org)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
1-888-THE LCMS (843-5267) [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)  
e-mail: [LUTHERAN.WITNESS@lcms.org](mailto:LUTHERAN.WITNESS@lcms.org)

Member: Associated Church Press  
Evangelical Press Association  
February 2003 (ISSN: 0024-757X) Vol.122, No.2

Cover photo by Comstock



## 28 LCMS Foundation

\$55 million in gifts was provided to ministries last year, thanks to donors who worked through the LCMS Foundation.



## 32 LCEF

Last year, 435 LCEF loans provided "space and place" for ministry in congregations, schools and agencies within the Synod.



## 36 Worker Benefit Plans

Health, disability and retirement coverage for 31,000 church workers and their families is provided through Worker Benefit Plans.



## 40 Concordia Publishing House

For 133 years, Concordia Publishing House has produced materials faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.



## 42 One Savior

Jesus Christ, who is the one Savior of the world, gives meaning to our work together in the Synod.

### On the Cover

Together, the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod carry out one mission and proclaim one message...centering on the cross of our one Savior, Jesus Christ.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Westfield, Ind. welcomed 101 new members during worship in late November. The congregation is one of four “daughtered” by Carmel Lutheran Church, Carmel, Ind., during its 27-year history.

# Congregations

**Joined in one mission, with one message, as one people**

**S**tories of mission and ministry are as diverse as the 2,540,045 baptized members of the 6,150 congregations that voluntarily choose to belong to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Surprisingly, they could be told in more than 20 languages—a testimony to current immigration and outreach—in this church body that was organized 150 years ago by congregations populated by German immigrants.

This is a community bound by a confession of belief that Jesus Christ, through His suffering and death, has reconciled us to the Almighty God. This good news—the Gospel—unites us in the mission to make disciples and share this message of eternal life in Christ by working together as one people.

Congregations are the heart of the Synod, and the stories here illustrate their commitment to mission and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

**2,540,045 people 6,150 congregations 2,412 schools**

“It’s really a **God-given vision**, and it comes right out of His Word,” Brunette says. “It’s nothing unique. **It’s right there**. It says to **go and make disciples**, to preach the Gospel to all the world. When that’s constantly set before people, **the Holy Spirit lays on folks**—on their hearts—the need **to reach out and care for** and build people **toward maturity** in Christ.”

### Growing in the heartland

Founded in 1976, Carmel Lutheran Church in Carmel, Ind., has created a remarkable legacy: Not only has the suburban Indianapolis parish grown from 100 to approximately 2,000 members, it has begun four daughter congregations.

Founding new congregations has been part of Carmel’s strategy since the beginning, says Rev. Luther Brunette, senior pastor. “The congregation decided early on that, not only would we grow at this site, but we would, with God’s grace, attempt to start new ministries in the area, and God has given us fertile ground.”

“I joined the congregation in 1981,” said Dave Reed, chairman of Carmel’s outreach team. “At that time there was a very positive spirit, and I think that’s been evident in all of the pastors and pastoral leadership since the beginning. That is so critical, that the pastoral leadership and the lay leadership work in harmony.”

Carmel’s church-planting plans have varied with the opportunities, Brunette says. “Some started as a result of a ‘pioneering effort,’ where people would move into an area. They would drive a long distance to come here to church. At some point they’d say, ‘We’d like to do a homestead thing and start a new church.’”

Carmel’s long-range plan is to found a new congregation about every five years, Brunette adds.

To facilitate its church-planting efforts, Carmel works closely with the Indiana District. Rev. Daniel Schumm, Carmel’s associate pastor, is the head of the district’s outreach council, and Carmel offers seminars to help other churches start daughter congregations.

“It’s really a God-given vision, and it comes right out of His Word,” Brunette says. “It’s nothing unique. It’s right there. It says to go and make disciples, to preach the Gospel to all the world. When that’s constantly set before people, the Holy Spirit lays on folks—on their hearts—the need to reach out and care for and build people toward maturity in Christ.”

Carmel’s four daughter congregations are Family of Christ Lutheran Church and School, Fishers; Holy Cross, Geist; Advent, Zionsville; and Lord of Life, Westfield.

### Reaching out through VBS

Long a staple of parish education, many congregations employ vacation Bible school as a tool for outreach into communities that are far more diverse and less church-centered than a generation or two ago.

Hope Lutheran Church in Greece, N.Y. (suburban Rochester), is one example. Two, one-week VBS sessions reach more than 1,600 children annually

### A PROFILE OF LCMS MEMBERSHIP

Communicants	Congregations
1,000 to 2,000+	302
900–999	73
800–899	91
700–799	131
600–699	171
500–599	288
400–499	419
300–399	635
200–299	991
100–199	1,527
50–99	884
0–49	574

- Two-thirds of LCMS congregations average fewer than 160 at worship.
- For every one congregation with an average worship attendance over 500, nine have an average worship of 100 or less.
- Based on statistics for 2000





**LCMS  
NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

Congregations	6,150
Baptized Members	2,540,045
Confirmed members	1,920,949
Total giving	\$1,217,157,294
Men on clergy roster	8,497
Children baptized	32,606
Children confirmed	24,534
Adults confirmed	19,964
Members gained from outside	40,947
Sunday school enrollment	492,751
Av. weekly worship attendance	156.8

• From the 2001 statistical reports

tions wanted fewer programs and more direct contact and assistance from the national and district offices of the Synod.

“District staff struggle with the same questions,” Wilke observes. He sees district staffs becoming more diverse as they also refine their work. “We have to find a balance between developing appropriate resources—not just programs—whether these are Bible studies or how-to materials,” Wilke said.

“I don’t want to send a message that 6,150 congregations are not important; we will respond as appropriate or refer them to their district office,” Wilke said. “We have a system established and it’s called districts. We want to focus on strengthening relationships and partnership with district offices.”

District and Congregational Services has six ministry areas: child, family, outreach, school, stewardship and youth ministries.

Wilke added that DCS will continue to provide valued resources such as the national Youth Gathering and resources for Lutheran schools.

**Trinity nurtures leaders from early ages**

As the Synod recruits church workers, it can look to the recipe used by Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, Ala.

“We nurture young people from an early age, even in confirmation class or before,” says Pastor Ulmer Marshall. “When you see young people with the gifts or abilities for ministry, or you see young people who are leaning that way, you want to help them think about the ministry.”

Marshall has served Trinity since 1973, leading the 51-year-old congregation as it grew from weekly worship attendance of 30 to more than 250. During that time, five of its sons have entered the pastoral ministry in the Synod.

“If I count all the others who have come



Young people, like these assembled for groundbreaking of a new education wing, are nurtured through day-school and after-school programs at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, Ala. Pastor Ulmer Marshall intentionally works with youth to encourage them to consider church-work careers.













One One One C

LCMS World Relief /Human Care works with missionaries and national churches to provide shelter, clothing, food, health care and education for orphaned children such as these in Belarus.

## World Relief/Human Care

**'Many have promised, but you have done it'**

**T**he deep brown eyes of the plant manager stared directly at me with solemn gratitude while his Kyrgyz language was translated to English.

“Many people have promised to help, but you have actually done it.”

In that moment I learned how the apostle Paul must have felt as he delivered the gifts from the Christians in Asia to the poor saints in Jerusalem. I often have this privilege of connecting the wonderful gifts given to LCMS World Relief and Human Care with recipients for whom such gifts make all the difference in the world.

**5.8 million** people **281** agencies  
**78,000** nights of shelter **\$3.2 million** in gifts







took Ferguson's government grant money and disappeared without doing the repairs. In desperation, she called Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSS), which annually serves more than 35,000 people in need in Texas and Louisiana.

LSS contacted Jean and Dale Peercy, construction volunteer coordinators with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), who lead the repair of damaged homes for LSS and LDR.

"As soon as Jeannie and Dale came to my house, I knew everything was going to get better," Ferguson said. "They knew exactly what to say and do."

The Peercys organized volunteers who tackled repairs, including restoring the foundation and plumbing. The Ferguson home was one of 14,000 Houston-area jobs LDR volunteers expect to tackle.

LCMS World Relief provided \$65,000 toward the \$137,000 LDR fund for such work.

"When people ask why we come to help, that opens the door," Jean Peercy said. "We tell them the Lord has called us to be their neighbor and to care."

LDR is a cooperative program of the LCMS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Domestic Disaster Response.

## A helping hand and Gospel heart

LCMS World Relief and Human Care helps hurting and needy people throughout the world, reaching out in the clear name of Jesus and providing a clear Lutheran confession of faith. The core ministries include:

- LCMS World Relief—the Synod's disaster response and self-help arm ministers to immediate needs in emergencies and supports long-term projects in the U.S. and overseas.
- Social Ministry Organizations—liaison to Lutheran Services in America, the network of 281 Lutheran agencies (120 recognized by the LCMS) touching 5.8 million people with services such as foster care and adoption, nursing homes



Nancy Habermeier, a full-time parish nurse at Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, Ill., meets with Elaine Whiting. LCMS Health Ministries promotes wellness through initiatives such as parish nursing and congregational health ministries.

and hospitals, and assistance for people with disabilities. (One in three not-for-profit nursing home beds in the U.S. is provided by a Lutheran institution.)

- Districts and Congregations—providing resources and expertise for districts and congregations to identify and respond to community needs beyond church doors.
- Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education (Chaplaincy)—including some 380 LCMS chaplains and pastoral care counselors in hospitals, nursing homes and police and fire departments.
- LCMS Health Ministries—promotes the wellness of body, mind and spirit for LCMS members, their families and professional church workers.
- LCMS Life Ministries—resources and advocacy for human life issues related to human cloning, abortion and euthanasia.

Also provided is funding for "Veterans of the Cross"—retired church workers and spouses who need assistance to make ends meet.



Reaching people in remote areas of Alaska is among the mission opportunities that abound in the United States. Students from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, helped with vacation Bible school as part of their educational experiences.

# World Mission

## Sharing the Gospel is 'job one' for LCMS World Mission

Less than two years after LCMS World Mission started a new missionary-training strategy in East Africa: 143 men are training to serve as lay missionaries, 136 “preaching stations” have opened, and 2,400 people have been baptized as new Christians.

The strategy centers around “Mission Training Centers”—mission stations, led by African Lutheran leaders, that focus on theological training, evangelism and church planting. The model has seen success in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan, and is being considered for several other African countries.

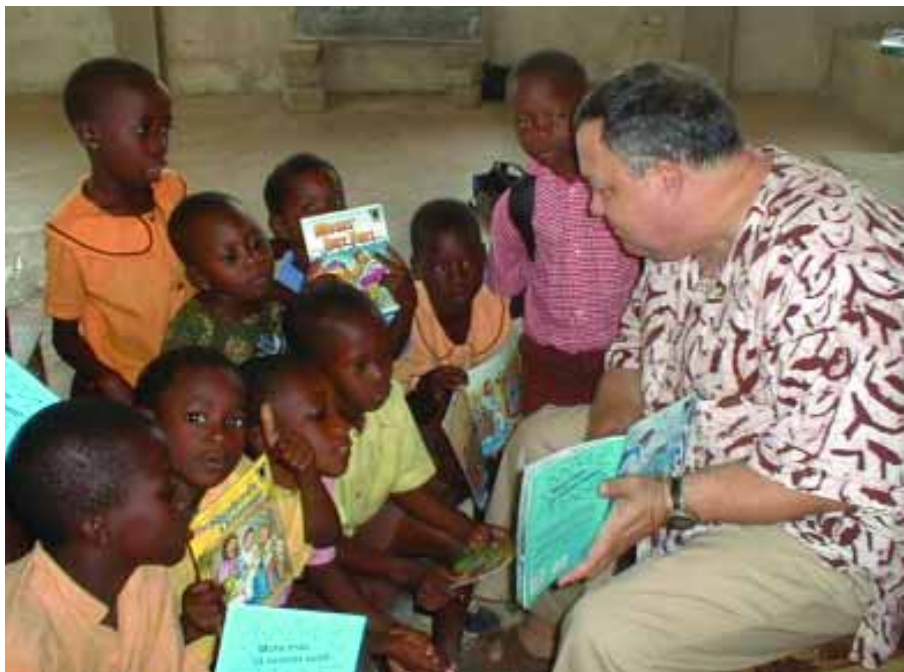
**75 countries 300 missionaries**  
**100 million unreached people**











Missionary Charles Groth shares a Bible story with children in Ghana, West Africa.

## Our largest partner church? It's in Brazil

This summer, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil begins its centennial celebration under the theme “Christ for All—Yesterday, Today and Forever.”

That church body, known by its Portuguese acronym IELB, grew out of mission work that the Missouri Synod began in 1900. It was organized as the Synod’s Brazil District in 1904, and in 1980 the district became the independent IELB.

With more than 221,000 members in 1,300 congregations, it is the largest of 29 “partner churches”—Lutheran church bodies that share altar-and-pulpit fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

For its anniversary, the Brazilian church is planning worship services and public concerts, as well as a special convention next January.

The IELB has just combined two seminaries into one, conducts evangelism programs and sponsors a host of social ministries in Brazil, where the majority of the population is impoverished. One of its congregations operates the world’s largest Lutheran university—with more than 60,000 students on 14 campuses.

About 80 percent of the church’s members live in southern Brazil, where German immigrants set-







In Russia, Pastor Igor Alisov conducts a Baptism at a Moscow orphanage. Alisov preaches at Holy Trinity, a congregation of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Moscow. LCMS World Mission assists the church body with leadership and theological training.

## Churches emerge a decade after Iron Curtain

Barely 10 years after the fall of communism in Eastern European countries, the Missouri Synod is helping Lutheran churches there re-emerge.

For example, Synod missionaries are working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia—an LCMS partner church—by planting churches and educating pastors and other church workers.

Rev. John Mehl, LCMS World Mission area director for Eastern Europe, said goals in Russia for the next nine years include strengthening the existing 75 congregations, planting 125 new congregations, having 400 small preaching stations and educating 1,200 church leaders.

In Kazakhstan, missionaries have planted six congregations and established a seminary in the city of Almaty, where they also are starting a mission-training center. The work in that country is expanding into villages through medical missions and Lutheran Hour radio broadcasts.

Missionaries have started a congregation in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as well as in four villages of that country. Mehl said that the “hope” is to buy a building to house classes in English as a Second Language and serve as a training center for church outreach. Other goals include planting 20 more village congregations with pastors and other church leaders who can train more leaders.

In Georgia, Synod missionaries are working with the International Lutheran Laymen’s League to start churches and train pastors and church leaders there.

The Synod has made it possible for Belarusian students to study at the Ingrian church’s seminary in Russia. In Belarus, Synod missionaries have held theological-education seminars and helped LCMS World Relief with humanitarian-aid projects.

Missionaries helped Estonian Lutherans produce a Lutheran newspaper that is sold from newsstands and currently assist with an outreach program. The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church is the largest church in Eastern Europe.

In Latvia, the Synod is helping build Luther Academy—with a building and by preparing a theological faculty at the two LCMS seminaries.

Missionaries have helped translate material from Concordia Publishing House into Lithuanian.

Today in the Synod, there are about 160 such ministries to Hispanics, compared with 90 Hispanic ministries in 1997 and 29 in 1979, says Dr. Robert Gonzalez, mission facilitator for new Hispanic missions with LCMS World Mission—North America Services.

Among them are growing border ministries, evidenced last year when four LCMS districts and North America Services formed a partnership with the goal of connecting one million Hispanics with the Gospel and training 500 new Hispanic workers for the region that borders Mexico.

“One of our primary goals,” Gonzalez said, “is to continue to sensitize congregations to see Hispanic ministry as an opportunity, not a threat. Congregations and others that are successful in Hispanic ministry are learning to be culturally sensitive to Hispanics.”

Rev. Steven Schulz, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, says he has noticed “a big change” in the cultural sensitivity of members to Hispanics since he came to the area four years ago and Brink started his work three years ago.

Within that time, Schulz said he has seen “the prevailing attitude [go from] ‘why don’t they go back to where they came from’ [to] ‘how can we help them integrate into our society and help them to know about Jesus.’”











LCMS seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne enroll 826 students. Nearly half of the first-year class at St. Louis and two thirds of the first-year class at Fort Wayne are studying to be pastors as a second career.

teachers to identify potential church workers for mentoring, educational experiences and connections to leadership in the church.

In the area of retention, Hempelmann said, the objective is to assist congregations in caring for their church workers. One way is to build a base of “best practices”—based on congregation experiences— for supporting church workers. Those will be shared as models throughout the Synod.

### Distance learning helps fill vacancies

DELTO (Distance Education Leading To Ordination) is enabling congregations to raise up one of their laymen to provide ministry services while he studies for the pastoral ministry.

Without uprooting family or leaving jobs, about 60 men are currently enrolled in the program, which involves cooperation between districts and seminaries. Over a six-year period, students complete 30 courses leading to ordination.

“The LCMS DELTO program is a response to the extraordinary

mission needs of the church,” said Hempelmann. “It provides contextual theological education leading to ordination for men who provide pastoral services to congregations in situations that cannot support a full-time pastor or missionary.

“With the revised DELTO, students can complete the first 10 courses at the district level in various ways—for example, through a district program, at a Concordia college, or even by testing out of some courses,” said Dr. Walter A. Maier III, who is dean of distance education at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. “The remaining 20 courses are offered by the seminaries. We’re looking at new modes of delivery, including the possibility that the seminaries may collaborate to offer courses online.”

Currently, the Fort Wayne seminary sends faculty at the beginning of a course to meet with, and teach, students grouped in regional clusters. The St. Louis seminary brings students to the campus for a week at the beginning and end of a course cycle. As students continue their studies at home, they stay in contact with professors by telephone, mail and Internet.

### COLLEGE-UNIVERSITY ENROLLMENT

Institution	Total enrollment	Church work students
Ann Arbor, Mich.	548	203
Austin, Texas	1,073	133
Bronxville, N.Y.	654	59
Irvine, Calif.	1,648	173
Mequon, Wis.	4,904	710
Portland, Ore.	1,085	57
River Forest, Ill.	1,802	536
Selma, Ala.	972	18
St. Paul, Minn.	1,921	214
Seward, Neb.	1,425	751
Total	16,032	2,854

### SEMINARY ENROLLMENT

	Total enrollment	Ordination track
Fort Wayne, Ind.	392	320
St. Louis, Mo.	618	506
Total	1,010	826



An average of 3.7 cents from offering plate dollars is directed to the national Synod budget, funding 48 percent of the current budget. Direct gifts support a majority of the work in missions, world relief and higher education.

# Funding the Mission

## Sharing the love of Christ

Doing the work of your Synod has brought about a large organizational structure. In reality, some 52 not-for-profit corporations provide a variety of services in behalf of and in support of congregations. Many are described on these pages—districts, higher education, church extension and publishing, to name a few.

Complicated as it is, your Synod has one mission as described in its mission statement: “In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”

**\$88.6 million budget \$12.65 per member**







Through the LCMS Foundation, gifts for LCMS World Relief, such as this well-digging project in Ghana, help build self-sustaining livelihoods.

# LCMS Foundation

## Visualize numbers in terms of people and outreach

A number like \$55 million is difficult to visualize, so think of missionaries sharing the Gospel...university and seminary students assisted with educational expenses...clothing and food for tornado victims...a mission start in a rapidly growing community...classrooms for college students...a Bible study heard halfway around the globe on the Internet.

That's the sum—\$55,464,207 to be exact—that was applied to LCMS ministries during the 2001–2002 fiscal year, thanks to donors who worked through the LCMS Foundation.

**481** ministries **163,666** direct gifts  
**4,747** matured gifts **\$55 million** distributed









Through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the investments of LCMS members help build churches and schools. Last year, more than 432 loans were approved for construction and remodeling projects such as this work at Zion Lutheran Church in Harvester, Mo.

# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

## Funds for 'space and place' for ministry

**I**n 1902, members of several LCMS congregations pioneered “church extension” by pooling \$400 to help another congregation build a church.

The tradition continues today through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. With assets approaching \$1.3 billion, LCEF counts more than 76,000 LCMS investors and some 2,700 loans in place.

LCEF includes 27 member districts in this ministry-through-investment organization. By investing in LCEF, members (individuals and congregations) receive competitive interest rates. In turn, their dollars provide low-cost loans to LCMS churches, schools, and professional church workers.

**76,000** investors **2,800** current loans  
**\$1.3 billion** in assets









Between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002, LCEF approved loans totaling \$205 million for remodeling and construction of churches, schools and ministry facilities. Loan demand is expected to exceed \$220 million this year.

They have secured a home loan through the LCEF Professional Church Worker (PCW) Loan program. He learned about the program before graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and accepting his first call as associate pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

“My wife and I thought the rates were very competitive compared to other financial institutions we had spoken with,” he said. “And LCEF doesn’t require private mortgage insurance, which can be a huge expense to new homeowners.”

LCEF developed the PCW program in 2000. Since then, it has approved 153 housing loans and 174 debt-consolidation loans to LCMS pastors and teachers.



Michelle Boyer, a teacher at West Portal Lutheran School in San Francisco, is among 31,000 workers who receive benefits through Worker Benefit Plans.

# Worker Benefit Plans

## 'Serving Those In His Service'

When church leaders set out years ago to assist LCMS church workers, they took the model from the book of Acts, where Christians shared everything, distributing to each member what was needed. In the early 1900s, a plan was designed for churches, schools and other organizations to pool some resources and—through ongoing contributions and investments—provide pensions. The result, in 1937, was the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers (PPPT).

**31,000** church workers **\$141 million** in health claims  
**\$95 million** in retirement benefits







# Notices

---

*Note: The "official notices" are published for a single purpose only: giving notice of a result, namely, changes in the Synod's membership rosters by the addition or deletion of the names of persons and congregations. It is not appropriate that reasons for the changes be identified in the published notices. Since a change can occur for any of a variety of reasons, no assumptions may be made merely from the fact that a change has occurred.*

## OFFICIAL NOTICES— FROM THE DISTRICTS

REV. ERHARD WOLF has been appointed Circuit Counselor of the Springfield Circuit, replacing REV. MARK LAVRENZ who accepted a call out of the district.—Dr. James W. Kalthoff, president, Missouri District.

REV. GLENN R. DENKE has been appointed Circuit Counselor of the South Dakota District, replacing REV. DONAVON HETHOLD who accepted a call out of the district.—Rev. Vernon L. Schindler, president, South Dakota District.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES—COLLOQUIES

AMY L. MACFARLANE, Elgin, Ill.; RANDI FUCHS, Lincoln, N. Dakota; LAURA B. MONTGOMERY, Imperial, Missouri; KIMBERLY A. MARKS, East Peoria, Ill.; have submitted their applications to the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through CUENet. Correspondence regarding their applications should be directed to the undersigned within four weeks after publication of this notice.—Reverend Daniel Preus, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

NICKIE L. ISAACS, Brownstown, Ind.; SUSAN FLOGEL, Big Bend, Wis.; CAROL BURK, Placentia, Calif.; have submitted their applications to the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Correspondence regarding their applications should be directed to the undersigned within four weeks after publication of this notice.—Reverend Daniel Preus, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

REV. STEPHEN D. POPE, Appleton, Wis.; REV.

BRUCE JONES, Griffith, Ind.; MR. QUENTIN D. STEWART, St. Louis, Missouri; have submitted their applications to the Pastoral Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Correspondence regarding their applications should be directed to the undersigned within four weeks after publication of this notice.—Reverend Daniel Preus, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

MARIANNE COLLINS, Bartlett, Tenn., has completed the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at Concordia University and is now eligible for a call.—Rev. Albert L. Garcia, Director of Teacher Colloquy Program, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon, WI 53097-2402.

MARTHA MOELLER, Oak Lawn, Ill.; NATALIE CONRAD, Memphis, Tenn.; have completed all requirements of the Colloquy for placement in the teaching ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.—Elaine Sipe, Director of Teacher Colloquy, Concordia University River Forest, 7400

*(Continued on page 42)*





CPH's vacation Bible school materials take a Southwestern theme for 2003. Reviewing the "Rancho Roundup" products are, from left, Stacy Johnston, senior graphic designer for VBS, and Robyn Hogan, VBS marketing manager.

## Concordia Publishing House

The Word of the Lord endures forever

Laymen founded Concordia Publishing House more than 133 years ago to provide printed materials for the worship and education needs in the Synod. Today, CPH continues to provide the "basics" like offering envelopes and bulletin covers, as well as creative, multi-piece products like the annual vacation Bible school materials. Working with LCMS boards and commissions, it cooperates on projects such as hymnals for worship and *The Lutheran Witness*.

In this information age, "publishing" goes beyond the traditional ink on paper. CPH products include computer software, Bible studies and newsletters via e-mail and, of course, a Web site at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

**152,335** orders annually  
**6,600** items in stock **300** employees



# Notices

(Continued from Page 39)

Augusta St., River Forest, IL 60305-1499.

GARY L. CLARK, Graham, Wash., was certified for the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is now eligible to receive a call.—Reverend Daniel Preus, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES— REQUESTS FOR REINSTATEMENTS

LONNIE BELL, Rochester, Minn.; TAMMY L. GIESE, Mayville, Wis.; SHARON E. NORRIS, Asheville, N.C.; and LORI J. STADLER, Tucson, Ariz.; have applied for reinstatement to the Minister of Religion—Commissioned roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Correspondence regarding this application should be directed to the undersigned for receipt no later than March 5, 2003.—Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig, Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

## OFFICIAL NOTICES— PROMOTIONS

The Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis., herewith gives notice of intent to promote to Professor the following: REV. DR. NATHAN JASTRAM and DR. GARY LOCK-

LAIR; to promote to Associate Professor the following: DR. LOUISE CONLEY JONES; REV. DR. CRAIG RINKER; DR. CANDYCE SEIDER; DR. JEFFREY WALZ; and DR. MARK WOLF; and to Assistant Professor the following: REV. THOMAS FEIERTAG and MS. KAREN SCHWENKE. Any comments concerning this intent should be addressed to the undersigned within six weeks after publication of this notice.—Rev. Patrick T. Ferry, President, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon, WI 53097-2402.

## POSITIONS/NOMINATIONS

**Concordia Publishing House**, St. Louis, MO, seeks nominations for the office of **president and chief executive officer** to guide and direct the fulfillment of its responsibilities as the publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (*Handbook* Bylaw 3.301).

The president is to serve as the chief theological supervisor of Concordia Publishing House in order to implement CPH's Mission Statement, i.e., that Concordia "exists for the purpose of strengthening and aiding member congregations in their proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and working in partnership with the agencies and congregations of the Synod to provide publishing services. On their behalf, Concordia Publishing House will develop, produce, market and distribute products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and which will effectively service such proclamation to people

throughout the world."

A nominee:

- Must be a member in good standing of an LCMS congregation;
- Must be committed to the Holy Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions;
- Must be supportive of Synod's Constitution Bylaws, and policies;
- Must be mission minded and aware of CPH's opportunities to support the Great Commission of the church;
- Must be able to provide theological and administrative vision for CPH's future;
- Must have the resolve to maintain an uncompromising approach to the theological integrity of CPH publications;
- Must be eager to develop collaborative relationships with agencies of the Synod to meet their needs for publishing and information delivery services;
- Should have a minimum of a master's degree in theology (i.e., M.A.R., M.DIV., S.T.M.)
- Must be able to show a high level of knowledge and application of Lutheran theology preferably through a combination of writings, publications, editorial work, degrees, and parish experience in the LCMS;
- Should have significant administrative leadership experience in the church and/or business;
- Must possess the skills and ability to organize and monitor Concordia's business needs in

(Continued on Page 43)

## Staying up with LCMS news isn't easy.

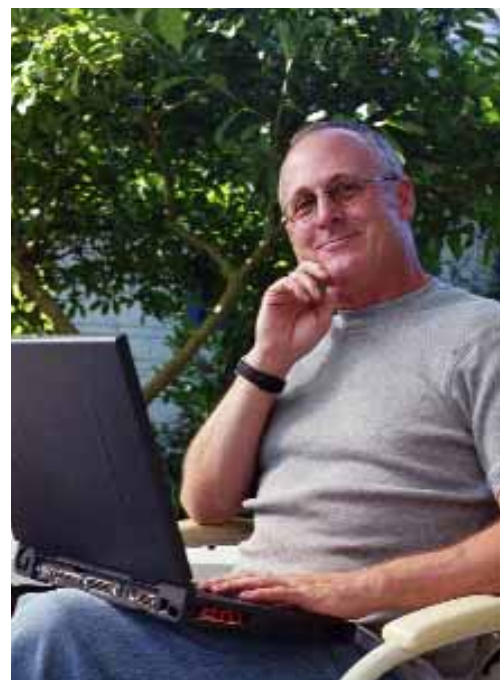
### Your electronic link to your Synod.

- Get the news and information you ask for.
- Delivered right to your computer.
- Choose full-text or summary version.
- Choose the subjects.
- Change your choices anytime.
- Change your address.

### Choose Your News.

Select from these topics  
and more:

- † News
- † Child Ministry
- † Ethnic Ministry
- † Family Ministry
- † Outreach Ministry
- † Youth Ministry
- † Worship
- † Devotional
- † Stewardship



### Easy and Free . . .

Just go to [www.lcms.org/enews](http://www.lcms.org/enews)  
and in 10 minutes you're all set.

Register today at  
[lcms.org/enews](http://lcms.org/enews)

LCMS e-News



# Notices

(Continued from Page 42)

conjunction with the chief operating officer of CPH;  
— Must be willing to promote and encourage the use of Concordia materials in congregations throughout the Synod; and be able to work in harmony with people.

Nominations should be submitted by April 1, 2003, to Robert Knox, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Concordia Publishing House, PO Box 19162, St. Louis, MO 63118.

**Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y.** seeks full-time faculty appointment in biology. Duties include: the teaching of lower- and upper-level biology courses, such as, anatomy and physiology; genetics; human sexuality; history and philosophy of science; advising students; and committee responsibilities. Qualifications to also teach lower-level physics and/or chemistry a plus.

Qualifications: Earned doctorate preferred; membership in LCMS congregation; commitment to Lutheran higher education; college teaching experience a plus. Rank and Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Nomination/Application Procedures: Position will begin Aug. 1, 2003. Send nominations or letters of application, resume and names of three references to: Prof. Gerald Fuhrmann, Department Chair, Concordia College, 171 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. E-mail: [gwf@concordia-ny.edu](mailto:gwf@concordia-ny.edu).

**Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y.** seeks a

**Director of Admission.** Position reports to the VP of Institutional Advancement. Candidate should have a minimum of three years supervisory experience in Admission and a sophisticated understanding of enrollment strategies, financial aid and computer information systems. Candidate should have strong managerial and analytical abilities, superb written and "people" skills and (naturally in Admission) a healthy sense of humor. A Master's degree is preferred. College administration and faculty strongly support the Admission function and current enrollments are at record levels. The successful candidate will have an understanding of and affinity for Lutheran higher education. The new director will lead an experienced Admission team.

Send interest letter and resume to Christopher Nagel, Vice President, Concordia College, 171 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708; [cjn@concordia-ny.edu](mailto:cjn@concordia-ny.edu). Concordia College, located in suburban New York City, is a liberal arts college with an enrollment of approximately 600 students and a full-time faculty of 35. Sixty-five percent of all traditional, full-time students are residential. The student body is diverse with 12% international from 30 countries. Concordia is ranked in the top 30 Northern Comprehensive Colleges by USN&WR. Position includes beneficial college housing and being part of a supportive campus community.

**Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.,** seeks a full-time development officer. A candidate should have three years expe-

rience in development work; be a self starter; energetic; highly motivated; possess writing, speaking and "people" skills; have an understanding of and an affinity for confessional Lutheran theological education; and be willing to meet challenging goals. Position requires extensive travel; an ability to meet new people and deepen relationships with long-established friends of the seminary; visiting; cultivating and soliciting them for gifts for the seminary. Computer skills helpful.

Send application letter and resume to Rev. Ralph G. Schmidt, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Concordia Theological Seminary, 6600 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or E-mail to [schmidtrg@mail.ctsfiw.edu](mailto:schmidtrg@mail.ctsfiw.edu).

## ANNIVERSARIES

**St. Luke Lutheran Church, Oakridge, Ore.,** will observe its 50th anniversary on May 18, 2003, with a special worship service at 10 a.m. The Rev. Del Schomburg, Institutional Chaplain for the Northwest District, and former pastor, will be the featured speaker. A celebratory dinner will follow the service. Contact the church office at (541) 782-2030.

**Lamb of God, Lake Havasu City, Ariz.,** will celebrate its 5th anniversary with a special service on Feb. 23, 2003 at 10:30 a.m. in the Aquatic Center. Guest speaker will be Pastor Jerry Kosberg, Missions and Ministry coordinator, PSWD. Dinner will follow the service.

*Here's a new way you can do  
the work God sets before you  
...take a moment today and  
check out <http://catalog.lcms.org>*

You'll find it's an easy, safe, informative way to participate in such LCMS ministries as World Mission and World Relief, or support Synod or your own District.

It's easy, safe, and best of all, it's ready when you are ... a mouse click away, 24 hours a day.

Think of it ... no more hunting for addresses, envelopes, stamps, phone numbers ... everything you need when you're thinking about a gift is right in front of you!

*So grab your mouse  
and go!*

The  FOUNDATION  
Linking Christians with Giving Opportunities

