

# Reports Agencies, Institutions, and Organizations

## *Illowa Lutheran Coalition --Rock Island, Illinois*

“Mission in Community”. This short phrase is the summation of our ministry as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. The Illowa Lutheran Coalition is expressed in the partnership of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the Northern Illinois Synod which provides a vehicle for cooperative ministry by the 35 ELCA congregations and ELCA related agencies and institutions in the greater Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities area.

This past year has been an extremely active one for our Coalition as we have grown into the vision for ministry that we embraced three years ago. This vision was adopted by the Coalition in 2002 and has at its center, four ministry areas. These ministry areas include:

- Professional Leadership and Support. The Illowa Lutheran Coalition hosts a continuing education component that meets once a month at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. The professional leaders also meet once a month for lunch, presentation, and fellowship. The Illowa Lutheran Coalition also sponsors an Administrative Assistants Luncheon. This is an opportunity to give thanks for the many gifts and ministry of the administrative assistants in our congregations.
- Multicultural Ministry seeks to lift up and celebrate the gift of diversity in our communities. The Illowa Lutheran Coalition sponsors events such as anti-racism training, Spanish language classes, and multicultural awareness events.
- Leadership Development. This is a cooperative effort to help lay persons identify their gifts for ministry. This ministry area also provides opportunities to equip lay persons for ministry in their congregations.
- Family Faith Formation. This area of cooperative ministry explores ways to be a supportive and resourcing component to congregation in their ministry to families and youth.

This past year, the Coalition shared in the sponsorship of a Habitat House that was constructed in Rock Island, Illinois. The Illowa Lutheran Coalition has had a long history of partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We give thanks to God for the generosity of our congregations that make this partnership possible.

In January of 2006, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition was pleased to host a Living Liturgy event which featured Marty Haugen, Mary Preus, Pr. Dan Erlander, Tom Witt, and Pr. Susan Briehl as workshop leaders. It was a tremendous event and included participants from throughout the states of Iowa and Illinois.

The Illowa Lutheran Coalition would like to express its thanks for the support and participation of the member congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Coalition. We extend our thanks as well to Bishop Philip Hougen of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod along with their staffs for all their support of the Coalition’s “mission in community”.

The Illowa Lutheran Coalition looks forward to ministry in 2006 as we joyfully proclaim God’s amazing grace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Serving Christ Together,  
Pastor Kurt Nordby, Director

## *Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center – Oregon, Illinois*

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois has been blessed by the Northern Illinois (NIS) synod's support for another year. Thank you for that awesome support from the synod budget and by sending the hundreds of kids from NIS churches to LOMC.

Those that came to LOMC were treated to our 650 acres comprised of striking sandstone cliffs, vast sections of remnant prairie, beautiful ravines, huge hardwood forests and a pond for fishing and canoeing. LOMC is populated by deer, wild turkeys, hawks, owls and other small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. This serene environment is the perfect setting to connect the Word of God with the World of God.

In the summer LOMC offers unique opportunities for individuals and youth groups. There are specialty camps such as Fishing, Golf, Theatre Arts, and Swing Choir as well as outdoor living programs like Explorer, Jr. High Outpost and Spelunking. Service and Leadership Training (SALT) Camp and Zion Assent provide service events for youth groups.

We are a year round camp, so if your youth group, church council, family reunion or WELCA group is looking for that perfect place to retreat we can create a program that fits your needs. You can just rent the facilities and run your own retreat, let our staff plan everything, or something in between. Our specially-trained staff can lead your group through our team building course, facilitate Bible studies and environmental activities, lead both night and day hikes or guide your group on a canoe trip down the Rock River. Our Autumn Fest celebration is scheduled for Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now for this FUN event!

Thank you too for the servants from NIS that have faithfully given of their time to be on our Board of Directors this past year: Bishop Gary Wollersheim, Vice President – Pastor Jeff Clements, Nominating Committee Chair - Pastor Karl Otto, Development Committee Chair – Stella Schroeder, Pastor Gary Erickson, Dianne Gunderson, Leona Peterson-Spear and Keith Syfert. The blessings continue to abound from Northern Illinois Synod.

In His service,

Russ Senti, Executive Director

## *Lutheran Social Services of Illinois*

*Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois brings healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities.*

As President of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), I am pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the ministry of LSSI over the past year, done on behalf of the three ELCA synods of Illinois. In our work to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities, we are continually blessed by the support we receive from congregations, individuals, and the Northern Illinois Synod as a whole.

The following are just a few successes LSSI will have celebrated since the last Synod Assembly:

- LSSI celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its **Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives** program. In collaboration with the Fuller Center for Housing, we are arranging for prisoners to construct frames for homes in Shreveport, Louisiana. These will become homes for families displaced by the

hurricanes. As of this writing, four homes have been constructed by prisoners at Taylorville and Centralia Correctional Centers. Our goal is to send frames for 30 homes to the Gulf and construct 45 homes in Illinois this year.

- At Dixon Correctional Center, volunteers helped with our Thursday Ministry and Storybook 151 times. Because of their efforts, 843 incarcerated men participated in these programs and 487 children received books and tapes from their incarcerated fathers.
- LSSI continues to be the largest statewide private provider of **child welfare services** in Illinois. In 2005, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois took over several foster care cases from Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois in Rockford, with the number of cases increasing by 27 between July 2005 and February 2005.
- LSSI's Gateway Intergenerational Resource Center trains volunteers from the community, many of whom are seniors, to provide outreach and events that build community. Located in the 61104 zip code area of Rockford, these services reach into a severely economically disadvantaged neighborhood. Activities of this program include an annual event to celebrate community heritage; "Share Fair," an event that brought 300 parents and children together to learn about educational resources available to them; recruiting parents for parent/teacher conferences; connecting with families when children are absent from school; following up with children who haven't been immunized; providing tutoring assistance; and providing nutrition educational groups.
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) offers housing opportunities for seniors in apartment complexes throughout Illinois. Some of our facilities cater to retirees while others are tailored to those who are 62 years plus or to those who are handicapped and require barrier-free apartments. Several communities throughout the Northern Illinois Synod are home to these complexes, including DeKalb, Moline, Rockford, Joliet, Freeport, and Rochelle. In addition, LSSI offers a unique retirement community in Peterson Meadows, located in Rockford. Peterson Meadows features lovely apartments and cottages, elegant dining areas, a full array of residential programming and group outings, garage facilities, as well as other activities and amenities.
- For 25 years, Intouch Adult Day Services of LSSI has provided structured activities, supervision and assistance for adults, as well as offering respite to caregivers. The majority of participants are over age 60, with an average daily census of 86 participants; 26 of those participants take part in Alzheimer's programming. Intouch Adult Day Service serves over 250 participants who live in a 240 square mile radius around the Quad city area. Last July, Intouch relocated to a newly designed facility. This new center allows the program to serve more clients, which in turn requires more transportation and increased operations and maintenance expenses.
- LSSI's Sterling office initiated *Compañeros Contigo* in September 2004, a program which offers mental health services on a sliding scale basis to members of the Spanish-speaking community. In its first year, the *Compañeros Contigo* Program served 21 Spanish-speaking clients, in addition to 2 English-speaking Hispanic clients. In addition to counseling, *Compañeros Contigo* has been able to join in staff education, health, and legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of the Latino community.
- At the beginning of 2005, LSSI introduced the public phase of **Strength to Strength: The Campaign for Healing, Justice and Wholeness**. This initiative has a goal of raising \$45 million by June 2006. As of December 2005, LSSI had secured \$39.2 million towards this goal.
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois was **reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation**. Accreditation by COA attests that an organization meets the highest national standards and is delivering the best quality services to the community it serves, and is an affirmation of LSSI's ongoing endeavor to continually improve how we deliver services to the people we serve. LSSI also closed on a \$20 million tax-exempt bond issue, with the proceeds used to refinance \$13.5 million of existing debt and reimburse \$6 million in recent agency capital expenditures. The bonds were issued at an average yield of 5.09%, down from a previous issuing at 6.125%.
- **Lutheran Network for Justice Advocacy** hosted Lutheran Day 2006 on March 30<sup>th</sup>, with several hundred Lutherans and friends gathering in Springfield to learn about advocacy work in the ELCA and to meet with their state legislators. The second annual "Paul Simon Courage in Leadership Award" was awarded to the Honorable James R. Thompson, former Illinois governor and member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. LNJA training sessions were held in Rock Island and Rockford in February.
- **Lutheran Disaster Response- Illinois**, a partnership of LSSI and Lutheran Child and Family Services, responded to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita through services to evacuees who relocated to

Illinois and by collecting items to be sent to the Gulf. Several congregations in the Northern Illinois Synod partnered with the Jewish Federation of Chicago to send a semi-load of food and hygiene items to the distribution center at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

I offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all of those who strengthen the ministry of LSSI—pastors, lay leaders, volunteers and donors. I also wish to thank the following individuals from the Northern Illinois Synod for their service on our Board of Directors (as of March 31): The Rev. Dr. Denver W. Bitner, Ms. Linda K. Miller, Mr. Thomas W. Thoms, Ms. Leona Peterson-Spear, Mr. David R. Rydell, and Bishop Gary M. Wollersheim. Please take time to get to know them and bring to them, or to me, your questions about LSSI.

In Christ,

*Frederick Aigner*, Pastor  
President

## *Lutherdale Bible Camp* —Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Lutherdale is a faith community,  
dedicated to building lives in Christ,  
through the wonder of God's creation,  
and the study of God's word.

Lutherdale was founded back in 1944 when a group of faithful people sat on a log and prayed for God's help in starting a new camping ministry. For 62 years Lutherdale has been sharing God's love with thousands of guests each year. God continues to guide this ministry as it has grown over the years. We are grateful for all who support this ministry with your prayers, participation in our programs, and your gifts. Investing in the life of a child bears fruit and brings many rewards. Together we are changing lives!

### *Summer Camp Participation Increasing*

Following the terrorist attacks of September 2001, we experienced a decline in kids coming to camp. That trend continued for a couple years. In the last three years we have experienced a gradual increase in our campers. This has not been the case for many of our camps across the country and even in our region. We still have a ways to go for the camp to be full all summer. Please spread the word to parents and youth in your congregation and encourage them to attend camp this summer.

### *Senior Wednesday*

Summer camp is not just for kids; it is for senior citizens too! Each week during the summer we offer a special day for the senior group from your church to come out to Lutherdale and enjoy a day at camp. 2005 was the first summer we offered this program, and it was a big hit. We had as many as 150 seniors here at one time. The program is designed for seniors to arrive at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy a morning of Bible study, activities, and laughter to get the spirit moving. At noon we break and head to the outdoor pavilion for barbecue picnic lunch. The afternoon is spent taking pontoon rides on the lake, wagon tours of the camp, and seeing all the kids having fun at camp before heading home at 3:00 p.m. The program is not limited to just senior groups, individuals can sign up too. Hope to see you at camp this summer.

### *Celebrate✠Prepare✠Serve*

A capital appeal to strengthen Lutherdale Bible Camp with the goal of building a new lodge style cabin structure to replace two cabins that were demolished in 2004 is in high gear. With over \$500,000 raised so far, we need another \$800,000 to ensure the buildings completion. The Board of Directors is committed to building only when the funds or firm commitments have been secured. Congregations and individuals are being asked to help Lutherdale reach the goal. The new building has been needed for a

long time and there is a great deal of excitement about starting the project. Please contact Lutherdale's Development Director, Darlene Breon for more information.

*2006 Summer Camp Theme – "Where Jesus Meets Us: La Frontera!"*

There is still time to register for this year's summer camp programs. This year's theme is "Where Jesus Meets Us: La Frontera!" based on Mark 10:1, "He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them."

Lutherdale is "A Camp Close To You"; call 262-742-2352 for registration information or visit our web site at [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org), to download and print program information.

*Lutherdale Travel Ministries*

Lutherdale has been offering adults travel ministry opportunities for several years now. This year we are offering a trip to Shipshewana, IN on April 27-29, Tulip Time in Holland, MI on May 9-11, and Mount Rushmore & the Black Hills of South Dakota on September 24-30. Our trips are fun and friendly, and a great savings compared to secular tour groups. Call our office if you would like to be on the mailing list for future trips, or to receive flyers on our 2006 trips.

Thank you for your interest, support, and partnership with Lutherdale Ministries.

Jeffrey A. Bluhm, Executive Director

## Mosaic

Dear Partners in Ministry:

Not long ago, in mid 2003, Bethphage and Martin Lutheran Homes consolidated to create **Mosaic**. **Mosaic** is seasoned in its heritage, but young in its outlook. We have many reasons to celebrate! In 2005, the quality of our services increased, the voice of our advocacy grew more vigorous and the stewardship of our resources became ever more diligent as we continued to open doors to extraordinary lives for people with disabilities.

Quality is hard to define. But for the people **Mosaic** supports, quality means they can trust us. They can count on us to promote their safety and health and well-being physically, socially and spiritually. In the most recent family satisfaction survey where we're rated on such elements as quality, integrity and safety, **Mosaic** earned a rating of 4.25 out of 5 for overall satisfaction.

Advocacy affects the lives of all people with disabilities, not just the people we serve. Through our visits with legislators and other decision-makers, and our efforts to recruit more informed and active advocates, we have helped influence legislative bodies to respect people with disabilities and the systems and funding that support them. In 2005, everyone's advocacy helped to keep at bay repeated attempts to enact funding cuts for people with disabilities.

Stewardship helps make possible the progress we've seen. We keep asking, "How can we use what we have to provide the best supports? How can we attract people to donate to our ministry and to volunteer their time?" These are the keys to giving us all the tools and resources we need to do our jobs. In Fiscal Year 2005, running from July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005, our stewardship produced a national net operating income of nearly \$4.5 million. We received more than \$5 million in gifts, we are able to enhance the lives of the people we support by paying for medical and dental services that government funds do not cover, and by providing social and religious opportunities and necessary household items.

Thank you for your prayer and support. Together the Church and **Mosaic** live our mission--"In partnership with people who have disabilities, **Mosaic** provides supports and advocates that all may experience God's gift of wholeness of life."

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Jacox, President and CEO

Like the jigsaw puzzles he likes to work, there are many pieces that come together for a complete picture of William Noble's life. He has two part-time jobs, multiple hobbies, enjoys various leisure activities and maintains his own apartment.

One day a week you'll find William at the Save-A-Lot grocery store. He is proud of his work and enjoys what he does; clean the bathrooms, stock shelves, sweep the floors, gather in the shopping carts and break down empty boxes. At other times you'll often find him at the Peterson Meadows Retirement Community, a place he loves. There he also has diverse job duties: wash dishes, empty trash, mop, sweep and put dishes away. Job coaches help William through the beginning and end of his shift and provide him with transportation to and from work.

In his free time, he enjoys computer games, maintaining his fish tank, camping, his remote controlled jeeps and those 1000-piece jigsaw puzzles. He also likes to bowl, play basketball, pinball and darts.

In addition to the job coaching, William receives support from Mosaic in money management and maintenance for his apartment.

William's life exemplifies Mosaic's mission:

In partnership with people who have disabilities, Mosaic provides supports and advocates that all may experience God's gift of wholeness of life.

*William Noble receives services from Mosaic at Rockford.*

## MOSAIC

### Opening the Doors to Extraordinary Lives

The Lind Center 4980 S. 118<sup>th</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68137-2220

P: 877.366.7242 W: [www.mosaicinfor.org](http://www.mosaicinfor.org)

E: [info@mosaicinfor.org](mailto:info@mosaicinfor.org)



Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives

### MOSAIC & RELATED ENTITIES

BALANCE SHEET	06/30/2005	06/30/2004
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$13,532,000	\$9,545,000
Investments	31,087,000	30,755,000
Receivables	17,433,000	17,858,000
Property, Plant & Equipment	49,875,000	47,952,000
Other Assets	8,074,000	7,969,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$120,001,000</b>	<b>\$114,079,000</b>
Current Liabilities	\$15,739,000	\$15,204,000
Long-term Liabilities	23,016,000	23,321,000
Annuity Obligations	2,598,000	2,446,000
Net Assets	78,648,000	73,108,000
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$120,001,000</b>	<b>\$114,079,000</b>
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS		
Net Program Service Revenue	\$164,491,000	\$163,237,000
Investment Income	1,637,000	5,002,000
Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Estates	5,161,000	4,283,000
Other Operating Income	3,657,000	2,567,000

Total Income	\$174,946,000	\$175,089,000
Personnel Expenses	\$119,541,000	\$118,162,000
Supplies, Services and Other	44,815,000	47,556,000
Interest Expense	2,013,000	1,994,000
Depreciation Expense	4,083,000	3,950,000
Total Expenses	\$170,452,000	\$171,662,000
Operating Income	\$4,494,000	\$3,427,000
Unrealized Gains (Losses)	\$1,046,000	(1,327,000)
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$5,540,000	\$2,100,000

## *Northern Illinois Synod Men in Mission*

Our constitution requires that the president is to report to the membership each year at the Annual Assembly on the year's achievements, needed improvements, and proposed goals.

I would like to share Jeremiah 17:7-8 with you which I think sums up men's ministry fairly well. "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by the water sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes and its leaves shall stay green, in the year of the drought, it is not anxious and it does not cease to bear fruit." Men, we are the trees that Jeremiah refers to that are sustained by the true living water from God. We are to be ever-growing in God's faith; love and trust Him always. Let us be mindful that our mission is to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Lutheran Men in Mission-Northern Illinois Synod (LMM-NIS) has had a very active year. I would like to highlight some of accomplishments the men in our synod have made possible. Our flagship project, the awarding of scholarships to seminarians in the Northern Illinois Synod, has continued. The recipients of \$1,000 Scholarship are as follows:

Gwen Sefrhans--Tabor Lutheran Church, Rockford--LSTC  
Emily Sauer--Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond--LSTC

Also, at last year's Assembly, it was approved to support Rev. Herbert Mkemwa of Arusha Diocese to the tune of \$6,000 per year for the next three years (this has since been reduced to \$3,000 per year due to change in learning institutions). The Board would like to thank all those who have contributed to the scholarship fund by way of the Committee of 100, Lifetime memberships and other generous donations. LMM-NIS has also been involved/supported the following:

Dixon Prison Ministry  
Lutheran Hunger Appeal  
LOMC Camperships  
LOMC Work projects  
Bible Distribution-Campus Ministry, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb  
Development of local men's ministry units

I've listed many of the successes in LMM for the past year, but we need to redouble our efforts to reach out to more men of all ages in our congregations. For on any given Sunday less than 38% of the adults worshipping in ELCA are men. When men encounter Christ through an effective men's ministry, EVERY area of the congregational life benefits. We seem to be in a lull in forming new units. We, as a board, would certainly like to see more organizing activity in our parishes. Not only would we like outward growth, but also we would like our units to grow upward as referred to earlier in Jeremiah 17.

As you know, our newsletter has temporarily been suspended due to a lack of editor/publisher. The newsletter is the only common link we have to all of our members. With the use of our newsletter, we can be more informed and connected so that we can support each other. If anyone is interested in the position, please let us know.

I along with Ted Jackson, Ray Cantle, Dave Stewart, Jim Bohrer and Floyd Anderson attended the National Gathering of LMM in Charleston, SC in July 2005. The focus was on how to get our young men involved. Thank you for the opportunity and experience.

What a delight to share the Lord's ministry with committed Christian men! If at any time, we can be of help or assistance, please contact your conference rep, officer of the board, or myself. We're here to serve you!

I give my thanks to officers, board members, and to You the Members that have assisted when called upon. I thank you for the opportunity to serve LMM-NIS.

Yours in Christ,

Dennis Mellgren

## *Northern Illinois Synod Women's Organization*

Our Triennial Theme: "Act Boldly!"

*Acts 14:13*

"To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ" is our mission statement. We do so thru worship, Bible study, prayer, service, fellowship, and stewardship. We as a community of women come together to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus. Collectively we have ministries where much can be accomplished. As individual units or conferences we can become more diversified due to our gifts and in the area were we live. We are created, called and empowered to grow, to support, to engage, and to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world. The Holy Spirit guides us in all that we do.

One of our highlights was attending the 6th Triennial Convention July 6 - 10, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas. Worshipping, Bible studying, walking/running a 4K, sewing quilts, attending workshops, experiencing a foot washing, listening to the healing harp, participating in servant projects in the community, enjoying Spanish dancers and musicians were just a taste of what one could do. Our 2004 NISWO resolution on World Hunger was memorialized at the convention. Sightseeing was another opportunity to learn more about the rich culture and diversity of the area especially the missions built in the 1700's. Our companion synod, the Lower Susquehanna Synod of Pennsylvania, and the three Illinois synods enjoyed a breakfast buffet together. Truly, it was a profound experience to be part of 2500 women gathering in one place to share the love of Christ. Salt Lake here I come!

Using the theme from the Triennial, our fall convention was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru on September 17, 2005. A bagpiper and drummer led our convention with a processional hymn of "Amazing Grace." Pastor Bitner gave the homily and presided over communion. The women enjoyed workshops on anti-racism, advocacy, ASK, Tanzania, prayer and the people of Laos. Nancy Christian of Minnesota was our churchwide representative. We had an opportunity to hear her faith story on Friday evening. Our offering was designated to the Selian Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania, to the NIS Hispanic/Latino community, and Global Mission. Our physical offering provided items for Horizon House, a home for the developmentally and physically disabled. With the transition of new board members we concluded a wonderful day saying "Go in peace. Serve the Lord."

Our Leadership Gathering met November 6, 2005 to begin getting acquainted with new women serving in their CCC's. Our focus was "Telling the Story" as it is told over and over of Jesus and His love for all of us. As a response to that love we have an opportunity to empower ourselves in helping others through advocacy. The ELCA is a great leader in helping those in need world wide and provides rich resources for us to use.

Two retreats were held in March and in April. Learning how to "act boldly" through reflection, prayer and scripture reading was our focus. "Lambs and Lions, Be Bold Be Strong" was our theme. Ephesians 6:20 challenged us to action. "But pray that I will keep on speaking out boldly for Him ...as I should." By wearing the armor of God, we can "act boldly" to serve Him. Our day retreat was held at a lovely setting in Rock Island. Trying something new, the Hauberg House was selected for our retreat setting. This beautiful family home with tulip motifs throughout was donated in 1956 to the community for such occasions. Our overnight retreat was held at the Sinsinawa Retreat Center in Wisconsin. It is run by the Dominican Sisters, who are famous for baking breads, rolls and pies. Yes, 32,000 loaves are sold each year! The grounds are nestled in the hills and provide a restful respite including two labyrinths to walk. A total of over 140 women enjoyed the opportunity to take some time for reflection, fellowship and faith renewal.

The Northern Illinois Synodical Women are faith and love in action! We are continuing to support Mary E. Laiser's education as she studies social work at the University of Nairobi. In addition to providing a scholarship to Charmayne Four Colors at Rocky Boy through Our Savior's Lutheran Church, we have joined the 1000 Ambassadors Club. Our quarterly pledge joins with others who want to support the Chippewa/Cree Native American community in Montana. The San Miguel Mission outreach has transitioned to the Hispanic/Latino Ministry which will provide a broader range of services. It is a toss up who is more blest as we provide the "Storybook" program and our Thursday "faith and craft time" with the men at the Dixon Correction Center. We are always in need of new volunteers. You will not be sorry. Challenge yourself and give it a try! Lastly, we have been asked to be part of the National Church delegation to attend the 300 year celebration of Lutheran missionaries coming to India in July. What an honor that the Northern Illinois Synodical Women have been chosen to be a part in this exciting event. Ruth Fairchild was chosen as the delegate with Jeana Fors, the alternate. It is our hope we can start a companion synod outreach.

Like the seasons of a year so it is with the Northern Illinois Synod Women. September 30, 2006, we will be having our 18th annual convention at First Lutheran Church in Monmouth. The women are in full swing in planning some wonderful events and inviting some special guests to share their gifts with us. Our Leadership Gathering follows on November 4, 2006 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Lee where we learn more about the "Fruits of the Spirit." As we continue to do the work Christ has called us to do, let us reflect on His great sacrifice knowing we are saved by grace and grace alone. Amen!

Mary Howe, President  
Northern Illinois Synodical Women's Organization

---

#### Important Dates - 2006 & 2007

- \* India delegation trip July 2006 with the National Church "Celebrating 300 yrs. of Lutheran missionaries coming to India!" Ruth Fairchild-delegate Jeana Fors-alternate
- \* 18th Convention: September 30, 2006 @ First Lutheran, Monmouth, IL
- \* Leadership Gathering for our CCC's: November 4, 2006
- \* Retreats @ Sinsinawa, WI March 31-April 1, 2007 (Overnight retreat)  
TBA (Day retreat only)

July 2008 7th Triennial Convention at Salt Lake City, Utah

#### New Board Members

Mission Action: Hattie Jenkins, Spring Valley, IL

Mission Community: Ellen Roof, Joliet, IL  
Northeast Conference Rep.: Carolyn Schuring, Harvard, IL  
Northwest Conference Rep.: Louise Owen, Durand, IL  
South Conference Rep.: Doris Johnson, Malden, IL  
2008 Triennial Promoter: Christina Barnickel, Compton, IL

Further information can be located on the web at the following:

[www.nisynod.org](http://www.nisynod.org) see "Links"

[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

[www.womenoftheelca.org/café](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/café) "Café - Stirring the Spirit Within" electronic magazine

Paper publications are the following:

"Northern Highlights" - quarterly NISWO newsletter

"Interchange" - Monthly publication to equip and to empower women with information and resources necessary to carry out the organization's mission.

"Lutheran Women Today" - monthly magazine which has a Bible study and excellent articles.

#### Ministries

Dixon Prison Ministry

Tanzania - Mary E. Laiser

Rocky Boy - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Box Elder, Montana

Hispanic/Latino Ministry - Pastor K. Forni, Joliet, IL

World Hunger

Church Women United

Lutheran World Relief

Equal Exchange Coffee/Chocolate

India Delegation (new)

Mary Howe 6/17/06

## *Region 5 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Neenah, Wisconsin*

Rev. Carl Richard Evenson  
Coordinator

675 Deerwood Ave., Ste. 4 Neenah, Wisconsin 54956  
[cart.evenson@ecunet.org](mailto:cart.evenson@ecunet.org)

Phone: 920-720-9880  
Fax: 920-720-9881

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus.

Celebrating ten years of service to Region 5 as your regional coordinator has given me pause for reflection this year. In these years our regional office is proud to have played a small role in bringing some 1,500 people through candidacy onto our rosters. We have assisted the assignment of some 4,000 candidates to our ELCA regions. And we have worked to bring about 750 pastors and lay ministers into Region 5 to serve in our twelve synods. 120 Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses have gathered for conferences, and annual gatherings for Global Mission networking and World Hunger awareness have made a difference. 200 pastors have sought new call through our regional mobility process. And we have worked to smooth and solve the bureaucratic necessities of the moment with 22 bishops, and their supporting staffs.

The twelve synods of Region 5 stretch from Iowa, through Illinois and Wisconsin, and include the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

In our restructured churchwide office, regions will continue to be ambassadors to the synods, and messengers of synod perspectives to the churchwide office. In partnership with churchwide's new **Vocation and Education unit**, the Region 5 Coordinator continues to participate in synod candidacy and assignment matters, sharing in the nurture of candidates for ministry.

Region 5 maintains a partnership with the two seminaries within its boundary: Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Region 5 bishops take part in the annual *Bishops Visit* at each of the seminaries of the ELCA.

The Region 5 Steering Committee directs the region and Bishop Gary Wollersheim is the current chairperson. The region is financed by grants from the churchwide office, and income of seven cents per baptized member from each of the twelve synods. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

—Rev. Carl Richard Evenson  
Region 5 Coordinator

## *Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries*

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, a partnership organization of over 20 area Lutheran churches, has now begun its third decade of ministry to our churches, and to Rockford and surrounding communities.

Last year - our 20th anniversary - offered exciting opportunities to celebrate the many ways we work together to make Christ known through imaginative and creative ministries of witness and service. Our culminating anniversary event was the appearance of Rick Steves in Rockford! Rick, famed travel guru and ELCA Lutheran, visited Rockford on November 3 and spoke to virtual sell-out crowds!

In this, our 21st year, we have focused our energies on bringing to fruition our dream of Katie's Cup coffeabar on Seventh Street in Rockford. A groundbreaking celebration occurred in January, the building permit was granted in March, and exciting renovation work of the old Lantow Pharmacy building is now in progress. Katie's Cup, named for the hospitable Katherine von Bora Luther, is planned to be a community gathering place for conversation, free-trade coffee products, books and entertainment. The project is a collaborative effort between Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries and ZION Development Corporation.

While construction is underway, the community has been given interesting glimpses into the plan for Katie's Cup through "Katie's Cup Conversations." These Conversations, held several times each month, are designed to encourage stimulating discussion on a variety of topics of interest to members of the community. In 2006 to date, Conversations have included several book signings, a Narnia-focused discussion, a Bonhoeffer speaker, and an introduction to eschatology and cosmology.

Regular Lutheran Ministries' programming keeps pace with our new ventures: area Lutherans are building our 8th and 9th "Lutheran" Habitat houses this summer; we continue to support Habitat efforts financially through a recent successful House of Prayers campaign and our upcoming Magic Waters Family Fun Night; the Park PLAYers are in the midst of summer programming focused on conflict management for our community's young teens and children; our marriage preparation

seminars and divorce recovery workshops are offered regularly to those in need; and our ministry to singles, Singles Together Across Rockford, continues to draw people from throughout the northern Illinois area for both volleyball/game nights and for our dances, which attract upwards of 300 people.

On October 15, we will welcome Elizabeth von Trapp, granddaughter of Baron and Maria von Trapp to Rockford for what we believe will be another huge community event. Her concert, scheduled at First Lutheran Church, will include community children who will sing beloved Sound of Music songs with her. The concert will benefit the Katie's Cup coffeebar. You are all invited!

As always, we are ever aware of, and grateful for, the generous support and encouragement we receive from our member congregations and pastors and from Bishop Wollersheim, his assistants, and the staff of the Northern Illinois Synod. Thanks be to God!

The Reverend Janet Wold, President, and Mariel Heinke, Executive Director,  
Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries

## *Trinity Regional Health System* –Rock Island, Illinois

Focusing on the Trinity Mission to improve the health of our community and our Vision to be a community partner, 2005 was a year in which our efforts were consistently aimed in that direction. Here is a sampling of Trinity Regional Health System initiatives:

- Trinity's Parish Nurse Program coordinates wellness programs in 58 churches in the Quad-City community, including 18 Lutheran churches. These nurses collectively:
  - made 32,058 contacts
  - presented 490 educational programs, attended by 7,626 people
  - offered 128 support group sessions with 1,564 attendees
  - made 3,678 client referrals to pastors and church resources
  - made 2,187 client referrals to physicians
  - made 603 client referrals to health-care professionals
  - made 860 client referrals to community agencies
  - made 520 client referrals to other services
  - offered area children interactive children's health fairs where 1,361 elementary-age children learned the body systems and healthy lifestyle habits.In all, the parish nurses – both paid and volunteer – gave 30,669 hours to the community for which no client pays.
- Trinity's pastoral care department served the needs of the community in the following ways:
  - 1) Took a leadership role in educating the public about the importance of advance care planning and assisting individuals and groups in completing advance directives. That included:
    - making 31 community presentations
    - facilitating 225 advance care planning consultations
    - training 43 people to serve as facilitators
  - 2) Worked on a community task force with another area hospital and Generations Agency on Aging to present a clear, consistent message to the public.
  - 3) Provided 30 hours of training to 15 volunteers selected to do pastoral care visitation in the hospital and in their congregations.

- 4) Sponsored two grief gatherings for families affected by perinatal loss: Butterfly Blessings, a spring community memorial gathering, and a fall burial service for the remains of miscarried infants.
- 5) Presented 17 community programs on various aspects of the spiritual/mental/and physical health connection.
- 6) Made over 19,000 pastoral visits to patients, families and staff members.

- The Robert Young Center for Community Mental Health proudly serves those area residents with mental illness. It helps its clients with everything from transportation, money management, medication costs, socialization skills and so much more. In all, Robert Young gave back more than \$3 million in charity care, medication for the indigent and other outreach programs. This includes but is not limited to more than \$800,000 in subsidized care for patients without insurance or Medicaid and an additional \$30,000 for emergency assistance to individuals. The center also provided at least \$30,000 to individuals who could not afford medications. Overall more than 5,000 residents of Rock Island and Mercer counties directly benefited from the center's charity care.
- Trinity offered, on average, 40 health classes every month. These are presented to the public to help educate them on health issues.
- Through the Trinity Speakers' Bureau, Trinity employees spoke at 133 different events, attended by 4,819 people.
- My Nurse handled 80,494 health-related transactions. This is a 59 percent increase from the year before. These transactions mostly include telephone calls, made for free to this health-information and physician referral service.
- Trinity Community Benefits grant awards are centered around grant allocations in six areas:
  1. Health promotion and prevention
  2. Community outreach/health-care access
  3. Behavioral health
  4. Community partnership/collaboration
  5. Corporate sponsorship of health initiatives/projects
  6. Primary care

In 2005, \$217,545 from this funding source was given back to the community. Here is the breakdown:

**Health Promotion and Prevention**

<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$75,273</u></b>
Horace Mann Choice Elementary School	\$9,000
Aldridge Early Learning Center	\$7,000
Mississippi Valley Girl Scouts	
Positive Power	\$5,000
American Red Cross	\$10,200
Boys and Girls Club	
of the Mississippi Valley	\$15,000
Martin Luther King Center	\$10,474
South Park Presbyterian Church:	
The Junior Drop-In Center	\$1,000
Rock Island YOUTHBUILD	\$17,599

**Healthcare Access/Outreach**

<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$47,740</u></b>
Midwest Hope and Healing	\$5,000

AIDS Project Quad Cities	\$19,500
World Relief: Health Outreach to Refugees	\$11,240
Florenciente Neighborhood Association	\$12,000
<b>Community Health Partnership</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$50,000</u></b>
Quad City Health Initiative	\$50,000
<b>Behavioral Health</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$20,000</u></b>
Family Resources Inc.	\$5,000
Big Brother's/Big Sister's Mentoring Program	\$5,000
Big Brother's/Big Sister's Facility	\$10,000
<b>Corporate Health Sponsorship</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$21,032</u></b>
Trinity's Best Foot Forward	\$7,532
Camp Hand In Hand	\$ 500
Putnam Museum and IMAX "The Human Body"	\$13,000
<b>Primary Care; Direct Patient Care</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$3,500</u></b>
Children's Therapy Center	\$3,500

In 2005, the Trinity Health Foundation awarded \$465,030 in grants, scholarships and special events awards. That is a 92 percent increase over our 2004 allocation. Following are the allocations:

<b>Direct Patient Care</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$362,500</u></b>
Hospice	\$225,000
Emergency Medication Fund	\$17,000
Cardiac Rehab Telemetry	\$75,500
Durable Medical Equip. for Hospice	\$11,000
Mapping Equip - Oncology	\$34,000
<b>Staff Development and Support and Student Scholarships</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$55,530</u></b>
Student Scholarships	\$40,000
NHPCO Clinical Conference	\$2,200
CPR-AED Mannequins	\$ 730
Certification - Perioperative Nursing	\$ 200
Registered Nurse - 1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant	\$9,000
Food Baskets for Needy Employees	\$3,400
<b>Patient Education</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$9,000</u></b>
Patient Health Literacy Program	\$9,000
<b>Community Health Outreach</b>	
<b>Total Grant Allocation:</b>	<b><u>\$40,000</u></b>
Parish Nurse	\$32,000

Community Advanced Directives	\$6,000
Smoking Cessation	\$2,000

Also, it is worth noting that in the fall of 2005, Dr. Mark Jacobson of Selian Lutheran Hospital, near Arusha, Tanzania, met with Bishop Wollersheim, members of the Synod's Global Mission Sub-committee, a Trinity representative and myself.

Dr. Jacobson presented on the work of Selian and the new hospital being constructed in the heart of Arusha, and ways that the Trinity, the Synod and Selian could work together in the future.

Since that time, Trinity has shipped 16 pallets loaded up to six feet high full of \$150,000 worth of medical donations to the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Donations have ranged from basic gloves to orthopedic implants and surgical supplies. Additionally, beds, treatment tables, medical carts, and other basic equipment have also been shipped. The shipments have brought together the church and the hospital. The actual pick-up is coordinated with Global Health Ministries out of Minnesota. Local members of ELCA congregations have even helped with loading.

The new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center will serve the people of Arusha, Tanzania, a population which has rapidly expanded to more than 1 million people, while having less than 600 hospital beds total. Tanzania is one of the five poorest countries in the world, with a high infant mortality rate and one of the highest rates of AIDS orphans in the world. The Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, scheduled to open in early 2007, will offer specialized services previously unavailable in the country, while expanding support of the numerous rural clinics, pre-natal services, hospice programs, and social services already provided by Selian.

Our hope is that with Trinity's and the Lutheran Synod's support, the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center will have the immediate effect of saving lives and plant seeds for a better life for millions for years to come.

In closing, I'd like to tell you that Trinity is proud of its Lutheran roots, and please know that it is a constant focus as we aim every year to be the best Community Partner we can be.

Respectfully submitted,  
William B. Leaver  
President/CEO  
Trinity Regional Health System

*Wheat Ridge Ministries* —/tasca, Illinois

It is our Lord's hope that we will live a life made full through Him. He demonstrated this throughout His ministry by showing concern for the health of the whole person - body, mind and spirit.

**Wheat Ridge Ministries** also exists to help God's people live a healthy life. The mission of Wheat Ridge is "Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ." This mission is fulfilled through our granting, connecting and equipping activities.

#### **Granting . . .**

In 2005, Wheat Ridge seeded new ministries by providing grants totaling over \$800,000 in:

Care and Development of Church Leaders  
Community Service Ministries

Generational Ministries  
Global Health and Service Ministries

## Health and Wellness Ministries

## Peace and Justice Issues

Twenty-four **Congregation Health and Hope Grants** were also awarded in 2005. These \$2,000 grants, matched dollar for dollar by the churches, assist congregations in starting new ministries of health and hope.

Twenty-three **Good Samaritan Fund Grants** were awarded in 2005. These grants, co-funded by Wheat Ridge Ministries and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, are intended to help congregations establish programs for immigrants and refugees.

Wheat Ridge offers **Sabbatical Grants** to Lutheran congregations that are supporting and encouraging the health and wellness of church leaders by providing sabbatical experiences for pastors and other full-time professional church workers.

### Connecting . . .

Wheat Ridge connects individuals and organizations with similar health ministry goals through “think tanks” and consultations. These connections often result in establishing new programs and relationships that impact many lives.

### Equipping . . .

Wheat Ridge equips people by hosting or sponsoring conferences, seminars and events and Providing health-related resources such as:

- the **Healthy Teams Project** that provides workshops and resources to enhance team ministry in congregations;
- the “Hearts for Jesus” projects: “**Hope for China,**” “**Care of Widows, Cows for Kids**” and “**Bethlehem, We CARE!**” mission programs that allow churches and students in schools, Sunday schools and vacation Bible Schools to help God’s people in need;
- the booklets, *An Odyssey Through Cancer*, *Odyssey of a Pain-Filled Life* and *My Odyssey with Parkinson’s Disease*, that address the needs of those who suffer and the family members and friends who love and care for them.
- our newest resource, *Living Well! 100 Seeds to Grow Your Spirit*, which is a collection of insights, prayers and inspiration. The book is comprised of 100 “seeds” – seeds of encouragement, comfort, faith, health, hope, joy and love.

Information regarding Wheat Ridge Ministries grants and additional resources can be found at [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org).



Wheat Ridge Ministries  
One Pierce Place, Suite 250E • Itasca, IL 60143-2634  
800.762.6748 • 630.766.9066 • [wrmail@wheatridge.org](mailto:wrmail@wheatridge.org)