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Getting past racial discomfort in the church



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Live out your faith with a mission trip



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High school in Chicago is revitalized



Winter • 2010-11

# Timeline

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF LCMS BLACK MINISTRY TO ENCOURAGE FAITH SHARING AND MULTIPLYING MISSIONS FOR CHRIST



## A Glorious Season!

*St. Louis church makes unforgettable trip to Uganda, pages 8-9*



This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.



1 John 4:9 (NIV)

# Black Ministry Remains to Serve You

LCMS restructuring, under Synod Convention Resolution 8-08A, has reduced our staff by one and redefines our reporting responsibilities. The ministry continues by God's grace within a transitional corporate climate, potentially toward additional realignment and position changes.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and prayers of many who, over the years of advocating with us for the Great Commission and multiethnic inclusion in our Lutheran Christian family, count us as friends and partners walking together and mutually accountable to our Savior Jesus Christ. Black Ministry, in praise to God, extends warm thanks to Dr. Frazier N. Odom for his faithful service and we offer our best wishes as he transitions his ministry and personal life.

As we move through a new season with mixed emotions, we solicit your special prayers for our colleagues affected by the staff reduction and whose vocations will continue elsewhere, and ask for ongoing cooperation with us at the International Center, particularly the LCMS



**The LCMS Black Ministry staff—seated from left, WillaMae Winston and Jennifer Duffy. Standing, Rev. Quentin Poulson.**

leadership of President Matthew C. Harrison and his staff.

*"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.*

*"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jer. 29:11.*



## A Prayer of the Incarnation

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You descended from heaven to earth to assume our humanity,  
that you might raise us up to share in your divinity.  
Our Lord made flesh, so that we may:  
Leap for joy at your coming like Baby John,  
Receive the obedience of faith like a virgin child,  
Understand God's will,  
Praise you like the angels,  
Adore you like the shepherds,  
Worship lavishly like the wise men,  
Ponder in our hearts this treasure and serve innocently like Mother Mary,  
Carry our burdens and responsibilities like Father Joseph,  
Bless your Name in the Spirit like Simeon,  
And, like Prophetess Anna give thanks to God and tell all of your redemption.  
Come, Lord Jesus and dwell among us! Amen.

*Used by permission: Fr. Girard East-Montana ©2005*



# The Stages of Diversity

By Rev. Russell Belisle  
Chaplain, Methodist Hospital,  
Germantown, Tenn.



(This is part 2 of a series called “Race: The Struggle Within.” Part 1 appeared in the Spring 2010 issue.)

## Dear Christian Family,

As a child growing up in the Southside of Chicago, I attended Resurrection Lutheran Church and School. Sometime in the early 1970s, Resurrection’s membership grew to more than 1,000 people. For a young man like me, a growing African-American, the congregation provided a sense of security and stability. As I looked around, there was a number of African-American Lutheran churches on the Southside, content to be in relationship with one another.

At this time in my life, I saw myself as a future church worker always envisioning myself serving among African-Americans. I received that chance when I served as vicar of Hope Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb., and later as pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church in the Southside of Chicago. However, our Lord showed that His plans for me were different than mine. In the course of my years of ministry service, I served seven racially diverse churches and schools. Some of my service has been temporary assignments, others have been accepted calls.

While serving these racially diverse congregations, I identified four patterns, or stages, that have been repeated in congregations and schools. I will share these stages so you can see these in your congregation, work place, or community.

The first stage comes into play when a church or school begins to diversify. In most cases, there is a person or a group of people who do not want to change the status quo. I have called this person the *dissatisfied customer*. This person may voice openly or with a small group in order to fight any proposed change. Such a person

has high anxiety about changing the racial structure of a church and seeks to find others within the congregation who may feel the same. There will be a temptation to label this person as the bad guy or trouble maker. I recommend holding off with that judgment and I will explain my thoughts on that later.

While the dissatisfied customer is plying his craft, others in the congregation are making plans to go forward with the plans of diversity. At this point, a church begins to worship with people of a different race. No one wants to offend anyone else. There are smiles and handshakes. People pat each



other on the back. We sing those hymns and we pray together.

We talk about the weather, children, and sports. We may leave church and believe things are going well and be excited about our new relationships. This stage is the era of good feeling—I call it *kumbayah*. We get together and sing kumbayah. There are good things about kumbayah. First the ice is broken and we have begun to speak with one another and to worship. We are no longer a “drive-in” church; we now know some of the people who live in the community around our church building. Second, there is peace in our congregation; people look forward to coming to church and the relations that are there.

There is the other side of the kumbayah congregation, which is less encouraging and yet very common. With kumbayah, it is important to maintain the era of good feeling. That being said, it is unpopular

to discuss items of culture or race that are contrary to the dominant culture of the congregation. For example, a black person feels he or she has been treated unfairly by whites at the work place. This person attends a congregation that is racially diverse and does not want to disturb the good feeling that everyone has. “I can’t talk about my anger, shame or true feelings with the white people at church.” This person no longer feels good; but is not ready to leave the congregation.

Conversely, a white church member may feel that a certain black comedian has gone too far with racial humor. He or she feels insulted, embarrassed and misrepresented. Not wanting to jeopardize relations at church, this person will not discuss true feelings to blacks. In this first stage of kumbayah, relationships are a mile wide and an inch deep. We are diversified, but we do not know how to discuss our differences without the risk of fracturing relationships. People do not have a mechanism to ask for what they want without upsetting the apple cart. How do we talk about our feelings?

This era of good feeling, or the kumbayah stage, cannot last. Our true feelings must come to the surface and be voiced. Some people get stuck in this early stage and remain in it for years. Some people work their way through this first stage and are into the second stage in a short period of time; they want growth. Not everyone in the congregation is simultaneously at the same stage of diversity. In the end, the challenges of kumbayah are too big to ignore. At this point we enter the second stage, which I call the *challenge* stage.

In the challenge stage, the church must ask itself what is being challenged? What are the signs of the challenge? What do people do when challenged? I hope to deal with these questions in an upcoming issue.

# from the **Districts...**

## **Atlantic:** *God blesses churches in New York*

**Rev. Phillip Sarawnye**, Christ Assembly Lutheran Church, Staten Island, N.Y., is a missionary to the African immigrant population for the Atlantic District.

Pastoring African immigrants presents many challenges because of the personal hardships people face and the reality that a major portion of their earned wages are sent back to their homeland even before the family needs are met.

"The larger the congregation grows in numbers, the amount of resources returned directly to the ministry dwindles because it is used for families back home especially, for those living in refugee camps."

**Deaconess Raquel Alexis Rojas** was commissioned and installed at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, N.Y., in September.

Rojas completed the Masters of Deaconess Studies program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2007.

Born in Ohio and raised in Florida, Rojas originates from a missionary family. Her father, Rev. Roberto E. Rojas, ministers primarily among the Spanish language people; her mother is Deaconess Irma S. Rojas. The Rojas' are outgoing, skilled church planters and care givers, which helped shape Raquel's personal interests; her love for the Lord and a servant's heart. She is a member of the Concordia



**Rev. Phillip Sarawnye**

Deaconess Conference.



**Dr. Daniel Leguizamon leads children's choir practice at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bronx, N.Y.**

**Dr. Dien A. Taylor** is the pastor at Redeemer and vacancy pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx. Both congregations have culturally diverse worshipping and local communities, necessitating the Lutheran ministries to demonstrate a keen sensitivity to and appreciation for the dozens of groups God has placed before them as blessings for His church. Deaconess Rojas will minister to God's people under Taylor's pastoral leadership, using her training and spiritual gifts to express the profound mercies of Jesus.



**Dr. Dien A. Taylor**

**Rev. Marvin Griffin Sr.**, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Queens Village, N.Y. (pictured on this issue's front cover) reports that while Grace Lutheran Day School was once a model school for the Atlantic District, it now faces financial and missional challenges. Grace Lutheran Church and School has made significant

inroads in the ever-growing population of immigrants, especially those from Haiti. Rev. Griffin says huge achievements were made through the summer vicarage of Haitian-born seminarian Blaise Marin of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.



**Rev. Marvin Griffin Sr.**



Immanuel Lutheran Church in Whitestone, N.Y., is known as the "the church with the lighted cross" for its reputation earned decades ago as a guiding light to incoming airplanes approaching LaGuardia Airport. Immanuel's motto is "Learning, Living and Sharing Christ's

Love with All," which aptly suits its multi-ethnic congregational base and leadership. Immanuel endeavors to provide the Gospel to sundry people of various settings and generations and uniquely offering ministries in six languages. **Dr. E. Johnson Rethinasamy**, pastor, serves as the Atlantic District mission executive. He is a principal advocate for multi-ethnic relations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



**Dr. E. Johnson Rethinasamy**

## Indiana: *Outreach becoming main focus*

Leaders from the Indiana District met in Fort Wayne in October to exchange their views about the state of Lutheran congregational health and missional focus. The leaders represented Indianapolis, Gary and Fort Wayne—where decline in worship attendance and urban decay are common concerns. Rev. Quentin Poulson gave an overview of the changes in Black Ministry expected by the Synod. Black Ministry was moving to conduct its work with greater transparency and accountability, expected across the spectrum of services provided at the International Center in St. Louis. Its new focus would be far more missional.

Rev. Geoffrey Robinson, representing the Indiana District as mission executive, expressed a commitment to

partner with congregations that develop new ideas for reaching their surrounding communities with the Gospel. Rev. Robinson expressed the importance of authentic Christian impact through Lutheran doctrine in teaching and practice, and that the district was willing to issue mission grants to congregations in support of their local efforts. Missionary Elvis Netterville made a mission “jump start” proposal, using the youth outreach model for Christian Urban Ministries as a potential corrective.

Reactions to Netterville’s idea are described as hopeful with a hint of uncertainty as the leaders face congregational apathy and dwindling resources to financing outreach. One leader after the meeting mentioned the reality of youths, having family problems



being scattered outside city limits, needing to be picked up, yet the church had no van transportation.

The degree of interest in ambitious initiatives depended on the age of the leaders or congregation, its financial well-being and its level of community involvement. Generational differences played a role in differentiating perspectives too. Indiana

District unit leader Darryl White acknowledges the diminished energy for implementing ambitious programs caused people to drop the ball. Still he viewed the meeting as a crucial step in the right direction, where people are talking about their own fears of change, coupled with a desire to see faith in action lead to people receiving Jesus as their Savior.

### *A night to remember in Chicago*



Chatham Fields Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, presented a Legacy of Love weekend featuring a celebration concert “We’ve Come This Far By Faith.” The CFELC music director, Susan Anglin and guest director, Charles Hayes, ushered in the evening with several sacred choral hymns and anthems interspersed with gospel numbers and selections from their repertoire of Negro Spirituals in praise to God for the construction completion of a new entrance hall, lobby and elevator. It was an evening to remember. Featured soloists joined the organists on violin, guitar and drums. The audience especially enjoyed the Messiah Men’s Ministry, which traveled a long distance to render selections of their African immigrant customs. CFELC is pastored by Rev. Kenety Gee, Chicago urban missionary strategist.

# Holidays come early for LCM in Detroit

Lutheran City Ministries (LCM) thanks God. The recent Ministry Leaders' Update and Luncheon held at Peace Lutheran Church was an early Thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon this Detroit-area ministry.

The meeting was opened by Mary Smith, LCM Development Director, who extended a personal welcome to all in attendance. She expressed her ongoing wonder over what God is doing through their support and love. Rev. Arnold H. Brammeier, LCM Theological Advisor, followed the welcome with an opening prayer and his personal greeting. Rev. Brammeier has been a leader for Lutheran City Ministries since 1999. Carol Townsend, a volunteer for LCM's Fund Development Ministry and who also helps the children's ministries, extended her greetings and then introduced her husband, Timothy Townsend, who is an LCM volunteer. Timothy accepted the invitation as Master of Ceremony.

Other special guests included Rev. Roosevelt Gray, LCMS Michigan District Mission Director. He expressed the joy he found in partnering with the LCM Ministries.

Rev. Quentin Poulson, representing LCMS Black Ministry, stated how excited he was to share in this annual ministry update and offered blessings to the Lord for all of the work that is taking place through LCM. Lisa Loesel, LCM board president, told about the strategic plan for LCM's future.

Following the introductions and personal greetings, the director for the LCM Music Education Ministry, Dr. Eric Roth, led the children in a number of choral selections singing praises to the Lord. What a blessing to witness the children praising the Lord through song! The gifted Ivy Thompson performed other musical selections. Ivy is a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Detroit as well as a member of the Billy D.



Brooks Memorial Lutheran Choir, which has its origins in the 1993 Black Ministry Convocation.

During the "Reflections on the Ministries" presentations, we had the opportunity to hear what God is doing through some of the ministries that LCM partners with.

Some of the special people involved in this awesome ministry are:

Birdie Hambright from LCM/Peace food pantry and clothing ministries that are housed in Peace Church. She told about the "Need" for the "Needy" in the community. She spoke profoundly about the miracle of witnessing to those individuals who came for food and clothing but then would stay to hear the "Good News" of the Lord! The joint efforts of LCM and Peace has blossomed into their witnessing, faithful worship and fellowship of many who depend on the resources offered through these ministries. Two years ago, Peace added a second church service from which many of these program participants have now made Peace their church!

Susan Hatcher related the story of the Lutheran City Ministries Family of God Church. She told of the large number of souls who have made Family of God their church home where they sit at the foot of their shepherd, Rev. James Hill. He provides instruction and Bible study. Sue provided us insight regarding the many supporters who give dollars and clothing. They regularly cook the meals, and with LCM help, move the ministry forward.

What a miracle to witness souls being saved, lives being restored and families connecting or reconnecting. Sue expresses the need for a larger edifice since the Lord is sending more souls to hear His Word.

Rev. Hill serves as pastor at St. John and Mt. Calvary churches and also pastors at Family of God Ministry. He enlightened us to the many conflicts he encounters within the church and during his travels. He reminded us that hope springs eternal and that we must always look to the cross.

Mary Younke talked about the joy of "Blanketing Detroit." She gave her insight into the making of the blankets and the distribution to the needy. She rejoiced in the thanks and praise for the care they took in making sure the blankets were well made and assembled with the best filler. Blankets are also made for Lutheran World Relief.

Willie Marie Henry, who has joined the LCM Fund Development Team which is coordinated by Mary Smith, is a volunteer who helps the "LCM Bread Ministry." She picks up and takes bread and other baked goods to St. John for distribution in that community. Willie Marie expressed her joy in helping Mary pick up and deliver the many baked goods to Peace, where they are distributed through food pantries to Detroit communities.

Le'Nora Hunt, who volunteers at the LCM central office, delivered the Invocation before all were invited to a luncheon. All shared in a closing song, and Timothy Townsend delivered the benediction.



## *Coaching athletes ... and disciples*

**Willie Shears, minister of family life, Christian Urban Ministries (CUM), leads devotion at basketball practice. CUM is an outreach program conducted at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., by missionary Elvis Netterville, its executive director. For more information, go to [www.christianurbanministries.com](http://www.christianurbanministries.com).**



**Accepting the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award on behalf of Bethlehem Lutheran, St. Louis, are, from left, Rev. John Schmidtke, Sharon Schmidtke, Cathy Rodgers-Edmonds, Brandon Edmonds and Jack Gerber, a member of partner church Resurrection Lutheran, St. Louis.**

## **St. Louis church wins award**

Congratulations to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, which was awarded the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award by Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The award, which recognizes the outstanding efforts of mission projects associated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was presented at the recent LCEF Fall Leadership Conference in Nashville. Bethlehem Lutheran Church has worked to transform their community through its Better Living Communities project.

Each year at LCEF's conference, the offering collected during Sunday morning's service is donated to the Lietz Mission Project Award recipient. The amount collected this year, more than \$13,500, was matched by LCEF, netting the church over \$27,000 in donations.

## **The passing of a leader**

Luvenia Marie Kienker, executive director of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Lutheran Housing Support Corporation, passed away at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis after a prolonged battle with the disease. She was 51.



In 2006, Kienker was named the first executive director of Lutheran Housing Support Corporation, one of only a few faith-based housing organizations in the United States. Established by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the church's mercy ministry, Lutheran Housing Support helps neighborhood renewal efforts in conjunction with congregations of the LCMS.

Kienker also helped hundreds of low-income families by providing annual Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and school book bags, and by helping them start community gardens.

Kienker brought a long history of service to others to her position. Before joining Lutheran Housing Support, she worked at LCMS World Relief and Human Care as housing ministry manager (2000-02), director of operations (2002-03) and associate director (2003-06).

Prior to her work with the LCMS, Kienker was deputy director of the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Housing Authority (1998-2000) and chief of the Carroll County (Md.) Bureau of Housing and Community Development (1987-97).

As the daughter of an inner-city deacon, Kienker lived and worked in one of the poorest areas in south Baltimore. She witnessed and took part in the renewal of Baltimore's Inner Harbor area in the 1980s, and grew up working with her father as he renovated homes for low-income families. Her childhood of "sitting on paint cans" led her into a career of helping others through housing initiatives,

Survivors include her husband, Rev. Paul D. Kienker, vice president for development of the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund, and two sons, James Kienker of Indianapolis, and Paul Josh Kienker of Eureka, Mo.

# Postcards from UGANDA

The fall issue of *TimeLine* provided a synopsis of a Uganda short-term mission trip taken by Pastor John Schmidtke and eight people from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis. In this issue, we hear first hand from John and others about the way the Lord directed them for witness and mercy to the people in the cities, towns and remote villages.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime. There were many to thank for this amazing trip—missionaries and friends in Uganda, sister churches who made this vision a reality, many individuals who gave private gifts and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church family. Thanks be to God, who worked through so many people to be part of this mission.

The team consisted of nine Christian men and women, including Pastor Schmidtke, his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Tequila, Pastor Quentin Poulson, Belinda Rodgers, Cathy Rodgers-Edmonds, Annette Silver-Betts, Dywanne Harris and Dereck Williams. Each of them shared the same mission, which was to open new mission field doors to young people via music and preaching. Hunger for the Word in Uganda is insatiable. People came from all around to places that can only be reached by dirt roads with huge potholes. The Lord had something special waiting for them. The Gospel has not yet run its course in Uganda—people need the Lord! In 16 days, this team led 12 worship events throughout the country and reached almost 4,000 people.

There are incredible outreach opportunities in Uganda. The Lutheran Church Missionary Uganda (LCMU) is extremely short of leaders to sow seeds in this vast mission field. God has used Bethlehem Lutheran Church to enter new mission venues through this extraordinary opportunity.

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***Would you like to be a part of the outreach in Uganda? Partner with LCMS Black Ministry's global work by donating funds for new Bibles. They cost \$7 per copy and are purchased in Uganda and distributed by hand to each person, thus there are no administrative costs. Please help us touch lives for Jesus by making your tax-deductible donation to LCMS Black Ministry, and note "Bibles for Uganda" in the memo section. Together, we will make a difference for the sake of Christ's kingdom.***



"Five little boys seated in this classroom excitedly escorted me to see their school. Built by donations from Christ Community Lutheran School in St. Louis, the school by the same name is located at Bulumwaki in Iganga, about midpoint between the local well and the Lutheran Church. Gazing at the faces of these children, I felt the words of the disciples, 'How good Lord to be here.'" Rev. Quentin Poulson



"Bulumwaki Lutheran Church in Iganga is a vacant room with a concrete slab. People then bring in benches to sit on. After about 90 minutes inside, worship moved outside where our group sang and I preached. Another 90 minutes later, it was time for the local choirs and dancers to come and minister. That day turned into a baptism of about 25 babies and the confirmation of 12 youth and adults. One very smart thing that earlier missionaries did was building this church right next to the area well...thus every day as people come for water, they come right up to the church!" Rev. John Schmidtke

Murchison Falls—"We started the day at 4:30 a.m., heading out for safari. We began the afternoon seeing the animals from the water. We saw crocodiles, hippos, elephants, water buffalo and a host of birds and lizards. We rode up the Citoria-Nile to get a close up view of the falls. It was so beautiful; it was like looking at God working right in front of you."

Cathy Rodgers-Edmonds



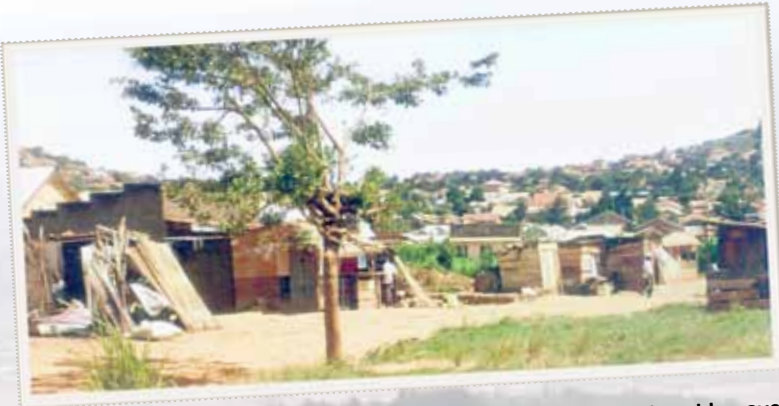
"The children at Good Hope Primary School taught us some Ugandan songs that we have already brought back to Bethlehem."

Rev. John Schmidtke



"St. Catherine Secondary School in Kampala was our first worship event. 400-plus people crammed inside as well as other people outside looking in through the doors and windows."

Rev. John Schmidtke



"The journey to St. Catherine's was very eye-opening with unbelievable poverty like I had never seen before. Ten-by-ten shacks where families stayed are very primitively constructed out of whatever scraps could be found. There were lots of children running outside when they saw our van and they were so glad to see us. How we all wished that we could have stopped the bus and done 'Taking Jesus to the Streets,' right there."

Rev. John Schmidtke



TEE in Kampala—"TEE is Theological Education by Extension. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching about 15 to 20 seminarians in Kampa for about seven hours. My talk had to do with spiritual life and preaching. We could have spent a few weeks together. It was truly meaningful."

Rev. John Schmidtke

"The excitement came on our way to our next concert when we went down one of the many roads and our bus got stuck for about an hour. We waited at our next school and only 45 minutes, but did less than that time! We were able to minister to more than 1000 people!"

Cathy Rodgers-Edmonds



"We got to see a blend of native tradition mixed in with popular culture in ways that only the next generation is capable. The universal gifts of innovation and free expression evident in today's youth's telling of their aspirations for changing their world for good transcend nationality and language. It's so exciting to witness the hope that it brings one to tears."

Rev. Quentin Poulson



"Zion Lutheran Church in Kateete Village is a church, a school and an orphanage. It was wonderful to be with all the kids, but bitter knowing how many are orphans because of parents killed by war and AIDS."

Rev. John Schmidtke



# Mission reports

## 'Where's the Deac?'

By **Deaconess Diane Martin**  
*Director, Education and Formation,  
Lutheran Deaconess Association*

Last spring, I toured urban-area churches around the country. I tried particularly to meet African-American women. I wanted to know how these women expressed servant leadership in their particular settings.

I listened. The loudest message I heard was how very much urban-area church women appreciate the sense of community within their congregations. They affirm both where they live and where they attend church. Joy can be found anywhere.

I recognize their work. They manage programs, make coffee, teach children, work on committees and reach out in community service. They participate in local, national and international efforts on

behalf of the church. Women are active, capable, wise and visible—their leadership is vital to congregational ministry.

I learned something. In addition to active church work, women understand their service to families as they care for children, grandchildren and relatives. Some claimed their professions as part of their ministry. Teachers, social workers, nurses, school principles, special education tutors and home health workers—church women are our caregivers. Some women identified their financial donations as part of their service to others.

I noticed their passion. The women I met were full of ideas to meet the needs in their context. One is organizing the women in her urban congregation to address the needs of teenagers. A safer neighborhood will include relationship-building and



From left, deaconesses **Diane Martin** and **Lynda Schleef**.

program opportunities. Another attracts young girls through liturgical dance for worship. Still another prepares lunch every Sunday for 40 people who worship, and makes extra to feed shut-ins. And another runs an after-school program in an impoverished area, with support from other Lutherans.

Where's the deac? She is worshiping in an urban setting. She is African-American. She lives her servant leadership life daily in her congregation, home and work place. God is using her mightily. And maybe, someday, she will actually become a Lutheran deaconess.

## Confronting decline in Chicago

The Chicago Urban Ministry Summit is a forum for the discussion of issues and solutions in urban ministries while creating greater awareness of the importance for ministries in urban centers. The second annual Chicago Urban Ministry Summit was held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at Concordia University Chicago.

A dinner for many who gathered for the Summit and others who wanted to identify with urban missions and the work that the Lord is doing in Chicago was held Sept. 30. The keynote speech was delivered by Katie Stam, Miss America 2009. Presenters on Oct. 1 were John Nunes, president and CEO of Lutheran World Relief; Jeff

Johnson, executive director of Building Hope in the City in Cleveland; and Alan Zacharias, financial and organizational consultant in Chicago and the nation.

Summit organizer Rev. Kenety Gee, urban mission strategist in Chicago, sees his ministry as working with God "to reverse the trend of urban church decline."

Some 30 years ago, more than 35,000 people worshiped in Chicago-area LCMS churches on Sundays, according to Gee. "Today there are less than 5,000 people in our 50 listed congregations," he says. "In the last several years, we have closed more churches in the city than we have planted."



The population of Chicago "continues to climb, while our churches are declining, baptizing fewer people, with [fewer] people coming to our worship services," Gee says. "The harvest here is indeed plentiful."

"We pray that the Lord will speak to the hearts of many to join forces with us in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our world class city of Chicago. We remain prayerful for the blessings and grace of the Lord to be upon us as we work for His glory and for the salvation of people."

# Go: Leadership through going

By Jennifer Prophete  
LCMS World Mission

We live in an incredible time. This generation, more than any other, is a generation of going. People travel in masses for work, family, vacation or almost any occasion. But do people travel for church? As a good Lutheran, I had to ask myself—what does this mean? Well, not exactly, but I did ask myself a related question: Is “going” a biblical concept? Did our spiritual leaders incorporate “going” in their lives as followers of God? God calls Abraham to “go” in Gen. 12:1. Moses, in Ex. 3:10 is told: “So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” David went to serve Saul after God’s anointing. Jonah was asked to go to Nineveh. The disciples were all called to go, leave their families and follow Christ.

So, what does “going” look like in the church now, in our new generation of traveling? Serving as a long-term missionary is one obvious answer. Going on a short-term mission trip is another logical choice. Churches around the country have started to see short-term mission trips as one way to connect the reality of our times with the commandment God has given the church throughout time. Through short-term teams, these churches are witnessing of God’s love and power to people around the world. Short-term teams are also building up partner churches, giving an example of how we live our Christian lives as one big universal family of believers.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis is one of the congregations who served with LCMS World Mission this past summer through the short-term mission program. Bethlehem packed up several of its key musicians, its pastor, his wife, and much equipment to serve in Uganda in June. The goal of this short-term team was to lead



worship events in villages to proclaim the Gospel to all and to provide an example to the local Ugandan churches of witnessing through music in their communities. The trip was a blessing to many and the future possibilities of this partnership are endless. Missionary Rev. Jacob Gillard says, “They built some great relationships with Ugandans and we want those relationships to develop further. Music ministry is big in the Christian church in Uganda, but Lutherans are lagging behind. The team members from Bethlehem, have given the Lutherans in Uganda a model.”

Another church, Bethlehem, Delmar, N.Y., sent a team to Poland this summer. Their goal was to partner with a Lutheran church in Poland to host an English Bible

camp. The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, through their Center of Mission and Evangelism, asked The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through LCMS World Mission to send short-term mission teams to help host English Bible camps across the country. Bethlehem responded to this request and sent its first mission team to Poland. They report, however, that not just the mission team was affected. The entire congregation, through the leadership of its pastor and this team, was excited and involved in this mission effort. The camp in Poland was a success. Important relationships were formed, the Gospel was shared and the church in Poland was encouraged. Praise God for leading this church to be “goers.”

What about your congregation? Are you ready to join the thousands of “going” North Americans, but this time go for the sake of the Gospel? LCMS World Mission has many opportunities for short-term teams to serve around the world. There may also be opportunities to serve in your

**Continued on page 13**

## Pray for those who **Go!**



**Rev. Kenety Gee**  
Urban Strategist,  
Chicago



**Rev. Stephen Wiggins**  
Urban Strategist,  
Atlanta



**Rev. Mark and Sandi Eisold, with children Erik and Annalise, Peru**



**Rev. Jacob and Michelle Gillard, with children Amelia and Evangeline, Uganda**

# Ethnic Immigrant ministries

## Planting prayer houses in New Jersey

By Rev. James Buckman  
*Urban Mission Strategist, New Jersey District*

In 1951, Our Savior Lutheran Church built its sanctuary on 76th Street in North Bergen, N.J. Our Savior would also have a parsonage and fellowship hall on the two adjoining pieces of property. It was located in a great area; a half-mile in one direction is the middle school and a half mile in the other direction is the high school. In fewer than 50 years, the congregation would be closed and the property rented to other churches and privately owned child care centers.

New Jersey District President William Klettke has arranged for Pastor Oscar Casachahua and his wife to live in the parsonage; in return he is helping to do prayer walking and plant a house of prayer in the community. Yesterday, I met with Rev. Casachahua to talk about how prayer walking works and how we plant houses of prayer through this. He was very open and committed to a weekly outreach effort as well as opening his home for the first house of prayer.

We also talked about recruiting Spanish speaking leaders from the community



which he was interested in. We then prayer walked for about an hour and met eight families (seven were Spanish speaking). Please pray for Pastor Casachahua.

## Hmong ministry makes world-wide impact

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., holds within its hallowed hallways and urban surroundings a treasured storehouse: the world's only Center for Hmong Studies as a "place to cultivate the heritage of the Hmong people, promote education, and empower the Hmong community to pursue their respective vocations, recognize their strengths and abilities, and utilize their skills for service." The center is a premier place for researchers and scholars, businesses and government agencies. The center offers a minor degree in Hmong studies and hosts a biennial conference for the advancement of the Hmong culture and people.

Lee Pao Xiong, the center's director, invites you to visit the Center for Hmong Studies to learn of the people's history, meet the Hmong students and see the artifacts in the location that boasts the largest concentration of Hmong in the nation. Xiong describes the center:

"The Center for Hmong Studies is an academic resource center that is unique in its service and commitments. It exists to track, document, research, develop and teach the long history, the current conditions, and the future trajectory of an international community in the midst of transition. Our vision is to create a high academic program of interdisciplinary study on the fundamentals of the Hmong identity, the places and the people who have made us what we are today as a vibrant community of diverse perspectives.

"In line with the mission of Concordia University, the Center for Hmong Studies believes in preparing students for dedicated service to God and humanity. Since its founding in 2005, more than 7,000 scholars and community members have visited the center." To learn more, go to [www.csp.edu/hmongcenter](http://www.csp.edu/hmongcenter).



St. Paul's has rich potential for the move of God in 21st century higher education because the school is the most diverse university in Minnesota. It shouldn't be a secret, but few realize that St. Paul's embraces cultural and ethnic diversity, arguably like none of its sister Concordias. The student body consists of African immigrants, people from Eastern Europe, African-Americans and a majority population of white American students primarily from the state, Nebraska and across the Midwest.

# Education

## Public school children need Jesus' love too

LCMS members are serving as mentors to local public elementary schools. For one hour a week, a mentor and a student spend time going over homework assignments, playing games and just talking.

Kids Hope USA is a national program founded in 1995 that works exclusively through local churches, equipping them to engage their own members in one-on-one relationships with public elementary school students in their neighborhood.

The motto of the program is "One child, one hour, one church, one school." The motto refers to the program's goal of matching a church and its volunteers with a school in the community. The congregation is able to make contacts while reaching out to its neighborhood by helping the children with homework and studies and offering an ear to listen.

Half of the hour-long meeting is dedicated to academic help, while the other half of the session is spent just playing games and talking with the children. Children are referred to the program by teachers and parental consent is required for a student to take part in the program.

The weekly sessions offer learning experiences for both the volunteers and the students. Teachers refer children who are having issues adjusting at home, whose parents have recently divorced or those who have suffered a death in the family. The program gives children a specific person with whom they can "connect" each week. This opportunity gives the children that "extra bit of attention," which they might need.

The program is sensitive to the "separation between church and public schools." The



**Homework Help program at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bronx, N.Y.**

program is structured in such a way to allow very positive people to take time out of their busy day to make the life of some children better.

The one-on-one attention and the friendship which the students receive is truly priceless. It's important for kids to feel connected to their school and their community. Taking part in a program like this helps them to make a connection with a positive role model.

It is the hope and prayer of the individuals and congregations involved in this program that caring relations would be developed, and that those relationships would allow the opportunity to share the love of Christ and the message of the Gospel.

Consider challenging your congregation to do something similar in order to reach out to your community.

## Teacher and student

Seminary professor Dr. John Loum, right, and second year seminarian Warren Lattimore, Concordia, St. Louis, at the conclusion of the fall EIIT Urban Leadership Seminar, where Warren presented a study on grace and race titled "Our Faithful Heritage."



## Missions ... from page 11

community or district. For individuals who feel called to "go," there are opportunities through LCMS World Mission to serve from two weeks to making a career of mission service. Find them at at [www.lcmsworldmission.org/service](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org/service), or call 1-800-433-3954 and ask to speak to a placement counselor. Let's continue in the way our forefathers have led, "going" where God leads us.



# The Fiber of Our Fabric

By **Gwen Hudson**

*Teacher, New Luther High School, Chicago*

Interesting title, wouldn't you say? When we consider schools today, we tend to think of nothing more than buildings where rote learning occurs and appeals for money seem to be the clarion cry. However, this title encompasses who we are and, perhaps more deeply, it probes why we are—what our purpose is; why we exist. Do we matter? I mean really matter. Does anyone care? Are real differences being made?

It seems in most recent of years that Christian education has taken some major hits and has caused the world and other Christian organizations to scratch their heads and wonder. Our mission has been questioned. Our authenticity has been scrutinized, and, yes, our relevance has been mocked.

The foundation had been laid for many years. Just like many other schools, Luther South High School in Chicago found itself in dire straits. In 2009, upon it's close because of a number of critical factors—including being unable to meet financial responsibilities and having a building where costs for repairs were just astronomical—God laid on the hearts of Rev. Paul Anderson and his wife, Judith,

a vision that would unveil the purpose of this institution: “Feed my sheep.”

The Andersons were not foreigners to challenges of great complexities. Earlier in their ministry, the Lord entrusted New Hope Ministries into their care and life began anew for a community of believers. “For we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (1 Cor 4:7).

Pastor Anderson and his devoted wife knew there were no limits on God. By faith, they began to seek the mercy of God for yet another community tucked away waiting for the glory of God to shine forth through these earthen vessels—our children—once again. While the Andersons were heading the transition team to close Luther South, they were moved by the children and began to think about how they could save the school. A plan was put together. After many meetings and prayer, The New Luther High School of Math, Science, Fine and Performing Arts was opened on Sept. 7, 2009. On June 19, the first graduating class walked down the aisles.

After listening to the testimonies of students, parents and teachers whose lives were changed by relationships that came from an entity marked with a

divine purpose, I sense there may just be something deeper here. A school is where you live as well as where you learn. It prepares you for life; the life Christ has blessed each person with can be developed and impacted to share in His service of goodwill and cultivate Godly character. The Andersons have worked tirelessly to bring a safe and comfortable haven to the neighboring area of 87th and Kedzie in Chicago.

The Andersons are hard at work trying to buy back the property from LCEF. The school sits on 20 acres. Rev. Anderson's vision is to birth “Martin Luther Square.” On this property, there will be a school with grades kindergarten through 12, an 1,100-seat sanctuary, a state of the art conference center, assisted living, single-family homes, Lutheran Children and Family Service adoption services and counseling, Walcamp Outdoor Ministries, Thrivent Financial, and a commercial corner that could contain a bank and restaurant. Plans are moving forward. We hope to open the school on Aug. 1, 2011.

Does this require money? Yes. Is it formidable? Yes. Will there be a need for sacrifices? Yes. Do we have a Heavenly Eternal Father? Yes. Is there anything too hard for Him? No.



## God blesses Irvine with new school

During the recent LCMS School Cabinet meetings held in Irvine, Calif. this past September, LCMS staff members and Bill Cochran of LCMS School Ministry set aside time to visit the construction site of the new Crean Lutheran High School. The school opened its doors to students on Nov. 11. Also pictured are Crean Principal Jeffrey Beavers, Director Bill Bartlett, and LCMS Regional Director of Lutheran Schools Rachel Klitzing.

# Extras—scholarships, awards and benefits



## **SED Administrators Conference, Feb. 9-11, 2011 in Richmond, Va.**

*Theme: Funding Academy II*

This conference is designed for school administrators as well as a ministry/administration team that could include a pastor, stewardship chair, business manager and admissions counselor.

Funding Academy II is a follow-up program that takes place over two full days. This event offers additional insights into issues that are critical for our school leaders. All topics are designed to be the next level to Funding Academy I. However, they stand on their own for those not able to attend the first event. This will be held at Sheraton Park in Richmond. For more information, go to [www.se.lcms.org](http://www.se.lcms.org).

The fee is \$100 for the first registration from the school, \$75 for each following registration.

## **Assistance Grant Guidelines Summary— SED Administrators Conference:**

- Black Ministry Services will sponsor registrations for up to 10 Black Ministry school staff. Those chosen for reimbursement will be the first 10 to register for this seminar based upon the date noted on their registration.
- For those same 10, Black Ministry will provide a travel allowance of \$50 for those living beyond 100 miles from the conference site.
- For those same 10, Black Ministry will provide a housing stipend of up to \$100 per person to help defray the cost of hotel lodging. The hotel bill with proof of payment will need to be submitted.



## **Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conferences 2011 Schedule:**

Feb. 18-19	Fiesta Resort Conference Center, Phoenix, Ariz.
March 18-19	Arrowhead Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, Minn.
Sept. 9-10	Pheasant Run Resort, Chicago
Oct. 7-8	Watch Black Ministry website for more info
Nov. 4-5	Crowne Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Join hundreds of mission-minded Christians for an incredible weekend of encouragement and training that will help you see how you fit into God's mission and enhance your witness for Jesus Christ. For more information, go to [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

Registration for Phoenix ROC is as follows: Adults, \$99; Five14 track (teenagers), \$79; Children's program (K–preteen), \$59; Infants, toddlers and preschoolers, free.

## **Assistance Grant Guidelines Summary— Lutheran Hour Ministries ROC:**

Black Ministry Services will sponsor two families at \$200 per family and six adults at \$99 each per Regional Outreach Conference. Those chosen for reimbursement will be the first to register for each seminar based upon the date noted on their registration.

Criteria for reimbursement to both conferences is a valid copy of the registration with proof of payment plus a brief write-up (75-150 words) describing your learning and spiritual experience at the conference.

Wheat Ridge Ministries has chosen Rev. Paul and Judith Anderson of Chicago as one of their honorees for the 2011

## **Seeds of Hope Award.**

The 12th annual benefit dinner will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5, at the European Chrystal Banquet and Conference Center in Arlington Heights, Ill.

The Seeds of Hope awards have recognized individuals whose outstanding service to health, hope and healing ministries exemplified the Wheat Ridge mission of “seeding health and hope in the name of the healing Christ.”



Mark your calendars for “**The First Rosa Movie Benefit Concert**,” scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19, at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 2884 East Grand Boulevard in Detroit, Mich.

By now, you have all heard about the movie project “The First Rosa,” which will document the story of this determined witness and how God helped her overcome the many obstacles she encountered. We hope you will consider supporting this important effort. If you need more information, please visit [www.rosayoung.com](http://www.rosayoung.com).



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## Upcoming Events

### National

- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1-31 Right to Life Month—Lift up the unborn and the persecuted believer in Christ
  - Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 4-6 Youth Ministry Symposium, Orlando, Fla.
- Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 1-28 Black History Month
  - Feb. 6 Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday
- Feb. 19 Rosa Young movie benefit concert, Detroit, Mich.
- Feb. 21 President's Day
- Feb. 27 Help the Children Come Sunday

### Regional

- Dec. 4 Michigan District Faith Aflame 360 Year One Workshop
- Jan. 6-8 CNH District National Association DCE Conference
- Jan. 7-8 Kansas District Daughter Church Planting Seminar
- Jan. 10-11 South Wisconsin District Pre-Lenten Retreat

- Jan. 17-18 Missouri District Pre-Lenten Retreat
- Jan. 22 Southeastern District Training Lutherans for Outreach
- Jan. 28-30 New Jersey District Winter Youth Gathering
- Jan. 29-30 Northern Illinois District Jr. High Retreat Weekend
- Jan. 31-Feb 2 Northwest District Center for Prayer Renewal Retreat
- Feb. 4-5 Florida-Georgia Early Childhood Conference
- Feb. 4-5 Southern Illinois Volunteer Youth Leader Retreat
- Feb. 7-9 Texas District DCE Spiritual Renewal Retreat
- Feb. 9-11 Southeastern District School Administrators Conference
- Feb. 12 Missouri District "Reaching Out Together" Evangelism Conference
- Feb. 12-19 Florida-Georgia Seniorfest 2011
- Feb. 18-19 Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Feb. 24 Southeastern District Early Childhood Workshop
- Feb. 25 FL-GA Lutheran School Music Festival
- Feb. 26 Southeastern District Training Lutherans for Outreach

## Alert!

### Get your articles in

Articles for the next issue of *TimeLine* are due by Jan. 15. Please send them by e-mail to [willamae.winston@lcms.org](mailto:willamae.winston@lcms.org). Please send us your local and regional news.

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Visit us on the Web at:  
[blackministry.lcms.org](http://blackministry.lcms.org) ...  
There you will find a  
recipe for Christmas  
gingerbread cookies!



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