

RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Serving in the Name of Christ

Volume 4, Issue 1 • February 2019



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Recognized Service Organizations

To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 7, 2019

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — Raising Young Leaders and the Lutheran Young Adult Corps
calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-raising-young-leaders-and-lutheran-youth-corps

March 12–14, 2019

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Training — Irvine, Calif.
lcmsfoundation.org/gift-planning/training

April 11, 2019

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — Community Engagement
calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-community-engagement

April 30–May 2, 2019

Lutheran Services in America Annual Conference — Chicago
lutheranservices.org/AC2019

**MORE EVENTS
LISTED ON PAGE 4**

LUTHERAN INDIAN MINISTRIES: HUNGRY FOR GOD



Lutheran Indian Ministries

If we've learned something this past year at Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM), it is that Native American families and communities want healing.

Newspapers, especially on or near reservations, run story after story of abuse, drug-related crimes, and suicide in Native American communities. Community leaders have had enough. They are tired of losing their children to drugs and suicide, and they know they need to go back to the core problem: healing generational trauma.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we know that the greatest healing we can receive comes from the mercy and grace of our Heavenly Father, which is why the work of LIM is so important. LIM staff have made tremendous breakthroughs in Alaska, Washington, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico and Kansas!

Vicar Rick McCafferty (Inupiaq/Cherokee) is a leading force in LIM's healing ministry, often traveling to our various ministry sites.

NAVAJO MINISTRY

Rick began his adventure in Navajo, N.M., where he and Pastor Tim Norton went on their Annual Men's Retreat. The retreat is based on the Beauty for Ashes practice of creating a safe space to share stories and support one another.

"These meetings we do can't be a one-time event," Rick explained. "This is our third year doing it, and we are now really seeing the fruit of our labor. Between the retreats and the daily relationships Tim has with the individuals, we can see the change happening in the hearts of these Navajo men. It is a long, building process, and it is only by showing up, time after time, that we can build the trust and help the healing process. This was our best retreat yet, and I expect it to keep getting better!"

ALASKA MINISTRY

From Navajo, Rick traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, to hang out with the youth at Teen Camp for a couple of days before he was off again, this time to his home village, Kotzebue, for the first time in 29 years.

"I avoided going home for almost three decades," he says. "Every time I thought about home, I could only remember the bad, from the trauma I experienced as a child to the abuse I inflicted as a young adult. I was running away from facing the pain, so finally going home was a big deal."

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While in Kotzebue, he spoke to church groups, elders, and other leaders in the community about the help available for Native communities through organizations like LIM. In the evenings, he called together impromptu talking circles. “So many people opened up,” Rick reports. “They just didn’t want to stop!”

A nurse in the town stated that, in one year, she had seen seventeen hangings, seven deaths by gunshots, and multiple deaths of young children. Others shared similar stories, reiterating that “We need healing, not just another program.”

Another man told of how he and his wife left their home because they couldn’t handle the environment in their village. “We made the excuse that we were leaving to find jobs, but really we wanted to start over without the violence. There was no hope for us there. Our villages really need this!”

Rick has scheduled multiple churches to attend Beauty for Ashes training to help Native villages begin the healing process in a Christian setting.

Between work meetings, Rick made time to stop by the Elder’s Home, which provides Native senior housing. Many of the elders recognized him and were thrilled to see him. “You’ve been gone too long, Ricky,” they said.

“It was so good to be home,” Rick declares. “And it just goes to show we all have healing left to do. Being back in Kotzebue was a step in my own healing process that I had been avoiding, and it provided me with a whole new level of understanding for others who might be dealing with the same thing.”

PHOENIX MINISTRY

Meanwhile, in Phoenix, Kevin Maulson (Lac du Flambeau) was making breakthroughs of his own. “July 15, 2018 will live in memory as one of the most memorable days of my life,” he reports.

On this particular Sunday, Kevin brought together 18 people who had recently entered his life through the work of Gichi Manidoo Akewe Ministry of Lutheran Indian Ministries. The phrase “Gichi Manidoo Akewe” is Ojibwe for “Putting God First,” which is precisely how Kevin does ministry. Together, this group spent the morning praising God and digging deep into His Word in a room at the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA) headquarters.

The group consisted of 13 women from the Transitional Living Facility for Sober Living and two Native families, all of whom worked with Kevin to overcome an obstacle

that plagues many Native people in urban areas: homelessness. But homelessness isn’t a problem in a vacuum. The reasons an individual becomes homeless generally stem from past abuse, drug use, and trauma.

Kevin’s training with NAFFA and Beauty for Ashes equip him to deal with the trauma faced by those experiencing homelessness along with their more physical needs, like finding stable living arrangements and attaining the necessary government IDs for full-time work.

Since this meeting, Kevin’s group has grown to more than 30 people and they are currently looking for a bigger space to meet!

THE FUTURE

Regarding the future of LIM, Executive Director Tim Young Eagle (Pawnee) says, “Our Biblical-based healing ministry sets us apart from other Native organizations. This is our ‘secret sauce.’ Non-Christian Native organizations can counsel and are in tune with Native culture; churches can proclaim the Gospel and disciple, but we are in a unique position to do both, and that is really exciting!”

“The people we meet every day in the mission field are hungry and hurting, and they are ready,” says Rick McCafferty. “We have a huge job ahead of us, but we have a God who never fails!”

Please continue to keep LIM ministry staff in your prayers, as well as the Native people and leaders in hurting communities. Pray that they would see the value of LIM and invite us in to help.



For more information about Lutheran Indian Ministries, please visit lutheranindianministries.org.



COME JOIN US AT THE 2019 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING!



- **DO YOU RECRUIT** volunteer partners of all ages to support your servant events or community outreach?
- **ARE YOU LOOKING TO** connect with potential interns, staff, or board members?
- **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR** opportunities to share your ministry resources with the wider church?
- **DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION** have a story to tell to encourage the service and ministry of congregations and individuals?

The LCMS Youth Gathering is an excellent opportunity for Recognized Service Organizations to share their mission, resources, and service opportunities with LCMS congregations! As an exhibitor at the LCMS Youth Gathering, your organization can connect with thousands of youth and adults from 1,500 LCMS congregations and international church partners. Participants will gather July 11–15 in Minneapolis for five days of worship, service, learning, and fellowship with the theme “Real. Present. God.” For more information about exhibiting at the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering, please contact LCMS Youth Ministry at nygexhibitors@lcms.org.

2019 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

During April, the LCMS will celebrate National Volunteer Month. We invite you as LCMS RSOs to join us in celebrating LCMS volunteerism. Here are some ways for your organization to join the fun:

- When potential volunteers come to us seeking to serve, we show them our online RSO directory to direct them toward potential volunteer opportunities. Please take a few minutes to review our online RSO directory at lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations/directory to ensure we are accurately reflecting your organization and ongoing volunteer opportunities. If the information about your organization needs to be updated, please send your updates to cara.patton@lcms.org.

- Join the LCMS social media buzz! Post a story or photo about your volunteers on your Facebook or Twitter account with one or both of the following hashtags:

- **#nationalvolunteermmonth** — This hashtag will put the LCMS and your volunteers in the National Volunteer Month discussion.
- **#LCMSvolunteers** — This hashtag connects LCMS volunteer ministries visibly across the LCMS.

Once you have posted your story or photo, please inform Maureen Lenz, manager of LCMS Volunteer Connection, at maureen.lenz@lcms.org to see if we can promote your post further.

- Watch the LCMS Facebook and Twitter accounts and comment on **#LCMSvolunteers** posts.

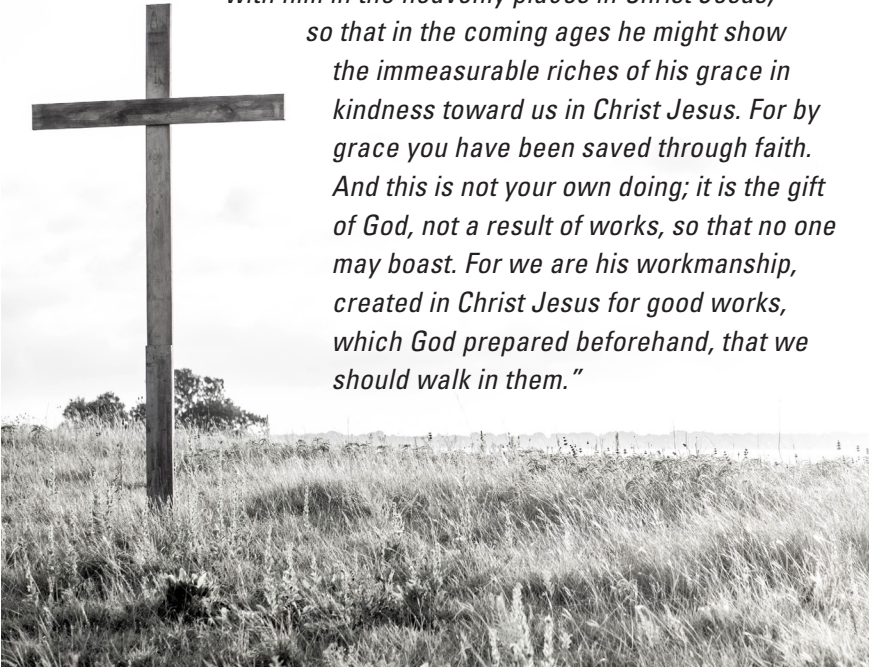
If you have any questions about LCMS National Volunteer Month efforts or would like to join our celebration via social media, please connect with Maureen Lenz at 314-996-1629 or at maureen.lenz@lcms.org.

Thank you for celebrating our awesome LCMS volunteers!



EPHESIANS 2:4–10

“*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*”



**WANT MORE RSO NEWS
OR LOOKING FOR AN RSO?**

*Check out our searchable directory and
find more RSO news at lcms.org/rso.*

May 23, 2019

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission
Webinar — Outreach Through Lutheran
Braille Workers
calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-outreach-through-lutheran-braille-workers

May 29–31, 2019

LCMS Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SPM)
Educational Event — “Mental Health:
We All Need It” — San Antonio
calendar.lcms.org/event/spm-retreat-mental-health-we-all-need-it/

July 11–15, 2019

LCMS Youth Gathering — “Real. Present.
God.” — Minneapolis
calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-lcms-youth-gathering

July 20–25, 2019

LCMS National Convention — “Joy:fully
Lutheran” — Tampa, Fla.
calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-lcms-national-convention

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**For more information about the
LCMS RSO ministry, visit lcms.org/rso.**

**If you want to subscribe to or no longer
wish to receive this newsletter, contact
Deaconess Cara Patton at 314-996-1635
or cara.patton@lcms.org.**

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