



St. Cloud Lutherans bring aid, serve in Joplin

The following article was submitted by Rev. Amon Bell, associate pastor, Holy Cross, St. Cloud.

News of a mighty tornado rocking Joplin, Mo., on Sunday, May 22, spread quickly across the country along with a myriad of frightening photos. Almost immediately, LCMS congregations across the country began planning service trips to Immanuel Lutheran Church, the only LCMS congregation in Joplin. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, was one of those congregations.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church organized a service trip to Joplin for June 19-23. Its members, along with members from five other LCMS St. Cloud-area congregations, collected tornado-relief supplies. Those congrega-

tions were Messiah, Sartell; St. John's, Kimball; Trinity, Sauk Rapids; Love of Christ, St. Cloud; and Redeemer, St. Cloud.

On Monday, June 20, eight volunteers from Holy Cross and Redeemer arrived at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Joplin. After a friendly greeting from some of the staff and volunteers there, we unloaded the relief supplies.

The disaster response mobilization team at Immanuel Lutheran Church and their adjoining school, Martin Luther, were extraordinarily kind and helpful. They had converted their school cafeteria into a soup kitchen for volunteers and for tornado victims in the area. They also organized three frequently visited trailers filled with donated supplies for neighborhood residents.



Pictured above is an unnamed church in Joplin after it was struck by the May 22 tornado.

Counseling was provided for trauma victims, and a semi-trailer equipped with showers also was made available.

Additionally, Martin Luther School and the staff from Immanuel Lutheran Church, along with Lutheran Church Charities and LCMS World Relief and Human Care, coordinated volunteers from more than 200 LCMS congregations across the country. Immanuel worked with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Carthage, Mo., to host volunteers free of charge, which we from Minnesota greatly appreciated!

After we unloaded supplies, we were given a short tour of the disaster zone. Words cannot describe the devastation and destruction. As far as we could see, smashed houses and mutilated

trees stretched across the landscape. The path of destruction ran 13 miles long, narrowly missing Immanuel Lutheran Church by one-quarter mile.

Over the next two days, Holy Cross and Redeemer volunteers helped in various ways. They were put in contact with a family whose home was condemned due to tornado damage. Our team helped evacuate the grateful family from their home. We also helped clean away debris from what had been a home in the destruction zone. Afterward, we returned to St. Cloud on Thursday, June 23.

We at Holy Cross are thankful for this opportunity to serve, and we are thankful for the many helping hands who made this trip possible.

To God be the glory.



Pictured (from left) are Robin and Ashley Zormeier; "Joe," a volunteer from Immanuel, Joplin; Lavonne Truenow; Gloria Moran; Carol Huncza; and David and Paula Paulson. (Not pictured is Pastor Aaron Bell.)

Life in Christ, Battle Lake, receives charter

In a special Charter Sunday service June 5, Life in Christ, Battle Lake, officially became a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Life in Christ is no longer considered a mission outreach. The congregation completed the steps required to earn the full rights, privileges and responsibilities of a “church.” Rev. Arthur Weidner, emeritus, is currently serving the congregation.

Shown in the photo to the right is Minnesota North District President Rev. Don Fondow presenting the church’s charter to Darlene Guggisberg, secretary at Life in Christ. Also pictured are (from left) Betty Nelson, Vice-President Ray Guggisberg, Rod Boike, Treasurer Kim Boike, President Jim Slater, Jan Slater, Ken Bettermann and Wadena Circuit Counselor Rev. Ray Hendrickson.



Lutheran Island Camp announces Confirmation Kick-Off

Confirmation Kick-off at Lutheran Island Camp is a great way for churches to begin confirmation instruction. Youth from around the region come to the island to learn and grow.



This year, Rev. Dave Horn will be the worship and song leader and serve as the main presenter. Pastor Horn reflects God’s light both as a minister and as a traveling evangelist, singer and songwriter. He and his wife, Sabra, travel throughout North America sharing the message of the cross and the empty tomb with churches and schools.

Rev. Tom Brinkley of

St. Matthew’s, Esko, also will be active in teaching and preaching God’s Word throughout the Kick-Off weekend and will preach for the Sunday morning worship.

Pastors who attend with their youth also will have adequate time for instruction with them.

The theme for this year’s kick-off is “Reflecting His Light.” It is based on Jesus’ words in The Sermon on the Mount, “Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16 NIV).

The Confirmation Kick-Off begins at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11, and

ends at 12 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 13. The cost for the event is typically \$89 per student, but it has been reduced to \$50, thanks to a grant from the “Stepping Out in Faith”

initiative!

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact the camp at 218-583-2905 or email info@islandcamp.org.



Rev. Nathan Scheele was installed as pastor at St. Paul, Granite Falls, on June 19. Shown in the photo are, from left, Rev. Robert Friedrich, Rev. Christopher Lieske, Minnesota North District President Donald Fondow, Rev. Loren Kruse, Rev. Nathan Scheele, Rev. Dennis Schultz, Rev. Steven Frank, Rev. Jack Baumgarn and Rev. Joel Koeppe.



Lutheran Island Camp travels to St. Cloud



A sign welcomes children to “camp” at Love of Christ Lutheran Church, St. Cloud.

Take a 67-acre island, add a group of kids, some great staff, God’s Word, many fun activities and you have the formula for a very special week in the life of a child!

This year, the staff at Lutheran Island Camp did something new for 50 children in the St. Cloud area. They brought the joy of camp to them, and then they took the children back to the island.

In mid-June, five talented staff members from

Lutheran Island Camp traveled to Love of Christ, St. Cloud, where they led the first St. Cloud-area Day Camp. The week was an amazing success.

The staff brought with them guitars, music, Bible studies, activities, crafts and an enthusiasm for serving the Lord by “Reflecting His Light”—the theme for this year’s camp.

Mirrors, flashlights and Bibles were used to teach campers how they can

reflect the light of Christ. Participants talked about how important Jesus is to them and what He has done for them. They learned that, as God works His miracle of salvation in their young lives, they have no choice but to be “Reflecting His Light.”

Fun, Christ-centered activities were planned for each day, but Thursday was a special day. The entire group journeyed to the island. For most of the children, it was their first trip to camp. The early morning two-hour bus trip passed by quickly as they sang and told stories. Everyone felt great anticipation for a camp experience.

Finally, the children arrived before 10 a.m. and, right away, they began their activities. Everyone spread out across the island, enjoying the beach, archery, field games, singing in the

chapel and time spent with other campers.

The Day Camp week ended on Friday with a special program for parents and grandparents. Older children shared a skit, while younger campers provided music by sharing many of the songs they learned during the week. All the campers received a flashlight to remind them that they are to be shining examples of God’s love. It was pointed out, too, that just as the flashlight cannot operate without the battery, neither can we as Christians shine without God’s love.



As an addendum to the story on the St. Cloud Mission trip to Joplin, several women at Holy Cross made quilts for families in need. Pictured, from left, are Virginia Sorensen, Lucy Leabch, Doris Schroeder, Jane Engene, Betty Hayes, Mary Ann Setrum, Gail Bremel, Marcia Abraham and Ardyce Haarstick.



Please send your submission to the Minnesota North District insert to *The Lutheran Witness* to the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org or Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Attention: Pastor Paul Dare, 2555 Clearwater Road, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Most articles appear in *The Lutheran Witness* two months after they are submitted.

Counselor's Corner

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

I suspect that virtually anyone reading this article has picked a white dandelion top and blew upon it, spreading the seeds to the wind. Most likely, you did so when you were a child or when showing a youngster the joy of watching these little parachutes fly. Of course, wherever the seeds land, in due time another dandelion sprouts.

God uses His people much like this. The Spirit blows where He wills and uses His people in various places and ways to spread the seeds of faith into new places.

Where has God "blown" you? Whom might you reach with the love of Christ and the message of the Gospel? Look around. You are not where you are by accident. God's hand is on your life and He will make you fruitful where you land.

*Rev. Ronald Hobbie
Lakeland Region Counselor*



LWML adopts mission goal of \$1.825 million for the 2011-13 biennium!

More than 4,600 Lutheran Women in Mission from across the nation gathered June 23-26 to conduct business, renew friendships and rally around God's Word in Peoria, Ill. The theme of the convention was "Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge," based on the Scripture passage, "And they realized they had been with Jesus ... 'For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard'" (Acts 4:13b, 20 NKJV).



St. Cloud Zone Spring Rally

More than 300 pillowcase dresses for the "Dress A Girl Around the World" project were collected at the April 30 rally at St. John's Lutheran in Kimball. T-shirt diapers and baby quilts also were sewn and donated by zone members.

Go to www.lwml.org to see highlights of the Peoria convention and more ...

- Updates to the website occur often. Keep checking it out.
- Resources, news and ideas can be found there.
- Also find links to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, devotions and Bible studies.

Spread the Word with the quarterly

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* (LWQ) is the place to find stories of faith in action: Grants @ Work, Bible studies, young women and teen pages, mission activity ideas and more. Share your magazine with college women from your church, a neighbor, a friend or leave a copy in a waiting room after an appointment. Not getting LWQ? Subscribe by calling the LWML office at 800-252-LWML (5965) or order online at www.lwml.org.