

A report of only a little of what God is doing in Minnesota North!

Special points of interest:

- > Learn how 11 men are making an eternal difference with their cooking!
- > Have you heard about LMA-MnN?
- > Where is God calling us in 2012?
- > Make A World for Christ Appeal Update

# The Face of Mission

## Saint and Sinner BBQ

(Information for the story was provided by Rev. Mark Hanson of Trinity Lutheran in Sabin)

Take eleven men from Trinity Lutheran in Sabin who have a

**"Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate"**



heart for missions as well as some ability to cook and throw in a little BBQ sauce. What do you have? You have a wonderful ministry combination that helps

to raise funds for mission work and mission projects!

They call themselves the **"Saint and Sinner BBQ"** because one of the sauces they feature on their pulled pork sandwich (smoked for 12-14 hours) is sweet and smooth ('**Saint**') and the other sauce has a unique bite without being hot ('**Sinner**'). These men make everything from scratch and include on their menu: baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread and dessert.

When they choose a project to help, they first each give \$75 to cover the costs of the meal so that every penny received can go directly to the mission project they have selected. Recently they sold their delicious fare at Sabin Days and raised over

\$1400 which they have given to support the ministry of Rev. Mark Peske to the Native Americans living in the Cass Lake area. Their next project is to help Trinity, Fergus Falls, who will be sending a VBS mission team to Canada next summer.

**"Saint and Sinner BBQ"** may never appear on the Food Network show "Diners, Drive Ins, and Dives." But they are a group of eleven men who through the use of their talents are striving to make a difference for all eternity by supporting ministries who reach out with the Gospel in order to bring more people to the heavenly banquet table of Jesus Christ. And by His blessing, that is exactly what they are doing!

## "Hearts for Jesus" - 2011/2012 School Year

Children in our Christian Day schools and Sunday schools will have the opportunity to support one or both of the following projects for the **"Hearts for Jesus"** program during the coming school year.

- Through the *Lutheran Heritage Foundation* children can help provide Sunday school materials for chil-

- dren in Southeast Asia.
- Through *LCMS World Relief and Human Care*, children can provide food and supplies to children living in drought and famine stricken East Africa.

For more information on either project, visit:

- [www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org)

- [www.lcms.org/africadrought](http://www.lcms.org/africadrought)
- [dave.strohschein@mnnlcms.org](mailto:dave.strohschein@mnnlcms.org)

Either project will help your Christian Day school children or Sunday school children to be involved in sharing the love and the care of Jesus Christ with those in need.

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Vicar Lucson and Pastor Gergens in the St. Raphael Church



### What About Haiti?

(By Lil Spilde)

Lutheranism in Haiti-what's happening? Will voodoo-ridden sects succeed? Will Satan have his way? Will God's Word grow and prosper through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH)?

God tells us that where His Word is sown, it will not return empty and that our pastors are to baptize and preach. Christ tells us to feed and clothe others. How is the LCMS helping in these

areas in Haiti?

Imagine a visit to a Haitian Lutheran church. It is full of folks in their "Sunday clothes" and they sing with great gusto in either French or Creole and the pastor preaches in Creole. He graciously tells us in English where the readings are from. Children usually sit in the front of the church and are very quiet. Some fall asleep. It's HOT! The singing is accompanied by keyboards, guitars, and sometimes

accordions. The services DON'T last an hour, maybe an hour-and-a-half. When there is Sunday school before church, the classes memorize aloud, as many folks can't read. Almost no one new arrives for church after Sunday school; they were already there.

The Lutheran Mission Association (LMA-MnN) was formed after Rev. Eliona Bernard of Cap Haitien, president of Haiti's

(continued below)

*"Will God's Word grow and prosper through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti?"*

### What About Haiti? (continued)

ELCH seminary and District President of the North District of Haiti visited International Falls in 2001. The ELCH is the only Haitian Lutheran group in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS. LMA-MnN is a non-profit organization of LCMS pastors and laypeople of the Minnesota North District dedicated to serving the

congregations of ELCH's North District.

In ELCH's North District there are five congregations and four elementary schools. Each congregation is served by a pastor or vicar and an assisting lay-pastor. The schools (K-6) range between 60 and 120 students.

LMA-MnN has a number of projects: buildings; wells; school and church support; clinics; Bibles and catechisms; self-sufficiency projects; and, shipping containers. Visit our website (<http://www.lmamnn.org>) and determine how you can help.

(continued below)



Foundation for Grace Lutheran Church/School at DonDon.

### What About Haiti? (continued)

LMA-MnN members travel to Cap Haitien at their own expense at least once a year. They often do "grunt" work, help and encourage our brothers and sisters, and usually visit each of the five churches. It is also an opportunity for LMA-MnN to see how the donations they receive are being used and report back to the folks in MN North District.

The funding and support comes to LMA-MnN from various places: congregations; special groups (LWML, Men's Clubs, Sunday schools, VBS); individuals, or book and rummage sales.

The Kurt Marquardt Fund for Theological Education in Haiti has produced a video about the ELCH after the earthquake. You may obtain a copy by emailing Mrs. Lil

Spilde at [splide@paulbunyan.net](mailto:splide@paulbunyan.net).

Please pray for the Lutheran Mission Association and its efforts in Haiti. For more information on LMA-MnN, please contact Mrs. Lori Salvhus at 218-935-9016 ([lsalvhus@arvig.net](mailto:lsalvhus@arvig.net)) or visit the LMA-MnN website.

## ***GROWING in the GRACE of GIVING***

It will surely be a key issue in the upcoming elections to be held in our country—the economy. Right now our national economy (or the world’s for that matter) is not in very good shape. Jobs are in short supply. Prices are rising. The housing market is greatly depressed. Savings and retirement accounts have lost significant value. The stock market has never been more volatile.

So, how can we even begin to

think or talk about what the headline for this article suggests? The answer to that question isn’t hard. However, acting on that truth can be.

*We can prayerfully consider the suggestion and receive encouragement to GROW in the GRACE of GIVING because our giving is not based on our national economy. Rather, it is based on God’s economy!* In His economy there is always enough to support and to do the work that He wants

done and gives His people to do! “Put Me to the test...” (Mal. 3:10)

Can the congregations of our Minnesota North District grow in the grace of giving? All congregations are being asked to prayerfully consider growing one step in the average gift that each communicant member provides for the support of missions. If the average for your congregation was \$5 per communicant last year, could your congregation (continued below)...



**“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”**

## ***GROWING in the GRACE of GIVING (continued)***

...commit to \$10 this year? If your congregations budget for 2010 included \$500 for Synod and District missions, could it grow to be \$1000 this year? While that is a significant increase, it can be achieved if each member contributes \$5 more for the year. (This illustration is based on a communicant mem-

bership of 100.) If that seems out of reach, then try a half step and an increase of \$2.50 per communicant to \$750 in the budget.

It was the Apostle Paul who encouraged Christians then and now to grow in the grace of giving. ***“And God is able to make all grace abound to you,***

***so in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*** (2 Corinthians 9:8)

That is the truth about God’s economy!

May our response ***“result in thanksgiving to God.”*** (2 Corinthians 9:11)

***“...our giving is not based on our national economy...it is based on God’s economy!”***

## **MAKE A WORLD FOR CHRIST APPEAL**

How is the appeal progressing?

To date, God has blessed this appeal with the following: total pledges are at \$451,928.42 and gifts of \$265,321.28 have already been received. Of these amounts, donors have designated \$291,939.70 to go to Lutheran Island Camp and \$53,720.08 is to go to the three international mission projects.

Gifts of \$106,268.64 have not been designated by the donors and will be divided according to the formula of 2/3 to LIC and 1/3 to the international mission projects.

### **WE THANK GOD FOR THESE BLESSINGS AND GIFTS!**

Can your congregation still participate? Absolutely! Several

congregations are currently conducting appeals. Your congregation can become involved by contacting the District Office to arrange for training and materials. ***“Lord, here am I: Your fire impart to this poor cold self-centered soul; Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart, and make a world for Christ my goal.”*** (LSB 831, vs. 4)



We're on the web:  
[www.mnn.lcms.org](http://www.mnn.lcms.org)

Please feel free to reproduce this newsletter and share it with the members of your congregation.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please contact Cathy Wright at the Minnesota North District Office ([receptionist@mnnlcms.org](mailto:receptionist@mnnlcms.org))

If there is an item of mission interest that you would like to see included in The Face of Mission, please contact Rev. Dave Strohschein at the Minnesota North District Office ([dave.strohschein@mnnlcms.org](mailto:dave.strohschein@mnnlcms.org))



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## Where is God calling us to new work in 2012?

That is a most exciting question! And it is based on these truths of Scripture:

**Truth #1**—God's Kingdom is alive and well—hence it is always growing. There is always some new work to do!

**Truth #2**—God loves to open new doors of opportunity for His people to go through and tell the Good News of salvation in Christ to a world full of people who are dying without hope in Christ.

**Truth #3**—God never sends His people out alone. He always leads us out to where He wants

us to go.

**Currently** our District is funding new work in Avon, Two Harbors, New London/Spicer, and at Trinity in Sauk Rapids and the Anyuak ministry there.

**Possible New Opportunities** for work include the following:

- Otsego in partnership with the Minnesota South District as we did in planting Alive! Lutheran Church in Monticello.
- St. Cloud area

- Work among the Hispanic population in several areas of our District.
- ??????

We are always open to hearing of other areas where new work might begin from congregations or circuits. Is there a new mission partnership opportunity in your area?

**Where is He calling us?** *"After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."* Acts 16:10



**"And you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8**