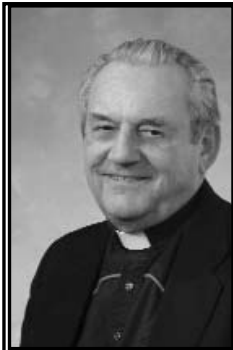


MONTANA REFLECTIONS

Montana District-LCMS
30 Broadwater Avenue
Billings, MT 59101
Website: MTD.LCMS.org
E-Mail: midist@midistlcms.org

FEBRUARY 2006



By: Reverend Dr. George F. Wollenburg, President, Montana District

IN THE PRIESTLY SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL ROMANS 15:16

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you should declare the wonderful deeds of Him who has brought you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

On the first Sunday in Lent the Holy Gospel for the day speaks to us of the temptation of Jesus by the devil. The devil is

not real for most of our modern generation. We act as if we had been to his funeral and that he is safely buried. Few of us think seriously about the devil as did Martin Luther whose little morning and evening prayers in the Catechism plead for the protection of the holy angels "...that the evil foe may have no power over me." This is exactly what the devil wants, that we should be unaware of him. Most subversive and terrorist movements gain their greatest advantage by going underground. Satan succeeds best when people believe that they are too enlightened to believe such nonsense. But he still whispers in our ear that God cannot really mean what He has said.

Temptation is really a question of grammar. The devil puts a question mark behind every word of God, so that every sentence of God ends with a question mark instead of a period. "Did God really say...?" This is how the Tempter approaches Jesus. "If you are the Son of God..." shortly before the temptation Jesus had been baptized and the Father spoke from heaven, "You are my beloved Son, I am well pleased with you." That Word expressed the

Father's pleasure at the obedience of His Son, Jesus. The tempter tries to change the focus of Jesus. "Aha! If you really are God's Son, he surely doesn't want you to starve to death. Instead of concentrating on the Word of God, the devil directs Jesus attention to His own physical hungers and desires.

The tempter directs our attention to all our felt needs. When the desire for happiness and all the other urges and felt needs come, the Tempter suggests that these are natural desires and therefore there is nothing immoral in simply satisfying those urges, nothing wrong, nothing sinful.

Jesus does not give in to the tempter. He was tempted in all things as we are, yet He was without sin. He listens only to the Word of God, and lives by every Word, which comes from the mouth of God. His suffering and death was obedience given to God in place of our disobedience. Our disobedience was given to Him. He overcame Satan. That victory is also ours through faith in Him. And His resurrection is ours as well.

CALLS

Peace, Great Falls MT has extended a call to Rev. Steven Schlund, Bethlehem/St. Paul, Ravenna/Shelton, Nebraska

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH DEER LODGE, MT INSTALL NEW PASTOR



Rev. Larry Miller, Rev. Christopher Wareham, Chaplain Gale Everson, Dr. George Wollenburg, Rev. Albert Kasten, Rev. Robert Mitchell, Rev. Mark Nicolaus, and rev. Mark Grunst.

On Sunday, January 15, Rev. Albert Kasten was installed as the new pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Deer Lodge by Dr. George Wollenburg Montana District President.

Rev. Kasten was born in Terry, MT to the late Albert Jake and Helen Louise (Sisley) Kasten. The eldest of five siblings, his youth was divided equally between living in Roswell, NM and Eastern Montana (Brockway, Miles City, and Sidney).

He met his wife, Patricia Jean (Noble) in Roswell and they were married in 1964. They have been blessed with two sons, Albert Jr. & Kristopher; two daughters, Vereena & Cindy; five grandsons and five granddaughters.

Rev. Kasten served in the US Army for twenty years at various stateside duty stations (mostly Ft. Bliss at El Paso, TX) and overseas in Germany, Korea and Hawaii. He retired in January 1986 and returned to school, earning an Associate's Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor's Degree in Management.

In September 1990 he applied to Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN and began classes in the winter of 1990. Rev. Kasten vicared at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Billings, MT from August 1993 through August 1994. He graduated from the

seminary in May of 1995. His ordination into the office of pastoral ministry was on June 11, 1995. Also on that day he was installed as pastor of St. John's and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches at Norris and Midland, South Dakota of the South Dakota District.

Rev. Kasten also served as Vacancy Pastor to Messiah Lutheran Church at Murdo, SD from August 1995 to July 1996. In addition to his duties as pastor to a dual parish and vacancy pastor, he was an assistant to Rev. R. E. Utecht who was the South Dakota District Missionary-at-large to the Sioux people.

In December 1996 Rev. Kasten accepted a call from the Missions Board, English District, to be Missionary-at-large to St. George, UT. He was pastor of Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. George from January 1997 to September 1999. Additionally, he served as Vacancy Pastor for Trinity Lutheran Church (Rocky Mountain District) at Cedar City, UT from September 1998 to September 1999.

September 1999 Rev. Kasten accepted a call from Zion and St. John's Lutheran Churches, Big Springs and Brule, NE of the Wyoming District. He served as pastor of that dual parish from October 1999 through December 31, 2005.

REV. HOWARD SCHREIBEIS INSTALLED AT TRINITY, MILES CITY/ROCK SPRINGS MT ON DECEMBER 4, 2005



Rev. John Vallie, Dr. George Wollenburg Rev. Arlo Pullmann, Rev. Howard Schreiberis, Rev. James Hageman and Rev. Dennis Bauer

Rev. Howard Schreiberis, Glendive, MT was installed at Trinity, Miles City/Rock Springs MT on December 4, 2005.

Rev. Schreiberis was born second of six children to Ben and Floreen Schreiberis in Sheridan, WY. In 1968 he moved with his family to Billings, MT. He attended Eastern Montana College (now MSU-Billings), earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1975. After graduating he taught 5th and 6th grades at Melstone, MT for two

years and then 6th grade at Lockwood Intermediate School, Billings for 4 years.

He entered Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN the summer of 1981. He served as a vicar at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Groves, TX. He was also a part-time pastor assistant at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne his final year at the seminary. He graduated in May 1985 with a Master of Divinity degree, and accepted the call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Riesel, TX. He served at Trinity for 3 1/2

years before accepting a call to St. John Lutheran Church, Libby MT, where he served until November 1995. The past 10 year he was Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Glendive MT and Grace Lutheran Church of Fallon, MT.

Howard was joined in Christian marriage to Jo Heinrich, daughter of Oscar and Betty Heinrich, on September 1, 1973 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Billings. The Lord blessed their union with 5 children; Michelle, Kristy, Stephen, Eric and Adam.

Throughout his years in the public ministry, he has served as Chairman of the Mexia Mission Committee in the Texas District; as a member of the Planning Committee for Pastoral Conferences of the Montana District; as Junior Pastor Counselor for the Montana District LWML, and as Secretary for the Montana District. He has also served as the Spiritual Counselor of the Libby Hospice, on the Libby Clean Air Committee, on the Board of Gabert Medical Services in Glendive, on the Board of Trustees of the Glendive Medical Center and on the Steering Committee for Dawson County Healthy Community Coalition.

MONTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION JUNE 19-22, 2006

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT & CIRCUIT COUNSELORS ARE DUE. CONGREGATION DELEGATE DUE NOW

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH PASCAGOULA, MS



Christ Lutheran Church and Parish Hall, sign board and gutted kitchen, Pascagoula MS



Dorothy and Joseph Furr, of Peace Lutheran, Great Falls, recently had the opportunity to spend some time on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They were able to visit several of our LCMS churches. After finding out that Christ Lutheran in Pascagoula was "assigned to the MT/WY Districts, they made it a point to visit them for a Sunday worship. They were given a tour of their damaged facilities and took some pictures to share with the people of the Montana District. The Furr's stated, "Everyone we talked to expressed their appreciation and thanks for the help that they have received from the Districts."

At the time of their visit, all of the clean up had been completed. There was sewer damage along with flood waters,

because Katrina brought the sewer plant to them! They had minor roof damage and therefore some ceiling and wall damage in the sanctuary. The roof had been repaired. The carpet was damaged, but, they were able to save the pews. The organ was unrepairable. In the fellowship hall, all of the office equipment was damaged along with numerous books. The bottom half of the kitchen had to be gutted.

In the midst of this tragedy and the endless stories of loss and survival that the Furr's heard, it was amazing to them to witness the hope of everyone that they had come in contact with. This was very true for those we met at Christ Lutheran, Pascagoula.

We thank the Furr's for sharing this firsthand information with our District.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE SEMINAR AT MILES CITY MT APRIL 21-22, 2006

The National Association of Pro-Life Nurses will provide a speaker who will talk on pro-life issues from the perspective of those who are on the front line of medical care. This group is dedicated not only to the advancement of the sanctity of human life but also to the support of nurses, who are often at ground zero when it comes to life taking decisions. The purpose of this seminar is twofold. First we want to support the nurses in our state in their witness for life. Secondly, we want to provide an opportunity for laymen, (the rest of us), to see life issues from their perspective. We anticipate this will help all of us in our testimony for life.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

The Terri Schaivo case catapulted "Advance Directives" into the mainstream of American Life. Many people rushed to complete living wills. A recent poll showed that 29% of Americans have living wills. That's more than twice the number in 1990. Likewise, 69% said that they have spoken with their

spouses about preferred end-of-life medical care. That's up from 50% in 1990.

All this talk has not made the issue less complex. In fact, many people find living wills and medical options very confusing. Lutherans for Life has produced a pamphlet on this topic entitled, "The Basics on Advance Directives." Montana Lutherans for Life has purchased 2500 of these pamphlets and are willing to distribute them to interested congregations free of charge, on a first come, first served basis. Please call Rev. Terry Forke, President, at (406) 892-4074 if you are interested.

THANK YOU FROM ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, HATTIESBURG MS

When the Elders were told of the love and blessings from our fellow Christians they were overwhelmed with joy. The pastor, president of the congregation and the elders during the course of several meetings decided after talking with those who had sustained damage to give the 30,000 dollars received to 28 families of our congregation. The amounts given out ranged from 500 to 4000 dollars, depending on the need of each family.

A letter asking the recipient to respond anonymously as to how the money was used was sent with each check. Over half of the responses reported using the money to help with their insurance deductible. Others reported using the money to remove trees and stumps,

rebuild sheds, driveway repair, roof repair, or pay their rent while out of work. Some shared the money with other family members that lost work or had need of replacing spoiled food.

All of those receiving the gifts offered thanksgiving and God's blessings to those that made the gifts possible.

On behalf of St. John's congregation in Hattiesburg we wish to thank the congregations of the Montana and Wyoming Districts, and LCMS World Relief for their generous offering of financial help that was given to our congregation for hurricane relief.

Thank you and God bless everyone involved.

Rev. Dennis Rhoads and Chuck Kraeger, Elder Chair

WANTED: PEOPLE WITH A HEART FOR MINISTRY, TO BUILD FOR ETERNITY

Laborers For Christ (LFC) can use as many as 100 new people "with a heart for ministry" to help congregations throughout the country tackle their building projects, including efforts related to last year's unprecedented hurricane season.

"There are some exciting projects on tap," said Dan Baker, LFC Associate Director. "Ministry in every skill level, from those with no experience to construction professionals, are needed. The only requirement is to have a heart for ministry."

A ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LFC helps LCMS congregations and other organizations that are constructing or remodeling their own facilities build within their budgets. Future

projects are expected to include assisting congregations and schools with hurricane damage.

Laborers (both men and women) enjoy opportunities to witness their faith, travel and meet new people. They can work part time or full time for the congregations and other organizations they serve. Many have a recreational vehicle (RV) to use at work sites, but that is not mandatory.

Since the ministry was founded in 1980, more than 700 "building for eternity" projects have been completed by congregations and other organizations participating in the LFC program. To request an application or more information, please contact LFC toll-free at 1-800-854-4004, Ext. 6446, or e-mail laborers@lcef.org.



REACHING OUT IN LOVE - HURRICANE RELIEF

School Ministry, in cooperation with World Relief/Human Care, has wristbands for \$1.00 with all proceeds going to Lutheran schools that have been affected by the hurricanes. Pictures of the bracelets and order forms are available on the District and Congregations Services website, <http://dcs.lcms.org/schools>

DR. PAUL L. MAIER SEMINAR MARCH 25, 2006

Submitted by Roy Williams

Dr. Paul L. Maier: The last in a series of three seminars will be presented at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 417 West 9th Street, PO Box 185, Laurel MT 59044, on Saturday, March 25, 2006. The Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier will conduct a seminar on the topic of one of his video series entitled, "Christianity: The First Three Centuries". Dr. Maier is the Second Vice President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and his father, Dr. Walter A. Maier, was the first Lutheran Hour Speaker.

Interested people may register for this seminar by mailing a \$15.00 registration fee (After March 1st the registration fee is \$25.00) to St. John's Lutheran Church marked, "Attention: Roy Williams", together with a slip of paper with their name, address and phone number. (Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church). The number allowed to register will be 200 participants. Registrations will be taken on a first come first serve basis. For more information about the seminar, please call Roy Williams at 628-6513 Ext. 100.

Please Note: Registration is limited to 200 people on a 1st come 1st serve basis!

CREATION COLLEGE JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2006

Pastor Jay Reinke (Trinity, Plentywood, and Concordia, Williston, ND) and Mr. Bob Guderjohn (Concordia), are registered for this summer's Creation College in southern Indiana, and would like to invite pastors and laity from the Montana District to join them. The 5-day event, sponsored by "Answers in Genesis," features morning-to-night presentations by scientists who are some of the world's leading defenders of a 6-day creation. The event will also include a field trip to the new creation museum just outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration for Creation College is \$395/person, \$525/couple, or \$525 for a pastor and a church member. Housing and meals are extra.

For more information about the conference, or to discuss the possibility of traveling together, please contact Pastor Jay Reinke at Concordia Lutheran, 1805 Main St., Williston, ND, 58801, or by e-mail at concordia@dia.net, or by phone, 1-800-With Him.

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

MONTANA DISTRICT EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Submitted by Rev Darold Reiner, Evangelism Chairman

Healthy Habits That Support Outreach

by Mike Ruhl

Aristotle wrote: We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. If true, that suggests that our character is basically a composite of our habits. Congregations develop "habits" as well--some wonderful and God-pleasing, and others that can run counter to their mission.

Missiologist and evangelism consultant Thom Rainer and a research team conducted a seven-year study at Southern Seminary. Combining both old and new research, and including surveys of more than 4,000 churches and interviews with more than 1,000 individuals, Rainer identified nine habits of congregations that both reach and keep the unchurched.

Habit of Intentionality - Congregations effective in outreach make intentional efforts to reach the unchurched, yet 83% of all congregations surveyed did not have an intentional plan for reaching the lost. However, among effective evangelistic churches, more than 75% of the formerly unchurched members said that someone from the church shared the plan of salvation with them--and in most cases, it was not a staff member.

Habit of Cultural Awareness - Intentional outreach to the unchurched necessitates a thorough understand-

ing of the culture of the mission field around the congregation, but never at the expense of compromising the Word of God with that culture. For example, it is crucial to understand the most unchurched generation, those born between 1977 and 1994, called the Bridger Generation. Only 4% of this group is Christian! By comparison, 65% of the generation born before 1946 (Builder Generation) are Christians.

Habit of High Expectations - There is a direct correlation between how much is demanded of a new member and how long the member stays active in the church. Churches that expect much missional investment, receive much. Conversely, churches that expect little, receive little. By the way, the average retention rate of new members in all churches is only 35%.

Habit of Clear Doctrine - People want to hear about doctrine on the front end. They will not make a commitment to a church if they are not told what the church believes from the start.

Habit of Risk Taking - This habit involves acting on faith and doing what seems to be risky through the world's eyes, or maybe even the church's eyes. This will mean making ministry decisions based on "Who will we reach?" rather than on "Who might we lose?"

Habit of Dynamic Small Groups - 68% of the people in

healthy evangelistic churches are involved in spiritual growth groups.

Habit of Effective Leadership - The pastor himself and the preaching were the most important factors in the unchurched returning. The pastors of the effective evangelistic churches tended to 1) Spend five hours a week in personal evangelism; 2) Be good time managers; 3) Have an average tenure of 10.3 years; and 4) Delegate and give away ministry assignments.

Habit of Effective Preaching - Pastors of effective evangelistic churches spent an average of 20 hours per week on message preparation. Expository (direct Scripture exposition) preaching was the most dominant style in the survey.

Habit of Prayer - New members are called and told that they are being prayed for. 83% of the effective evangelistic churches had corporate prayer ministries that were operational and emphasized.

In his bestseller, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven Covey writes: "Habits are formed at the intersection of knowledge, skill and desire." Something will not become a habit unless these three elements intersect: knowledge (essential knowledge about the behavior), skill (mastery of how the behavior is expressed) and desire (passion for the behavior to be mastered and repeated).

How many of these "healthy habits" have been developed in your congregation?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006

February	16-17	BPE, Irvine (joint with BUE)
	16-19	Stewardship Leaders Conf., Tempe AZ
	17-19	Junior High Youth Gathering, Bozeman
	18-21	COP Meeting
	20	Central Circuit Winkler, Lewistown
	20	Western Circuit Winkler, Our Savior, Stevensville
March	1	Ash Wednesday
	10	Dist. Planning Meeting, Gt. Falls 6:30 pm Fri. to 3:30 p.m. Sat. - (All Committee Chairmen, Members & VP's)
	13	Eastern Circuit Winkler, Glendive
	13	Southern Circuit Winkler, St. Paul Park City
	15	Deadline for vicar applications to be in St. Louis for spring placement
	15	Deadline for candidate applications to be in St. Louis for spring placement
	20	Central Circuit Winkler, Denton
	20	Western Circuit Winkler, Grace, Hamilton
	25	Dr. Paul Maier Seminar, St. John, Laurel
	April	6-7
10		Southern Circuit Winkler, Mt. Olive, Billings
10		Eastern Circuit Winkler, Miles City
13		Maundy Thursday
14		Good Friday
14-17		District Office Closed in Observance of Easter
16		Easter
17		Western Circuit Winkler, Messiah, Missoula
18		Campus Ministry Mtg & Dinner, Mt. Olive, Billings at 7 pm
21-22		Lutheran for Life Seminar-Miles City
21-27		COP Mtg, St. Louis & Candidate Placement
24	Central Circuit Winkler, Great Falls	
28-30	MT District LWML Convention, Missoula	
June	4	Pentecost
	19	District Convention Opening Service, Trinity, Billings
	19-22	MT District Convention; Registration on the 19th; Committee Meetings start 1 pm on the 19th; Opening of convention on 20th; Convention closes Noon on Thursday the 22nd
July	6-9	International LLL Convention, Billings, MT

MONTANA DISTRICT WEB-EVANGELISM

Submitted by Jeff Hansen, Evangelism Chairman, Trinity, Billings MT

Congratulations to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Polson, Montana on well-deserved "Site of the Year" honors for 2005! Thrivent Financial chose Mount Calvary's website based on its wealth of information, easy navigation, appealing design, and layout. Following this award, Thrivent Financial awarded Trinity Lutheran

Church in Billings, Montana "Site of the Month" honors for January of 2006! To God alone be the glory for this double honor that has blessed the Montana District of the LCMS!

Many of the talented web-servants in our district have banded together to form the Montana Lutheran Web Group to share resources and knowledge, how to have a good website at absolutely no cost, and to aid our district's congregations in starting and improving their websites for web-evangelism. Cyberspace is a vast mission field, and each of our district's congregations is a potential mission station in that field. Each

website would be a beacon, proclaiming Christ to Montana, and even the world. This is the Great Commission at work, and the Internet is a place in need of Christ. We invite all congregational web-servants and interested parties to join our web group, and we look forward to chatting with you!

Montana Lutheran Web Group websites:

<http://groups.google.com/group/Montana-LutheranWeb>

<http://www.gracethreeforks.org/grace/montanalutheran/>

<http://www.lutheransonline.com/mountcalvarypolson/>

etc. that you sent have been very helpful and much appreciated. It's one more way the Lord reminds us all that we are part of the Body of Christ and not isolated islands.

The Lord bless and keep you all.

The members of Circle of Life Lutheran Church, Crow Lutheran Ministry and The Indian Ministry Committee

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We thank God greatly for your love and care for the people of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne communities. The socks, hats, gloves,

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Published monthly by the Montana District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at 30 Broadwater Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

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FREE METAL FOLDING CHAIRS

FIRST LUTHERAN, MISSOULA HAS 75 METAL FOLDING CHAIRS TO GIVE AWAY. PLEASE CONTACT PAUL MAY OR MELISSA JOHNS AT (406) 549-3311

LLL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND LUTHERAN HOUR RALLY TO BE IN BILLINGS, MONTANA IN July 6-9, 2006

DR. DALE MEYER, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE LUTHERAN HOUR AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS WILL SPEAK AT THE FRIDAY LUNCHEON.

REV. KEN KLAUS, SPEAKER OF THE LUTHERAN HOUR, WILL PREACH AT THE RALLY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 8



LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Do You Know Where Your Money Is?

When you invest, do you know what your money is funding? You do when you choose a Church Extension Investment. While your money is earning interest for you, it is being loaned to congregations and Lutheran Organizations to finance church buildings and other facilities dedicated to teaching and preaching the gospel. Join the many Christians who find peace and joy in knowing their investment dollars are working for the expansion of God's kingdom.

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FOR CURRENT RATES OR TO OBTAIN AN OFFERING CIRCULAR, CALL 1-800-843-5233 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LCEF.ORG

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MONTANA DISTRICT WORLD MISSION OFFERINGS

**FEBRUARY 1, 2004 THROUGH January 31, 2006
TWELFTH MONTH OF MONTANA DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR**

Comm Memb	Intention	%	Remitted This Month	Remitted Year to Date	Other Offerings	Total Remitted to Date	Per Comm Member to Date	Comm Memb	Intention	%	Remitted This Month	Remitted Year to Date	Other Offerings	Total Remitted to Date	Per Comm Member to Date		
EASTERN								DIVIDE									
Colstrip	148	6,179	928.93	6,326.85		6,326.85	42.75	Anaconda	15	900				0.00	0.00		
Fairview	57	2,000		2,000.00		2,000.00	35.09	Belgrade	109	3,000		3,000.00		3,000.00	27.52		
Fallon	68	800	115.00	857.00		857.00	12.60	Boulder	44	0	10.0%	0.00		0.00	0.00		
Forsyth	215	6,500		6,000.00		6,000.00	27.91	Bozeman	378	25,400		2,117.00	28,186.33	8,618.31	36,804.64	97.37	
Glasgow	24	1,400	5.0%	1,223.83		1,223.83	50.99	Butte	145	0		7,100.00	507.00	7,607.00	52.46		
Glendive	847	21,000		4,196.00	21,922.00	90.00	22,012.00	25.99	Deer Lodge	124	5,100		400.00	4,000.00	1,301.00	5,301.00	42.75
Hysham	59	775		469.30	721.30		721.30	12.23	Ennis	45	2,800		852.21	3,065.89	477.00	3,543.89	78.75
Miles City	336	200	8.5%	375.00	3,151.00	720.00	3,871.00	11.52	Helena	569	29,000		3,148.53	28,914.72		28,914.72	50.82
Plentywood	60	3,000	10.5%		3,000.00		3,000.00	50.00	Three Forks	128	1,913	8.0%	1,391.17	2,901.98		2,901.98	22.67
Rock Springs	15	0			0.00	100.00	6.67	Whitehall	71	2,500	10.0%	2,500.00		2,500.00	25.00		
Sidney	292	5,500		500.00	6,000.00		6,000.00	20.55	Totals	1,628	70,613		7,908.91	79,669.92	10,903.31	90,573.23	55.63
Wolf Point	82	1,800	5.0%		2,000.00		2,000.00	24.39	WESTERN								
Totals	2,203	49,154		6,584.23	53,201.98	910.00	54,111.98	24.15	Condon	59	1,550	10.0%	306.27	1,834.94	500.00	2,334.94	39.58
SOUTHERN								FLATHEAD									
Belfry	56	1,800			1,900.00		1,900.00	33.93	Columbia Falls	157	9,000	10.0%	838.00	10,994.09	430.00	11,424.09	72.76
Bigs/CTK	133	3,900		1,000.00	1,703.00		1,703.00	12.80	Creston	57	8,474			6,585.00		6,585.00	115.53
Bigs/Hope	167	3,600		535.00	6,163.82	472.82	6,636.64	39.74	Eureka	138	3,000		275.00	3,000.00	1,470.47	4,770.47	34.57
Bigs/Mt. Olive	488	30,000	10.0%	7,390.15	37,645.48	3,821.00	41,466.48	84.97	Kalispell	1,122	36,000		3,166.67	38,246.07	1,583.96	39,830.03	35.50
Bigs/Our Savior	243	6,000		500.00	6,000.00		6,000.00	24.69	Libby	137	3,560		4,490.11	10,000.00		14,490.11	105.77
Bigs/Trinity	775	47,000	10.0%	7,871.04	48,593.56	320.00	48,913.56	63.11	Polson	95	6,252	10.0%	556.43	6,889.38		6,889.38	72.52
Bridger	89	3,600			4,000.00		4,000.00	44.94	Ronan	84	8,500	11.0%		7,651.28		7,651.28	91.09
Crow	22	1,100	10.0%		1,105.00		1,105.00	50.23	St. Ignace	45	1,500	5.0%	125.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	33.33
Hardin	117	600			600.00		600.00	5.13	Whitefish	126	8,828	10.0%		10,356.00	150.00	10,506.00	83.38
Harlowton	38	1,000		370.00	994.00	60.00	1,054.00	27.74	Totals	1,961	85,114		4,961.10	90,011.93	13,634.43	103,646.36	52.85
Lame Deer	34	0			0.00		0.00	0.00	SUMMARY OF CIRCUITS								
Laurel	421	16,800	12.0%		21,106.08	2,058.00	23,164.08	55.02	Eastern	2,203	49,154		6,584.23	53,201.98	910.00	54,111.98	24.56
Park City	173	500			750.00		750.00	4.34	Southern	2,817	117,100		17,666.19	131,760.94	6,731.82	138,492.76	49.16
Roundup	14	200			200.00		200.00	14.29	Central	1,461	43,795		5,083.89	41,760.52	2,073.88	43,834.40	30.00
St. Xavier	0	0			0.00		0.00	0.00	Divide	1,628	70,613		7,908.91	79,669.92	10,903.31	90,573.23	55.63
Worden	47	1,000			1,000.00		1,000.00	21.28	Western	1,442	94,815		5,050.83	116,099.71	9,343.51	125,443.22	86.99
Totals	2,817	117,100		17,666.19	131,760.94	6,731.82	138,492.76	46.77	Flathead	1,961	85,114		4,961.10	90,011.93	13,634.43	103,646.36	52.85
CENTRAL								Totals									
Chinook	75	2,250		1,600.00	1,600.00		1,600.00	21.33	Eastern	2,203	49,154		6,584.23	53,201.98	910.00	54,111.98	24.56
Denton	40	775		320.00	770.00		770.00	19.25	Southern	2,817	117,100		17,666.19	131,760.94	6,731.82	138,492.76	49.16
Fairfield	37	940		70.00	840.00		840.00	22.70	Central	1,461	43,795		5,083.89	41,760.52	2,073.88	43,834.40	30.00
FortBenton	29	750	5.0%		270.00		270.00	9.31	Divide	1,628	70,613		7,908.91	79,669.92	10,903.31	90,573.23	55.63
GF/Deaf	46	200			400.00		400.00	8.70	Western	1,442	94,815		5,050.83	116,099.71	9,343.51	125,443.22	86.99
GF/Peace	297	11,000		1,000.00	12,000.00	1,696.88	13,696.88	46.12	Flathead	1,961	85,114		4,961.10	90,011.93	13,634.43	103,646.36	52.85
GF/Trinity	481	13,000	17.0%	666.67	9,269.20		9,269.20	19.27	Totals	11,512	460,591		47,255.15	512,505.00	43,596.95	556,101.95	48.31
Havre	200	9,000		1,200.00	9,427.65		9,427.65	47.14	Average Giving per Communicant Member for our District \$44.52								
Lewistown	87	2,800		227.22	2,566.62	15.00	2,581.62	29.67	Rec'd thru 12th mo. 2005 \$512,505 12/12 of 2005 budget \$466,241 Surplus \$ 46,264								
Power	97	2,000	5.0%		2,000.00	102.00	2,102.00	21.67	Rec'd thru 12th mo. 2004 \$ 463,006 12/12 of 2004 budget \$455,000 Deficit \$ 8,006								
Stanford	72	1,080	10.0%		2,617.05	260.00	2,877.05	39.96									
Totals	1,461	43,795		5,083.89	41,760.52	2,073.88	43,834.40	30.00									

When the comparative figures show an excess in giving, simply means more has been given then we were told you had budgeted for; likewise when it shows a deficit it means less has been given then you had told us you had budgeted for. This does not mean we have income in excess of expenses for the district.

MONTANA DISTRICT'S CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

Submitted by Rev. Eugene W. Juergensen, Montana District Archivist

THE FIRST MISSOURI SYNOD MISSIONARY TO MONTANA TERRITORY - Part One

Now we enter the Montana Territory created May 26, 1864. The State of Montana would be created November 8, 1889, the 41st State in the Union called "The Treasure State" or "Big Sky Country".

Who would be the first Missouri Synod missionary to Montana? The mission field of Montana would be the report at Minnesota-Dakota District's 2nd Convention, held May 31-June 6, 1883, at Courtland, Nicolette Co., Minnesota. The discussion

was about a letter from a Montana woman. Rev. E. Rolf, was the chairman of the Missions Commission of the Minnesota-Dakota District of the Evangelical Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. We commonly refer to this as the "Missouri Synod" or "our Synod".

What was the request of a Montana woman from Miles City? She wrote a letter to Missionary A. Protenhauer, Minnesota, about "the very many Lutherans who were moving into Montana and were being scattered as sheep without a shepherd". (Ebenezer, CPH, 1922) To begin work in Montana, in addition to the work load in Minnesota and Dakota, was postponed. Only 3 new pastoral candidates were assigned that spring by Synod to the Minnesota-Dakota District. The subject was to come up again at the 1885 convention. But something else would happen before this.

Rev. Stephanos Keyl of New York City was an Immigrant

Missionary who made contact with thousands. He contacted 27,000 immigrant arrivals at Ellis Island between 1870-1883. He received 5,376 letters in 1882 alone. One such letter was received in 1883 from a German Lutheran living in Helena, Montana. The writer complained about the great spiritual needs in and around Helena. He said that Helena had been settled 20 years earlier with Roman Catholics, Methodist, and other churches in the area. But, NO Lutheran Church or Lutheran preacher. This letter was sent to the Minnesota-Dakota District Mission Commission. Rev. Frederick Sievers, chairman of the Synodical Mission Board, referring to the letter, said, "That it was impossible to ignore it. Even though the Mission Committee had far more than enough missionary opportunity in Minnesota and the Dakotas, they felt they must immediately seek to do something about the needs in Montana, especially since they were the neighbors to

fellow believers in that territory". (Der Lutheraner, 1887, p.39)

Who will go? Who will be sent? A "Reiseprediger" (traveling preacher/missionary) was located at Perham, MN, Rev. Herman Glaess, 25 years old, born in Germany, a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was in the ministry since July 1881. He served a large territory - 240 miles long - 12 preaching stations from Brainard, MN to Jamestown, ND, along the Northern Pacific Railroad route. The new line, completed September 8, 1883, ran directly from his parish to Helena, Montana. Rev. Glaess was commissioned to make the missionary journey to Montana, on the Northern Pacific. He was to find out the mission possibilities and to serve with Word and Sacrament the German Lutherans he might find.

More next time on "THE FIRST MISSOURI SYNOD MISSIONARY TO MONTANA TERRITORY".

Editor's Notes

Let us know what's happening at your church and share what our God has done in your community. Available 24 hrs. a day. Mail original photos; color or black & white, but no PMTs. You can e-mail photos also, if you send them as an attachment. Send your news articles (even from your church newsletter) to the address below. If you are using an IBM or compatible computer, please save articles on a 3.5 or 5 1/4 diskette, (don't forget a hard copy) and send to:

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Revised Handbook By-Law 1.5.7:

"All agencies shall make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the minutes of their meetings except for executive session."

A condensed version of the Montana District Board of Director's meeting minutes are published in Reflections, our monthly newspaper. However, if you wish, you may request a copy of our approved minutes by calling the district office or requesting them in writing for a fee of \$2.00.

CENTER FOR ASIAN MISSION AND EVANGELISM

HMONG

A. Key Issues

There are approximately 350,000 Hmong in the United States. They are recent immigrants arriving since the end of the Vietnam War. The Hmong people were helpful to the American CIA during the Vietnam War. Many Hmong do not speak English. Most of them are poor and have entry-level jobs. They are a clan people..

The main religion for Hmong is animism.

Less than 10% of the Hmong in the United States are Christian. Therefore, the Hmong Ministries are committed to help the districts, circuits and congregations to plant churches and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Hmong people. Today there are 17 Word and Sacrament Hmong ministries and 9 mission stations in North America.

A critical challenge before the Hmong people is the recruiting of leaders. Leaders are key to starting new Hmong ministries, particularly clan leaders who are extremely influential in the Hmong commu-

nity. Hmong people want to worship God and yet they want to retain their identity, customs of their parents and their value highly their culture and their independence and freedom.

B. Realizing World Priorities

The six districts that have Hmong ministries are: California-Nevada-Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota South, Southeastern, North Wisconsin and South Wisconsin. New Hmong missions are now being launched in Florida and Minnesota North, as well as other parts of California. Only three Hmong men are ordained ministers. But a number of new prospects are now enrolled in DELTO, the Ethnic

Immigrant Institute of Theology and other new programs. There are not sufficient numbers of Hmong men as trained spiritual leaders. In order to reach out to the Hmong people in North America and the world, many more Hmong will need to be trained to lead Hmong congregations and to develop new missions. CAME is prayerfully planning to bring on board Dr. Fungchatou Lo, a Hmong deacon based at Great Lutheran, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Dr. Lo will be a part-time paid Hmong ministry consultant for CAME available to districts and congregations to assist in Hmong mission work.