

# Mission & Ministry Partnerships

2009-10

## South Wisconsin District – LCMS

The regions, circuits and congregations of our South Wisconsin District are in partnership to bring people to Christ. Together, they are seeing the mission field that surrounds them and impacting their changing and diverse communities in bold witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We as a district have set goals to facilitate this partnership activity and to:

- **help congregations to become missional outposts,**
- **adopt and hold forth before SWD congregations an international mission project for congregational support,**
- **hold forth a list of LCMS mission trip possibilities for SWD congregations,**
- **encourage our SWD congregations to participate in the Transforming Congregation Network (TCN) to enable them to engage the mission field God has placed before them, and**
- **uphold SWD as a recognized leader in starting new mission congregations for reaching emerging cultures and cross cultural communities.**

This mission-focused partnership of our South Wisconsin District also invites and welcomes God's people to help support the Mission & Ministry Projects described in this booklet. All of these projects rely heavily on the generous gifts and talents of God's people. We take great pleasure in connecting these gifts with God's Word and seeing how His love enfolds more and more people to His grace.

May our gracious God enable us to will and to do all He has commanded us to do, so that the Gospel of Christ Jesus may be proclaimed boldly and faithfully to the world around us!

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



## **Campus Ministries**

### **Calvary/Madison**

Calvary Chapel is one of five campus ministries of the South Wisconsin District. It serves the students of the University of Wisconsin with a large and varied program of worship, Bible studies and fellowship activities. The International Friendship Center, directed by Judy Henke, is an arm of Calvary Chapel, serving the foreign students on campus. Each year new Christians, reached through the International Center, are baptized and nurtured in their faith through Bible study programs. Rev. Mark Schumm was installed as pastor on September 10, 2006. A strategic plan is currently being developed for the entire ministry and unique facility in the heart of Madison.

### **Luther Memorial/Shorewood (UWM)**

Luther Memorial Chapel and University Student Center is located six blocks north of the UW-Milwaukee campus. The vicar and part-time student coordinator work with Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wieting to provide opportunities for worship, study, service, and social activities to UWM students. There are two opportunities each week for attending the divine service, and a Bible study is offered each Sunday morning. Each week, "Table Talk," an opportunity for an informal presentation and discussion about Lutheran doctrine, is provided at the UWM Student Union. Outreach tables at the Union and dormitories are hosted periodically. Additional opportunities for study and service are available as announced. Students are invited to join in the regular activities of the Luther Memorial parish. Tutors in conversational English for international students are available. Visit our blog at [uwmlsf.blogspot.com](http://uwmlsf.blogspot.com) or the church Web site at [www.lmcusc.com](http://www.lmcusc.com).

### **Calvary & University/Whitewater**

The UW-Whitewater campus ministry serves the students with worship, Bible studies and fellowship activities. It is located directly on the edge of the university campus and is easily accessible to the students. New members have joined Calvary as a result of outreach into the Whitewater community. The congregation is served by Pastor David Emmrich.

### **Apostles/Platteville**

Apostles Lutheran Church is a congregation near the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (UWP). Rev. Thomas N. Reeder, Jr. is the pastor. Apostles serves students of UWP through the congregation with the divine service on Sunday, followed by a study for college students, and offers occasional services during the week. Through Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), the LCMS recognized student organization on campus, weekly on campus Bible studies are offered in the student center. Other activities and events are offered throughout the school year. During the summer, with new student registration and into the school year, outreach tables are hosted where information about Apostles and materials for devotional use are handed out. Apostles is also developing an international student ministry.

### **Faith/La Crosse**

Faith Lutheran Church and Student Center is conveniently located on the southern edge of the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse campus. Faith ministers to the students of all three colleges in La Crosse (UW-L, Viterbo, and Western Technical College.) Students are encouraged to become active in the life of Faith through worship, Bible study, and fellowship activities. A mid-week Bible study and meal is offered to all college students throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to become "adopted" into one of the congregational families for additional fellowship and support on an individual basis. Outreach to incoming freshmen is accomplished during freshman orientation with a booth offering information on the ministries available to students at Faith.

## Chaplaincy Ministries

### Madison Hospitals

Chaplain Steve Wenk is the director of spiritual care services at University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison. He provides leadership and direction to chaplains at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics to ensure that the spiritual needs of patients, families and staff are met. Chaplain Wenk provides Word and Sacrament ministry to LCMS members in Madison-area hospitals for the South Wisconsin District. UW Hospital has had an LCMS chaplain since 1935. He is also the Executive Chaplain of the South Wisconsin District.

### Sheboygan Health Care

The Sheboygan County Chaplaincy Ministry has served the health care centers in Sheboygan County, including nursing homes, hospice centers and assisted living centers, as a full-time ministry since 1972. Chaplain Rev. Tom Fleischmann serves nine health care centers and coordinates other local LCMS pastors in volunteering to provide chapel services on a weekly basis to four other centers, resulting in many “de-churched” residents finding comfort, forgiveness and peace. This mission ministry has been totally self-sufficient since February 1, 2007. They rely on LCMS congregations and schools, LWML, mission circles and individuals to fund this ministry. An Annual Chaplaincy Picnic, held at the Sheboygan County Fairgrounds each summer, also provides major funding. They secured additional funding in 2005 and now again in 2009 for a Deaconess Intern Training Program. Being in partnership with Bethany LCMS, Kohler, they plan to continue this program well into the future, providing Deaconess Chaplains throughout LCMS. Their Web site is [www.sheboygancountychaplaincy.org](http://www.sheboygancountychaplaincy.org).

## Adult Education Ministries

### Leadership Development, Urban/Cross-Cultural, Lay Ministry and Theological Education

*(\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds)*

In spring of 2008 several students finished the 11-course curriculum of the Lay Ministry Department of Concordia University-Wisconsin. For five years, a partnership with the Lay Ministry Department of Concordia University Wisconsin (Rev. Dr. Albert Garcia, Director) has permitted these courses from the Lay Ministry Curriculum to be offered at the District Office. Approximately 12 lay people working in urban and cross cultural ministry in our District have taken advantage of these courses. Several new students are now enrolled in the program. Examples of the courses are: Old Testament; New Testament; Biblical Theology; Christian Care Giving and The Church in Mission. Some students simply use the studies to more effectively assist in ministry at their local congregation. Others are using these studies to prepare for the Specific Ministry Pastor program of studies for the purpose of ordination in the pastoral ministry or the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT – theological education for immigrants who have English as a second language). Others still might pursue additional studies at CUW to become certified Lay Ministers of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The District also assists in the funding of seminary studies for students in the EIIT. Currently three African immigrants and one Hmong student are taking these courses. The LCMS Specific Ministry Pastor program (SMP) is in final stages of development. Two students from our District have been accepted in the SMP: Deacon Dennis Harmon and Deacon George Lessmann, both currently serving in the city of Milwaukee in several capacities. Their studies in SMP began in fall 2008 via Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.

## Deaf Ministries

### Missionary-at-Large for the Deaf/West Region *(\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds)*

Pastor John Reinke serves as a Missionary at Large to the deaf for the District as well as Our Savior Lutheran in Madison and Holy Cross in Delavan. In Madison Pastor Reinke is assisted by Deacon Ted Pulfer who is studying for ordination in the Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) and theological education through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Patricia Hycnar is also in the DIT program, preparing to become a deaconess in Deaf Ministries. Rev. Reinke works with Rev. William (Bud) Palmer in developing many new models for ministry to

the deaf, including a “church without walls”, for the many unchurched deaf who are spread across the District and beyond.

*Note: In cooperation with South Wisconsin District Mission Executive Rev. Dan McMiller, Missionaries Reinke and Palmer (see below) are in dialogue with Rev. Dr. Rodney Rynearson, Interim National Director for Deaf Ministry in an attempt to structure Deaf Ministry on a national and international level. This structure might provide a paradigm for support and accountability for other specialized ministries as well in the increasingly ethnically diverse mission field in our own community.*

### **Missionary-at-Large for the Deaf/East Region (*\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds*)**

Rev. William Palmer continues his ministry to the deaf in the eastern region of the District, serving Emmanuel Lutheran, West Allis and smaller mission sites. New deaf outreach ministry has been started by Rev. Palmer in cooperation with Pastor Kurt Ziemann at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Random Lake. Rev. Palmer’s ministry at Emmanuel in West Allis includes worship services, Bible classes, confirmation classes, pastoral care and many other activities as in a congregation of hearing people. Pastor Palmer has developed a deaf choir at Emmanuel.

## **Urban/Cross-Cultural Ministries**

### **Hispanic Ministry/Sheboygan**

Members of Sheboygan area LCMS congregations and the Sheboygan Hispanic task force, working in conjunction with Missionary Executive Rev. Dan McMiller are studying the future of Hispanic outreach in the City of Sheboygan.

### **Hispanic Ministry/Racine and Milwaukee (*\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds*)**

**Racine:** Rev. Pedro Lopez continues to reach out to the Hispanic community of Racine through the congregation of Primera Iglesia. In spring of 2009 they moved out of their worship facility, which is currently for sale, and now use the facilities of Holy Cross in Racine in partnership with their members. New members have been baptized and confirmed, and an active youth and community outreach is ongoing.

**Milwaukee:** The Hispanic outreach ministry in Milwaukee is evolving through dialogue with St. Martini Lutheran Church and School. Spanish services and fellowship dinners are being conducted regularly on a monthly basis, with encouraging results.

An *\*Hispanic Music Ministry Fund* comprising of gifts from congregations and grants has been developed with the goal of having a full-time Hispanic Music Ministry program. It is our prayer that this program, which has begun in Racine, can expand to Milwaukee and beyond in the future.

### **Hmong Ministry/Oshkosh (*\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds*)**

Hmong ministry reaches out to Hmong people displaced from Laos following the Vietnam War. Begun in 1993 at Trinity Lutheran in Oshkosh, Hmong Lutheran Outreach in Oshkosh is one of the first LCMS Hmong Ministries in the United States. Pastor Blong Vang completed theological education through the LCMS Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), and accepted the Call to Oshkosh to serve as their pastor in spring of 2007. Hmong Lutheran Outreach in Oshkosh is at the center of a growing Hmong community in the Fox Valley, and expansion of this ministry throughout the area via partnerships with area congregations is our prayer. Pastor Vang is called by Hmong Lutheran Outreach with the support of a partnership grant from the District.

### **Hmong Ministry/Milwaukee–Benediction Lutheran Church (*\*Temporary Restricted Funds*)**

Benediction Lutheran Church, located at 5740 N. 86th St., has a Hmong ministry within its congregation served by Pastor Don Hougard, with assistance from Hmong lay leadership within the congregation. A new candidate for the pastoral ministry is Moua Vang, a member of Benediction Lutheran. Moua is a student in the EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

### **Hmong Ministry/Milwaukee–Hmong Hope Lutheran Church (\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds)**

Hmong Hope Lutheran Church meets at Hope Lutheran at 1115 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee. This chartered congregation is being served by Missionary at Large of the District, Pastor Yia Vang. Pastor Yia Vang is called by the District and has been instrumental in starting many Hmong ministries throughout the state of Wisconsin. Hmong Hope is a congregation of about 170 members. Pastor Yia Vang is also developing new ministries in Thailand in coordination with LCMS World Missions. The South Wisconsin District fully supports Pastor Yia Vang's salary, but all expenses related to Pastor Vang's trips to Thailand, and recently to Vietnam, are supported by the Hmong Missions Society. New Hmong outreach is needed in Madison and La Crosse. Potential EIIT students are developing.

### **Hmong Ministry/Manitowoc & Sheboygan**

Manitowoc Hmong ministry is being shepherded by Rev. Faiv Neng Her, who was ordained on October 5, 2003 and has been called to serve Hmong ministry at Redeemer in Manitowoc as a Missionary-at-Large assigned to the Manitowoc and Two Rivers area. At Redeemer, the Hmong ministry is done in partnership with the ministry of Redeemer Lutheran (Rev. Rick Miller). Pastor Her is in dialogue with pastors of the Sheboygan area and visiting Hmong families in Sheboygan. The Hmong families are being linked to our Sheboygan LCMS congregations and schools. Joshua Lee, of Trinity in Sheboygan, is currently taking preliminary EIIT courses in preparation for entering the EIIT program. Rev. Timothy Mech is his mentor.

### **Gospel and Mission of Christ/Milwaukee**

In 2008, the District moved into a new partnership with Gospel Lutheran Church and Mission of Christ Lutheran Church. Over the previous five years, the District provided support to Mission of Christ so that it could fund a full time pastor. These funds are currently not available. Limited funds are now provided to assist Gospel Lutheran which is being served full time by Pastor Vic Fischer. At the same time, Pastor Fischer also serves Mission of Christ as a Vacancy Pastor. The combination of support from Gospel, Mission of Christ and District funds provides a salary for Pastor Fischer. While Mission of Christ has returned to a prolonged Vacancy status, they are also served very ably by active and gifted lay leadership. Mr. Darryl Winston, Mr. Herman Strozier and Mr. Pat Batom have all been studying in the Lay Ministry Program of CUW (see Adult Education Ministries, above). Another member, Afam Ikanih, is also studying theology in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The training, experience and dedication of these men, and many other adult volunteers, make Mission of Christ Lutheran Church a vibrant active urban ministry even while returning to a long-term vacancy.

### **Bethany/Milwaukee**

In January of 2008, the District entered into a partnership with Bethany Lutheran Church which enables Pastor Christian Ikanih to serve at Bethany part time, while continuing his ministry to the African immigrant community. Bethany contributes half of Pastor Ikanih's salary to District support. This partnership has assisted Bethany with a missionary pastor and the District as well, at a time of budget shortfalls. At Easter of 2008 about 45 baptisms were conducted at Bethany. Many adults are also entering into membership through instruction and the rite of confirmation. Chris Burrell, Lay Ministry student through Concordia University-Wisconsin (CUW) is a member of Bethany Lutheran and is active in youth ministry. New members at Bethany are also entering into theological education in the same CUW Lay Ministry program. These members assist Pastor Ikanih as volunteers in different types of community outreach, focusing particularly on youth in the city.

### **House of Correction/Milwaukee (\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds)**

The South Wisconsin District has supported the House of Correction Chaplaincy in diverse ways since the beginning of this ministry in 1904. This year, a partnership has been developed between the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and our South Wisconsin District—LCMS to provide a new format for spiritual care in the House of Correction (HOC). Deacon Afam Ikanih, a student in the Ethnic Immigrant

Institute of Theology (EIIT) of Concordia, St. Louis, and Lay Worker Pat Batom, (who completed the 31 credits in the Concordia University Wisconsin, Lay Ministry program), both of Mission of Christ Lutheran Church, are serving part time (8:00 am to noon, Monday through Friday) at the HOC. Three WELS men (two pastors and one layman) are also serving there. Joint training and coordination meetings are held between this team of 5 chaplains and their immediate supervisors in both the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods.

### **Ex-Offender Ministry Milwaukee (\*\*Partially Temporary Restricted Funds)**

A new partnership between the District and the Metro Milwaukee Lutheran Mission Society (MMLMS—formerly known as the Greater Milwaukee Federation) is seeking funding and partnerships to provide ministry follow-up in at least 5 locations to men and women served in the House of Correction and released back into the community. Direct gifts are needed from individuals, congregations and granting institutions. This too is being done in partnership with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Every year 25,000 inmates are served in the House of Correction, and nearly those same numbers are released. This new ministry will address spiritual, social and some physical needs for those who are released with the hope that they are regularly nurtured in Word and Sacrament and equipped in diverse ways to become healthy, contributing members of society, rather than repeat offenders.

### **African Immigrant Ministry (\*Temporary Restricted Funds)**

In April of 2008 the District entered into a limited partnership with Hope Lutheran Church to provide Vicarage experience for Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) student Elijah Ndon. Outreach to the African immigrant community has been conducted through Hope for over one year. With the addition of Vicar Ndon, working under the supervision of Pastor Micah Wildauer (Pastor of Hope and of Bethlehem, Milwaukee), outreach can be more intentional and strategic. Vicar Ndon has finished his seminary training and is awaiting a call to serve the African immigrant community. Our prayer is that a larger body of African immigrant people can be reached and gathered into the existing congregation, and that support for this ministry can be increased from this same group of new believers. Hope Lutheran also has first year EIIT student Dr. Benjamin Adetiba as a member of the congregation.

### **International Lutheran Church of Zion**

International Lutheran Church of Zion is a French speaking congregation that is served by EIIT student Vicar Gui Kasongo. It continues to meet at Benediction in Milwaukee with the added blessing of generous financial and mentoring support from Immanuel, Brookfield and Rev. Daniel Schneider. Pastor Don Hougard of Benediction also assists in the mentoring process. Additionally, Vicar Kasongo is receiving training from People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), which assists ministries in reaching out to the Muslim population. Some of Vicar Kasongo's members at International Lutheran Church of Zion are former Muslims. Meetings are being held with representatives of PABLO to develop an intentional and strategic plan for Muslim outreach in the Milwaukee area that include a leadership team and support network. These meetings are held via phone conferences with Rev. Dr. Gary Rower of POBLO.

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*\* Ministries funded solely by Temporary Restricted Funds do not have a line item in the SWD budget. They are supported by direct gifts that come through the District or from gifts given directly to the ministry.*

*\*\* These ministries are partially funded by the SWD budget and the rest by Temporary Restricted Funds or other direct gifts.*