

## **A Mission in our Midst**

On Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. the Montana District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was pleased to commission Rev. Dr. Mark Joel Nicolaus as Missionary-at-Large, serving the Plains/Thompson Falls vicinity, including all of Sanders County. A missionary-at-large does the work of an evangelist. Rev. Nicolaus will work with the good people of this mission station for the next two years gathering believers and laying the ground work for the next congregation of the Montana District. This mission has been funded by gifts from congregations and individual across the District as well as a sizable bequest. This is an exciting endeavor and the service reflected that excitement.

The service was held in the Senior Citizen Center in Thompson Falls where the group has been meeting. Rev. Raymond Larson, Chairman of the Montana District Missions Committee, served as liturgist, assisted by Rev. Raymond Weigert of Trinity Lutheran in Superior. Rev. Forke, President of the Montana District, LCMS preached, encouraging those who gathered to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Approximately 44 attended the service, coming from Libby, Kalispell, Ronan and Superior, as well as those regularly attending services on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Also present were Mr. Frank Delgado representing the Board of Directors of the Montana District, and Teacher David Topp a member of the District Missions committee. A plentiful potluck buffet was enjoyed by all following the service.

The group has selected Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church as their initial name. Please keep this mission in your prayers. Ask God to benefit the proclamation of Jesus by these dedicated workers by bringing many people to faith in Jesus, and to remove all the obstacles that satan may seek to lay in their path.