

## JOPLIN, MISSOURI UPDATE

As of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, it has been a month since the tornado hit Joplin, MO, and Immanuel Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School are still serving their community as cleanup continues. In total, 155 people have died, hundreds are injured, 4000 households have been destroyed or suffered major damage, 3500 homes have minor damage, and many families are still living in tents and hotels.

The school and church are reaching out in this way:

- Serving meals at lunch and dinner
- delivering meals and beverages to the community
- Providing clothes, non-perishable food items, toiletry, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Providing counseling
- Comfort Dogs from Lutheran Church Charities are helping people communicate their feelings
- Volunteers from all over the country are helping with clean-up
- School/church grounds used as command posts
- Collecting and distributing donations to those in need
- Operating a clinic
- Most importantly, reflecting the love of Christ by loving our neighbors

Many are relying on the church and school for resources. They are still in need of:

- New Pillows and New Sheets (No blankets)
- Gatorade/Powerade
- Cleaning Supplies (mops, brooms, Clorox, 409, rags, spray bottles, dust pans, etc.)
- Over the counter lip balm
- Over the counter allergy medicines (no Benadryl please)
- Over the counter eye drops
- Gift Cards
- Monetary gifts for teachers and families affected by the tornado
- Monetary Gifts to offset tuition for affected families
- Monetary gifts for tornado relief

“Our church and school has always struggled in the area of “outreach ministry”...This has changed! Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can use these challenging times to glorify God and rely on Him to strengthen us. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Our members, following the examples of our leaders [Pastor Mech and Jason Glaskey], are doing a great job reaching into the community and ministering. It reminds me so much of Pentecost. What seemed to be a helpless time to minister, the Holy Spirit strengthened the disciples and enabled them to do the unthinkable. This is exactly what is happening within our church and school.”

*As reported via email by Jeremy Schamber, Principal of Martin Luther School  
2616 Connecticut Avenue / Joplin, MO 64804*



### A Flood, Floods, The Flood

“It will not stop raining. The rivers and creeks are out of their banks. The snow is melting in the mountains. Homes are under water, animals are stranded, and people are frightened. I think it is time to get into the boat.” - Noah

Noah may not have said such words, but he could have. So could many Montanans. Floods have dominated the headlines lately, though not quite like the flood that dominated the entire world. We know that flood was brought on by the wickedness, corruption, and violence of mankind. God blotted out all flesh to start anew with Noah and his family, a flood which left lasting physical marks. Believers and unbelievers alike know the story of Noah’s flood.

But don’t tell people who have been living in shelters for weeks that the Montanan floods are insignificant. Don’t say that to people who live along the Yellowstone, Big Horn, Milk, Musselshell or Missouri rivers. Those whose homes and possessions, if not washed away entirely, suffer the prospect of flooding for days at a time, who may wonder why God has left them.

We do not have a specific sin to blame. We do know that judgment is experienced by some sinners, though it belongs to all sinners. We do know that when such tragedies occur we can point towards a call to repentance for all (Luke 13:1-5). We know this is a time to show mercy and to help those who are in need.

Ironically, the solution to the problem of too much water is not less water, but more. What we really need is the flood of Jesus. Jesus says that water that He gives is the water of life. It comes to us through the flood that we know as baptism.

We are used to speaking of Noah’s flood as “the flood.” That can’t be correct, because Peter says that Noah’s flood is a sign of the waters of baptism. *“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the*

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*resurrection of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 3:21). A sign cannot be the thing in itself. A sign points to that which is greater than itself. So Noah’s flood, and all floods, point to the flood of baptism, which is the water of life through faith in Jesus. In baptism the mud of sin is washed away and we rise as new creations through the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

Thousands of people have been impacted by the floods in Montana. This is a time for mercy. Those affected need our help. This is a time for repentance. God acts in and through His creation to call us to repentance and faith. This is a time to remember. God has made you His child through the flood of baptism. Whether you are suffering from these floods or not, He is not far away. His flood leaves a lasting impression. You belong to Him. Your soul is flooded with life.

*Terry Forke  
District President*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- 27-7/1 Summer Camp, Red Lodge—5th and 6th  
30-7/4 Arlee Fourth of July Celebration; Arlee, MT

### July

- 1 Last day of summer camp  
3 Official Visit: St. Paul, Park City  
4 Independence Day; Office closed  
7-10 North American Indian Day; Browning, MT  
12-14 Consortium on Classical Lutheran Education; Sheridan, WY  
17 Official Visit: Concordia, Forsyth  
18 Board of Directors Meeting; Billings  
19 Circuit Counselors Meeting  
26-28 Preaching Practicum; Paradise Valley  
31 Official Visit: Holy Cross, Eureka

### August

- 1-5 ConEd; Flathead  
4-7 Wadopana Celebration; Wolf Point,  
14 Installation; Park Timber, Circle of Life  
18-21 Crow Fair Celebration; Crow Agency  
21 OV: Shepherd of the Valley, Salmon  
27 Dr. Paul Maier Seminar; St. John, Laurel



### Lutheran Hour Ministries' 'The Bible on Trial' to Air on Television Nationally July 18

Lutheran Hour Ministries is excited to announce the nationwide airings of our full-length program for television broadcast, *The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*. The program will air on **Monday, July 18** at 9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain and 6 p.m. Pacific through the **National Religious Broadcasters Network** (Channel 378 on DirecTV and Channel 126 on Sky Angel, as well as online at [www.nrbnetwork.tv](http://www.nrbnetwork.tv)).

Hosted by attorney Craig Parton, *The Bible on Trial* lays the overarching question before some of the world's foremost authorities in biblical scholarship and ancient history: "Are the Bible and its claims trustworthy?" A panel of experts weighs the evidence from contemporary non-Christian writers and archaeological, bibliographic and eyewitness sources to affirm the reliability of the biblical record.

For broadcast dates and times, visit the Broadcast Guide at [www.TheBibleTrial.com](http://www.TheBibleTrial.com). Please check back periodically to get information about additional local airings across the country.

Preaching is central to the pastoral office, and yet most pastors rarely receive much constructive feedback from another trained Lutheran preacher after seminary and vicarage. In seeking to provide quality feedback and reflection on preaching, all LCMS and LCC pastors, vicars, and seminarians are invited to attend the third annual **LUTHERAN PREACHING PRACTICUM**. Pastors may choose to preach their own sermons, those of any other Lutheran pastor, living or dead (provided they are not at the practicum), or they may choose to simply participate in the discussion and critique sessions following.

**When:** July 26-28, noon to noon

**Where:** The estate of Rev. Jason Menagh in Paradise Valley, south of Livingston

**Cost:** \$50 for participating preachers, \$60 for non-preaching pastors

**Register:** Contact Pastor David Warner at (406) 433-2050 or (406) 480-3484, or [dsw1988@hotmail.com](mailto:dsw1988@hotmail.com). Payment is due upon arrival at the Practicum.

### Prison Newsletter:

Do you have any members who are currently incarcerated in Montana or in any other prison? The first edition of "I Confess: Christ Crucified" was recently mailed to 120 persons (inmates, inmate families, lay and clergy retreat volunteers, District committee members), and we would gladly put on our mailing list any inmates or inmate families that you think might benefit from such contact.

Our goal is to mail out at least three newsletters a year in order to provide teaching, to maintain a connection with prisoners between retreats, and to encourage prisoners to identify LCMS

congregations as a source of teaching and care for themselves and their family members if and when they are released.

If you would like to contribute any articles to a future newsletter, your submissions are welcomed. Articles should be one single spaced page or less (the editor reserves the right to cut down word amount for space reasons), written in simple yet instructive language, and can be personal narratives, Bible studies, church history, discus-

sions of a particular doctrine, or quotes and Biblical trivia.

The next newsletter will focus on Baptism, and will include some Church History and Creation/Evolution items.

Please send mailing list additions and/or newsletter contributions to [concordia@nemont.net](mailto:concordia@nemont.net).

Jay Reinke, Concordia Lutheran, Williston



### EDITOR'S CORNER

**Pastor Steven Thomas was installed June 19 at St. John in Libby .**

Last month, Rev. Larson was kind enough to point out that though I accused both the Western Circuit and Central Circuit of not contributing last month, the Clark Fork Mission is indeed a part of the Western Circuit; as such, only the Central Circuit was derelict in their duty. They have clearly made up for it in this issue, however, as there are no less than three pictures that include my father, Pastor Schultz, and a fourth that mentions the other congregation that he serves.

In fact, the contributions this month were phenomenal. There was much weeping and gnashing of teeth at the District Office while I tried to figure out how I was going to fit 14 pictures and 11 articles (not including captions) in the confines of 8 half pages, but ultimately I'm very pleased with the enthusiasm people have shown towards the Reflections. Though there is a distinct lack of white space this month, and several articles were severely edited for length, with most church's VBS behind them, the problem should not arise again soon.

Thank you, as always! Contributions, suggestions, and comments are heartily welcomed.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

On Saturday morning, May 21<sup>st</sup> a 53' truck from Midnight Express parked in Mount Olive's parking lot ready to be loaded with boxes to go to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in St. Paul, MN. Vehicles from 25 Lutheran congregations in Montana and northern Wyoming brought 635 boxes of quilts, soap, health kits, school kits, layettes, and sewing kits, weighing a total of 16,107 lbs.



Pastor Forke and Cheryl (in blue) help with loading truck.

Special thanks to Pastor and Cheryl Forke and Mount Olive members: Chris Johns, Jason Johnson, Derwood and Lorli Mercer, Sue Going and Mount Olive youth – Sarah Talafuse, Garret Meier, Emmi and Aaron Going, for help in loading the truck.

In 2010 Lutheran World Relief sent 1,371 tons of quilts and kits worth \$13.5 million to 742,560 people in need in 22 different countries around the world.

*Donnaleen Ganskop*  
LWML Zone Human Care Chairman



**LEFT BEHIND** on May 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings were **six big boxes of Orphan Grain Train** things – items collected by local congregations for the North Dakota Orphan Grain Train. A packed pickup load of OGT treasures were taken by Yellowstone Lutheran Laymen League president Gary Linse to the 62<sup>nd</sup> MT District LLL Convention at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls.

Harold and Avonne Gessner of the Bottineau, ND OGT branch were recipients of these needed treasures gathered from around the state. Their red OGT bus was packed to the roof with boxes and bags of underwear (the fruits of the MT District LLL congregation's Undie Sunday), quilts, baby blankets, gently used baby, children's, and men clothing, Mercy Kits, Bibles, Sunday school materials, devotions, Portals of Prayer, and other Christian books and materials. The six boxes will make the trip to Bottineau later, with Ron Lundeen.

LWML President Shari Miller welcomed the participants to the MT District LLL Convention, followed by a bible study presented by Rev. Weishoff, and an update by Region Governor Bill Snow on the happenings at Lutheran Hour Ministries and the LLL. Penny Johnson talked about an LHM mission building trip that took place in Mexico, with a follow-up planned for Nicaragua; the vesper service offering was collected to go towards supplies for building an LHM center there. Donations to the **Nicaragua Rancho project** go to [LHM.org/fund](http://LHM.org/fund) a project or can be sent directly to LHM; Mercy Kits and personal hygiene kits are still in great need in Haiti and Liberia.



## From the Waters of the Laundromat to the Waters of New Birth

On May 18, 2011, at Concordia, Williston, Jacob, Jewell, Maggie and Andrew, the children of James and Crystal Fletcher, were baptized into Christ (top left).

Pastor Reinke first met James Fletcher at the Laundromat near Concordia, which the Pastor routinely visits to invite new oilfield arrivals in Williston to worship. Soon after, Crystal and the children arrived from Texas and the family began attending the local Baptist church. When their children asked their parents about Baptism, the parents contacted Pastor Reinke with questions. As a result, the family began worshipping at Concordia; James and Crystal began adult instruction, and all their children were baptized.



**Kathy Kirby and Lois Kuhn (above) from St. Paul in Havre were featured in the local newspaper for their work on the food bank. Both women are a part of the church's LWML.**



## 2011 Concordia Conference for Parish Nurse & Congregational Health Ministries

Each year relationships grow between many of the LCMS Parish Nurse District Representatives at the 19th Annual Concordia Conference; joys and frustrations are shared, ideas and encouragement are given, and "pool therapy" wraps up each day.

Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola presented "It's Not the First, It's the Second That Matters," and Sarah Holton led "Esther Moments: Women's Way of Leading." Other presentations focused on spiritual development at different life stages and the service of parish nurses for the elderly.

The function of the parish nurse district rep is to **promote, support and educate** others about parish nursing and health ministries. Nearly 80 parish nurses from 20 states were in attendance.

*Ronda Anderson, RN: Parish Nurse District Representative, LCMS Iowa District East*



**VBS AT GRACE LUTHERAN, THREE FORKS**



God again has richly blessed **Vacation Bible School** at Grace Lutheran in Three Forks. The benefits of the VBS program are eternal when little children learn of their Savior Jesus Christ. They receive the truth of the Gospel at our school each year!

Over 70 participants learned and shared the Lord Jesus Christ with each other this year, with VBS offerings of \$270.00 for supplies and other needs.

**Sunday June 19th Marcus Gruber was Baptized with his children Lone, Cailin and Bradyn at Grace Evangelical Lutheran church in Three Forks, MT. All praise and thanks to God for His precious means of grace and the gift of Eternal Life. His wife Amy transferred from Anaconda, MT, and was received by profession of faith.**



Confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church was Travis Roth, pictured with Pastor Schultz. Travis celebrated confirmation and his 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation on the weekend of May 29<sup>th</sup>.



Baptized at Zion in Chinook on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> was Paisley MacLeod. (L-R): Parents Brian and Jamie, Pastor Schultz, and sponsors Samantha and Brad Weaver.



**Big Jungle Adventure at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown**

Thirty six preschool and elementary children had a swingin' good time at Big Jungle Adventure at St. Paul Lutheran Church on June 6-10<sup>th</sup>, led by Pastor Stinnett and Pastor Weishoff.

Kids learned about Jesus and how He cares for His people of all times and places, and how Bible truths related to their own Faith Journey.

At Sound-off Opening, the kids met their Tribe Leader and the other kids in their Tribes. They sang, prayed and learned the day's Take Home Point. Afterwards, the adventurers journeyed to five rotation sites for storytelling, Bible challenge, snacks, games, and crafts. At the end of the day, Send-Off Closing brought everyone to-

gether for music, prayer, and wrap-up.

The free-will offering raised money to teach children about Jesus on the Crow Reservation, and will be used to purchase supplies for a VBS on the reservation.

**VBS AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH** led 35 children on an Old Testament "Journey with God and His people." They collected offering for tornado victims, played, painted, and discovered that "Deuteronomy" sounded like "Do the laundry" during the singing of the Books of the Old Testament.



Top: Teachers: Andrea Schultz, Pastor Schultz, Beth Schultz, Rhea Miller, Patty Wass

Second Row: Shane Friede, Benton Elliot, Hunter Neibauer, Chelsie Fox, Abby Ellison, Izzy Ellison, Amelia Miller, Bryden Friede, Paige Moxley (teacher)

Third Row: Cristen Friede, Jamie Roth, Rachel Gunderson, Olivia Ellison, Raynee Hasler, Martin Nussbaum, Kadia Miller, Chase Moxley, Kourtney Hanson, Shelby Moxley (teacher)

Fourth Row: Amanda Mord, Jeni Mord, Brockton Elliot, Lane Hasler, Hallie Neibauer, Britton Elliot, Reegan Roseleip, Morgan Friede, Yelena Miller, Sasha Gallus

Not Pictured: Carrie and Kala Hofer, Hailey, Kyle, Kendra, and Patrick McMaster, Raja Singh