

NORTHWEST LINK

rejoicing in the Lord together!

From the Editors' pen ...

Our Lord God has provided us with scenery! We should never be bored for lack of something to look at. Kate and I drove to Waterville in early August to attend the installation services of James Robinson, the new pastor at United Lutheran. The wild country that we saw along Highway 2 was one of the highlights of the trip. I couldn't help but feel that God put His creative juices to work on that. I mean, imagine, an ice dam holding back bazillions of gallons of water breaks! The torrent surges out of Montana across Idaho and Washington to the mouth of the Columbia (that was before the crazy fisherman moved in) carrying bazillions of tons of dirt and rock and trees, some startled grizzlies and annoyed beavers, not to mention fish—lots of fish. He does this several dozen times, each one a masterful brush stroke. The result, so far, is a carved, tortured landscape with humongous deposits of topsoil dotted with big boulders. God has patience.

We've all had these ice dams in our lives, and the resulting torrents that sweep over us when they break. What's left? God's brush strokes. So, life is a beautiful picture, and while I'm standing on the back porch gazing at the eternal panorama other real things are happening closer to home. This issue of *The Link* will apprise you of some of these goings on.



Sig Person, editor of "The Link," lives in Paradise, Montana, somewhere near the site of several ice dams of pre-history, which have come, then gone in a wild rush!

There is a clarification at the beginning of the pastors corner that can apply also to other aspects of *this* issue. I can see in my mind, the cross hanging upside down atop the steeple of Central Lutheran at CWA, snapped nearly off by a freak tornado. God has patience, but getting the message across sometimes takes other than the usual methods.

I'm sorry, but I can't get off the back porch. I'm still gazing into space, and as I do so I can't help but wonder: 'Does anyone know we're here?' At that moment a shooting star blazes a path across the sky. Yes, God knows we're here! Do the people in the next congregation know we're here? They need to send up a flare - Hence the survey. What survey? Oh, this one. First off; you have to picture someone with a clipboard and a sincere look on his face ... "Excuse me. Could I have a moment of your time?"

So that we can better serve you it would help to know -

...does *The Link* fulfill a need?

...should we stay closer to home?

...should we have broader topics?

...would you use a section for letters to the editor-

...opinions?

...prayer requests?

...gripes?

Do you have expectations of this newsletter, and if so, what are they?

Would you like more news, or less babbling from the editor? There! Wasn't that fun?

Now, before I forget, dear reader, won't you please respond to this survey? Just drop me an email at:

Sig Person

"tsp@blackfoot.net"

One more thing before I turn this over to the really intelligent contributions. We would like to send *The Link* to as many individuals as possible via Internet to save on printing costs for your congregations. Please send your e-mail address to "thelink@nw-lcmc.net" and next time you will get your copy hot off the press and direct to your inbox..

- Sig Person, Editor, *The Link*

The Pastor's corner ...

Editor's note . . . The focus of The Link has been and will continue to be what is going on in the LCMC congregations in our general area. I have avoided bringing conflicts from other church bodies into our publication because being in LCMC has given us the freedom in Christ to focus on His work. However, because I believe that this excellent article can be useful for congregations struggling with decisions made in the ELCA, I have decided to publish it. For those congregations please know that you have the prayer support of all in the district as you choose to leave the conflict behind and focus on kingdom work with us. Thank you to Pastor Doug Vaughn for this timely article.

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters in the Northwest District of LCMC from Resurrection Lutheran Community Church Springfield, Oregon and myself, Pr. Doug Vaughn.

It is both an honor and a bit of a revelation to have been asked to write an article at this time. Normally, this time of the year I am enjoying the lovely fall weather of the Pacific Northwest from my boat. As I am either preparing for or in part using my annual vacation time hunting and salmon fishing while filling my freezer with wild bounty for the up-coming winter. However, this year things are a bit different, as the demands of time and stewardship call me to minister in the wake of the recent vote at the ELCA Church Wide Assembly concerning homosexual clergy.

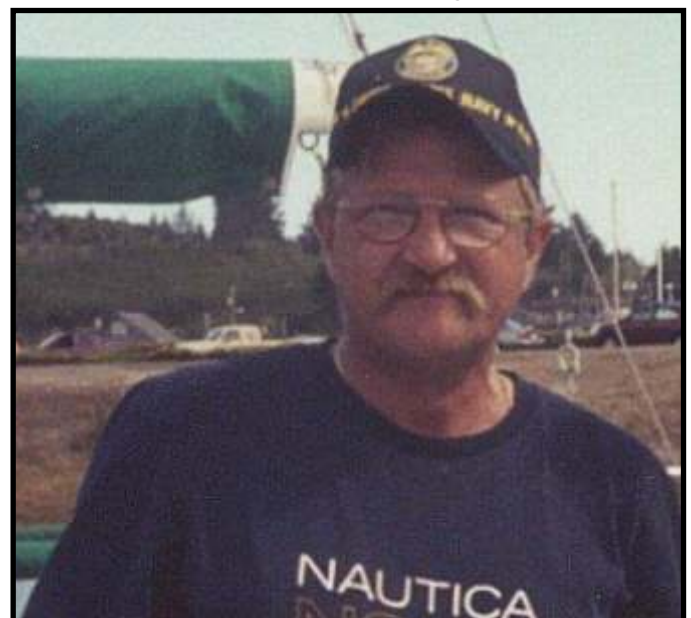
While many Christians of Lutheran expression in North America are greatly saddened by the recent acceptance of openly non-celibate homosexuals in ELCA pulpits, I believe few are really that surprised by the turn of events and outcome. I know I am not.

With a grateful heart I can look back to a time in the United Danish Lutheran Church of America, and following 1960, the American Lutheran Church, and know truly what a blessing it is to have been a member, with roots in an orthodox Christian Church Body with a truly Confessional Lutheran understanding. How blessed we are today to continue in the same orthodox spirit as members of LCMC—praise God! God is truly a mighty fortress, praise Him for the truth of His Word!

Speaking of Gods word . . . I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, "Speak the truth in love." And one of those truths is from day one of the 1988 merger that formed the ELCA as a church body. It has never been orthodox with regard to Lutheran theology and teachings. In truth the ELCA has been a heterodox (not in agreement with accepted beliefs, esp. church doctrine or dogma) church body from day one. And now with even greater sadness the 2009 vote by the Church Wide Assembly of the ELCA is wreaking havoc; the train has jumped the tracks, clearly derailing itself all together.

In both truth and sadness the ELCA as 'Lutheran' has derailed itself. The Lutheran mark in Christianity, and in outward expression to the world is not something to be measured by just "hanging out your shingle" by the road side, reading "Lutheran - enter here." Rather Lutherans are measured by much more. The 'measurement of much more' I speak of comes in the Lutheran understanding from our Lutheran Confessions. The 'more' I speak of comes in the Christian Orthodox Lutheran teachings of Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia; Scripture alone, Faith alone, Grace alone.

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Pastor Doug Vaughn, Resurrection Community Lutheran Church, Springfield, Oregon, aboard his boat, the Scorpion's Sting

“Corner”

The only theology which deserves a place in Christ's Church is the preaching and teaching of Law and Gospel, the sacred theology God Himself has given in Holy Scripture. A theologian/Christian, dare not deviate by the slightest from this divine treasure of truth. For the clergy to do so would be disloyal to the pastoral office of which s/he is charged and entrusted. The distinctive principles of Christian faith, Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, must always stand preeminent. Otherwise, theology becomes rationalistic, paganistic, and destructive; a disgrace to the name of Christ and a menace to His Church.

Satan has most cunningly labored. He has scattered the seeds of false doctrine. No amount of rationalistic smoke and mirrors offered by the ELCA is going to change the Word of God or mock Him in any way! The announcement coming from the ELCA leadership to its membership that 'we can agree to disagree' or 'the passage of the vote is non-binding' in that no congregation is obligated to accept a non-celibate homosexual is plainly a LIE! But then this is exactly a carbon copy of the way the Gnostics behaved and believed. The Gnostics believed they had advanced beyond the teachings of the apostles and the teachings of Christ.

When Christians practice and speak of participation in fellowship (koinonia, in Greek) it is the spiritual union of the believer with Christ, i.e., "I am the Vine you are the branches." (John 15: 1-5) A divided house cannot stand.

1 John 1: 3-10 reads; "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And that your fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him, and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our

sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives."

So which will it be for the current membership within the ELCA. A lifestyle marked by wickedness and error, or marked by holiness and truth? Remember the Lutheran understanding of Sola Scripture? The apostle John writes this warning!

2 John 9-11 "Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teachings has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work."

Christ Himself in His sending out of the twelve said, "If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town." (Matthew 10:14)

Even members of WordAlone and CORE, in seeking to remain within the ELCA to effect change, are standing on sinking sand. There now remains absolutely no righteous reason found in scripture to remain involved with the ELCA in any direct communion of fellowship or membership. All that can be done in ministering to those in need within the ELCA can be accomplished without being in direct ELCA membership.

Set aside the fact that the ELCA wasted tens of thousands of stewardship dollars and thousands of man hours in a sexuality study - all to accomplish ... what? To exchange the Word of God for political correctness? The leadership of the ELCA, and, yes even a voting majority of delegates, clearly have rejected God's word. How truly sad it is when sin invades the life of an individual, and turns that person to reject the word of God in favor of political correctness, just another form of a paganistic destructive nature. What comes next? Will they continue to destroy themselves, sinking further by inscribing upon their alters "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD"?

Continued on Page 9, "Corner"

LCMC Field Report: How we found our pastor

LCMC churches and those churches moving towards LCMC all ask the same question sooner or later: "How will we be able to find a new pastor when the time comes?" While it's a very important question, it has also led to fear and doubt, something that does not belong in any church. Hopefully this overview of our call process will help allay those fears and get churches headed in the right direction.

As some of you may be aware, United Lutheran in Waterville, Washington recently hired Pastor Jim Robinson as our new full-time head pastor. He and his wife Suzanne come to us from Great Falls, Montana. Our search lasted roughly ten months and involved weekly call committee meetings throughout. Here are the steps we took:

1. Lay the foundation - One of the first things we did was download the "Call Packet for Congregation and Pastoral Candidates" from the LCMC website. (www.lcmc.net) It is an essential resource that all members of the call committee should be familiar with.
2. Understand your situation - We spent some time as a committee discussing our church's needs and what strengths our next pastor should possess to help us with our challenges. We also sought input from the congregation with a survey. This just reinforced what we had already discussed and helped to make sure that we were tuned in to the church as a whole.
3. Advertise - The LCMC website provides a great service called "Leadership Link" where churches can advertise an opening. The nice thing is that pastors who respond to these advertisements are usually familiar with LCMC and many are already on the roster of LCMC pastors. We got a great response to our ad and didn't need to advertise elsewhere.
4. Screen Candidates - Every Tuesday we got together and talked about the latest resumes that we had received. Those that seemed to be particularly good fits moved on to the

next phase, reference checks. It was suggested to us that we check references three deep. Simply put, after talking to the first reference, ask them for the name of another person who could serve as a reference for the candidate. After interviewing the second reference, ask that person for another reference and interview that third person. It is time consuming but can save a lot of grief in the future.

5. Phone Interview - Candidates who made it through the reference checks were given phone interviews. After introducing ourselves, our chairwoman asked the same 18 questions to each potential hire. We used a speaker phone so the whole committee could listen to the replies, take notes, and ask follow up questions as needed. Usually the candidate had questions for us as well.
6. Meet and Greet - We narrowed our pool of candidates down to three fine pastors and invited them to come visit us and preach at our church. This gave our congregation and church leaders a chance to meet the pastor and usually the pastor's spouse. These visits also gave our pastoral candidates a chance to see the area and learn more about us. Our church council and call committee met with the pastor prior to Sunday for dinner and a

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Garth, Naoko, and Hana Hinderer in the sanctuary at United Lutheran Church of Waterville, Washington.

face to face interview.

- 7. Whew! Aren't we done yet? - This stage will set in sooner or later and is characterized by increased fidgeting and glancing at watches and cell phones during call committee meetings. We're not quite done yet so buckle up and get your second wind. God willing, one of those candidates deserves a job offer and all of them deserve a pat on the back and a hearty "Thank You!" Pastors are just as nervous as you or I when we are trying to land a job and can always use encouragement.
- 8. Background Check - Yes, it's too bad that this step is even necessary, but it is. Once the congregation voted to call Pastor Robinson to serve at United Lutheran and we were sure that he was interested in serving, we asked him to submit to an FBI background check. It should be made clear that employment is contingent on the results of the check. These

background checks are officially called "FBI Identification Record Requests" and involve the pastor sending his fingerprints to the FBI and requesting that the FBI send the results to the church. The exact protocol can be found at the FBI website. (www.fbi.gov)

- 9. The Details - After successfully passing the background check, an official letter of call can be issued. Now the hard work begins. Where will the pastor and his family live? When will they get here? How are they getting here? How exactly will his salary and benefits be handled? At this point our call committee was able to step aside and let the church council take over.

Now, take out your marking pen and write "PRAY" next to each step. Pray as a call committee and as a congregation that God will guide each step and be part of every decision. Trust God to do the heavy lifting.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH (Deary, Idaho) NEWS

As you can see this was written by Pastor Spike Shine, St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Marie's, Idaho. There is an interview with Pastor Shine elsewhere in this issue, you'll want to check that out. Murray Stanton will be installed as pastor at Zion on September 27. We should have a report on that in the next issue of The Link. Our prayers are with Zion as they start their new ministry. Welcome to LCMC and the NW District, Zion! — Editor

Hello All ... This evening, I drove to Deary, ID, and attended the congregational meeting at Zion Lutheran Church In addition to the members, three people from their "yoked" church in Troy, ID (including their Council President), Rev. Dean Stewart, the ELCA observer from Moscow, ID, and myself, were in attendance. Council President, Jim Sullins, did a wonderful job of conducting this important meeting. Here are the results:

To leave the ELCA and join LCMC	Yes - 17	No - 0
To call Mr. Murray O. Stanton as pastor	unanimous affirmative voice vote	
To join the N.W. District, LCMC	(same)	
To adopt their new Constitution	(same)	
To continue with the current Council	(same)	
To change time of worship to 10:00	(same)	

As you can see, Zion's people are stand solidly, shoulder to shoulder, as to their future. They were guided well and were very informed about all the issues confronting them. And they were one happy group of Christians when all was said and done! I'm glad I was there to share the moment. The Alb even fit Murray (he turned red when his wife, Sarah, helped him put it on). The 27th will be a great day. Spike

Would you like to help out? This newsletter is emailed to the office of each of the congregation's that make up the Northwest District. It is also emailed directly to the inbox of many individuals. If we could send it directly to you, it would help cut down on the cost of copying in your congregation's office. A side benefit is that you would receive The Link with all the color photos, instead of the black-and-white reproductions. To have it sent directly, just send an email to Robin Lake at "thelink@nw-lcmc.net". Put "newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks for your help!!

Trip to LCMC Youth Rally in SLC

Chuck and Judy Lewis left Kellogg at about 7:00 am on Sunday July 12th bound for Salt Lake City with 5 young women from ALC. Nicole Lewis, Dana e Johnson, Brooke Bradford, Caden Fields-Brown and Raine Yergler.

Six young women and myself, WHAT A TRIP! Just kidding. (I'm including Judy along with the other young women.) We need to be very proud of our youth at ALC. They were OUTSTANDING!!! We stayed at the University of Utah Student Housing and had a great time. Lots of sharing God's message and the weather was beautiful.

The focus of the YOUTH RALLY was ASK and it will be given to you, SEEK and you will find, KNOCK and the door will be opened to you. LOTS OF MUSIC, LOTS OF LAUGHING, A FEW TEARS, AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP.

Youth, Families, and Pastors from as far away as North Carolina, some from California, Oregon, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Ohio and of course IDAHO. Each day we reviewed Bible verses following the ASK, SEEK, KNOCK topics. Each day we had breakout sessions on great topics. The Youth Pastors and leaders were terrific.

One of the most rewarding parts of the RALLY was our opportunity to serve at the RESCUE MISSION. Our youth prepared 41 bag lunches, helped clean and helped cook for over 100 people in need. We were given a tour of the shelter for people who have no safe place to stay over night or no home to go to. You really see how blessed so many of us are and also how many are in need. The leaders of RESCUE MISSION said several thousand people are homeless in the greater Salt Lake area on any given day.

On our trip back we took the kids to see the Great Salt Lake so they could swim if they wanted to. The waded in and that was it. The flies and crusty sand were nasty, but it was still beautiful. We also took a side tour to see where the GOLDEN SPIKE was driven to connect the Railroad from the EAST to the WEST.

Ask the kids when you get a chance how they enjoyed the YOUTH RALLY and if they would go again. I know Judy and I sure would. You can see some video on YouTube by searching: "2009

Our New Seed Has Sprouted

I hope everyone's summer went well. Yes, I know the calendar still says its summer but as most of us in the Inland Northwest know, Labor Day spells the unofficial end of the summer season.

Things seem to be running smoothly at American Lutheran. The month of August marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of our Church. We have called Jason Bonnicksen as our new pastor.

Pastor Jason comes to us from North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Minnesota where he served as an Adult Discipleship pastor for "a little ol' congregation with 8000 members and 2600 in worship attendance every week, and a staff of over 120". Pastor Jason is a recent graduate of Bethel Seminary in St Paul Minn. with a Master of Divinity. Pastor Jason has a passion for teaching about God's design for people's lives and for us all to be in relationship with him and one another. His Ordination and Installation Ceremony will take place later this fall. For those who wish to attend, more information will be available at a later date.

Arriving on the afternoon of August 3, Pastor Jason his wife Danielle, daughters Hallie, Emma and Grace have been busy settling in to their new home. Jason has spent much of his time getting to know the congregation, visiting our shut-ins and tending to the needs of the congregation, while still finding time to compose his inspiring Sunday sermons. Danielle has entered our local workforce in uptown Kellogg, while the girls are busy meeting new friends and getting settled in the new school year.

Let me offer an open invitation to anyone to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 to hear the word of the Lord and get a chance to meet Pastor Jason and his family.

– Gary Truitt



LCMC YOUTH RALLY." Check it out. You will be proud of our girls, too.

– Chuck Lewis

Meet Pastor David “Spike” Shine

My life began in Walla Walla, Washington, the first born of Bob & Millie Shine, and nicknamed “Spike” from day one. The year was November of 1939. My father was of Irish-English descent, my mother 100% Norwegian. They met at North Dakota State University. Lack of finances forced my father to leave school, hop on a freight train, and he ended up in Seattle. My mother graduated with honors in 1935, and then taught school. She would send my Dad a little extra money to survive on while attending night school to learn drafting. When he was gainfully employed, and had met the conditions of baptism and confirmation by a local pastor, then my mother bought a train ticket to Seattle. They were married at Finney Ridge Lutheran Church. Three years after my birth, my sister, Pamela, was born. We were living in Portland, Oregon, and my father worked as a draftsman at the Vancouver Shipyards. We moved to Richland, Washington, in 1948, just in time for the Columbia River to flood the town. The Government placed us in the first “pre-fab” house on Casey Street - a plywood box, flat tarpaper-covered roof, plug-in space heaters, sandstorms you wouldn't believe, 115 degree summers, no air-conditioning and an occasional rattle snake on your front porch. What a great place for a kid. Richland Lutheran was my spiritual comfort zone, preaching my first sermon as a teenager. In 1958, I graduated from high school (the “Bombers”) - remember, this is “Hanford,” you figure it out.

Off I went to Pacific Lutheran University (PLU); didn't study real hard, got married in 1960, turned down a chance to fly jets with the Navy, joined the Army National Guard so I wouldn't be drafted, and worked several jobs before returning to Richland in 1965 to work for Computer Sciences Corp (CSC). I took an education leave in 1967, returned to PLU and completed my BA Degree with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. Upon returning, CSC told me I was now a computer programmer - no more rotating shifts, working days in a nice office at the Federal Building. Who says education doesn't pay. I did that for a few years and was then recruited by Atlantic Richfield Hanford Corp. to design business systems for them.

Betty and I adopted daughter, Kirsten, in 1968, and son, William Patrick, in 1969. My father died in 1971 following open heart surgery. My children both live in Illinois. I am now blessed with four granddaughters and two grandsons. Emma Renee

Shine was born Sept. 10, 2009. I also have one great-granddaughter, Kirsten Alexis Bennett, born this past August. Zoom! Zoom! God is really good!

I was known in high school as the guy who would become a pastor. In 1972, the Lord finally called and it was off to St. Paul, Minnesota, and Luther Seminary pulling an 8x12' trailer. I used my computer skills at Luther to pay for school and support the family. I received my M. Divinity Degree in 1976 after a year's residency at the Wilder Child Guidance Clinic in St. Paul. My mother was there to remind me this was the first time I had started something and finished it on time. God can accomplish the impossible.

First call: Wilton, Wisconsin. Second call: Beloit, Wisconsin, and the unexpected, unfortunate divorce from Betty. Third call: Clinton, Wisconsin. Enough already with Wisconsin. In 1989 I moved back to Richland and was then transferred to Spokane as an interim pastor for Ascension Lutheran (now part of Prince of Peace). Six months later, it was off to Chelan for a thirteen month interim followed by a falling-out with the Bishop. In 1990, I accepted a Chaplain's position at Holy Family Hospital in Spokane and also requested my name be removed from the ELCA clergy roster. In 1993, I became the first Protestant Chaplain hired at Sacred Heart Medical Center (SHMC) in Spokane. For the next eight years I enjoyed the evening 3:00-11:00 shift at SHMC.

I retired in January, 2001; came across an advertisement by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. Maries, ID, in the Word Alone newsletter, phoned them, interviewed, and I've been here eight wonderful years. Within a month of my arrival at St. Paul's we took the first vote to withdraw from the ELCA and 90 days later became a charter congregation of LCMC. I've served on the Northwest District Council since 2006, presently its Vice-Chairman, Chairman of the Colloquy Committee, and recently a regional interviewer for the Board of Ministry, LCMC.

I've never taken myself too seriously and, thanks to my father, I thoroughly enjoy humor. Music has been a life-long gift from my mother. I love the Church; its symbolism, its liturgy, its freedom to think and create. But most of all, I love my Lord and his people. My motto is: Be yourself, and be faithful. - Spike

Mission Trip to Bogata, Columbia

Hola amigos! I'm so glad to be back and able to tell about Colombia. There is one thing that made my trip different than any other experience. I am only 14 (soon to be 15) and feel privileged to be in Colombia at my age.

The trip was very long. Probably even worse for me because I am not very fond of planes! We stayed in a convent where nuns lived. It was beautiful and historical looking. We stayed there for a week. We were on a different time zone (3 hours difference from PST to EST). The noise from the city and incoming planes was unsettling for two small town girls. When we woke up we were served very delicious food. I will not dwell on food because the people there could cook a meal out of almost nothing. And man, did it taste good!

Our first full day was on a Sunday so all 16 of us attended a very small church. It was not big like the churches we attend in the US, although they had many of those available. This church was a small home donated for the sole purpose of being able to worship and fellowship with God. The entire building was around the size of one room story house. The worship was the same as we have in the U.S. The only difference there was not a designated time to arrive and the service was all in Spanish. Sometimes the people would stay there for hours instead of one or two we spend each week.

Monday we went to small part of Bogotá called Soacha. We (Good Samaritan send money to support the elders there. While in Soacha, we had a miniature service with the people then we were put to work to help with things they needed. There were four groups. 1. Painting the patio; 2. Finishing the installation of a ceiling; 3. Making curtains for the windows and 4. Taking the blood pressure of elders who requested it, which turned out to be all of them. My mother helped with blood pressures and I was sent to the task of painting. We got the job done, but I don't know if they'll ever ask us to paint again.

Tuesday we went to a different part of Bogotá called



Emma painting the patio at the Elder's Center

Caracoli. Here we support a center for women and children. We also did painting there, put windows in and played games with the children. We taught them songs in English and sang in Spanish.

Parents, as I said, I am 14 and going on this trip made



Emma and children at Caracoli

me realize how spoiled Americans children and people are. Please do not take offense, but almost all of those people had next to nothing and always so happy. I always want something new, but these people were content with what they had. Another example is when we went to see some of their homes. It was very hard to see some of their living conditions. The house that I saw housed nine people in four rooms. One of the rooms was the kitchen and another room was for an injured man. It was very hard to say goodbye to these people, but we left them with gifts and lots of love.

The next few days were spent shopping and seeing more of Colombia. We had a bus ride to a small community called Villa de Leyva. Much to our delight, we learned this was where they filmed some of the "Zorro" movies. Friday we spent our time traveling back to Bogotá so we could get ready to catch our rides back to our beloved United States of America. We were sad to leave, but also glad to be going home. We arrived home safely to a big poster saying, Welcome Home Emma and Mom! It was nice to be back, but I wouldn't trade my time in Colombia for anything. I learned many valuable things and gained new friends.

Emma Hancock and her Mom, Jamie Berg, are members of American Lutheran Church in Kellogg, Idaho. They went on this mission trip in February 2009.

This article by Emma Hancock is reprinted from the Neville's News, March 26, 2009.

The Legacy of Deep River

On the Western geographical edge of the Northwest District, near where the Columbia River enters the Pacific Ocean, is the history-rich community of Naselle, Washington. A little East of Naselle is the pioneer community of Deep River, Washington. Historically, this area is tied to the Columbia River and its smaller tributaries. In the 19th Century, well over a hundred years ago, European settlers began moving into this area in ever-increasing numbers. People from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and lots of folks from Finland. Along with their other prized possession, they brought their Lutheran faith along with them. Soon the need for a church arose. Through their own labors, that need was met. Starting with the next issue of *The Link*, a part of their story will begin to unfold.

I have spoken with two delightful ladies who are an integral part of the history of Naselle; Anna Erhlund and Eva Malerich. They are collaborating on an article that will appear in serial form in upcoming issues of *The Link*. Pictured below is the community's original church, now on the National Registry of Historical Places, built on an acre of donated land at Deep River in 1902. Kate and I hope to meet with Anna and Eva, as well as others of this community, later this month.

“Corner”

Thanks be to God, we here at Resurrection, and our brothers and sisters in LCMC, have heard our Lord Jesus and His word of truth! Our Lord and Savior Jesus declares, “It is finished.” Yes, the victory is ours in Christ Jesus! Salvation, the final objective, is won, purchased by the precious body and blood of Jesus. If only the ELCA would have had this message in their heart.

As I spoke with my own congregation during Sunday announcements, my comments were to the effect that we, the members of Resurrection, will remain welcoming to members of the ELCA who come to worship and visit with us about LCMC. I know in my heart that, here at Resurrection, we will always welcome and receive them in a Christ-like manner, “having compassion,” for they are like sheep without a shepherd.

Resurrection is, in my humble opinion, one of the most loving, Christ-like, congregations in all the nation. And all the credit is due to God and His word of truth. What a blessed privilege it is to serve God here in Springfield, an area considered by many to be among some of the most unchurched geographically in the USA. We are also blessed to be a part of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Press on in the Lord!

In Christ,
Pr. Douglas Vaughan
Resurrection Lutheran Community Church
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
Springfield, Oregon

— Sig Person



**Deep River Holy Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Deep River, Washington**

Pastor Robinson Installed at United LC

On a beautiful Sunday morning (August 9, 2009 to be exact) we witnessed the installation of James Robinson as pastor at United Lutheran in Waterville, Washington. Thank you to the wonderful congregation there for letting us know that we were at home among fellow believers.

The installation was authentic. Pastor Paul Braafladt preached a great sermon. We requested a copy of it and are appreciative that he sent us one. Pastor Robinson confirmed his commitment to ministry at United in response to Council President Alan Loesack's questions. The questions were asked at various places such as the baptismal font, the altar, and the pulpit.

After worship we took the folks up on the invitation to share potluck. It was worth the drive just for that. Not only was the food excellent but it was a joy to meet the people who are the church at United. Garth Hinderer has been the contact there for *The Link* and we have been blessed getting to know him. We also got to meet his family, parents, wife & daughter. Garth contributed a well written, informative article for this issue. You don't want to miss it.

After the church doings Pastor Robinson and his wife, Suzanne, graciously invited us to their home so we could get to know a little about them. They bring a wide variety of experiences to their ministry at United.

Pastor Robinson graduated from Luther Seminary in '96 and has covered a lot of ground since then. He has served in Montana, Wisconsin, North



Pastor James Robinson, and his wife Suzanne, of United Lutheran Church, Waterville, Washington

Dakota and California. He has served in rural congregations, a nursing home, a Presbyterian congregation, a youth ranch, and preached for an AME congregation, (an experience that lights him up to talk about). Suzanne has worked in schools and beside her husband. They tried to sound the alarm about what was happening in the ELCA at synod assembly in the face of strong resistance. They both have been blessed by a special interest in working with children with special needs. Their daughter Jennifer lives in Visalia, CA with her husband, Mike, and sons Grant and William. Son Jackson, his wife Jessica and their children Kincaid, Laurel, and Griffin live in Puyallup, Washington. Jackson is a Major with the Army and is currently in Africa. Son Paul is single and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

- Sig and Kate Person

DISTRICT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The District Council met August 22, 2009 at American Lutheran in Kellogg, Idaho. Following an opening devotional by Randy Hill, the minutes from the previous meeting were review. Those minutes had been approved earlier by an email vote of the council. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The need for two letters to member churches was discussed, and council members were assigned to write them. Further planning for the 2010 District Gathering was discussed, including a theme, a location, a date, and more. Because of conflicts with other items on the calendar we decided to hold it on April 23 & 24.

It was announced that changes have been made in the certification (formally known as colloquy) process. A letter will be sent to the Board of Trustees with the council's feedback on the issue.

Benevolence in the amount of \$500 each was sent to Christian Aide Society of Kellogg and St Maries.

Coming soon ... an informational packet and a website for the Northwest District of LCMC!