



## Not the usual love story

*"And the Lord said to me, 'Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods'"* (Hos. 3:1).

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

His name was Hosea. He was a prophet of God who lived 750 years before Jesus' birth. His wife was a rather unusual choice.

If any pastor today married such a woman, I expect that a lot of tongues would wag! But Hosea married his wife at God's instruction.

Her name was Gomer. She was a prostitute. And she had absolutely no intention of being faithful to her husband. As you read the story of the marriage of Hosea and Gomer, it's easy to see that it's not the usual love story.

Sadly, Hosea's relationship with his unfaithful and dysfunctional wife is a picture of the relationship between God and the unfaithful and dysfunctional people of Israel. God's people had betrayed Him for other gods—false gods. As a result, their lives were a mess. If you haven't read the book of Hosea, take a few minutes to do so. You'll shake your head!

How had it gotten so bad? As in any poor or broken relationship, there were many reasons. But the Lord pointed out the chief one. The people's knowledge of the Lord was sorely lacking. *"They know not the Lord,"* God says (5:4b). And the result? *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (4:6).

Without knowledge of their God, it was no wonder that the people had no deep commitment of faith or of love toward Him. Without the knowledge of God's Word, they had even less commitment to walk in His ways. And so, like Hosea's wife who continued her affairs with other lovers even after her marriage to Hosea, the people of Israel had their other gods.

God has given His Word to His people throughout the ages so that we may know Him in faith and so that we can grow in our knowledge of Him and of the life we live as His people. He has given us His Word so that what happened among the people of Israel does not happen among us.

Sadly, the people of Israel at the time of Hosea were not "people of the Word." As Lutheran Christians, we like to think that we are. Are we? Is God's Word on our



Rev. Dale Sattgast  
South Dakota  
District President

lips and in our heart (see Deut. 30:14; Rom. 10:8)? Do we gladly hear it, learn it, and take it to heart in worship, and Bible classes, and in our family or personal devotions?

As we listen to the voices of the world around us, we hear that many people know a little bit about "God." But, for too many, their knowledge of the true God and of His will is, like the people of Hosea's day, sorely lacking. Sadly, many people *"are destroyed for lack of knowledge"* (Hos. 4:6). God grant that never may be said of us.

St. Paul's reminder to Timothy is perhaps one of the finest summaries in the Bible of the importance of God's Word for God's people: *"... From childhood you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

At some point, Hosea's wife left him to live with another lover. According to Old Testament law, Hosea could have divorced her or even had her stoned to death (Deut. 24:1; 22:22). In a similar manner, God had every right to bring even greater judgment upon His people because of their unfaithfulness. But, in an amazing demonstration of God's love for His wayward people, He instructs Hosea to find his wayward wife and then to buy her back as his own (Hos. 3:1-2).

Do you see the picture of redemption? While Gomer was still in her sin, Hosea sought her out and was willing to take her back. He showed his love. He paid the price. In a far greater sense, while God's people of Israel and of every other age are still in their sin, God seeks them out and is willing to take them back. He shows His love. He pays the price. His Son! The cross! Here is how the apostle Paul describes it: *"God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8).

It's not the usual love story—neither that of Hosea for Gomer, nor that of God for us. But, because of God's grace, it is our story. May we grow, then, in grace through Christ, in knowledge through God's Word, and in love and faithfulness for the one true God.

*"... nothing ...  
except Jesus  
Christ and Him  
crucified"*

In Christ,  
Pastor Dale L. Sattgast  
1 Cor. 2:2  
2 Cor. 3:4-6  
2 Tim. 1:8-12

*(All Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version.)*

# DISTRICT NEWS

## **Organizational event held for Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls**

On Nov. 23, 2008, at Zion Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, 70 people gathered for the organizational event for Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls. The school's Planning Committee provided an update on plans for the school, and the 25 delegates from the association congregations (Our Redeemer, Faith, Zion, Memorial and Resurrection Lutheran Churches of Sioux Falls) elected the school's first Board of Directors.

Those elected to the Board are Peggy Baney and Breck Miller from Memorial; Mary Ellen Heirigs and Frank Thuringer from Our Redeemer; Gordon Krause and Melissa McCrae from Zion; Jason Kurtz from Resurrection; and Ritch Noble and Todd Taylor from Faith. The plan is for the school to open in the fall of 2010 with grades nine and 10, and then add grade 11 in 2011, and grade 12 in 2012.

*Rev. Scott Sailer  
Leader, Planning Committee*

## **St. John, Groton, donates to Salvation Army**

The St. John's LWML (Groton) Christmas party was held Dec. 3, 2008. It included LWML members, their guests, and non-members from the congregation. On the table in front of the women is part of the non-perishable food items donated to the Salvation Army in lieu of a gift exchange.

In back row are Lorraine Sippel, Nora Rix, LaVonne Helmer, Rochelle Hinkleman, Rose Stange, Judy Fliehs, Eunice McColister and her twin sister Janice Frohling from Hecla, and Bonnie Larson.

Front row: Gert Erickson, Lois Pasch, Elda Stange, Lillian Rose, and Sylvia Campbell.

Not pictured: Dorene Nelson; who took the picture.

*(Submitted by Dorene Nelson, St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, S.D.)*



## **Sacrificing the children**

My attention was recently directed to the story of Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac. Basically, the point is that when we follow God as His children, He will make things work out for our good. Yet, the story made me think about how we can sacrifice our children today. Oh, maybe not in the way Abraham was prepared to offer Isaac, but nevertheless, all too often we do sacrifice our youth.

It may be that we sacrifice them to the gods of money. We think maybe they can get an athletic scholarship, so we keep them busy in sports even on Sunday mornings. I have suspected for years that should all of us who are even nominally Christian declare Sunday morning a "no game" time, the Sunday morning tournaments would end abruptly. Then we wonder why they don't take their faith seriously. Or, they get a job, and just "have to" work on Sundays.

I knew a teen who, when applying for a job, told his future employer that he needed Sunday morning off to go to church. The employer's response was that he was surprised since most were glad that the job took them away from church on Sunday mornings.

Parents, when asked about their absent children seem to feel it's OK to say, "They're working." So, we sacrifice them to the god of money.

It may be that we sacrifice them to the god of recreation. Often, parents see nothing wrong with their children missing church because of a sleepover or an outing for fishing, or hunting. When once we begin to make excuses for missing Word and Sacrament, it becomes even easier and easier.

The sacrifices also say something to the Body of Christ, and the unchurched. To the Body of Christ, it says we aren't dependent on one another while, in fact, we are. To the unchurched, it says that there really is no difference since they are used to sacrificing their lives to the same things—money and recreation.

Perhaps, before we are tempted again, we would do well to find ourselves at the foot of the cross and see the amazing love there for us, think on it, and let that love warm our hearts.

*Rev. David Schwan  
Executive Secretary  
LCMS South Dakota District  
888-385-7330  
Fax: 605-361-7959*



**Call information**

*as of Dec. 23*

**CALLS PENDING**

None

**ACCEPTED**

**Steven Weispenning**, assistant pastor St. John's, Yankton, accepted the call of associate pastor, St. John's, Yankton, 12/15/08.

**DECLINED**

**David Schwan**, executive secretary, South Dakota District, declined the call of pastor from St. John, Park Rapids, Minn., 11/06/08.

**VACANCIES**

- St. Paul/St. John, Aberdeen, assistant pastor
- St. John, Howard
- Bethesda/First English, Marion/Parker
- Lord of Life, Sioux Falls
- Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis
- First/Emmanuel, Wall/Creighton
- Concordia, Vermillion

**2009 District Convention  
'Called Into Partnership'  
Sioux Falls Convention Center  
April 29-May 2**

Upcoming deadlines for convention

**Feb. 15—Deadline for nominations for district president to district secretary**

Plan now to attend. Pray for the Lord's guidance for those who will be delegates. Pray for those who will be nominated, that they will be encouraged to accept to serve in the capacity they are chosen for. Pray for our district and Synod that God's will be done in all things.



**Bike for Life update**

What a blessing to share with you! As of Dec. 12, 2008, more than \$12,814 has been received from this year's Bike for Life—the highest amount ever for this cause of saving the lives of the living yet unborn. Thanks be to God! And may all praise be given Him.

To donate to that cause, please send check to:

Southeast South Dakota LFL  
c/o Rev. Nabil S. Nour  
P.O. Box 158  
Armour, SD 57313-0158

**District congregations are 'Called Into Partnership'**

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now"* (Phil. 1:3-5).

"Called Into Partnership" is the theme of the South Dakota District's upcoming district convention. But it is more than a theme. It's a description of the 115 congregations of the South Dakota District as they are called together in partnership to bring the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ *beyond* our local congregations.

Did you know that nearly 62 percent of the "2009 Work Program" (budget) of our district goes directly to "Mission/Outreach" support? That's nearly \$884,000 of \$1.4 million. Here's how that translates this year:

- \$341,680—Support of Synod and Together In Missions (T.I.M.)
- \$126,153—Mission Congregations Support
- \$86,140—Rosebud Reservation Missions
- \$83,150—Preparing Church Workers
- \$72,125—Missionary to the Deaf
- \$69,042—New Mission Starts / Outreach
- \$46,250—Campus Ministry / Missions
- \$43,070—Pine Ridge Reservation Missions
- \$16,250—Northwest South Dakota Circuit Rider

All these are possible because of the "mission offerings" the congregations of the South Dakota District send "to district" for the mission of spreading the Gospel. Thank you for your "partnership in the Gospel!"



**April issue deadline: Feb. 15**

When possible, please send photos in a JPEG format, at 300 dpi. If you send print photos, please send a copy that you won't need back. Thank you.



**Vonda Sturzenbecher**  
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or mail **8605 Woodland Drive**  
**Black Hawk, SD 57718**

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*



Elaine Hankel  
LWML District  
President

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned" (Is. 9:2).*

On my recent trips last October and November, I noticed a great contrast between the two countries visited. In the Dominican Republic, we saw the "joy" in the eyes of the Christians as they eagerly came to hear the message of salvation from Pastor Walter and Danelle. Their voices were raised in singing praises to our Lord and Savior. No fear that the notes they were singing were the correct ones. They wanted to shout to the Lord for all the blessings given to them. Ephesians 5:19 tells us to "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

It was indeed a humbling experience to see this outward expression of love for the Savior. No fear of what others would think, because they knew in their hearts the true meaning of the gift given to us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Are we sometimes reluctant to share our faith because we worry what others will think?

In contrast, my trip to Vietnam showed the saddest of the Vietnamese people. Although, we have made small strides in bringing the Gospel of Christ here, the light is still very dim. The majority believe in Buddha or Buddhism. "Buddha is seen as the "enlightened one." Buddhists view their life as a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. That salvation is an individual matter and therefore one cannot receive much help from other persons or institutions" (*Religions of the World* by Lewis M. Hopfe). Those who follow Buddhism have no hope yet of ever receiving the gift of salvation that we as Christians have. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Although, we may not be able to go into the mission fields ourselves, through your support of the LWML mission grants, numerous mission projects are funded from mites that you so generously give. In this

way, you, as individuals, can help to spread the word of God. The deadline to reach the mite goal for this LWML biennium is March 15. The goal of \$1.7 million is still within reach with your continued support.

## **Mission grants are a gift of love**

In February, we think of giving gifts to those we love. Did you know that the LWML has been giving mission grants since 1943? What a wonderful way to share the Good News of Christ to all God loves!

Remember that mites for the 2007-09 LWML biennium are due by March 15 to the national LWML office. If you go to the LWML Web site at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org), you can print the Mission Grant PowerPak. These 18 documents describe the national mission grants for the current biennium. We still have some left to fund.

Use this great informational source to learn more about the LWML mission grants and how our mite monies are helping to spread the Good News.

## **St. John, Groton, donates quilts, more!**

Lloyd Dennert, Columbia, who drives for the Orphan Grain Train, recently stopped to pick up the LWML/Ladies' Aid quilts and kits.

Forty-two quilts, 13 school kits, and 19 layettes were ready to be shipped.

Pastor Grams is pictured below with the quilters, from left, Nora Rix, Lorraine Sippel, Elda Stange, Gert Erickson, and Lois Pasch. Quilter-seamstress Ellen Leonhardt, who is not pictured, does a lot of the sewing for the group.





LOOK! Look no further for reasons to attend the LWML convention on June 25-28 in Portland, Ore., where we will **Look to the Hills ... God Reigns.**

We will have opportunities to:

- 👉 Worship God the Maker of all things.
- 👉 Trust in the Lord who daily meets our needs.
- 👉 Declare God's peace and provision through tangible acts of mercy and grace.
- 👉 Share the Good News of Jesus in everyday situations.

On Friday evening, Heidi Floyd from the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer will be the inspirational speaker. She will be joined by Lauren Randall, a gifted vocalist and college student majoring in music, who will open and close this inspirational evening with music.

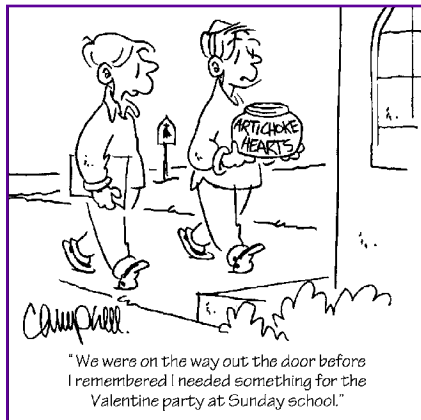
The 125-plus-member Pride of Portland Chorus, a member of Sweet Adelines International, will entertain on Saturday evening with its repertoire of traditional "golden oldies," jazz, blues, patriotic music, gospel songs, and Broadway show tunes.

This is a can't-miss event, so we'll see you in Portland! Find out more at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).



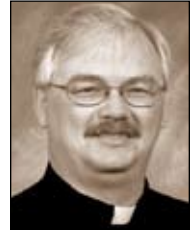
Photo by Amanda Singer

Quote for this month:  
**"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?"**  
 (Ps. 121:1).



### Counselor's corner

In John 13:34, Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another." Jesus was about to go to His glory. He was about to be arrested and beaten and nailed to the cross on which He would die for our sins. He was about to show His love for us. And before He went, He gave His 11 followers (Judas had just left) new marching orders—"Love one another."



Rev. Brian Lemcke  
 District LWML Counselor

February is the month of "love," the month when one person will give gifts to another whom he or she "loves." Webster's Dictionary defines love in its first three meanings as an object of "affection or attachment." It isn't until the fourth meaning that Webster says love is an "unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another." That's what Jesus is talking about! A selfish man had just left them—a man who had only his own best interest at heart and was willing to sell his "friend" for a few silver coins.

Jesus tells us to love one another with an unselfish, loyal concern for each other. He wants us, as Christians, to take care of each other. And that's what we do in the LWML. We unselfishly give of our time, talents, and treasures in order to spread the Good News that we can give because Jesus first gave for us. We give of ourselves not only because Jesus told us to but because that's what we do as Christians.

As Christians, we want to share the Good News of salvation with others because Jesus shared His love with us. An old saying goes, "Love is the only thing you can give away and have more of than when you started." That's true. Because Jesus gave us love for one another, we give it away and receive back more than when we started.

So, in this season of love, let's share the most unselfish love of all with everyone we meet. A simple "Jesus loves you!" goes a long way!

Rev. Brian Lemcke  
 Senior Pastoral Counselor

The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community, and the world.

# LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE



## **ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia:**

One day, Tadesse Zewodie boarded a bus to head to his home in Mandida. As he took his seat, a little booklet left there caught his attention. He picked it up and saw it was a Bible Correspondence

Course (BCC) from Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)-Ethiopia, titled "Let us study the Christian faith." That bus ride, he would later say, turned his life around.

After reaching his home, he found the postal address on the booklet and wrote to LHM-Ethiopia. They were more than happy to enroll him in BCC and send him more lessons, and as Tadesse read deeper into the Scriptures, his behaviors started to change.

Tadesse had been known around his neighborhood for his hot temper and love for alcohol—a combination that often caused problems for everyone. His family and friends were pleasantly surprised when Tadesse's behavior and attitude began to change over a relatively short period of time.

"The Word of God filled my mind and heart," Tadesse said of his experience.

Tadesse has made Mekane Yesus Medida Congregation his home church, and he has become a volunteer, giving people testimony of his newfound faith in Jesus. Through his study of the BCC, he now has the confidence to answer questions his friends raise about spiritual matters.

Bible Correspondence Courses allow people of all ages, faith, and education to explore Christianity. These themed studies not only educate people about God, but also offer a foundation on which their faith can grow. Tadesse says that the self-teaching tools allowed him to study the Scriptures without a formal teacher.

## **VIENTIANE, Laos:**

For many people, there are times during their journey in faith when outside influences can create confusion and even cause them to question their beliefs. That's what 18-year-old Yui went through.

She was just a child when her grandmother began taking her to church. Always interested in knowing more about God, she studied the Bible and, as a teenager, enrolled in Lutheran Hour Ministries' (LHM) Bible Correspondence Course (BCC). She completed the BCC and regularly attended



Sunday school and joined in other church activities.

Yui lives in Laos, a country where 67 percent of the population is Buddhist and only 1.5 percent is Christian. When she was baptized, her father was strongly against her being a Christian, since he considered it a "foreign" religion. However, she stood strong and continued to attend church.

One day, she had to make a very important decision. Her grandmother, who was so very important to her, had stopped attending church over the years. She came to believe in a cult and tried to force Yui to stop going to church. Despite her love and respect for her grandmother, Yui was steadfast. She kept her faith and her love for God. She says that she was able to do this because she has a good foundation from studying the Bible both at church and through LHM-Laos's BCC, which she studies faithfully.

Currently, Yui is a member of Immanuel Church in Nongkhai Province. She brings her sister to church regularly. She is now in her first year in a vocational college in Nongkhai Province.

Your continued prayers and support for LHM allow outreach programs to have an impact all around the world. We ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to our international ministries today.

## *DISTRICT NEWS*

### **Circuit Rider Update**

Rev. Gary Jacobsen has initiated visits in the "Great Northwest" part of our state. If you have friends or relatives living west of the Missouri River and north of Interstate 90, please send contact information to Rev. David Schwan, executive secretary of the district. Rev. Jacobsen would be glad to visit them. You can reach Rev. Schwan at [sdexec@midco.net](mailto:sdexec@midco.net), 605-361-1514, or 605-941-6691 (cell).

### **Lay Leadership Institute**

Questions, questions, questions. If you have any questions about our district's Lay Leadership Institute, we have answers. You can find all the documents connected with the institute on our district Web site at <http://sd.lcms.org>, or contact Rev. David Schwan, chairman of the steering committee for the institute, at [sdexec@midco.net](mailto:sdexec@midco.net), 605-361-1514, or 605-941-6691 (cell).



*Lutherans For Life—'Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God'*

## **Witness of the Crosses**

This is a display consisting of approximately 700 to 800 crosses that serve as a memorial to the thousands of babies whose lives have been taken as the result of abortion in South Dakota. It also serves as a reminder to the men, women, and families suffering after making an abortion decision that Jesus died to forgive them.

**To reserve the Witness of the Crosses display, call:**

East River: Ron Hoops at 605-395-6655 or e-mail [rmmfarm@nrctv.com](mailto:rmmfarm@nrctv.com)

West River: Milt Berg at 605-745-7039 or e-mail [mb91803@gwtc.net](mailto:mb91803@gwtc.net)

## **Life Lesson**

I learned several life lessons from Colorado trees that I would like to share with you. I wrote last year after our return (from a Colorado vacation) about the mountain pine beetle and how this tiny, one-eighth-inch-long bug had killed so many Lodgepole pine trees. It has spread exponentially since then and so has the death. Entire mountainsides have been affected. This scene is repeated mile after mile after mile as you drive along Colorado Highway 14.

**Life lesson learned: Ignoring great evil leads to toleration of that evil. Toleration causes the evil to spread and become accepted as normative and taught as such to the next generation.**

Let me explain. The mountain pine beetle had been around for a long time. It generally was not a threat because it affected only weak, already sick trees. However, for a number of reasons, those sick trees were not always cleared away. As a result, the beetle became more aggressive and started attacking healthy trees and of late is even infecting saplings. Stopping it is next to impossible. The brittle brown of death now seems normative the mountain sides rath-



er than the growing green of life.

We as a society, and sadly, many in the Church, have ignored and tolerated the evil of abortion for so long it is accepted as normative. It is promoted as good. It is taught as such to our children. We are quickly approaching the same with assisted-suicide and euthanasia.

When the Israelites took possession of the Promised Land, God told them to drive out the inhabitants and their pagan gods. Judges 1:27-36 is a litany of disobedience to this command. The phrase, "they did not drive out" is repeated verse after verse. Then comes God's judgment, "[T]hey will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you" (2:3b). The god of death has become a snare in our country—enticing people, trapping people, making people think this is the way it should be.

Driving along Highway 14 in the Colorado mountains gives you a bleak picture. I've painted a bleak one as well of our nation and the Church. But God is faithful! He did not forsake His people Israel. He raised up the Judges to deliver them. He does not forsake His people today. He raised up His Son the living Lord of Life and conqueror of death! He is the source of restoration and hope. Death cannot prevail.

That's the message of Christ's Church. Death is not the norm. Death is not the way things are supposed to be. We have the Lord of Life to turn to in difficult situations and He will deliver us.

Thank you for helping Lutherans For Life share this message with Christ's people. They need to remember that the mountainsides are not supposed to be brown. They need to take hope and courage in a risen Christ. They need to apply this Gospel message to the life issues. They need to teach it to our children. Christ will be at work. Hearts and lives will be changed."

*(Dr. James Lamb, excerpts taken from "Sponsor Letter" October 2008).*

## **Coming Events:**

Anytime—Pennies for Life Fundraiser

May-June—Annual Diaper Derby

# DISTRICT NEWS



## **What? No charge?**

The second annual harvest dinner was served by Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, on Nov. 15, 2008. More than 168 turkey dinners were served from 5 to 7 pm.

Dinner guests enjoyed turkey (roasted by members or fried by Divine Shepherd's own Pastor Randy), stuffing, corn, potatoes with gravy, rolls, and an unbelievable selection of desserts.

The men and women of Divine Shepherd served the meal. The youth assisted in serving drinks and helping where needed. There was wonderful conversation as people came and went all evening long.

The meal was provided to the community free as a way to get to know Divine Shepherd's neighbors.

## **Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis receives community award**

A few things were missing from Blessed Emmanuel's Parade of Lights float this year. No Santa or reindeer, just rope lights spelling out "Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran" and the clear proclamation of Christ born into our world.

Members of Blessed Emmanuel spent many hours wrangling the rope lights to write out the church name.

Blessed Emmanuel received "Best of Christmas Spirit" award at the Sturgis Parade of Lights.



## **Mount Calvary, Huron, youth help rebuild Greensburg, Kan.**

For the high school youth at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron, last summer brought an exciting opportunity to lend a hand in Greensburg, Kan. On May 4, 2007, Greensburg was hit by an F5 tornado nearly two miles wide. Ninety-five percent of the town was destroyed; the remaining 5 percent was severely damaged by estimated winds over 200 miles per hour.

Through the work of Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) and the South Central Kansas Tornado Recovery Organization (SCKTRO), volunteers have come from across the country to provide assistance in rebuilding the homes of Greensburg residents. The recovery continues.

Twelve high school youth and five chaperones from Mount Calvary traveled to Greensburg last June 22. They stayed at the "Volunteer Village," a housing site with one main community building for meetings and meals, and seven semi-trailers converted into housing, restroom, and shower units.

The work included pouring concrete for sidewalks, building a deck on the back of the house, painting, electrical work, and other odd jobs. They were privileged to meet the owner of the home they were working on, whose previous dwelling had been completely destroyed by the tornado (except for some of her cooking bowls—which she graciously used to make some of her famous sweet rolls). She was there to survey the work each day and to show her deep gratitude.

Stories of survival and devastation were heard throughout the week from Greensburg residents. But stories of hope also were told frequently. The group from Mount Calvary was just one of many Christian groups that came to show the love of Jesus Christ to Greensburg. The group's theme for the week was "Tragedy to Triumph," rejoicing in the Gospel that Christ's triumph brings hope and healing to every tragedy.

Youth volunteers included Josh Bartel, Pat Bartel, Drew Borkowski, Jacob Cruse, Cody Donovan, Shauna Gascoigne, Rebecca Hampton, Timothy Johnson, Chris McHenry, Nick Schley, Tanya Sutton, and Tyler Sutton. Adults volunteers included Ted Bartel, Pastor Jon Boehne, Kim Borkowski, Greg Johnson, and Paula VanScharrel.

