



## Pray for the President and for life

*“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:1-4).*



Rev. Dale Sattgast  
South Dakota  
District President

Dear friends in Christ,

Two significant events occur this month. One is new. One has been around for more than three decades. One represents change. Sadly, the other represents little change.

Senator Barack Obama will be inaugurated Jan. 20 as the new president of the United States. Two days later, Jan. 22, is the 35th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion in our nation.

As God’s redeemed people in Christ, both of these events should find expression in our prayers.

In Jesus’ prayer on the night before He went to the cross, He described the position of us, His people. We are “*in the world,*” He said. But we are not “*of the world*” (John 17:11, 14).

Though we are people of faith who recognize that “*our citizenship is in heaven*” (Phil. 3:21), we fully understand that we also live, work, vote, and pay our taxes here on earth. In effect, we have dual citizenship. Our lives and our prayers should reflect that.

A few months ago, I wrote about that. We are members of “*two kingdoms*” at the same time.

Sometimes, however, that makes us feel a bit uneasy, or perhaps frustrated. We know from God’s inspired Word His will about certain matters. But others just don’t seem to understand. Respect for life is one example.

Human life from the moment of conception is just that—human life. Whether it is planned or not, it is still human life. Whether it is wanted or not, it is still human life. Whether it is “*perfectly formed*” or has some irregularity, it is still human life. Whether it is “*full term*” or is still developing, it is still human life.

As human life, it is God’s divine creation, and it

stands under His protection. His Word makes that clear (see Ps. 139:13-16; Ex. 20:13). We know that. We believe that. And we would like everyone to know and believe the same. It is simply abhorrent to us that since Jan. 22, 1973, 47 million lives have been taken by abortion in our nation alone.

Many of our congregations will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday sometime in January. Perhaps your congregation will be one of those. Much needs to be spoken about the sin of abortion and the disrespect for the sanctity of life at all stages. Much needs to be spoken about God’s forgiveness which is available freely through the message of Jesus Christ and the cross! Much needs to be spoken about the response of God’s redeemed people who understand God’s Word, who live *in* the world but are not *of* the world.

Much of the world doesn’t understand as we do. That’s obvious. In 2006 and, again just a few months ago, measures that would have protected the lives of the unborn were defeated by the voters of South Dakota.

I was disappointed. I expect you were as well. But I was not surprised. Both of my feet are not yet in heaven. I am still *in* the world, as are you. Sin abounds. Lives will continue to be taken. Many have no knowledge of the truth of God’s Word. Many do not believe in Jesus Christ and are not saved. And so there remains much need for the proclamation of God’s Word. There remains much need for prayer.

Even as the apostle Paul urged Timothy and others to pray for kings and those in high positions, I urge you to pray for our new president and all the leaders of our nation.

With our new president, will there be changes as he has promised? I expect that there will be. How will they affect our nation? How will they affect the church? How will they affect the lives of the living but unborn? God knows. Time will tell. But in any case, please pray.

Pray that the Lord would guide our new president to lead this nation with wisdom, especially in times of trouble. Pray that our new president will lead in a manner that will enable the church and us who are members of the church to live and be about our earthly mission of proclaiming the Gospel without hindrance and in peace. Pray that he may respect the sanctity of life from its earliest moments through the

*(Continued on Page B.)*

# DISTRICT NEWS

## PRAY FOR THE PRESIDENT AND FOR LIFE

(Continued from Page A.)

end of natural life. And, not least of all, pray that the Lord will guide not only our new president, but also others in high positions to be His servants for the common good (see Rom. 13:4).

“... nothing ...  
except Jesus  
Christ and Him  
crucified”

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

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

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's eighth annual chili contest

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, was a bright, sunny day. Inside the Sioux Falls Lutheran School, the competition for the best chili and the best booth was just as warm and friendly.

Fifty dollars in prize money was up for grabs—\$25 for the best chili and \$25 for the best booth.

Contestants were from Our Redeemer's Drama Team, LWML, Men's Club, Senior Choir, Senior Youth, and Veterans Club. Sioux Falls Lutheran School and Resurrection Lutheran Senior Youth also competed.

Entertainment was provided by the Lutheran School Little Lambs, Ron Cote from Luverne, Minn., and Ed Westberg from Beresford, S.D.

Baked goods and craft items were available to purchase throughout the day.

The public served as judges and, after the votes were cast, the numbers tabulated. The first-place winner for the “Best Chili” went to Our Redeemer's Veterans Club. The award for the “Best Booth” also was awarded to Our Redeemer's Veterans Club.



Veterans Club winners are, from left, Cal Neumeister, Air Force; Fred Ening, Army Air Corps; Tom Gaffer, Army; Bud Becker, Navy Air Corps; and Craig Neumeister, presenting award.

Congratulations to the Veterans Club and a big thank you to all who competed and participated this year. With their help and support, this was our best event.

## Now what?

As the year number changes, we may find ourselves asking “Now what?” This question usually reflects a tiredness or suspicion that some other foul-up is going to happen soon. It is easy as the years go by to become cynical about events encompassing various aspects of our lives. It may be apprehension about new economic problems or political events both at home and abroad. It may be some community problem, family situation, even congregational struggle.

The reality is that this question has at its center a faith and heart aspect. The question “Now what?” has a well-known sibling, “Why me?” Again, this question has a faith aspect at its center. Both questions assume that things are out of control, that life is nothing but one problem after another. The questions assume that if God really knew or cared about us, things would be different, and we would not have to put up with all this trouble. In John 16:33, Jesus reminds us that “In this world you will have trouble.” To have trouble is not unusual or something exceptional or some sort of punishment. It is just the reality of a sinful world and sinful people who fill the world, including us.

Jesus did not stop in His comments to His disciples and to us. After noting that trouble is the natural state of this fallen world, He says quickly, “But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Faith in Jesus clings to His presence and His love, no matter what comes our way. Faith in Jesus allows us to get out of the boat like Peter, no matter how frightening things may seem, simply because Jesus is with us. His power and presence overcome anything that gets thrown at us. I will not go out looking for trouble, but I do know this. In that day of trouble, and it is sure to happen, I will call upon Him and He will deliver me. That certainty is ours only through Jesus, the Word Who became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

May our heavenly Father give you peace from all the times you might ask “Now what?” and “Why me?”—today and in the year to come.

*Yours in Christ,  
Rev. David Schwan, Executive Secretary  
LCMS South Dakota District*



**Call information**

as of Nov. 23, 2008

**CALLS PENDING**

**David Schwan**, executive secretary, South Dakota District, received a call to be pastor at St. John, Park Rapids, Minn., 11/06/08.

**ACCEPTED**

**Michael Boykin**, Concordia, Vermillion, accepted the call to be pastor at University Lutheran, Tuscaloosa, Ala., 11/14/08.

**John Dawson**, Lord of Life, Sioux Falls, accepted the call to be pastor at Royal Redeemer/The Plant, Brunswick, Ohio, 11/23/08.

**DECLINED**

**Duane Duley**, Zion, Rapid City, declined a call to be pastor at Bethlehem, Aloha, Ore., 10/23/08.

**VACANCIES**

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

**2009 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend**

By God's blessing, the 2009 Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled for March 6-8 at the Good Samaritan Retreat Center in Sioux Falls. Last year, more than 30 couples attended, so you may want to register early.

What is Marriage Encounter? In a nutshell, it is a weekend away from the daily pressures of life and responsibilities. It is an opportunity to focus on each other. It is an opportunity to help couples improve their communication in a relaxed and private setting. It is for couples with good marriages who want to enrich what they already have. There are *no* group discussions. Three lay couples and a clergy couple lead presentations that touch on many aspects of marriage. After each presentation, the couple has time in the privacy of their own room for personal sharing.

The cost is \$45 to register (this reserves your room and meals) and a freewill donation at the end of the weekend. To learn more, or to register, go to *www.GodLovesMarriage.org* or contact one of these couples:

Vernon and Karen Harrington  
712-533-6221 *giblem@frontiernet.net*

Milton and Donna Kaufman  
605-651-3231 *millkauf@tnics.com*  
Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller  
605-526-3572 *seelsorge8@aol.com*

The weekend is presented by Lutherans, but people of any faith are welcome. Think about this chance for an opportunity to take a new look at your marriage and your partner! Learn simple, effective communication techniques. Enhance the love you share.

Registration deadline is Feb. 23

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

Upcoming deadlines for convention

- Jan. 15—Deadline for reports and memorials/over-tures due to district president.
- Jan. 15—Circuit counselors, chaplain, missionaries, and service area chairmen reports due.
- Feb. 15—Deadline for nominations for district president due to district secretary.

Plan now to attend. Begin praying for the Lord's guidance for those who will be delegates. Pray for nominees, 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**

As of Thanksgiving, Southeast South Dakota Lutherans For Life has received more than \$12,590—the highest amount ever given toward this cause. Thanks be to God for all of His good gifts! If you'd like to make a donation toward Bike for Life, please do so soon.

Send your check to SESD LFL, c/o Rev. Nabil S. Nour, P.O. Box 158, Armour, SD 57313-0158. Please note "Bike for Life" on the memo line of your check.

**March issue deadline: Jan. 15**



When possible, 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**  
E-mail: *vsturzenbecher@yahoo.com*  
or mail **8605 Woodland Drive**  
**Black Hawk, SD 57718**

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*



Elaine Hankel  
LWML District  
President

Now that the Christmas season has passed, we await the arrival of the Magi to see the baby Jesus and celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. It seems that, as we get older, time goes by much faster.

Last fall was a very busy time for travel and cleaning up thousands of leaves from my yard. Oak trees are beautiful except when the leaves all fall. In October, Pat Carlson (our team leader), Susan Buxcel, Dianne Diekmann, Milton and Donna Kaufman, Earl and Janell McKinstry, Mary Jo Stier, and I had the wonderful opportunity to go on the first South Dakota District LWML-sponsored mission trip. Our destination was the Dominican Republic.

We were requested to give presentations on men's, women's, prayer, and marriage ministries. The group immediately assigned the marriage ministry topic to the two couples who were going, and the rest of us divided up well-known men and women from the Bible and the topic of prayer.

Our hosts Danelle Putnam and Rev. Walter Ries requested our presentation topics. Rev. Ries and Danelle serve the church in Santo Domingo and Palmar Arriba, which is just a short distance from Santiago. They drive between the two cities for services every week. The question was asked on our last night in the Dominican Republic what the people would like in the future. The answer from those attending the presentations was immediately, "More!"—more classes like the ones we had given. It was indeed a very rewarding experience for all of us.

A detailed presentation will be given at our district retreat April 17-18 in Mitchell. You are invited to attend. If you would like a presentation in your LWML group or a zone activity, contact one of the people mentioned above.

Also in October, Ann Cruse, Lynette Tisdall, and I attended the Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis. Our theme was from Eccl. 3:1—*"There is a time for every-thing, and a season for every activity under heaven."* Another wonderful experience meeting district presidents and representatives from the 40 LWML districts. We were given a lot of information during the three days that will help us become better leaders and serve you in the LWML, now and in the future. Although we

may be reluctant to become a leader, we did learn that God will not give you a task without giving you the ability to do it. We must place our trust in the Lord to lead the way. For God is in all the details. *"Go in Peace, your journey has the Lord's approval"* (Judges 18:6).

## **Why keep a record of your history?**

As your South Dakota District historian/archivist, I had the privilege of attending the 29th Conference on Archives and History at Concordia Historical Institute, located on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Oct. 25-27, 2007. This was a truly inspiring opportunity.

When I left to attend this conference, I felt that I was going to be very out-of-place without having a laptop computer with me. To my surprise, no one brought a computer with them. The presenters stressed that the best way to preserve history is through the printed word. No type of electronic storage is foolproof. Years from now, retrieval of the information may not be possible due to the storage system becoming outdated. A computer can be used but not as a storage system, only as a backup.

The tour of the archives was impressive. Rows and rows of shelves with boxes and boxes of catalogued items on three levels is where the history of the LCMS and LWML can be found. The storage area is climate-controlled and is a hands-off area unless protective gloves are worn. There is so much stored history that a new larger storage area was being constructed along with a museum area that will change displays regularly.

The information acquired at the conference not only pertained to LWML but to all areas of the LCMS. Keeping history is the best way to pass along the rich heritage to the members of the church of the future. This is why it is very important to keep an accurate record of the events and activities of your congregation.

*Yours in Christ,  
Florence Powers  
South Dakota District Historian/Archivist*

To see online Concordia Historical Institute exhibits about the LCMS, visit <http://chi.lcms.org/exhibits.html>.



LOOK! Look at the many blessings God showers on you daily. Now's the time to prepare to be showered with His love (and possibly a few drops

of rain) at the LWML convention June 25-28 in Portland, Ore. The theme, "Look to the Hills ... God Reigns," is based on our two theme verses:

*"I lift my eyes to the hills ... where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth"* (Ps. 121:1-2).

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"* (Is. 52:7).

All those showers help Portland's beautiful public gardens that invite you to wander their pathways and enjoy the wonders of our Lord's creation. The International Rose Test Garden hosts 7,000 rose plants of 550 varieties for your enjoyment. On clear days, you can see the Cascade Mountains and Mount Hood.

Mark your calendar now! For complete information and registration forms, see the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Your LWML district president also has this information. Visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for more information.

### **Mission-Ministry Vision is here for you!**

*"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds ... let us encourage one another"* (Heb. 10:24, 25).

The Mission-Ministry Vision (MMV) of the LWML is to assist local women's groups to reach out by:

- ✓ defining their purpose and sharpening mission focus;
- ✓ exploring various structures;
- ✓ planning effective, spiritually motivated programs; and
- ✓ developing local leaders.

In other words, MMV makes every effort to help your group meet the needs of today's woman, nurture spiritual growth, and involve more women in meaningful ministry.

Pat Reichert is South Dakota's MMV consultant. She is available to meet with your group to help you see where you are and to plan what you want to do. Contact Pat through your zone president or the South Dakota LWML Web site: [www.sdlwml.org/SD\\_LWML\\_Standing\\_Committees.htm](http://www.sdlwml.org/SD_LWML_Standing_Committees.htm).

## **Counselor's Corner**

Do you get tempted to get all nostalgic at the start of a new year, wishing for the "good old days"? Me too, or at least *I was* until I learned the following from a radio broadcast. This radio program shared what life was like in 1907—102 years ago. The average life expectancy was 47 years, and only 14 percent of homes in the United States had a bathtub. Remember how the rest washed? (Hint: think wash-tubs!) Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo. Would you like to go back to that?



Rev. Daniel Deardoff  
District LWML  
Counselor

But it gets better. The average wage in 1907 was 22 cents per hour. The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year—not per week or month. The six leading causes of death were pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease, and stroke. Drugs that we now know are harmful could be legally purchased at a drug store in 1907, including marijuana, heroin, and morphine.

In the words of the late great comedian W.C. Fields, "Those were the good old days—may they never come again!" Nostalgia is a fun game to play until we run into reality. Who among us would really like to give up our microwaves, personal computers, e-mail, and televisions? Many of the "luxuries" we take for granted are great tools to spread the Gospel. You can hit a few buttons on your computer and find an article or a devotion from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, forward it to a friend, and call them on your cell phone to see if they received it. Then you can sip hot cocoa warmed by your microwave as you encourage them with words of Christian love.

So don't be tempted to turn your calendar page backward. *"I tell you now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation"* (2 Cor. 5:2b). Be glad you can turn your calendar page forward and help spread the Good News in the here and now.



**epiphany**

# LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE



Gary Thies (left) and friends are making the point that Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the United States.

## **Milbank Circuit Lutherans meet for joint Reformation service**

The Milbank Circuit held its annual Reformation service at Mount Olive, Watertown. Gary Thies, LCMS mission counselor and director of Mission Central in Iowa, delivered the homily.

Also participating in the service were Rev. Jeffrey Kalb, Emanuel, Sisseton and Zion, Waubay; Rev. Glen Schultz, Our Savior, Wilmot and Trinity, Corona; Rev. Kim Kanitz, St. John, Revillo and Bethlehem, rural Milbank; Rev. Keith Bicknase, Emanuel, Milbank; and Rev. Iver Possehl, Mount Olive, Watertown.

The fall banquet of the Lake Region LLL was held after the service. Thies was the speaker. He talked about mission opportunities in Vietnam, Indonesia, Africa, and China. The last frontier is China with its 1.2 billion people and approximately only 1 percent of the people having heard the name of our Lord Jesus.

Officers of the Lake Region LLL include Mark Sieverson; Ralph Stensland, vice president; and Dawn LaMee, secretary/treasurer.

## **Baptism marks the beginning of Christian growth in Bangkok**

Four years ago, a young woman named Narisara was baptized. For her, baptism was just the beginning of her education about God's love. More recently, Narisara has discovered even more through music produced by the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) ministry center in Bangkok.

The young woman lives with her mother, whose left eye has a growth in it. Looking for encouragement about her mother's bad eyesight, Narisara became motivated to learn more about God. That's when she came across an LHM-Thailand produced CD of Christian music. She wrote to the ministry center requesting more information. A short time later, Narisara was enrolled in LHM's Bible Correspondence Course (BCC). When her mother found out about the BCC, she also wanted to enroll, even though she could not read the lessons herself.

Narisara completed the application forms for the BCC, and when she received the lessons, she read the content and questions to her mother.

She has prayed to God to heal her mother's eye, which seems to be getting better, and Narisara wants her mother to have more knowledge of the Bible. The LHM lessons are helping her mother to grow spiritually.

Narisara said, "My mother has been changed, has more faith, and is eager to pray and spend more time reading the Bible. I thank God and LHM-Thailand for helping us be strengthened spiritually."

Narisara is still studying the lessons and is being nurtured by a local church. She asks for prayers for her mother to fully recover and that she and her mother will continue to be built up by the Lord.



## **[www.jcplayzone.com](http://www.jcplayzone.com) safe place online**

The JCPlayZone Web site is offered by Lutheran Hour Ministries as a safe online play space for children ages 2-6 and their parents.

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers a wide variety of media programs and ministries to reach millions of people around the world with the saving message of Jesus Christ and connect them to the church.

LHM maintains 41 international ministry centers, airs programming in more than 50 nations, provides tools and workshops for congregational growth and enrichment, and develops targeted programs to help Lutheran congregation members around the world to share their faith and reach the "lost."



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

## **Rev. Nabil Nour to keynote annual Life Conference**

"Citizens of Two Kingdoms: Life in Church and State" is the theme for the Life Conference based on Matt 22:21—"... Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's," hosted by Lutherans For Life of South Dakota and the South Dakota LFL chapters. Rev. Nabil Nour, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, S.D., will be the keynote speaker. The Bible study, based on Rom. 13:1-7, will be led by South Dakota District President Rev. Dale Sattgast.

The annual meeting of Lutherans For Life of South Dakota will be held in conjunction and immediately following the Life Conference on Saturday, Jan. 17 (snow date: Jan 24), at Zion Lutheran Church, 620 E. Third Ave., Mitchell.

The conference will have the following agenda:  
8:30-9 a.m.—Registration/Brunch (by East Dakota Chapter)  
9-9:30 a.m.—Opening Devotions  
9:30-10 a.m.—Chapter Presentations  
10-11:30 a.m.—Bible study (Rev. Dale Sattgast)  
11:30-12:30 p.m.—Lunch (by Trinity, White Lake Chapter)  
12:30- 2 p.m.—Keynote Address  
2-2:30 p.m.—Question and Answer  
2:30- 3:30 p.m.—Annual Meeting  
3:30 p.m.—Board of Directors Meeting

There is no registration fee. Lunch will be provided at the church by the host chapter, Trinity, White Lake. A freewill offering will be taken for the lunch and to help LFL of SD continue "to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God." Everyone is invited!

Since the annual meeting also will take place, each chapter is asked to have two delegates present at this meeting. Three board members' terms are expired. Please send nominations for these positions to Lynette Auch, 42948 300th St., Lesterville, SD 57040; 605-364-7318; or [lynetteauch@gmail.com](mailto:lynetteauch@gmail.com).

For more information or to pre-register, contact Lynette Auch.

## **Calendar of events**

Jan. 17—Life Conference/Annual Meeting, Zion, Mitchell

Jan. 18 (or any Sunday)—Life Sunday

Jan. 24—Snow date for Life Conference

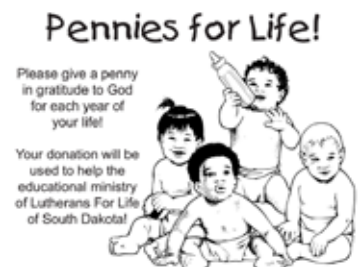
May (Mother's Day) to June (Father's Day)—Diaper Derby

## **Pennies for Life**

In celebration of the life God has given each of us, Lutherans For Life of South Dakota is asking for your help. We are asking for a donation of one penny for each year of your life. (Larger contributions happily accepted!)

Your gift will be used by Lutherans For Life of South Dakota for various educational projects. We ask that your congregation or school place an appropriate container in a prominent location in your church or school and mark it "Pennies for Life." Then convert the pennies to a check to LFL of SD and mail it to Don Sperlich, LFL of SD State Treasurer, P.O. Box 193, Armour, SD 57313.

(Last year, your gifts were used to air the program "Facing Life Head-On," an informative program about real people facing hard "life" decisions and challenges. Thank you for your generous donations!)



## **Notes 'n' quotes**

"We are blessed in the 21st century with crystal-clear photographs and action films of the living realities within their pregnant mothers. No one with the slightest measure of integrity or honor could fail to know what these marvelous beings manifest clearly, and obviously are, as they smile and wave into the world outside the womb. In simplest terms, they are human beings with an inalienable right to live ... They are not parts of their mothers, and what they are depends not at all upon the opinions of theologians of any faith.

"Anyone who dares to defend that they may be legitimately killed because another human being 'chooses' to do so or for any other equally ridiculous reason should not be providing leadership in a civilized democracy worthy of the name."

(Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, Aug. 26, 2008, on *Thoughts & Faith to Share Anthology* blog.)

# DISTRICT NEWS

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## **Young people share Christ! Coming to a neighborhood near you?**

### **What is OAF C?**

Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ (OAF C) began in 1970 in Brownsdale, Minn., under the leadership of Pastor Fred Darkow. It quickly spread to many congregations and became a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS in 1980. OAF C is an ongoing witnessing program, training youth and adults to share their faith. The ministry spreads as each month a local ambassador group meets at a different area Lutheran church to train their youth and adults to share the Gospel. They then take the new youth on another weekend the next month and help those new youth train others. Youth are taught to share the Gospel through puppets, drama, singing, youth-led Bible study, neighborhood canvass, and personal testimony.

South Dakota has had an active OAF C group for the past 20 years. Currently, the group is under the co-direction of Jonathan Drefs, Vermillion; Erika Carter, Lead; and Jonny Plucker, Rapid City.

### **OAF C National Summer Training Report**

Fifteen ambassadors from South Dakota traveled to Champaign, Ill., last July for OAF C National Summer Training. While traveling to and from Illinois, South Dakota ambassadors held a training weekend in Paulina, Iowa, with overnight stops in Winona, Minn., and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to introduce those congregations to the mission and ministry of OAF C. South Dakota youth also toured both Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Ill., and Concordia University Nebraska in Seward, Neb.

They joined approximately 150 additional youth and adults from 17 states for a week of guest speakers, training workshops and service to the Champaign area. That week, OAF C held its annual meeting and elections for its national board of directors. Tom Iverson from Zion, Rapid City, was elected to the board as male youth ambassador for a two-year term.

### **OAF C in South Dakota**

South Dakota ambassadors began their regular year of weekends this September at Divine Shepherd in Black Hawk. Eleven new youth and adults were

trained to share their faith. Friday night, old ambassadors (previously trained, not necessarily age-old, though some are!) gave a quick overview of OAF C, sharing examples of drama, puppets, personal testimony and lots of singing. Ambassadors then departed to congregational host homes for the evening.

On Saturday, Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher led morning Bible study. Next, trained OAF Cers took congregational members with them on a witness survey in the Black Hawk area. They made 86 calls and left Gospel literature at 154 houses where no one was home. Twenty-nine percent of the people they spoke with were sure of going to heaven because of what Jesus had done for them.

Through the survey, seven persons were discovered who were interested in a follow-up visit from Divine Shepherd. On Sunday, the ambassadors, including the new youth and adults, joined Divine Shepherd for worship, presented a puppet play for the children's sermon, sang pre-service music, and led Sunday school opening.

The South Dakota OAF C Web page [www.geocities.com/bhoafc/indx.html](http://www.geocities.com/bhoafc/indx.html) has a (mostly) current schedule of OAF C weekends and events in the state and surrounding area for the year, along with occasional pictures and personal testimonies from South Dakota youth. The page is updated monthly by ambassador youth in the state. Contact information for the state co-directors is also on the Web site if your congregation is interested in scheduling a weekend.

OAF C also has a national Web page, [www.oafc.org](http://www.oafc.org), with information from groups across the country along with national updates and much of their ministry materials.

### **OAF C New Year's Event**

South Dakota took 14 ambassadors to the regional New Year's gathering at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Ogallala, Neb. Youth from six states, including two from California, spent four days in Nebraska conducting canvasses of Ogallala, participating in New Year's worship services, writing new puppet and drama presentations, attending and leading training workshops, and celebrating New Year's Eve.

Similar regional gatherings were held in Oklahoma and Michigan. For information about upcoming OAF C events, visit the national OAF C Web site.

