



LCMC Board of Trustees, led by new board chair, Pastor Steve Turnbull, at the 2024 Annual Gathering in Marion, Iowa. Photo courtesy of Mike Bradley.

THE FIVE-FOLD FOCUS OF LCMC 3.0

By MIKE BRADLEY, LCMC Service Coordinator

What is the focus in LCMC 3.0? What are our goals? These are questions I hear from time to time as I travel throughout the association. First of all, we will continue to be faithful in the fundamentals in this third decade of life and ministry together.

We will continue to rightly preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments. We will continue to love one another, love our neighbor, and welcome the stranger. We will continue to give witness to our faith as the Lord provides us opportunities and empowers us by the Holy Spirit. We will continue to serve our communities and partner in missions around our country and overseas. All of this and more will be ongoing in LCMC 3.0.

With that said, there are five specific areas of focus that we will be intentional about addressing. The five-fold focus of LCMC 3.0 is:

- 1. Districts and Fellowships:** To revitalize and strengthen existing districts and fellowships and equip LCMC leaders who are establishing new districts and fellowships. This point of focus can help us realize the vision of mutually supportive congregations, partnering together in the Body of Christ and

Mark Your Calendars:

Three Days of Prayer
January 7-9, 2025

IIM Advanced Training
January 20-23, 2025

Youth Leadership Retreat
January 31-February 2, 2025

Augustana District Annual Convocation of the Cross
February 3-4, 2025

Winter LeaderCare Retreat
February 5-7, 2025

Youth Leadership Webinar
February 20, 2025

Seminarian Connection (Zoom)
February 25, 2025

Confirmation Retreat
February 28-March 2, 2025

LeaderCare Carolinas Retreat
March 25-27, 2025

Pre-Retirement Retreat for Pastors & Spouses
April 28-May 1, 2025

THIS ISSUE:

This newsletter is a publication of LCMC, an association of churches and individuals. Inclusion of articles is intended to provide information and does not imply official endorsement. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect an official position of the association or its Board of Trustees. We welcome comments, suggestions for stories and submissions from our members.

EDITOR: Joy Minion. CONTRIBUTORS: Craig Bollinger, Mike Bradley, Kristen Burdey, Chris Byars, Cindy Glessner, Jennifer Gold, Chuck Hunsaker, Chris Magnell, Cathy Nichol, Kristy Thomas, Anna Tucker and Steve Turnbull.

NEXT ISSUE:

To submit an article for this publication, please contact Joy Minion at joyminion@gmail.com. The deadline to submit articles for our next edition of BY THE WORD is:

February 6, 2025

ABOUT US:

We are an association of congregations and individuals, free in Christ, accountable to one another, rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and working to fulfill Christ's Great Commission and go make disciples of all nations.



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LCMC Churches Respond to Hurricane Disaster in NC

BY CRAIG BOLLINGER

Lead Pastor, Christ the King Church, Charlotte, NC

Hurricane Helene brought unprecedented disaster to individuals and communities in western NC in late September 2024. This caused at least 101 deaths and over \$55.6 billion in estimated damage, including losses of homes, businesses, and infrastructures of roads, electricity and bridges.

Many came quickly to the rescue, including a consistent and ongoing offering of prayer and resources from LCMC churches across the U.S. Christ the King Church in Charlotte, NC, has served as a hub for channeling needed resources from generous individuals and churches to the frontlines of those needing housing, repairs and hope.

As of November 2024, over \$125,000 has been contributed and pledged. These resources have already gone to help with church relief efforts, the purchase of mobile homes for families who have lost everything, and materials and supplies for individuals helping on the front line.

To help assist with long-term relief efforts, a relationship has been established with North Carolina Lutheran Camps: <https://novusway.org>.

FROM THE BOARD...

By Steve Turnbull

Chair, LCMC Board of Trustees

A Time of Transition

Our confidence that the Word of Christ alone is enough to create and sustain the church creates many benefits. As you have heard, our Service Coordinator Mike Bradley will be retiring later in 2025. This coming season of transition brings some of those benefits into focus.

Too many churches and Christian movements have been built on the personality and charisma of their key leaders. That's a gross way to be the church in the best of times, and you've probably seen its rotting fruit in worse times. Our association has surely been blessed by very gifted leaders, each with different gifts from the others. But we know where the real creating and sustaining power in God's church comes from, and they would all tell you the

Novus Way has two camps—one in the Asheville, NC, area and other in the Boone, NC, area. These camps are now ready to host work teams to serve in disaster relief in the surrounding communities. If your church wants to send a work team, contact Novus Way. They will soon have a disaster relief coordinator in place to help teams identify and serve the neediest.

As financial resources come in from LCMC churches to Christ the King Church, we will designate those funds to the most urgent needs and help provide material and resources for teams working out of Novas Way camps for front-line recovery. To donate or get more information, contact Christ the King Church's Outreach Director, Sarah Green:

Sarah@CtKCharlotte.org

Way to go Church!
Thanks for being the generous
hands and hearts of Jesus.



*Two of the thousands
of disaster scenes
in the aftermath of
Hurricane Helene*



CRAIG BOLLINGER

same thing! It's not the Word plus our favorite personalities. It's God's Word, enlivened by God's Spirit, stewarded by human servants called by God for a given season. We can be very grateful for leaders who knew this truth down in their bones. And here's the immediate benefit: we are not likely to be and certainly don't need to be anxious or threatened by transitions like these.

Because we know that God's Word creates God's church, we are also free to appreciate the spiritual giftedness of the servant leaders God calls to lead and care for his church. I have in mind now especially whomever God will call next into service. We trust that the Holy Spirit

will enlighten that person with God's gifts so that the Body of Christ will be built up.

So, may I ask you to pray for the Association with these things in mind? Please pray:

- With gratitude for Mike Bradley's 5 years as our service coordinator
- For God's Word to guide, convict, forgive, and raise us up, in congregations all around the world
- For open ears and pliable hearts for everyone involved in the search for our next service coordinator
- Specifically in this next season, for the Board of Trustees to discern wisely the initial steps in the search process

Thank you!



STEVE TURNBULL

— Blessings in Christ,
Steve Turnbull

Youth Event Recap

BY KRISTIN BURDEY

Youth Director, Rushford Lutheran Church, Rushford, MN

On July 9th, the 2024 Youth Gathering for students in 7th-12th grade from LCMC churches kicked off at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, MN, attended by more than 80 students and leaders from around the country.

Upon hearing about the cancellation of the National Youth Gathering scheduled to take place in Des Moines, Kari Feldhaus from Britton Lutheran Parish (BLP) and Kristin Burdey from Rushford Lutheran Church (RLC) felt called to orchestrate a replacement event for their students. With a timeline of three months, the two part-time youth directors faced a daunting task. Once they determined that it was indeed possible, the pair, affectionately known as Team Khaos, took the bull by the horns and ran with it.

Kari and Kristin prioritized using the Bible, the Catechism, prayer, music, and solid Gospel preaching from a variety of pastors and teachers as key elements for the event. During this process, a clear theme emerged, based on Jeremiah 29:11: The Plans.

After a flurry of phone calls, emails, and Zoom meetings, a venue was secured, along with a worship



Praise Team from Rushford Lutheran + Spirit of Joy in Weddington, NC, at our outdoor worship session.



KRISTIN BURDEY



Group photo taken with guest speaker Tasha Schuh.

team, keynote speakers, breakout leaders, and numerous youth groups that were still on board for an adventure.

When the big day arrived, BLP and RLC students welcomed arriving youth groups. The RLC Praise Team led opening worship, followed by a message from LCMC Coordinator of Districts and Fellowships Julie Smith. Students made friends while preparing gift bags for military families through Operation Welcome Home, a key Ironwood ministry. The gifts were presented the next morning while students sang *God Bless America*, a very meaningful highlight of the week!

Wednesday featured two nationally renowned keynote speakers: Tasha Schuh and Jean Abbott, who each shared powerful testimonies and led breakout sessions alongside volunteer leaders. Students later broke into 'squads' for service projects, and in the evening reflected at prayer stations based on our identity in Christ, topped off with singing around the campfire.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT.

By ANNA TUCKER

Secretary, LCMC Board of Trustees

The LCMC Board of Trustees met October 2, 2024, at the Annual Gathering in Marion, IA.

- The board welcomed the new board members: from Area 1, Rev. Rob Horne from CA, and from Area 7, Rev. Paul Owens from TX. The new members spent time introducing themselves.
- The board held elections for officers. Steve Turnbull was elected as chair, Renae Behrends as vice chair, and Anna Tucker as secretary.
- The board set the meeting schedule for the next year.
- The board discussed a couple of applications from congregations, and approved the church planting grants.
- The board discussed information from an organization that helps churches retain property upon departure from previous denominations—they wanted us to be aware of their services.
- The trustees adjourned the meeting and closed in prayer.
- The board also met on October 30, 2024, via Zoom. Discussions included Mike Bradley's retirement plans and his goals for the year, onboarding topics, including the strategic plan, board communication, and travel.
- The board held an executive session, then adjourned and closed the meeting in prayer.

— Respectfully, Rev. Anna Tucker



ANNA TUCKER

TREASURER'S REPORT.

By CINDY GLESSNER

Treasurer, LCMC Board of Trustees

It was great to be with so many of you and connect at the gathering! It's always a blessing to see long time friends and make new ones.

We are grateful for your faithful giving, and if your congregation has yet to put LCMC on your list of benevolence recipients, I encourage you to do so before year end and as part of your ministry resource funding plans for 2025.

As our Service Coordinator, Mike Bradley, is fond of saying, LCMC is like a home that needs to be maintained for the benefit of all who are a part of that home. We work hard to use the funds given wisely and for the benefit of the association. As of September, giving is short of budget, but expenses have been controlled such that all obligations have been met from current giving.

Remember:

- We now administer the Disaster Relief Fund. Please consider giving to this fund and, of course, apply through Life Church if your church suffers a disaster and needs assistance.
- We disbursed all available funds from the Church Planting fund as a way of showing our support of church plants in a tangible way. Please consider giving to this fund so additional grants can be made in 2025.
- The Seminary Debt Relief fund is available to pastors who have student loan obligations to pay. We granted \$10,000 in debt relief funds in 2024. Please consider giving to this fund so additional grants can be made in 2025.
- As always, please make sure your updated beneficiary information is on file with the pension plan.

— Respectfully, Cindy Glessner



CINDY GLESSNER

Up Next:

2025 Zoom Youth Leaders Webinars

February 20 May 15 11:00am CST

Cathy Nichol: cathy@lcmc.net 734.788.7476

2025 Zoom Church Planting Fellowship Monthly Conversation

1st Thursday each month starting at 10:00am CST

January 2 February 6 March 6 April 3

Erica Varcoe: erica@thetableministry.org

605.929.2065

2025 Zoom Support Group for Church Support Staff

2nd Tuesday each month starting at 12:00pm CST

January 14 February 11 March 11 April 15

Wendy Magruder: office@augustanadistrict.org

320.234.8403

2025 District & Fellowship Leaders Monthly Zoom Meeting

4th Tuesday each month starting at 3:00pm CST

January 28 February 25 March 25 April 29

Three Days of Prayer

January 7-9, 2025 Your Congregation

Mike Bradley: mike@lcmc.net

Augustana District Annual Convocation of the Cross

February 3-4, 2025 Bloomington, MN

Wendy Magruder: office@augustanadistrict.org

320.234.8403

Winter LeaderCare Retreat

February 5-7, 2025 Concan, TX

Bryce Formwalt: bryce@lcmctexas.org

512.996.2168

Seminarian Connection (Zoom)

February 25, 2025

Becky Hand: 432.362.2549

prbecky@faithfellowshipodessa.org

Confirmation Retreat

February 28 - March 2, 2025 Vining, MN

Wendy Magruder: office@augustanadistrict.org

320.234.8403

LeaderCare in the Carolinas Retreat

March 25-27, 2025 Weddington, NC

Conda Lashley: condalashley@gmail.com

704.641.7092



Do you know of a youth leader, volunteer, or member in your congregation who is passionate about youth ministry?

Upcoming 2025 Webinars: February 20 & May 15 at 11:00am CST. Join us!

Sign up for the emails:

<https://mailchi.mp/75a65006d3ae/youth-leader-webinars>

Like the LCMC Youth Ministry Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LCMCYouthMinistry>

5th Annual Intentional Interim Ministry Advanced Training

January 20-23, 2025

Gulf Shores, Alabama

To learn more about the setting, visit:

visitowa.com

For more information, please contact:

Pastor Steve Abend: 989.202.5301

misea2018@outlook.com

Youth Leadership Retreat:

January 31- February 2, 2025

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Milford, Iowa

For more information, please contact:

Allie Tiller: 402.669.9518





Three Days of Prayer ■ January 7-9, 2025 ■ www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer

Three Days of Prayer: January 7-9, 2025

By MIKE BRADLEY
LCMC Service Coordinator

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer is an opportunity for us to come together as one across the association at the start of the new year with a shared purpose: to pray. As we gather together as one association on those days, let us pray for our families, our churches, our leaders and members, and for those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Each congregation or person can structure these days of prayer however seems best. In the past, some congregations put together a prayer vigil – people signing up to pray in 30-minute intervals – perhaps for all three days or a few hours each day. Others have offered a prayer service at a set hour on each of the three days. Some have encouraged their people simply to pray at work, home, or school, wherever they are and whatever they are doing. We encourage you to do whatever works

best and whatever is safest for your congregation. No matter how you structure this time of prayer, let's come together as an association of congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer>

Celebrating an Ordination Milestone?

Ordination pins are available to commemorate the special milestone in increments of 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65.

Contact Cathy Nichol,
LCMC Administrative Coordinator:
cathy@lcmc.net
734.788.7476



Congregation: Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

By CATHY NICHOL,
LCMC Administrative Coordinator

Does your congregation have a new location or mailing address?

Or a new phone number?

An updated website address?

Joined a new district?

Help US by keeping the profile for your congregation up to date.

Go to **<https://www.lcmc.net/update-congregational-info>** and fill in the ALL of the fields.

If you have any questions, please

contact Cathy Nichol at

cathy@lcmc.net

or (734) 788-7476

Mike Bradley Retirement Announcement

BY STEVE TURNBULL
Chair, LCMC Board of Trustees

We heard the Gospel of the crucified and risen Savior at our Annual Gathering this year, and I'm so grateful. My heart was encouraged, and my faith was strengthened by the proclamation and teaching I heard. I saw and experienced countless moments of shared conversation, prayer, and friendship that the Holy Spirit uses to build up the Body of Christ.

We have another opportunity for prayer and mutual strengthening now. Our service coordinator, Mike Bradley, has informed the Board of Trustees and the LCMC staff that he will be retiring later in 2025.

First, allow me to express my gratitude to Mike for his service. He has served our association with faithfulness and energy. We have

been blessed by his contagious joy, relentless care for leaders, prayers for our association, travel to many congregations, and staff leadership. I asked Mike to please share a few of his own words with you:

"It has been my great joy and privilege to serve as your service coordinator over the past few years. However, the time has come for me to retire from this role while I am still healthy so that I can enjoy more time with my wife, our children and their spouses, and our grandchildren. My plan is to retire in the latter part of 2025 and work with the Board of Trustees to develop a timeline and a process for a positive and healthy transition.

Do I still have 'more in the tank'? I do, but it is time for a new service coordinator to be called to serve alongside the staff, the Board

of Trustees, and the Ministry Board. LCMC is on a positive trajectory and making this transition now can enable the board to select a leader who can serve you well for years to come.

I have trust in the leadership and discernment of our Board of Trustees to guide us in this time of transition and in their ability to identify and call the next service coordinator. Thank you again for the honor and privilege of calling me to serve this association."

Our Board of Trustees will continue to work with Mike to finalize a transition timeline and a search process for our next service coordinator. Please watch for further information in the coming weeks and months. And please join us in praying for Mike and our whole association in this transition, that Christ will be honored and the Body of Christ be strengthened.

Youth...continued from page 4

Ironwood Springs founder Bob Bardwell surprised the group with a visit on Thursday, sharing his inspiring testimony. Julie Smith and Pastor Aaron Deutsch also led sessions centered around the theme of God's plans, with a focus on The Lord's Prayer, integrating Biblical truth with the present reality students are facing.

On rec day, the camp had everything we could want—such as zip lines, a giant slip and slide, mini golf, and farm animals. Pastor Scott Elliot from North Carolina led everyone in a high-energy game of head-shoulders-knees-cup. Our final evening together began with a wagon ride to a chuckwagon supper and outdoor worship. A panel of leaders answered questions, teams rose to the occasion

for "Squad Wars Karaoke", and s'mores were enjoyed around the campfire.

Closing worship on Friday morning featured Dan Antoine from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and Pastor Caleb Williams from Kerrville, Texas, both pointing students to their true calling in life: to glorify God in all things.

Kari and Kristin used their different and complementary gifts, coupled with divine assistance at every turn, to put together an amazing week. Students sang and danced, took selfies with Jumbo Jesus, made new friends, and prayed about their plans for the future. Leaders were encouraged and inspired, with new connections paving the way for future endeavors. "The 2024 Youth Gathering was a really meaningful experience," recalled Feldhaus. "It was quite a bit

of planning in a short amount of time, but it never felt like a heavy load. It was a real calling, and the Good Lord was right there with us!"

God had big plans for the young people of the LCMC last July, and we are so thankful!





Welcome!

Please take a moment to
welcome the new
congregations and the
new pastors that have
joined LCMC since the last
newsletter!

By CATHY NICHOL
LCMC Administrative Coordinator

New Congregations

- **St. Paul Lutheran Church of Phillipsburg**, Brenham, TX
Vacant 713.816.6980
info@splutheran.onmicrosoft.com
- **St. James Lutheran Church of New Wehdem**, Brenham, TX
Vacant 979.836.2795
jsw.wright@gmail.com
- **Mona Lutheran Church**, St. Ansgar, IA
Pr. Scott Meyer 507.325.2437
monaandsmg@gmail.com
- **Six Mile Grove Lutheran Church**, Lyle, MN
Pr. Scott Meyer 507.325.2437
monaandsmg@gmail.com
- **Lutheran Church of Hope**, West Des Moines, IA
Pr. Mike Householder 515.222.1520
godscall@centurylink.net
- **Vining Lutheran Church**, Vining, MN
Vacant 218.769.4251
vinlp@prtcl.com

New Pastors

Wyatt McIntyre, Bolingbrook, IL wyatt.mcintyre@gmail.com 630.853.3587

Timothy Brueclner, Gold Beach, OR sainttim@hotmail.com 541.698.7484

Andy Dunn, Prole, IA andydunn1964@gmail.com 319.551.5737

John Mosinski, Cedar Rapids, IA jmosinski@faith-life.org 319.270.7717

Caroline Boehnke-Becker, Cumming, IA caroline.boehnke-becker@hopewdm.org
515.669.5075

Andrew Hermanson, Grimes, IA andy.hermanson@hopegrimes.org 515.577.0390

Daniel Housholder, Ames, IA danny.housholder@hopeames.org 515.778.6799

Michael Housholder, West Des Moines, IA pastor.mike@hopewdm.org 515.222.1520

Travis "Murph" Hutson, Urbandale, IA murph.hutson@hopegrimes.org 515.745.0194

Jeremy Johnson, West Des Moines, IA jeremy.johnson@hopewdm.org 515.222.1520

Benjamin Mason, West Des Moines, IA ben.mason@hopewdm.org 303.579.4449

Patrick Quaid, Urbandale, IA pat.quaid@hopewdm.org 515.264.2014

Richard Webb, West Des Moines, IA richard.webb@hopewdm.org 515.238.1040

Ann Auten, Blue Hill, NE aauten64@gmail.com 402.469.2191

Mahlon Bekedam, Burnsville, MN bekedams@yahoo.com 712.308.1982

Redeemer United Church

Marion, Texas (Zuehl Township)

By JENNIFER GOLD
Pastor, Redeemer United Church



With countless cows dotting these rolling plains of Texas, there are only six community buildings that make up the small country township of Zuehl (pronounced “zeal”), Texas – the historic Zuehl Tavern, two German nine-pin bowling alleys, a popular shooting range, an old schoolhouse, and Redeemer United Church. Out here, it sounds like, looks like, and feels like you have landed in an old Western movie. This is the mission field of Redeemer United Church!

Formerly a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation that had ties to Lutheranism before the 1900s, Redeemer voted to leave the UCC in March 2022. After another year of prayerful discernment, the congregation voted to join LCMC in May 2023, and was received as a member congregation of LCMC in July 2023. What a challenging time that was for the church, but it also brought about tremendous spiritual and numerical growth!

Yielding to God’s pruning process above, Redeemer has continued to be faithful to God’s call to be fruitful in ministry and in mission to our community and the world! Redeemer is known in the surrounding communities as a friendly and hospitable church. Every month we host a Senior Dominoes Luncheon, which brings in about 100 people who come from other churches and community groups to play games and enjoy a home-cooked meal—and people look forward to it!

Every year Redeemer hosts its Harvest Festival at one of the nine-pin bowling alleys that has a large hall. We begin our Harvest Festival with worship that includes live German music, followed by a turkey dinner—where we serve almost 900 plates of food! Festivities abound with a country store, silent and live auctions, baked goods, and more. Proceeds support local charities in our community and major church projects.

Being diligent to “*make disciples of all nations*,” Redeemer also supports and partners with a missionary couple in northern Guatemala. Mission teams from Redeemer went to Guatemala in 2022 and 2024 to build schools, but most importantly to build relationships among the *Kekchi* people.

With all that we do, it is our passion and purpose to “make disciples” in our church, in our community and around the world, and in October 2025, Redeemer looks forward to celebrating its 125th anniversary as a church!



GETTING TO KNOW

Five-Fold Focus of LCMC 3.0...continued from page 1

pursuing the Great Commission together.

2. Care and Development of

Leaders: To love, connect, and care for pastors and lay leaders, to commit to the development of new pastors, and to resource and support leadership for our smaller congregations. This point of focus is one of the primary ways we can support all of our congregations in LCMC, and especially be of help and encouragement to our smaller congregations.

3. Theological Distinctives:

To articulate and remain rooted in our Lutheran Theological Distinctives. Communicate and utilize our core theological convictions in the daily work of LCMC. This point of focus can help equip us to speak the hope of Jesus with cheerful and profound clarity to a world dying for hope it can't find.

4. Support and Welcome of Congregations:

- To provide a process to integrate new congregations into the life and ministry of our association
- To provide processes and training for conflict management and resolution
- To provide training for church councils
- To update call packet and process for congregations

5. Generosity and Stewardship:

To update the messaging on financial support for the association along with other expressions of stewardship in order to enable a healthy growth and long-range sustainability for LCMC.



MIKE BRADLEY

In this third decade of life and ministry, we will work together as congregations in being faithful in the fundamentals. And we will seek God's guidance and empowerment, and work together, to address this five-fold focus of LCMC 3.0. God bless, guide, empower, and provide for you all!

LCMC Clothing Items Available Now!



To purchase, contact
cathy@lcmc.net

Pastor: Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

By CATHY NICHOL,
LCMC Administrative Coordinator

Have you moved? Do you have a new address?
Or a new phone number? Perhaps you
have changed congregations? Help US by keeping
YOUR profile information up to date.

Go to:
<https://www.lcmc.net/pastor-update>
and fill in the ALL of the fields.

If you have any questions, please contact
Cathy Nichol at
cathy@lcmc.net or (734) 788-7476

Greater Love Community Church Jinja, Uganda

BY CHRIS BYARS

Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Gillett, WI

Let us welcome the first congregation to affiliate with LCMC in Uganda – Greater Love Community Church. The relationship began with Pastor Chris Byars when one of his parishioners became connected with a couple of young men trying to establish a ministry in Jinja, Uganda. An international body connected him with Pastor Sam Magumba in Jinja to make sure that these young men were truly doing ministry. From there began a conversation.

Pastor Sam Magumba founded Greater Love Community Church, working with the United Methodist Church in America (UMC). When it became clear that the relationship was not in line with the biblical values of Pastor Sam and his congregation, they made the difficult choice to cut their ties with the UMC and became independent.

In the conversations over time between Pastor Chris and Pastor Sam, common belief was found, and the conversation began about LCMC. In a visit in November, Pastor Chris and Pastor Sam had further conversations about the future of ministry and the vision of Pastor Sam for his congregation, and the ministry he desires to expand within his homeland.

One vision that grew became known as Turning Chickens Into Cows, which is a vision to create a self-sustaining ministry within many of the rural communities surrounding Jinja.

If you know anything about Uganda, it is on the headwaters of the Nile River with lush forests and a wide variety of wildlife, but there are high levels of poverty throughout Uganda and a large portion of the population are struggling to provide simple sustenance for themselves. Family structures have also been weakened over time because of fighting within the country and various issues that have arisen in Uganda over the years. Families and communities are not as connected as they had once been in the past. Pastor Sam desires to change this and return some of the same things that he knew as a child and teach self-sustainability while carrying the message of Jesus Christ.

As a child, Pastor Sam remembers once going to stay with his grandmother. At the end of his visit,



CHRIS BYARS



his grandmother sent him home with a baby chick. He was charged to raise that chick and care for it. When that chick became a chicken, she began to lay eggs. Eventually, a rooster came around and then she began to have chicks that would grow to become chickens. Over time, he and his family had many chickens, which they brought to a salesman who bartered to exchange ten chickens for a goat. For a time, they continued to do this until they had a small herd of goats and then they again went to the salesman and exchanged five goats for a cow. This is what he desires to bring back to his communities.

Pastor Sam is driven by his memories of the past growing up with little. He began ministry in his outreach



programming that they would like to do to help them be more self-sufficient is the conversion of one of the orphanages into a bed and breakfast, since Jinja is at the headwaters of the Nile and is being developed as a tourist destination.

Pastor Sam Magumba sees the future of ministry in Uganda becoming more self-sustaining, with some external help. He saw this need out of the pandemic, and it continues to be a driving force for him. His desire is to grow the Church in Uganda with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and is planning to work with LCMC to further his education to become rostered. He wishes to help educate evangelists within rural areas of Uganda to carry out the Gospel and to build LCMC – Uganda. His heart is for the ministry of Jesus Christ, and all things he seeks to do will be done with this in mind. Feed bellies and feed souls. Build communities centered on the faith of Jesus Christ.

Greater Love Community Church enjoys welcoming short-term mission teams to help in the ministry and its many projects, but also to help build greater relationships and partnerships. Greater Love Community Church is glad to be a part of LCMC and looks forward to all that God has for what they can do together for the faith in Jesus Christ into the future!



to youth, and in 2007 to care for orphans and kids that were sent out on the street by their families because they could not feed them. He began to raise funds to open an orphanage and a school. Currently, Greater Love Community Ministries has a school that has about 500 students, many of who reside with them during the school year.

Greater Love Community Ministries had 120 youths within three orphanages, but changes in the law in Uganda required those orphanages to close. However, they did not stop their care, but supported the placement of the youths who needed homes by putting them in foster homes or supporting their biological families to be able to take them in as well as continuing their education.

There have been many successes and part of the vision is to help families with the Turning Chickens Into Cows program. To help support much of the

If you would like to partner with Pastor Sam Magumba, email him at:

smagumba@yahoo.com

You may also contact Pastor Chris Byars at:

pastorchrisclockchurch.org

LCMC Staff:

LCMC
7000 N Sheldon Rd.
Canton, MI 48187
(734) 207-5400

www.lcmc.net

Service Coordinator
Rev. Mike Bradley
mike@lcmc.net

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Strength in Prayer

By CHUCK HUNSAKER
President, LCMC Lutheran Men



A missionary was giving a presentation at the church he belonged to in the U.S. He mentioned that he was serving in a remote area of a third world country. Every so often he had to hike a two-day trip to get supplies, mail, etc. He would walk for a day, camp overnight, and complete the trip the following day. After picking up supplies he would reverse the trip taking two days to get home.

On one trip he arrived in the city to pick up supplies and saw two men fighting. He broke up the fight and noticed the one man was badly injured. He gave him first aid, and also discussed Jesus Christ with him and prayed for him. He picked up the supplies and took his two day trip home.

The next time he took the trip for supplies, he ran into the man he had helped on the previous trip. The man told him, "After you helped me a few weeks ago, several of my friends and I followed you. We knew you camped at the end of the day, and our plan was to jump you and take your supplies. We watched as you set up camp and when we were about to come after you, we noticed you were being guarded by 26 men. We knew we could not be successful, so we left and went back to the city." The missionary told the man he didn't understand. He'd been alone, and nobody was guarding him. The man said, "Oh, yes...all of us clearly saw the guards. They had surrounded your camp site, and there was no way we could get through."

At that point a man in the audience stood up and asked if the missionary knew what day that had happened. He did, and told the man the day and then asked why he wanted to know. The man said he was on his way to play golf that day and was overcome with a feeling that he needed to pray for the missionary. He called a number of his friends, who met him at the church and together prayed for him. He then said those men were present and asked them to stand. When they did, the missionary could see there were quite a few, so he counted them—26 men were standing.

There is strength in prayer, and Lutheran Men can be a force for good! Think about starting a men's group, and think about becoming a member of the Buck-A-Month Club and/or the Committee of 100. Help us help small/mission congregations. If you would be interested in becoming a key man, simply send me an email at pacific6@bellsouth.net and I will add you to our roster.

Think about it. Pray about it. Discuss it with your pastor.

WE NEED YOU!

LCMC.net/Lutheran Men



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Devotional Series...

THINK ON THESE THINGS

A few weeks ago I was cooking up brats and burgers for the football concession stand at Baldwin-Woodville High School. My son Wes and I were on the grills. My wife, Allie, was in charge of ordering the food we were cooking up. Our middle son, Noah, is a senior at B-W High School and plays on the football team. The team has had a great season and was opening the first round of the playoffs at home. Wes and I were there early, and while I was grilling one of the coaches from the opposing team came by, was looking at the facilities, and then started chatting with me.

When he learned I am the pastor at one of the Lutheran churches in town, he mentioned it was a God-thing that we got to talk, since he was putting together Scripture for his team members after the game. After each game they pray, and he and I batted around suggestions. It was a really cool moment. We chatted for a bit about what God might have to say.

Fast forward to the game. Baldwin-Woodville won easily, and I thought about what the kids and parents on the “other side” were going through. They were us; we were them. We were on the opposite sides of a game, but it was great to see this brother in Christ leading his team!

Football doesn’t compare to many of the divisions in our world, but I wonder if it can serve as a metaphor in this case? Just like these two teams were hoping (even praying) for a positive outcome, at the end of the day, only one could win. How the kids conducted themselves *after* the game was far more important.

I’m typing this on Election Day. Likely half of you reading this were disappointed and the other half were happy. My question is: do we see each other as “on the same

team?” Not everyone reading this is even American – is it possible to see beyond the human divides of politics, nationalities, languages and more? Is it possible two Christians can have dramatically different policy preferences with regard to things such as taxation or immigration policy, while worshipping the same risen Christ?

My challenge to you, as we head expectantly into Advent, is to take seriously these words from Paul:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Rejoice. Pray. Think about true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable sorts of things. Don’t give in to anxiety or hate. Rest in Christ. May God bless you. — Christian Magnell



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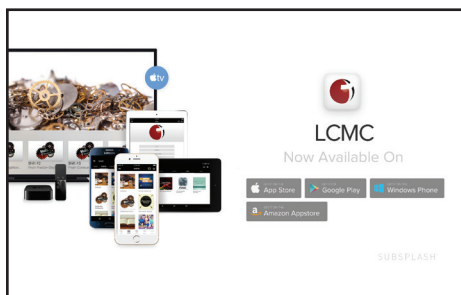
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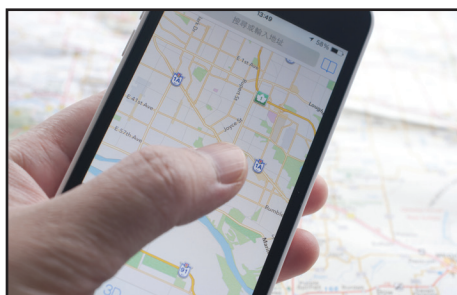


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