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## Lutheran Laymen's League

### Board Meeting Notes March 26, 2011

The regular Iowa District West LLL Board meeting at Peace Lutheran Church in Glidden, Iowa was called to order on March 26, 2011 at 9:00 am by President Gene Mandernach. Pastoral Advisor Rev. Alan Miller opened the meeting with a reading from John 4, the Gospel reading appointed for March 27. Pastor encouraged us to “follow the water trail” to see the indications of Jesus Christ, the true Savior of the world. Pastor also led us in prayer. There were 13 board members and Regional Governor Chuck Groth present. The secretary’s report was read and approved. The treasurer’s report was presented by Treasurer Fritz Newbrough. The cash on hand balance is \$1,660.24, plus a rebate of \$1,385.07 should be coming soon. The Fair Booth report was given by John Tews. The booth rent and expenses did not go up this year, and the \$2,165 due for this year has been paid. Iowa East is helping with 40% of the costs again this year. Mark Astleford reported that the Sr. Youth Gathering will not be held in Iowa West in 2011. Instead, the event will be shared with Nebraska, and probably held in Omaha. Mark will attempt to be a part of this new gathering. Editor Mark Segebart reported for our communications. He encouraged the group to send reports, pictures and stories for The Harvest. The next deadlines are April 20, August 1 and October 19. The April 20 Harvest will be mailed out to congregations on May 27, so the benefits to publicizing our Convention will be minimal. Mark also discovered that KFUE Radio in St. Louis streams its broadcast through KFUE.org. Mark encouraged all to take a look at this. Kaylan Abel reported for the District Manager position. He reviewed a few bits of information on the Clay County Fair at Spencer. He noted that they gave away framed inspirational puzzles for prizes at the fair. Kaylan also noted that we have four new ambassadors this year, making a total of 135 currently. The question of determining an “Ambassador of the Year” for this year came up. Since there is no International Convention, it is unclear what the “reward” would be for this Ambassador. Chuck is going to check into this, and hopefully we will know by the June 4 District Convention.

For the Orphan Grain Train, Elroy Koch reported. The Quarterly Newsletter from Norfolk is now out. On March 28, a container will be loaded in Ida Grove, bound for an orphanage and Lutheran Church in Estonia. The orphanage had burned, and some people died. Clothing, bedding and shoes will be on this container. Clothing has been sent

to “skid row” in Los Angeles. At this point, relief to Japan has not yet been sent, but OGT is collecting funds to assist in this effort. If you want to help, please be sure you mark your gift clearly and send it to Elroy in Kiron. OGT received around \$153,000 from the Thrivent million dollar grant. Clayton Andrews, vice-president of OGT in Norfolk, was named to the Nebraska Business Persons Hall of Fame for 2011.

Region 7 Governor Chuck Groth reported. The Regional Outreach Conferences (ROC) in Phoenix and Alexandria, MN both have gone very well! There is a survey on the computer that you are encouraged to fill out. LCMS President Matthew Harrison will be at the International LLL Board of Governors meeting April 14-16. There hopefully will be some training specifically for Ambassadors coming in the future. This is something that has been needed badly. Unfortunately, there is nothing new on this endeavor as yet. Chuck noted that finances for the LLL are doing very well, mostly because bequests are ahead of budget. Other positive notes on the finances are that expenses are under budget, and the rent of the building is subsidizing the cost of the building. On the negative side, the donor giving is down. The nominations for International Board members to be elected in 2012 will be open soon.

Under Old Business: Kaylan read a job description for the Regional Facilitators that he had put together. He had gathered the information from the LHM website. Kaylan also offered the idea of having some ambassador training in six different sites at the same time, and Skype in the training. His question is whether the training should be initiated from International or from us. Kaylan will send his description to LHM to get approval, and Chuck will follow up on this. Several ideas for candidates for the ballot at the district convention were presented. The committee of Mark Astleford, Kaylan Abel, and John Tews will prepare the slate.

Garry Gruhn and Bob Wilcke presented the proposed ideas and plans put together for the 65th District Convention to be held June 4 at the Clarinda Lutheran School. This convention will be less of a “business convention” and more of a ROC style. In fact the motion was made, seconded, and carried to call the event a LHM ROC or Regional Outreach Convention. Speakers at the LHM ROC include Gary Thies, James Lamb from LFL, Rev. Nathan Dudley, Rev. John Connor, and deaf ministry presenters. There will be some “give-away” things, and perhaps a larger door prize, such as a Project Connect rack. Mark Segebart read a letter that will be sent to LLL members within a 60 mile radius of Clarinda, and Kaylan will send it to all the ambassadors. Garry Gruhn will

fine-tune the agenda for the day. Theme for the day will be “Christians Do More Because We Are Spirit Driven.” Registration fee will be \$15/person with a maximum of \$30 per family.

The next board meeting will be part of the LHM ROC on June 4. Kaylan will name the “Ambassador of the Year” at 3:05 PM on June 4.

### “Easter Makes Life Worth Living”

Pastor Greg Seltz went on the air Easter Sunday with his first sermon as Speaker for The Lutheran Hour® radio program. His Resurrection Day message echoed that of the Speakers who have gone before him over the broadcast for more than 80 years: *God’s free gift of salvation to this fallen world is the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ on our behalf. Believe on Him and you will be saved.*

Pastor Seltz begins with a familiar expression: “He is risen! He is risen indeed!” He continues, “...and His resurrection makes life worth living again!” Here are some snippets from his delivery of the revolutionary story of Easter:

“I mean, just think about what happened that first Easter morning. Because of Jesus, one thief was in paradise. Because of Jesus, eternal death was gutted and emptied of its power for all who trust in Him.”

“The Bible proclaims that all sin must be punished and that people must get right with God on His terms, for their very lives. But the Bible also incredibly proclaims that God Himself met those terms on behalf of every sinful person in this world. That’s why there is a cross in God’s victory for you; there are scars on this Savior for you; His resurrection means that *new life is here for you* in His Name!”

Sharing this message of eternal hope has been Seltz’s passion throughout his ministry—whether in service in Dallas, Tampa Bay, New York, or Southern California. Assisting him throughout his career have been his wife of 25 years, Yvette, and his daughter, Devin Marie, 22. The position Seltz holds currently until his official transition to Lutheran Hour Ministries in June is that of director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University in Irvine, California.

“My love for Lutheran Hour Ministries really grew when they helped me as a pastor in the Tampa Bay area,” Seltz shares in a postscript-style interview. “At Immanuel, Brandon we reached out to the families in the community using wonderful tools and wonderful programs provided by LHM.”

On being one of the “select few” chosen to be behind The Lutheran Hour microphone, Seltz says, “It is a great honor. Those names,

they do loom very large—Maier, Oldsen, Acker, Hoffmann, Schulz, Meyer, Klaus, Melendez... You know, I think that *the ministry of Jesus Christ has always loomed large*. And what amazes me is that He can do great things, *even* with people like us. So I’m very excited. I’m *very* honored to follow in their footsteps.”

### 65th Annual LHM Regional Outreach Convention (ROC)

Iowa District West LLL and Immanuel Lutheran Church - Clarinda are hosting the 65th Annual IDW Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Convention (ROC). The event will be held at the Clarinda Lutheran School (CLS), 707 West Scidmore in Clarinda, Iowa beginning at 9 am on June 4, 2011. Please mark your calendar and come to help us support the Lutheran Hour Ministries mission of bringing Christ to the nations.

We have a full day of activities planned for all ages. You will probably know all or most of the speakers: Gary Thies from Mission Central; Dr James Lamb from Lutherans for Life; Deb and Mark Larson about the Deaf Ministry; and Rev. Nathan Dudley speaking on “Higher Things.” These people are very enthusiastic about their faith in Jesus Christ and will share this enthusiasm, directly or indirectly with you. We want elementary age youngsters to come and learn about the LHM J.C. Play Zone website in the CLS school computer lab. For the middle and high school aged youth, a display will be set up with a District representative from Ellie Menz’s office to talk about the mission trips she arranges. There will be information about the LHM teen program called “Five 14” that shows youth how to witness to their peers. Pastor Jonathan Conner will also talk to this age group about evolution and creation issues. Pastor Conner has an excellent reputation of being able to work with young people. The CLS choir will present a 10 minute program prior to the noon meal. A very tasty noon meal is planned consisting of Fareway’s delicious pulled pork sandwiches. Immanuel LWML will furnish salads, chips, a variety of desserts and drinks.

To pre-register send name(s), address, email or phone and a check to: Immanuel Lutheran Church LLL, 1612 P Ave, Clarinda, IA 51632. Office – 712-542-3524

### Upcoming Events

- September 17, 2011—Men’s Ministry Breakfast – Mission Central, Mapleton IA
- September 9-10, 2011 – LHM Regional Outreach Conference – Chicago, IL

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