

Porter's Page

**Glimpses from the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project (LANP)
Dr. Arthur Porter, Iowa District West Missionary
serving the Los Angeles Nehemiah Project**

What's happening around Nehemiah

Reformation Service

In an effort to build unity among Lutheran churches, Nehemiah congregations and participating area Lutheran churches sponsored a Reformation Music Festival at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on October 25, 2009.

For Lutherans October is Reformation month. It is the time when we re-visit who we are and how we came to be who we are. The Reformation church of the 16th century was the first non-Catholic church. It was founded upon the need to restore the authority of Holy Scripture. The only way to restore God's Word to its rightful place was to reform the Roman Catholic Church. In 1517 the German Monk, of the Augustinian Order, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, offered a challenge to an academic debate. The result was a full blown and hard fought campaign to reform the Roman Church. It is clear from history that Dr. Luther had no intention of starting a new church. The Roman Church was trapped in a works tradition that held that human works in addition to God's grace were required for salvation. The Reformation resulted in three Scriptural principles affirmed by those who protested the roman teachings: Scripture alone, Grace alone, and Faith Alone. We must constantly be reminded of these doctrines. When we celebrate Reformation we focus on them again.

The theme was "We Serve a Sending God." The Festival featured a Reformation mass choir, a children's choir, a handbell choir, and trumpet accompaniment. The Reverend Paul Sieveking, President of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod delivered the message. There was a post-service reception with food and time for fellowship.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There are many youth in our service area without Christian roots and church affiliation. We see this as a challenge and an opportunity to connect them to Jesus. We frequently organize activities around their interests and build relationships through those activities. This summer we began a summer basketball league with other churches in the area. The Nehemiah team for high school ages 16-18, won the league championship. The championship was a boost to the esteem of the players; but the influence we made from contacts with the players through our coach was numerable. We know we planted seeds by our opening prayers and the moral standards upheld by our team rules. We leave the harvest to the Holy Spirit. We thank God we can serve Him in this way by serving others.

Bible Study Continues

What we need most importantly is to continue to seriously study God's Holy Word. It's heartwarming that many members are dedicated to the study that we started in 2007. The Nehemiah Bible Study on Thursday nights continues at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are studying the apostle Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. This study is most timely as Paul's aim is to teach the churches of Asia how to be the Christian Church of Christ when you are an island surrounded by a dying world bent on converting you to their religion of self-indulgence, materialism and minimal moral standards. The doctrinal and practical teachings of Paul in the epistle are just as relevant today as they were when the letter was penned. The continued study of God's Word is the antidote to straying from the way of Scripture.

Los Angeles Nehemiah Project

Rev. Arthur Porter
2535 S. Ninth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90018

www.la-np.org
323.735.5105 office
310.677.6149 home
Email: nehemiah.la@gmail.com

Your partnership through financial support of this mission is most appreciated. Donations for the Nehemiah Project can be sent to Iowa District West (PO Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501). Your support will be forwarded to Dr. Porter and related ministries.

