

ILLOWA LUTHERAN COALITION NEWS AND NOTES FEBRUARY 2006

“Mission in Community”. This simple phrase is the summation of our ministry as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. As a cooperative ministry of 35 congregations, five institutions, and two synods, we are about ministry and making Christ known in our greater Quad City community.

This past year has been an extremely active one for our Coalition as we have grown into the vision for ministry that we embraced three years ago. This vision was adopted by the Coalition in 2002 and has at its center, four ministry areas. These areas are: Multicultural Ministry, Professional Leadership, Leadership, and Family Faith Formation. I am pleased to report that all of these teams are now functioning in vibrant ways, planning and conducting a variety of resource events in our Coalition.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a most sincere and heartfelt thank on behalf of the Coalition to our ministry teams and team leaders. In the midst of busy schedules, they give of themselves and their gifts to enrich our ministry together. Thanks be to God for their willingness to share ministry in this way!

This past year, the Coalition also celebrated the sponsorship of a Habitat House that was constructed in Rock Island. Through the generosity of our congregations, we were able to share \$12,255 toward this project. Our goal was to reach a gift total of \$10,000. Thanks be to God for the generosity of our Coalition congregations.

2005 was also a year of transition for the Coalition as well. In July, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition board, responding to fiscal realities, adjusted position time for the Director and Administrative Assistant. In this adjustment, my position as Director moved from 50% to 35%. The administrative assistant position increased to attend to the administrative details of the Coalition. This has turned out to be a very workable transition as we move into this new year. The remaining 15 % of my time is shared with the Stewardship Key Leader program of the ELCA. I continue to serve as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Southeastern Iowa Synod the remaining 50% of my time.

Our Current Activities

We have already sponsored two major events in the year 2006. The first was a Living Liturgy Workshop, held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline on January 11-13. An outstanding worship team consisting of Pastors Dan Erlander and Susan Briehl as well as musicians Tom Witt, Mary Preus and Marty Haugen led our group of 120 participants through an exploration of new styles of worship, as well as reflections on how Scripture guides our worship. The team provided a wonderfully inspiring experience for the attendees, some of whom came from areas outside the Illowa area.

On Sunday, February 19th, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition celebrated the “Light Our World...Share Our Gifts” Choral Festival at Centennial Hall. Choirs, singers, a brass choir, and a bell choir from across the Coalition joined in song and celebration, all directed by Dr. Jon Hurty. The Augustana Choir under the direction of Dr. Hurty also

helped us in our celebration. Pastor Don Rothweiler provided us with Luther Notes, a series of reflections on various Epiphany Scripture readings. The generous offering received from this event will help Quad Cities Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response in their ongoing efforts in the Gulf Coast region, and the Coalition ministries.

During the month of March, our Leadership team has planned a special workshop to assist lay leaders in identifying their gifts and how they can use them in for ministry in their congregation and daily life. God has gifted us in many marvelous ways for ministry and calls us to share these gifts in the context of our congregation and daily life. This workshop can help us explore what this means. The result can be an exciting and fruitful way of enhancing ministry within the congregation.

It is with excitement that we look forward to November 16th, 2006. On this day, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will be the Coalition's guest speaker at the Illowa Lutheran Coalition Professional Leaders Forum. We are looking forward to Bishop Hanson's visit with us. Be sure and mark your calendar!

2006 will also continue to be a building year for the Coalition as we continue to grow in the ways we can be in ministry together. It is important to continually be looking ahead to how we can be in mission in our community, asking the questions of what this means and how can we do this together in clear and effective ways. This will be an area that I will focus on this coming year.

We also desire to continue building and growing in financial gifts for ministry through the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. We have made significant strides over the past two years. Thanks be to God for the continuing generosity of our congregations. The reality, however, is that we have some distance to go in bringing our gifts up to the level that we were in 2002. As you look ahead for 2007, please consider how your congregation might grow in ministry support for the Illowa Lutheran Coalition.

That being said, I wish to extend a word of thanksgiving for the generosity and support of our congregations in sharing gifts for the ministry of the Illowa Lutheran coalition. Our thanks also for the partnership we share with Augustana College. The college generously provides office space for the Coalition and facilities for many of our activities. Thanks be to God for the many ways we share ministry!

And More Thanks!

Our Illowa Lutheran Coalition is blessed with faithful leadership on behalf of the teams, board, and officers. They have provided important guidance and support to our mission in community. A special thank you to Pastor Michael Stadie for his leadership as President of the Illowa Lutheran Coalition, to Eric Engstrom for his continuing and faithful service as our treasurer, and to Ms. Nancy Boehme, who has completed her term on the ILC board. We welcome Ms. Bonnie Townsend to our Board after her election at the Annual Assembly on February 12. Our thanks as well to our ministry team leaders. They are Dr. Ritva Williams, Professional Leadership; Pastor Stacie

Fidlar, Multicultural; Pastor Nancy Hoelter, Leadership; and Ms. Jonette Knock, Family Faith Formation.

And thanks be to God for the blessings of ministry that we share together as a Coalition!

Partners in Ministry,

Rev. Kurt R. Nordby

Finding Your Calling

Illowa - Leadership Ministry Team - invites you to:

Who Me? A workshop on finding your calling!

Most of us don't get epiphanies. We only get a whisper - a faint urge. That's it. That's the call. It's up to you to do the work of discovery, to connect it to an answer. Of course, there's never a single right answer. At some point, it feels right enough that you choose, and the energy formerly spent casting about is now devoted to making your choice fruitful.

-Po Bronson, author of *What Should I do With My Life?*

Have you ever wondered:

What should I do when I "grow up?"

How can I do something that makes a difference in the world?

Am I doing the right job?

How do I connect my faith with my everyday life?

You are not alone! These types of questions might be referred to as questions about your vocation. Vocation includes the whole life of a person and is not simply his or her own occupation. Because of the biblically-grounded conviction that God operates in every sphere of life (and not just in church or at work) Christians understand God's call to be a part of every area of life. Vocation involves all of life's relationships (i.e. employee, student, neighbor, parent, friend, brother, sister, daughter, son). This workshop invites individuals to explore **who** they are and **how** to serve the world and the church as exactly the people they are.

This workshop will invite you to spend some time thinking and talking about vocation, as well as do some gift discernment.

Date and Place:

March 18, 2006

All Saints, Davenport, Iowa

Time: 9:00 a.m. - noon

There is no charge for attending this workshop. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to the Illowa office 309-794-4000 or email illowa@mchsi.com with number attending and date of workshop.

CALENDAR

March

- 7 Illowa Luncheon at Augustana College Campus Center Board Room, beginning at 12:00 noon. Our speakers are Doug Liston and Rebecca Dahlstrom, who will present information on the Diakonia program.
- 16 Continuing Education Forum at Wallenberg Hall, featuring Michael Meier, Director for Mission Support in the ELCA. His topic is "Step by Step: Fostering Financial Stewardship in Your Congregation."
- 18 Calling Workshop at All Saints, Davenport. (See accompanying article)
- 25 Anti-racism Workshop at All Saints, Davenport, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presenters include members of both Southeastern Iowa and Northern Illinois Synods. Cost is \$5, which includes lunch. Pastors, church staff and any congregational members are cordially invited to attend.

April

- 4 Illowa Luncheon at Augustana College Campus Center Board Room, beginning at 12:00 noon. Our special guest speaker is Karen Relf of Bethany for Children and Families Services.
- 16 Continuing Education Forum at Wallenberg Hall, featuring Dr. Ritva Williams, Associate Professor of New Testament, Augustana College. Her topic is "Close Encounters of the Best Kind: A Discussion of Altered States of Consciousness Reports in the New Testament and Their Theological and Pastoral Implications."
- 24 Administrative Assistants' Appreciation Luncheon at Augustana College Campus Center Board Room, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Our special guest for this event is Kristin Glass of the Center for Vocational Reflection at Augustana.

May

- 2 Illowa Luncheon at Augustana College Campus Center Board Room, beginning at 12:00 noon. Our special guest speakers are John Califf and Pr. All Beck who will address Holy Land and Israeli/Palestinian Issues, based on their recent visit to the Holy Land.
- 18 Final 2005-2006 Continuing Education Forum at Wallenberg Hall, featuring Dr. Larry Rasmussen, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. He will address the topic, "Earth Honoring Faith: A Song of Songs."

Please remember our Partner Ministries in Prayer

Sunday, March 5	Illowa Lutheran Coalition	Pr. Kurt Nordby
Sunday, March 12	First, Rock Island	Pr. Gregory Mayer
Sunday, March 19	Redeemer, Bettendorf	Pr. Richard Pokora
Sunday, March 26	St. James, Rock Island	Pr. Alfred Beck
Sunday, April 2	St. James, Bettendorf	Pr. Nate Montover
Sunday, April 9	St. John's, Rock Island	Pr. Stacie Fidler
Sunday, April 16	Calvary, Buffalo	Pr. Jane Granzow
Sunday, April 23	First, Sherrard	Pr. Jane McChesney and Dr. Robert Haak, Interims
Sunday, April 30	All Saints, Davenport	Pr. Lisa Dietrich
Sunday, May 7	Bethany, Woodhull	Pr. Nancy Jaster
Sunday, May 14	Grace, Davenport	Pr. John Grebner
Sunday, May 21	Messiah, Aledo	Pr. David Schweppe
Sunday, May 28	St. Mark, Davenport	Pr. Paul Tweeten