



**Illowa Lutheran
Coalition
of the
Quad Cities Area**

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM ILLOWA, APRIL 2007

From the Director

Below is the report that I prepared for the Annual Assembly in February. I share it with you as information as to what we are doing together in ministry. Please share this article with your council as well, as a "thank you" for the support of our ministry together as a coalition.

It has been an exciting and fulfilling year of ministry through the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. This past year has seen numerous events and the start of a new ministry initiative as a part of our cooperative ministry together. We give thanks for the ministries of our 35 congregations and the participating ELCA institutions centered in the greater Quad City area. The task of the Coalition is to bring all of these entities together as our mission statement says: Mission in Community.

In this respect, 2006 has provided many opportunities for the Coalition's ministry. We hosted three major events that brought together many people from our congregations.

- In January of 2006, the Coalition sponsored a Living Liturgy worship resource event. Our thanks to Trinity Lutheran, Moline, for hosting this event and providing wonderful hospitality, going above and beyond in helping to make this event a success. Special thanks to Pastor Barbara Melaas Swanson for all her work in coordinating this exciting event.
- February marked a significant event as the Coalition gathered at Centennial Hall on the Augustana College campus for our first choral festival, "Light Our World...Share our Gifts". This event involved a mass choir from the congregations of the Coalition along with the Augustana Choir – all under the direction of Dr. Jon Hurty. The event also featured a brass choir and bell choir from Coalition congregations. We even had a visit from Dr. Martin Luther as well. A huge thank you to Fred Anderson and Pastor Jane McChesney for doing such a great job in organizing this event. We also thank Larry Peterson for creating special music for our event and accompanying our choirs and hymns.
- This past summer, the Coalition sponsored buses to the youth gathering in San Antonio. This was a great opportunity for youth and adults from our congregations to get acquainted as they traveled to and from the event. Our thanks to Jonette Knock for organizing this endeavor.
- In November, the Coalition, along with Augustana College, hosted our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson. Bishop Hanson spoke at the Illowa Coalition Continuing Education Forum, and then met with students and staff at Augustana. It was great having Bishop Hanson in the Quad Cities.
- Our ministry teams have been quite active in ministry as well and we give thanks for all their hard work and leadership in the Coalition's ministry. They are: Professional Leadership chaired by Dr. Ritva Williams; Lay Leadership chaired by Pastor Nancy Hoelter; Multi Cultural chaired by Pastor Stacie Fidler; and Family Faith Formation chaired by Jonette Knock. We are most grateful for all that they and their teams have accomplished this year.

Mission in Community

Looking Ahead to 2007

A major addition to our ministry will be the work of a newly-established Social Ministry/Action team under the leadership of Pastor Michael Stadie. This team will have four sub-groups, each dealing with a specific area of ministry. The four-sub groups are: Awareness and Advocacy led by Pastor Joe Robb, Disaster Response led by Pastor Michael Stadie, Barnabas Uplift, an economic and health initiative, led by Joe Lindsay, and Habitat for Humanity led by Joanne Petrilli. They are now in the process of organizing their teams. If you or someone you know has a passion for any of these areas, please let the Coalition office know. The purpose of this group is to live out our mission statement of "Mission in Community" and to provide ways through which we can bring help to those of our community who experience need. Please be watching for more information about how congregations can play a role in these ministry areas.

Personally, 2007 brings an opportunity for a sabbatical. I will be taking one from June 15 – September 15. I will be doing some study in the area of stewardship, doing some reading, spending some time traveling, and spending time with family. I am looking forward to this opportunity. During my absence, our administrative assistant, LaVonne Heetland will see to the day-to-day necessities of the Coalition.

Looking further ahead, let's get a date on your calendar. Our next Choral Festival is scheduled for Sunday, January 20, 2008. Please put this date on your church calendar and share it with your music people. We will be gathering in Centennial Hall at Augustana College. How great it would be if that space could be filled with people from our congregations and with their voices in song!

One concern I have as we do ministry together is how the Coalition might better connect with our rural and small town congregations. I would like to ask that you think about that and help with ideas and suggestions of how we might provide meaningful ways of being in ministry together. Let me know any thoughts you might have. This is a priority for me in this new year of ministry.

Another concern I have as we enter this new year of ministry is the financial support of the Coalition. Over the past few years, the goal has been to return congregational support back to the level of 2002, which was approximately \$40,000. We have yet to achieve that funding level. We are still about \$10,000 below where we should be to adequately fund the administrative portion of our ministry. Consequently, this puts us in a deficit position for 2007. My request is that you bring this concern back to your congregation and for 2008, consider growing your congregational support that we might financially support this growing ministry that we share together.

A Word of Thanks

A huge thank you to our board for their leadership this past year. Fred Anderson has served as board chair and has done a great job in guiding us in our work together. Those whose terms expire are: Tom Blade, Vicki Gingerich, Bob Groene, and Pastor Michael Stadie. Our thanks to them for their leadership on our board.

My thanks, too, for the wonderful partnership in ministry that our Administrative Assistant, LaVonne Heetland brings to our Coalition. She does an absolutely magnificent job in tending to all the various tasks and responsibilities of the office. Thank you, LaVonne, for all you do!

And finally, thank you to the congregations and institutions of the Coalition. Thank you for your ministry and for the support that you bring to our shared ministry as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. As the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 1:3: "Every time I think of you, I thank my God..."

Pastor Kurt Nordby

Mission in Community

New Members chosen for the Illowa Lutheran Coalition Board

At the annual assembly for the Coalition held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Port Byron, Illinois, on February 18, 2007, three new members were elected to the Board:

1. Nancy Ingelson, member of St. Paul Lutheran, Davenport;
2. Donald Peterson, member of St. James Lutheran, Rock Island; and
3. Steven Pressly, member of St. Paul Lutheran, Davenport.

Also re-elected to the Board for another term was Vickie Gingerich, member of Swedona Lutheran, Lynn Center. We thank her for her past service, and we appreciate her willingness to continue to advise us.

We are grateful also to the three members who have completed their terms of faithful service:

1. Steve Blade of First Lutheran, Moline;
2. Pastor Mike Stadie of All Saints, Davenport; and
3. Bob Groene of Messiah Lutheran, Port Byron.

Welcome to our newest members!

Others serving on the Advisory Board include:

- ❖ Fred Anderson, of Redeemer Lutheran, Bettendorf, president;
- ❖ Pastor Jane McChesney, of Calvary Lutheran, New Windsor, vice president;
- ❖ Bonnie Townsend, of Salem Lutheran, Moline, secretary;
- ❖ Eric Engstrom, of St. Paul Lutheran, Davenport, treasurer.
- ❖ Pastor Julie Higgs of Trinity Lutheran, Pleasant Valley, Southeastern Iowa Synod representative to the Illowa Board.

We appreciate their efforts and applaud the guidance they provide to us

Thank you to the good people of Messiah Lutheran Church for their hospitality to the Coalition Assembly participants!

James Tabor Will Address the Illowa Forum April 19

Dr. James D. Tabor, who is the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is our next Illowa Continuing Education Forum speaker. This well-known Biblical scholar will join us on Thursday, April 19, beginning at 9 a.m. He will address the topic "The Bible and the Blockbuster News Story: Negotiating between the Academic, the Pulpit, and the Pew." He will also present material from his most recent book, *The Jesus Dynasty*.

For this special event, we are meeting in a special setting. Instead of the usual meeting place in Wallenberg Hall, our gathering place will be Room 202, second floor of Olin Hall on the Augustana College campus. Please join us for a morning of fellowship, discussion, and learning. If you have any questions, or need directions to Olin Hall please contact the Illowa office at (309) 794-4000.

Allen Organ available from old Lutheran Hospital chapel

Lynn Batcher, Director of Pastoral Ministries for Trinity Medical Center has this announcement:

The Allen electronic console organ originally donated for the chapel in the old Lutheran hospital will not be used in the new Trinity West Campus chapel. The organ has rarely been used since Lutheran hospital was vacated almost 10 years ago and the new West Campus chapel to be established later this year will not have space for it. We want to offer it to any Lutheran church in the area at minimal cost--cost of moving it and a small donation to hospital pastoral care services. It would be available by September 1 at the latest.

Please contact Lynn at (309) 779-2989 or batcherl@trinityqc.com for further details.

Kristen Glass returns to Augustana!

Many of you remember Kristen Glass, who was a part of the Augustana College Center for Vocational Reflection until she began her new position as Director of Young Adult Ministry for the ELCA last summer. In May, she will return to Rock Island to address the Continuing Education Forum as part of the Ascension Day activities sponsored by the Augustana Campus Ministries and Illowa. Her topic is Ministry to Young Adults under 30.

This special event will take place on Thursday, May 17, Ascension Day. We begin with a worship service at the Augustana College Ascension Chapel at 8 a.m. Following the service, breakfast will be served at the College Center Board Room at 9 a.m. After breakfast, Kristen will address us until approximately noon. Come and be a part of this celebration of Ascension and opportunity for further learning!

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 19 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Olin Hall, Room 202, Augustana College. Presentation by Dr. James D. Tabor, Chair, Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte: "The Bible and the Blockbuster News Story: Negotiating between the Academic, the Pulpit, and the Pew."
- 24 Administrative Assistants' Luncheon, Augustana College Campus Center Board Room, beginning at 12:15. Lynn Batcher, Director of Pastoral Ministries at Trinity Medical Center is the featured speaker. Please reply by April 20 if you plan to attend this annual event honoring the administrative professionals in our congregations.

MAY

- 1 12 noon, monthly Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the College Center Board Room, Augustana College. Special guest speaker this month is Bishop Philip L. Hougen of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

- 17 8 a.m. Ascension Day Service at Ascension Chapel, Augustana College, followed by breakfast at the Augustana College Center Board Room. After breakfast, the final presentation in this year's Continuing Education Forum by Kristen Glass, Director of the ELCA Young Adult Ministry.

JUNE

- 5 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Board Room beginning at 12 noon. Special speaker for this event is Pastor Ginger Anderson-Larson of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque.
- 8 Multi-ethnic Families Celebration event, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., St. John's Lutheran, Rock Island, IL
- 8-9 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL
- 15-16 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL

Please remember our Partner Ministries in prayer

Sunday, April 15	Zion, Princeton	Pastor Peter Sickels
Sunday, April 22	Cambridge, Cambridge	Pastor Kristine Dietzen
Sunday, April 29	Redeemer, Bettendorf	Pastor Richard Pokora
Sunday, May 6	Immanuel, East Moline	Pastor Kimberly Riebe
Sunday, May 13	St. James, Bettendorf	Pastor Nate Montover
Sunday, May 20	First, Geneseo	Pastor Arthur Bergren
Sunday, May 27	Calvary, Buffalo	Pastor Jane Granzow
Sunday, June 3	Swedona, Lynn Center	Pastor Jane McChesney & Dr. Robert Haak, Interims
Sunday, June 10	All Saints, Davenport	Pastor Lisa Dietrich
Sunday, June 17	Calvary, Moline	Pastor Tom Otis
Sunday, June 24	Grace, Davenport	Pastor John Grebner