



Illowa Lutheran Coalition of the Quad Cities Area

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ILLOWA LUTHERAN COALITION NEWS AND NOTES SEPTEMBER 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR Pastor Kurt Nordby

As I write this article, it has been exactly one week since I have returned from sabbatical. This time was one of study, re-creation, and time spent with family. The highlight of this sabbatical time was the wedding of my youngest son this past Labor Day weekend. It was a wonderful event!

Even though there were lots of things to do in preparation for the wedding, a good share of my time was spent in a sabbatical research project. For this study, I designed a project that would hopefully identify some stewardship trends and practices in ELCA congregations that had both a high percentage of average household giving and regular mission support. There weren't any huge surprises, but there was affirmation of four aspects that are basic in stewardship ministry. Let me give you just a taste.

- Stewardship ministry is intentional. Make a plan each year for stewardship ministry and work the plan.
- Mission not maintenance! Common was a vision for ministry and a commitment to mission beyond the congregation.
- Stress the "need of the giver to give" rather than the "congregation's need to receive". Stewardship is one's joyful response to God's grace in Christ and not simply a way to pay the bills.
- Pastor as steward leader. In whatever leadership style, the pastor as steward leader is essential.

I will be sending my complete study with a commentary on trends and practices in stewardship ministry to each congregation of the Coalition. Hopefully, this will be of benefit in stimulating discussion and planning in your stewardship ministry.

Coalition Happenings

It is good to be back, and we have some exciting events being planned for this coming year. There are two dates in particular that I urge you to save on your calendar.

The first date is **January 13, 2008**. We are planning our second Illowa Lutheran Coalition Choral Fest. Information has been sent to all congregations and choir directors. It is shaping up to be a grand celebration of our life together in ministry.

The second date is **Saturday, February 9, 2008**. Our Multicultural Ministry team is planning a multicultural ministry festival in conjunction with the Northern Illinois and Southeastern Iowa Synods. You'll be receiving more information on this event in the near future.

Thank you for your ministry and support of the ministry we share as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition!

Two Upcoming Events with Michael Meade

Storyteller, Author, Social Activist

Poetics of Peace: Why the World Doesn't End

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 7:00 p.m.

Wallenberg Hall, Denkmann Building

Augustana College

3520 7th Avenue, Rock Island, IL

More than a simple literal place, the world is an eternal drama, a story told from beginning to end and end to beginning, again and again. When "the End" seems near, it is the mythic sense, the eternal roots, and creative imagination that are missing. What's needed is the imagination necessary to hold end and beginning together. Behind the "ecological crisis" and the "war on terror," there lies a crisis of meaning and a loss of the sense of the sacred in the immediate pulse of the world. When "the End" seems near, how people imagine the world becomes more important; how people imagine humanity becomes of utmost importance.

Storyteller, author, and social activist **Michael Meade** brings his vital blend of storytelling, poetry, and discussion to the Quad Cities with his *Poetics of Peace* presentation. A mythologist and gifted performer, Meade weaves the wisdom of ancient tales into useful commentary on today's cultural and political dilemmas, including fundamentalism, terrorism, and the underlying problem of literalism. Meade argues that the human soul requires a multiplicity and diversity of beliefs, images, and ideas.

The Road of Life and Death

Thursday, October 4, 2007 10:30 a.m.

Auditorium, Olin Center for Educational Technology

Augustana College

733 35th Street, Rock Island, IL

The story written on the walls of the soul is intended to be lived out as a great experiment in life, as a willingness to die again and again in order to grow. Each story involves spells and blessings, gifts and wounds, indelible marks that reveal where the individual soul and spirit insist on being known consciously. When lived consciously the struggles in one's life open pathways to the center of the self where renewed purpose and vitality wait to be found.

A New York native with a razor sharp wit, **Michael Meade** has always been drawn to the edges of society. His insights are especially valuable since they have been hard won through decades of work in the trenches of mentoring youth, visiting prisons, assisting Vietnam vets and fostering dialogues between genders and races. Through story, poetry and discussion, he is able to find common ground on hostile turf, working with Chicago gangs, in 'barrios' in LA, on Native American reservations and with Sudanese refugees.

To learn more about Michael Meade's work, visit the website of the
Mosaic Multicultural Foundation

www.mosaicvoices.org

For information about these two Augustana College events, contact
Richard Priggie, College Chaplain, at richardpriggie@augustana.edu
or 309-794-7213

Mission in Community

Trinity Pastoral Care Department Sponsors Conference on Saturday, October 26

Lynn Batcher, head of Pastoral Care at Trinity Hospital, announces that the Department is sponsoring a spirituality and health conference on Saturday, October 26, 2007. The conference is called "The Caregiver's Journey: Risk, Resilience and Rewards" and will be presented by Dr. Dale Larson, Professor of Counseling Psychology at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. and a researcher and frequent keynote speaker in the United States and Europe. Dr. Larson has extensive experience working with professional and family Hospice caregivers and is author of the prize-winning book, "The Caregiver's Journey." He will present duplicate classes from 9 – 11:30 AM and 5:30 – 8:00 PM at the Lodge in Bettendorf. Cost which includes continental breakfast or appetizers is \$25.

For a brochure or more information, call the pastoral care office (309) 779-2989.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 2 12 noon, monthly Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the College Center Board Room, Augustana College. Special speaker this month is Kurt Nordby, addressing the topic of "Current Trends and Practices in Stewardship."
- 11 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation by Rev. Dr. Ken Jones, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Grand View College in Des Moines: *Justification and Justice: The Connection between Faith and Good Works in Luther.*

NOVEMBER

- 6 12 noon, monthly Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the College Center Board Room, Augustana College. Special guest speaker this month is Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Northern Illinois Synod.
- 8 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation by Mr. Steven Bahls, President: *Augustana College: Committed to Students' Growth in Mind, Spirit, and Body.*

DECEMBER

- 4 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Board Room beginning at 12 noon.
- 13 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation by Dr. Robert Haak and Ms. Christie Anderson of the Center for Vocational Reflection at Augustana: *Bringing Vocation Home.*
- 14 Annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah*, by the Augustana Oratorio Society at Centennial Hall, 8 p.m.

15 Handel's *Messiah*, Centennial Hall, 8 p.m.

16 Handel's *Messiah*, Centennial Hall, 2 p.m.

JANUARY

8 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Board Room, beginning at 12 noon.

10 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation by Pr. David L. Miller, Cornelsen Director of Spiritual Formation and Dean of the Chapel, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago: *Spirituality and Spiritual Formation*.

13 Illowa Lutheran Coalition Choral Festival, Centennial Hall. More details will follow.

Please remember our Partner Ministries in prayer

Sunday, October 7	Messiah, Port Byron	Pastors Barbara & Wayne Melaas-Swanson
Sunday, October 14	Trinity, Pleasant Valley	Pastor Julie Higgs
Sunday, October 21	Peace, Port Byron	Pastor Richard Housman
Sunday, October 28	Zion, Princeton	Pastor Peter Sickels
Sunday, November 4	First, Rock Island	Pastor Greg Mayer
Sunday, November 11	Illowa Lutheran Coalition	Pastor Kurt Nordby
Sunday, November 18	St. James, Rock Island	Pastor John Leaf, Interim
Sunday, November 25	Redeemer, Bettendorf	Pastor Richard Pokora
Sunday, December 2	St. John's, Rock Island	Pastor Stacie Fidler
Sunday, December 9	St. James, Bettendorf	Pastor Nate Montover
Sunday, December 16	First, Sherrard	Pastor Jane McChesney, Interim
Sunday, December 23	Calvary, Buffalo	Pastor Jane Granzow
Sunday, December 30	Bethany, Woodhull	Pastor Nancy Jaster