



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

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***CORRECTED EDITION***  
**ILLOWA LUTHERAN COALITION NEWS AND NOTES MARCH 2008**

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

One of the best ways that I can describe the ministry of the Illowa Lutheran Coalition is by using the analogy of a choir where voices blend together in providing the rich beauty and texture in a musical production. Just a few weeks ago, at our second Illowa Lutheran Coalition Choral Festival, this analogy became reality. Voices, musicians, and participants from our congregations gathered to enrich and be enriched by the gifts for music ministry present in our congregations. It was a marvelous way to celebrate the cooperative ministry of our 35 congregations and participating ELCA institutions centered in the greater Quad Cities area. Indeed, as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition, we sing loudly and boldly of God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ as together we share, as our mission statement says, Mission in Community.

In 2007, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition has been a vibrant chorus, singing of God's grace through a variety of ministries shared by many diverse voices. Here are a few examples of our Mission in Community.

- The Illowa Lutheran Coalition Forums sponsored by our Professional Leaders ministry team continues to provide quality continuing education to professional leaders in our congregations. These presentations are designed to provide a broad experience to enrich ministry in the local congregation.
- This past summer, the Family Faith Formation ministry team co-sponsored with Augustana College, a day-long workshop entitled "Teaching the Bible". This resource opportunity was offered to provide ways of teaching the Bible to all ages. Augustana College is one of our member ELCA-related institutions and provides many forms of in-kind support to the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. Our thanks to Augustana for all that they do to provide for our ministry together.
- The Barnabas Uplift taskforce of the Social Ministry team will, in the very near future, begin offering training classes for those in our community wishing to become Certified Nurse Assistants. The Barnabas Uplift program is an economic and health initiative that we are doing in cooperation with Lutheran Services in Iowa.
- As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, we celebrated the Coalitions' ministry at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Illowa Lutheran Coalition Choral Festival on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. While the joy of this event is still fresh in our minds, I want to thank Pr. Jane McChesney and Board President Fred Anderson for their leadership in the planning of this meaningful celebration. They, along with the members of their taskforce and the event participants are a great example of how the Coalition

**Mission in Community**

functions because of the gifts shared by congregations and members of our Illowa Lutheran Coalition.

Indeed through these offerings and many more, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition has joined voices from across the greater Quad Cities area in a vibrant and joyful proclamation of the amazing grace of God in Jesus Christ.

### **Looking Ahead to 2008**

Each new year brings opportunities for ministry and ways that cooperatively, the Illowa Lutheran Coalition can touch lives with the love of Jesus Christ. To this end, our ministry teams are actively planning for activities and events.

In just a few weeks, our Multicultural ministry team will sponsor along with the Northern Illinois and Southeastern Iowa Synods a multicultural workshop featuring the leaders of the many multicultural ministries in our ELCA. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, our Multicultural ministry team will sponsor an anti – racism workshop.

The Social Ministry team is working to begin a program for training Certified Nurse Assistants. This is part of our cooperative effort with Lutheran Services in Iowa and the Barnabas Uplift program. We are also exploring how we can more closely work with Habitat for Humanity in providing the gift of housing to our community.

Presently, we are in the process of rebuilding our Lay Leadership and Family Faith Formation teams. If you have persons in your congregation who might have a passion in these areas of ministry and would like to serve in this way, please let me know.

We are hoping that 2008 is also a year in which we can grow financial support for the ministry of the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. At this point, there are encouraging signs that this might be a reality. One significant program that has helped grow support and hopefully will do so in the future is “Friends of Illowa”. This effort under the leadership of Pr. Al Beck and Pr. Armin Weng has been of great help in stabilizing the financial support for our ministry. Through this program of reaching out to individual donors, we have received \$2,215.00 for our ministry together in 2007. Thanks be to God! Our deep thanks to Pr. Beck and Pr. Weng, as well to all of our donors in 2007, for this wonderful gift to our Coalition. The major support for our ministry comes from congregational support. We are thankful for the financial support that our congregations share for our ministry together. This fall we asked our congregations to return intent forms that indicate gifts for the Coalition’s ministry in 2008. If your congregation has not yet had the opportunity to return its intent, please do so at the earliest opportunity.

### **A Word of Thanks**

A sincere word of gratitude to the Illowa Lutheran Coalition board for their leadership this past year. Fred Anderson has served as the president of the board and has provided great leadership in our ministry together. Those whose terms expire are: Fred Anderson, Pr. Jane McChesney, and Bonnie Townsend. Our thanks for their time, dedication, and leadership in the work we do together.

My thanks as well to our Administrative Assistant, LaVonne Heetland, for her partnership in ministry. LaVonne does a wonderful job in tending to all the various tasks and responsibilities of the office and the many Coalition events. Thank you LaVonne for your wonderful partnership in ministry!

Finally, thank you to all the congregations and institutions of the Coalition for the many ways we share ministry together. Indeed, we are like a choir with many voices coming together to sing boldly of the wonderful and amazing grace of God in Christ. Thanks be to God for the privilege and joy of sharing ministry together as the Illowa Lutheran Coalition.

A grateful partner in ministry,

Pastor Kurt Nordby

### **New Officers Chosen for the Illowa Lutheran Coalition Board for 2008**

The Illowa Board met on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss current business, welcome new members and elect officers for the new year. Our newest members include Steve Johnson, a member of Zion, Princeton, and Pastor Arthur Bergren, of First, Geneseo. Welcome! A special thanks to Bonnie Townsend, who consented to serve a second term on the Board.

Officers chosen for 2008 include: President: Vickie Gingrich; Vice President: Pastor Julie Higgs; Secretary: Bonnie Townsend; and Treasurer: Eric Engstrom. We thank these members for their willingness to serve in these positions.

### **Easter Vigil to be held at Augustana College on Saturday, March 22, 2008, at 7 p.m.**

You are cordially invited to worship with the congregation of the Augustana College Campus Ministries as they observe the Easter Vigil on the Eve of Easter.

The Easter Vigil is the most ancient festival service of the Christian Church and is the real climax of Holy Week. It is a service full of imagery: darkness and light, death and life, creation and redemption, Baptism and Communion.

If the weather permits, the Vigil will begin with the lighting of the "new fire" on the Library Lawn at Augustana College. It would be best to park on 38th Street or in the small parking lots adjacent to Augustana's main entrance. There will then be a procession to Ascension Chapel for the remainder of the service.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **MARCH**

- 4 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Board Room beginning at 12 noon. Special guest speaker is Duane Marburger of United Marriage Encounter.
- 11 Administrative Assistants Luncheon at noon.

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- 13 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation by Dr. Norma Cook Everist, Professor of Church Administration and Educational Ministry, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Topic: *Education is the Key to Evangelism: Speaking the Language People Speak in Daily Life.*
- 22 Easter Vigil, 7 p.m. Ascension Chapel, Augustana College

## APRIL

- 1 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Chicago Room, beginning at 12 noon. Guest speaker is Ms. Kristi Crafton, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of the Quad Cities.
- 10 9 a.m. to noon. Illowa Continuing Education Forum, Wallenberg Hall, Augustana College. Presentation is by Pastor Charles R. Lane, Director of the Stewardship Key Leader Program, Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA. Topic: *Ask, Thank, Tell.*
- 22 Annual Administrative Assistants Appreciation Luncheon, 12 noon at the Board Room, College Center, Augustana College. Special guest speaker is Jeanne Olson of Genesis Health Center.
- 26 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anti-racism Workshop sponsored by Northern Illinois Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Illowa Lutheran Coalition at St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island.

## MAY

- 1 Ascension Day worship service at Ascension Chapel, Augustana College, beginning at 8 a.m.; followed by breakfast at the Augustana College Center Board Room. Monthly Forum presentation by Dr. Ritva Williams, chair of the Department of Religion will follow after breakfast. Topic: *Queen of the Church, Servant of Christ—Scripture in the Lutheran Tradition.* **Please note the change in date and venue for this month's Forum!**
- 6 Illowa Professional Leaders luncheon at the Augustana College Center Board Room, beginning at 12 noon. Guest speaker is Pastor Michael Stadie of Lutheran Services in Iowa, who will give us an update on Lutheran Disaster Response and their ongoing efforts with assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- 13 Administrative Assistants luncheon at noon

**Please remember our Partner Ministries in prayer**

Sunday, March 2	Immanuel, East Moline	Pastor John Leaf, Interim
Sunday, March 9	St. Paul, Davenport	Pastors Peter Marty, Ron Huber, Lorin Darst, Lowell Michelson, and Elizabeth L. Hiller
Sunday, March 16	First, Geneseo	Pastor Arthur Bergren
Sunday, March 23	Zion, Davenport	Pastors Del Preston and Ritva Williams
Sunday, March 30	Swedona, Lynn Center	Pastor Nancy Jaster and Pastor Ron Ferrell, Interim Associate
Sunday, April 6	Hope, Dixon	Pastor Shelley Nelson
Sunday, April 13	Calvary, Moline	Pastor Tom Otis
Sunday, April 20	Gloria Dei, Durant	Pastor Gaylor Nelson
Sunday, April 27	Faith, Moline	Pastor Mark Gehrke
Sunday, May 4	Faith, Eldridge	Pastors Dan Mixdorf and Jodi Hinrichs
Sunday, May 11	First, Moline	Pastor Dan Witkowski
Sunday, May 18	Trinity, Pleasant Valley	Pastor Julie Higgs
Sunday, May 25	Salem, Moline	Pastor Randy Willers