



Young presenter on young earth

In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Fulda invited Brian Young to present biblical evidence for creation and point out the fallacies of mainstream evolution.

Young spoke to more than 250 people from Fulda, Mount Lake, Pipestone, Okabena, Lakefield, Marshall, Heron Lake, Windom, Jasper, Slayton, and surrounding communities and churches on Sunday evening.

On Monday, he spoke to St. Paul's School students, teachers, and parents about amazing animals created by God, Mount St. Helens, and the dramatic changes it caused to our earth in such a short time, and lies printed in mainstream textbooks about evolution that go unchallenged by many people in society.

This was an exciting and highly informative event for Fulda and the surrounding communities!



Brian Young, Creation speaker, poses with student representatives from each grade at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fulda. From left are, front row, Khole Gehl (second grade), Ryder Henning (kindergarten), Young, Rayna Baumgarn (first grade), Mikala Dierks (third grade); back row, Suzy Pagel (seventh grade), Melissa Gehl (eighth grade), Katelyn Renneke (sixth grade), Isaiah Olsen (fifth grade), and Noah Salenty (fourth grade).

August deadline: June 14

Send information for the district portion of *The Lutheran Witness* to **Rev. David Anderson, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1200 N. North Ave., Fairmont, MN 56031**, or e-mail to pastoranderson@yahoo.com. Photos may be sent as JPEG attachments.

DEADLINE is the third Monday of each month. If you submit photos and wish to have the photos returned to you, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



Shown in the photo are, from left, (standing) Pat Meschke, Joy Meschke, Deneen Schulz, Kay Cram, and (seated) Darlene Schwartz and Berniss Ayers, all from the Morris-town-Waterville areas. These six women volunteered many hours preparing a more-than-5,000-piece bulk mailing of Camp Omega summer camp brochures. For projects like this, the camp depends on and appreciates the many volunteers who help assure the continuation of this unique ministry. As the retreat season of the camp's ministry to more than 4,000 participants draws to a close, the camp has begun gearing up for the summer-camp phase of its outreach to more than 2,000 youth. Camp Omega is owned by and is a part of the ministry of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

St. John, Stewartville, honored by LCEF

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) honored St. John, Stewartville, with an outstanding performance award Nov. 20, 2009, during LCEF's annual leadership conference. "We recognize the outstanding efforts St. John Lutheran has shown in supporting the ministry of Church Extension and spreading the word of how investments and loans are helping sustain and grow The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," said LCEF President Merle Freitag (see related photo, Page H).

St. John Lutheran Church was recognized for achieving \$1 million in investments with LCEF, combined with at least 10 percent investor participation from the congregation. The congregation of St. John Lutheran Church has about 650 members and is led by pastor Rev. Lyle Fritsch.

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission. LCEF is a not-for-profit organization that provides low-cost loans and facility-planning services to churches and schools through the investment support of church members.

COMMENTS/FINANCES

Eternally grateful

From time to time, all of us have heard about someone performing a heroic act to save the life of another person—a police officer pulling a person out of a burning car, a neighbor jumping into a swim pool to save a drowning infant, or a fellow diner performing the Heimlich maneuver to rescue a person from choking. In all those cases, the recipients of the heroic act are forever grateful to the person who saved them. We would be, too!

We don't have to perform some heroic act, however, for others to be forever grateful. Sometimes all it takes is something relatively insignificant. Sometimes simply living out our Christian faith causes others to be forever grateful.

In Matt. 5:16, we're told, "... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven." I remember very well a time in my life when a brother and sister in Christ did just that. It happened 12 years ago. My mother had been diagnosed with colon cancer. Several weeks later, we visited with an oncologist to determine what treatment she would have. Three weeks later, before she could have her first chemo treatment, I received a telephone call that she was close to death. A friend who is a member of one of our Minnesota South District congregations heard the news and offered me his frequent flyer miles so that I could get on a plane and fly to Ohio to be with my mother that same day. I was so grateful for the opportunity to be at her bedside before she died. I will be forever grateful to that man and his wife for the kindness they showed to me and to my mother. I would do anything within my power for the two of them because of what they did for me. If you have been the recipient of some act of kindness on the part of another person, you know what I mean.

As meaningful as human acts of kindness toward us are, they do not begin to compare with the love and kindness our heavenly Father has shown to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. As we heard so clearly just a month ago during the Lenten season, He was willing to sacrifice the life of His one and only Son for each of us. Think what Christ's one act of love means for us. By His grace, we escape the pain of spending eternity in hell; we are at peace with our heavenly Father; we have hope for this life; we can be confident that He is for us and not against us; and we will spend eternity



with Him in heaven. For all that, I am forever grateful to my heavenly Father—and I should be. There is no greater gift that any of us could ever receive than the gift of salvation.

The impact of Christ's sacrifice is stated well in Gal. 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Or, as we recite in the meaning to the second article of the Apostles' Creed, Christ "... has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. ..." The simple fact is, when we are forever grateful, it shows!



Dr. Lane Seitz
District
President

Dr. Lane R. Seitz, District President

District congregation mission receipts

for the period ending March 31, 2010*

For the month ending March 31:

Anticipated amount (6.91% of budget**)	\$193,480
Actual receipts	\$214,520
Over (under) amount	\$ 21,040

Year-to-date receipts:

Anticipated amount (24.4% of budget**)	\$683,200
Actual receipts	\$536,967
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$146,233)

Use of mission receipts:

50% remitted to Synod (Year-to-Date/YTD)	\$268,484
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$268,483
Total receipts	\$536,967

Mission Receipts—Compared with Last Year:

Mission receipts—YTD 2010	\$ 536,967
Mission receipts—YTD 2009	\$ 596,156
Over (under) last year	(\$59,189)

* Fiscal Year End (FYE) is now Dec. 31

** Based on average receipts for the past five years
2010 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2.8 million

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Month of February 2010:

New investments	\$900,559
Withdrawals	\$700,734
Net increase (decrease)	\$190,824

Year-to-date July 1, 2009-Feb. 28, 2010:

New investments	\$ 9,404,397
Withdrawals	\$11,807,431
Net increase (decrease)	(\$2,403,034)



2010 Youth Gathering set for New Orleans

The theme for the LCMS 2010 National Youth Gathering is “**We Believe**,” based on John 20:31—“But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (ESV).

About this theme, Rev. Terry Dittmer, director, LCMS District and Congregational Services–Youth Ministry, notes, “One of the things that youth always say about the Gathering is how much it means to encounter other students who ‘believe like I do.’ ‘We Believe’ is a wonderful, corporate expression of our faith in Jesus Christ, especially as we focus on the creed and our confession as we take that faith to the New Orleans community in Word, celebration, service, witness, and fellowship.”

“**We Believe**,” the 11th triennial National LCMS Youth Gathering, will be held July 17-21 in New Orleans. This will be the event’s third visit to New Orleans. Previous New Orleans’ Gatherings included “A Time for Joy” (1992) and “Higher Ground” (2001). The 2007 Gathering had been planned for New Orleans, but was moved to Orlando, Fla., in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Along with the return to New Orleans, some changes have been made to Gathering participant guidelines. For the first time in its history, 14-year-old participants will be invited to attend. “Our goal is to provide opportunities for incoming freshmen to experience the Gathering,” says Rev. Mark Kiessling, program director for the 2010 event. “Planners will give special consideration when developing workshops and program content to meet the unique needs of these younger students.”

To be eligible to attend the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering, youth participants must be at least 14 years old at the time of the Gathering, entering freshman year in high school at the time of the Gathering, or 2010 high school graduates who have not turned 21 by the time of the Gathering. Kiessling added, “Each congregation should consider whether the addition of 14-year-olds to their Gathering family groups fits their youth ministry model.”

The 2010 Gathering also will allow congregations to send more adult leaders with their groups. Kiessling states. “By increasing the adult-to-youth ratio, congregations can send more adults, which we hope encourages groups to feel confident about attending and meeting the spiritual, physical, and intellectual needs of youth participants.”

The Gathering Web site, www.lcmsgathering.com, offers information about the host city and provides parents and adult leaders the opportunity to interact

with representatives from the city of New Orleans and members of the LCMS Southern District office, with whom Gathering planners are closely working to develop the event.

For more information, contact LCMS District and Congregational Services–Youth Ministry at 800-248-1930, ext. 1155.

Pre-Gathering Bible study now available!

A primary function of the family group is to grow together in the Word. Bible study is an essential component of family group time. The Gathering Spiritual Life Team has written a three-part study based on the Gospel of John to explore what “We Believe” by looking at who Jesus is, what He does, and who His message is for.

Use this study with your family group as you prepare your hearts and minds to encounter the “We Believe” theme at the Gathering this summer. These three Bible studies provide the context for what “We Believe” and prepare participants for the on-site daily Bible study in the tracks and family group.



Gathering registration update

The registration fee is now \$325 per person for new registrations. (To receive the original registration rate of \$275, participants needed to register by March 1.)

Have you already mailed in your registrations but discovered someone else wants to go with your group? You still can add them! Contact the Gathering office.

Note that the Gathering office will not contact you to confirm receipt of registration materials in the office. Ask for a delivery confirmation from the mail carrier of your choice if you want that service.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- Early spring
 - Primary adult leaders receive Gathering hotel information and daily track assignment.
- June 1
 - Full payment due to qualify for express registration on-site at the Gathering.
 - If your congregation has not received the pre-Gathering DVD, contact the Gathering office by e-mail or by calling 800-248-1930, ext. 1155.

SEMINARY UPDATES

Sem to host Mother's Day brunch



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host a brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mother's Day, May 9, in Koburg Hall on the seminary campus.

The menu for "Brunch at the Sem" includes carved ham, fried chicken, carved roasted turkey, jumbo cocktail shrimp, garlic mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, honey-glazed baby carrots,

mostaccioli, salad bar, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, eggs Benedict, an omelet bar, hash browns, bacon, sausage, Belgian waffle bar, dessert bar, assorted juices, soda, coffee, and tea.

The price for adults is \$22; children (4-10 years) are \$5; and children 3 and under are free. Cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express cards are accepted. Space is limited. For reservations, call 314-505-7369.

Concordia Seminary offers 'Vocatio' for high school youth

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host a visitation event June 19-24 for high school youth. The 12th annual "Vocatio" will be held on the seminary campus. The event is designed to identify, inform, and encourage youth with respect to church-work vocations.

Vocatio provides a unique opportunity for high school youth to participate in Bible study, worship, prayer, and discussion. Additionally, youth will be able to gain college and seminary information pertaining to a variety of church-work vocations.

Activities during Vocatio will focus on the Bible verse, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). Participants will delve into this theme through the four disciplines of the formation of ministry: exegetical, systematic, historical, and practical. Seminary professors will lead Bible studies and discussions about vocation throughout the week.

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in a Servant Event. Past events have included work at St. Louis area congregations and the Saxon Lutheran
(Continued on Page H.)

Experience 'Christ Academy' in Fort Wayne

"Christ Academy—High School 2010" runs June 20-July 3. This two-week residential experience of Concordia Theological Seminary is for high-school-age men of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

It is Christ-centered, biblically-based, and confessionally Lutheran. Christ Academy 2010's specific theme is "Evangelical Responses to Non-Christian Religions." This academy will feature a day-trip to Chicago where participants will visit the Baha'i Temple, a mosque, and a Jewish synagogue.

Students of Christ Academy 2010 will explore how to present and defend the faith "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:16). If you know a young man who might be interested in this opportunity, contact Christ Academy Student Director Brian German at 260-452-3140 or brian.german@ctsfw.edu.

Grand Ol' Lutheran Fellowship

Join Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, May 20 for the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing. For the past 26 years, CTS has hosted the Grand Ol' Lutheran Fellowship (GOLF) benefit. The proceeds from the previous CTS golf outing were used for the Playscape.

With that project now completed, the opportunity arises to move the golf outing in a new donation direction. All proceeds, above and beyond the cost of the Alumni & Friends Golf Outing, will go toward student financial aid.

Seminary plans include a change of venue to Cherry Hill Golf Club. This year, more emphasis will be placed on "fun-raising" than fundraising, with a focus on spending time with fellow Lutherans and members of the Fort Wayne community. If you are a golfer, we hope you will join us on May 20!



Special services planned for Kramer Chapel

The Deaconess Placement Service will be at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 20, in Kramer Chapel. CTS encourages you to join the students and their families for this special service.

The 2010 baccalaureate service will take place at 10 a.m., Friday, May 21, in Kramer Chapel with graduation exercises at 6 p.m., also in the chapel. The public is invited to join students and their families for both events.



‘God’s GPS—Turn Right at The Light’ LWML convention set for next month



The Minnesota South District LWML Convention, “God’s GPS—Turn Right at The Light,” will be held June 25-27 at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato. Attendees will be nourished by the Word, inspired with songs of praise, and encouraged in service

to God and others through the many speakers and convention activities.

Delegates to the convention will elect new officers, set a new mite goal for 2010-12, and vote for important mission grant proposals. Registration materials are in the spring WOM. Guests should register by May 15 to avoid paying a late fee.

Christian Life Day

Christian Life Day, June 25, will focus on faith development in the morning through Bible study sessions followed by opportunities for Christian service in the afternoon.

Attendees will have the option to continue with Bible study in the afternoon or participate in one of the “hands-on” servant events offered on-site at the Verizon Wireless Center: Bible marking, prayer shawl ministry, or tying blankets for the vacation Bible school at Concordia University later this summer.

Pastor Nabil Nour to lead Bible studies at the LWML convention

Nabil Subhi Nour, 54, is a naturalized U.S. citizen who grew up in Nazareth, Israel. His father still resides in Haifa, about 20 miles south of Nazareth or 65 miles north of Tel-Aviv. He is a Palestinian by nationality, and he came to the United States at age 16 with no English skills. His languages are Arabic and Hebrew.

He entered the 11th grade at Huron High School in South Dakota. Learning English was a very difficult and demanding effort. He entered Huron College (now Huron University) and graduated in 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in criminology and sociology, with minors in psychology and gerontology.

In 1977, he married Jean Marie Miedema of Hitchcock, S.D., and they have three sons: Tony, 30 (wife Brenda and son Brody); David, 26 (wife Jody and son Myles); and Michael, 18.

After converting to Lutheranism, Nabil Nour received

encouragement to consider the pastoral office from his fellow church members and pastor.

In 1989, Nour entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and graduated in the spring of 1994 with a master of divinity degree. He is now a servant of the most high God and Lord in His vineyard at Armour, S.D., and is enrolled at the same seminary for the Doctor of Ministry Program in the department of Homiletics.



Pastor Nabil Nour

He is writing a Bible study on the book of Ruth and a book on love. Pastor Nour travels and lectures often on how to live the Christian life in a post-modern time; “How to Witness to Muslims”; the true meaning of love; and other topics. Nour will lead a series of Bible studies on Islam during the district LWML convention.

LWML Faith Talk[®] project completed

The goal of the Faith Talk[®], a response to the Synod’s *Ablaze!* movement, is to train women in sharing the Gospel, praying for and recognize opportunities to do so, and then confidently live and speak the faith.

Many fine materials for outreach training currently exist within the LCMS, but this program is designed to specifically help women become more comfortable with sharing the hope they have in Jesus Christ.

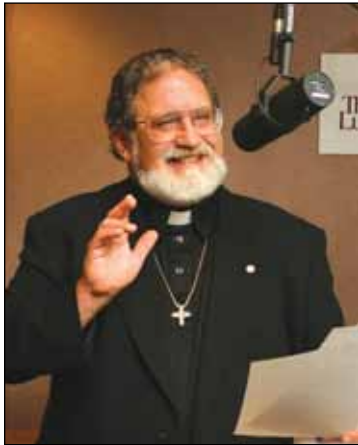
The Faith Talk[®] packet of materials includes a DVD, a participant’s guide of reproducible materials, and instructions for leading a successful workshop.

LWML President Janice Wendorf states in the introductory materials for Faith Talk[®], “May our gracious and loving God bless these materials and help each of us to be ready to share our faith story with the people He places in our paths.”

The packet of Faith Talk[®] materials can be ordered from the LWML office by calling 800-252-LWML or online at www.lwml.org.



DISTRICT SONSHINE



St. John's, Chaska, will continue its yearlong celebration of the church's 125th anniversary with a special summer celebration service at 10 a.m. on June 27. Rev. Kenneth Klaus, former pastor of St. John's and "The Lutheran Hour" speaker, will be the guest preacher. A light lunch will follow the service. Visit online at www.stjohnschaska.org.

Spanish-speaking mission opportunity

Do you serve, or would you like to serve, Spanish-speaking people in your community with the Gospel? Or are you planning a mission trip to Central or South America? If so, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has a free resource that soon will be available to you: the Spanish edition of the Holy Bible, bound with Luther's Small Catechism.

Visit the LHF Web site at www.LHFmissions.org/Spanish_Bible_Poll to pre-order copies. While at the Web site, you also can complete a poll to help LHF decide how many copies of the Bible/catechism to print, in what version, and in hard cover or soft cover. LHF's materials are provided at no charge to those who need them.

SONshine for the children

Three hundred students in kindergarten to grade 12 and several adult volunteers joined forces to "feed God's starving children" on Tuesday, March 9, as part of the National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. With the recent earthquake in Haiti, this project tied into the Lutheran Schools Week theme of "Securing Each Child's Future for a Life of Service."

Students and teachers donned "Kids Against Hunger" aprons and hair nets and packed 50,976 meals. When training the students for the food pack, Tim Stromer, Mankato, Minn., division director of "Kids Against Hunger," said, "This servant event is a testimony to the God each one of you serves."

Each meal costs 23 cents and consists of rice, soy, dried vegetables, and chicken flavoring. Samples of the packaged food were cooked and served to the students so they could taste the finished product.

Participating schools were Martin Luther High

Kids Against Hunger.

School and St. James Lutheran School in Northrop, St. Paul Lutheran School in Fairmont, and St. Paul's Lutheran School in Truman.

The Martin Luther High School National Honor Society and Student Council and principals from the four participating Lutheran schools coordinated the event.

All students were challenged to raise \$50 each, with some students raising as much as \$400 individually. Parent-Teacher Leagues of each school provided support to help the students reach their goals. More than \$12,000 was raised to cover the cost of the food that was packed that day.

Assembly lines were set up throughout the gymnasium. Each work station carefully measured and weighed the ingredients and heat-sealed the bags.

Martin Luther High School students assisted the elementary students with their duties throughout the day.

Wal-Mart donated the trucking to transport the food—which totaled more than 250 boxes—to and from the pack site. The food from this pack will go to established distribution sites in Haiti.

Students and adults experienced firsthand the gratifying feeling that comes from giving selflessly to help those in need.

This servant event was a testimony to the God these students serve and learn about everyday in their Lutheran schools. For more information, go to www.martinlutherhs.com.



Martin Luther High School students prepare boxes for packing.



Autism workshop offered

On June 19, Jesus Cares Ministries and The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, will host an autism workshop—"God's People Are Differently Abled"—at St. Croix Lutheran High School, 1200 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul.

The speakers will address issues affecting families, Christian schools, and churches.

To learn more and to register online, visit <http://archive.wels.net/cgi-bin/site.l?2617&contentID=103908&collectionID=192&seq=5&groupID=947>.

Preparation for couples getting married

Several weekend Readiness for Marriage sessions are scheduled throughout 2010. These weekends offer assistance to couples preparing for marriage, but also help relieve busy pastors. Each weekend includes 11 hours of discussion, video, and couple reflection, as well as discussion centering on the "Prepare" customized online inventory.

The next weekend scheduled is for June 4-6, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington.

Additional weekends are scheduled for August and October throughout the Metro area. For more information, download a

brochure at http://www.lutheran.counseling.org/resources/readiness_for_marriage_2010.pdf.



Seminary to hold law enforcement chaplaincy workshop

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary, together with Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. (POM), will host "Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy—Theology and Practice" May 24-28 on the seminary campus.

The workshop offers unique accredited training for chaplains, peace officers, and pastors, focusing on effective Christian ministry to and through law enforcement.

Key principles that participants can expect to take away with them after attending the workshop include understanding law enforcement as vocation (God's calling); distinguishing and properly applying Law and Gospel; and God's two kingdoms within a law enforcement context.

The workshop also will address practical, legal, historical, cultural, and missiological considerations; employing Christian stress management and officer spiritual survival strategies; and identifying characteristics of a competent Christian chaplain. The Department of Homeland Security Course Component fulfills DHS guidelines.

Rev. Steve Lee, founding chaplain of POM, will serve as the introductory speaker on Monday morning. Other presenters include William J. Becker Jr., Esq., Becker Law Firm, Los Angeles, Calif.; Michael D. Dahmer, former officer and current licensed professional engineer with expertise in national security, counterterrorism, and homeland security, Jerome, Idaho; Maj. Daniel Dusseau, Commander of District 1 for the Prince George's County Police Department, Dunkirk, Md., and chairman of POM Board of Directors.

Also present will be William G. Jones, assistant chief, Perryville Police Department, Mo.; Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, former officer and current director of Disaster Response at LCMS World Relief and Human Care, St. Louis; and Dr. Tomas C. Mijares, former Detroit Police SWAT sergeant and current professor of criminal justice, Texas State University, Austin.

Other guest speakers also are slated to present relevant issues.

Registration cost is \$340, which includes four breakfasts, five lunches, and three dinners, plus CEUs for full participation. Limited on-campus housing is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Housing is dormitory style with shared bathrooms and showers. Rooms are on the second floor and are not handicap accessible. Rates are \$30 per night for single or couple and \$17.50 per night for a shared room.

For more information, contact 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu, or download an informational brochure at www.csl.edu.

Save the date; let's celebrate!

The annual fall Pastors' Wives Retreat will be Oct. 1-2 at the Best Western Hotel, North Mankato. Planners and participants will celebrate 25 years of annual retreats and the 20th anniversary of The Friendship Connection Committee.

In addition to fellowship with other pastors' wives, there will be singing, a Bible study, a topic for the women, a panel discussion by pastors' wives, crafts, and sharing.

Congregations, please encourage your pastor's wife to attend.

MILESTONES/SUNDRIES



St. John Lutheran Church, Stewartville, was recognized for its support of Church Extension ministry during Lutheran Church Extension Fund's annual conference last November.

Accepting the award on behalf of the congregation was Minnesota South District Vice President Kurt Fuhr (center), pictured with LCEF Board Chairman Rev. David Belasic (left) and LCEF President Merle Freitag.

Minnesota South Ablaze! in Wittenberg

Wittenberg, Germany, holds a special place in the history of the Christian faith and mission work. It was on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in 1517—the spark that ignited the Reformation.

More recently, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its German partner/sister church, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (formerly the SELK), formed the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (ILSW) to continue vibrant Gospel mission and ministry in Wittenberg.

The work of ILSW is supported by the church bodies and by the *Fan into Flame* campaign. Funds from the campaign allow planning to go forward and will provide support for implementation of ministry initiatives.

Since September 2009, Rev. David Mahsman has served as the managing director of the ILSW. A career missionary with LCMS World Mission, David is doing exploratory research and building relationships in Wittenberg.

The ILSW owns a 16th-century building near St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg, where Luther frequently preached. The ILSW hopes to use this resource as an instrument of Gospel proclamation. Mahsman is researching the idea of creating a new visitor's center and interactive "Luther experience."

"An interactive museum or exhibition in the building would help visitors understand Luther's emphasis on justification by faith and that would present the Gospel to people in multiple ways. We have an opportunity potentially to share the Gospel in a clear way with tens

of thousands of people—or more—every year," he says.

Mahsman also is looking at possibilities such as using missionaries who would build relationships through teaching English-as-a-Foreign-Language classes and hosting university and seminary students from the United States as they study theology and outreach.

"I believe the Wittenberg Project has the promise of reaching many people with the Gospel," Mahsman adds. "Many know the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ today because of what God did 500 years ago in Wittenberg. Now God is giving us the privilege of helping to bring the same Gospel to people in the very same place."



This medieval fair, held behind the Castle Church, is one of many festivals that attracts visitors to Wittenberg.

SEM TO HOST 'VOCATIO'

(Continued from Page D.)

Memorial. They also will have the opportunity to attend a local event, such as a St. Louis Cardinals' game or the Munny outdoor musical theater.

A \$50 registration fee to attend Vocatio is the only charge for youth, in addition to travel costs. All activities, meals during the event, and on-campus lodging are provided at no cost to participants. Scholarships are available to ensure that travel costs do not prevent youth from attending. Vocatio registration is limited to students entering ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

Vocatio is made possible by a grant Concordia Seminary received from Lilly Endowment, Inc., to help identify, inform, and encourage high school youth to pursue church-work careers. The Lilly Endowment, Inc., is headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind.

For more information on Vocatio, or to request a registration form, contact the Admissions Office, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; admissions@csl.edu; 800-822-9545. To register online, visit the seminary's Web site at www.csl.edu.