



Lutheran Multicultural Mission

A Missouri Synod Outreach Ministry of Central Indiana

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<p>May 5 Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)</p>
<p>May 17 Spring Mission Festival Emmaus, noon - 2 p.m.</p>
<p>July 24 - Aug. 2 Thrivent Builds Worldwide: El Salvador</p>

ONWARD AND UPWARD



LMM 2009 Annual Meeting

We PRAISE GOD for the wonderful response by our congregations to the LMM annual meeting. More than fifty Lutherans attended this historic event on January 22, 2009, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, and this included fifteen local pastors.

Now as we seek implementation of the Vision and Plan shared

with that group, we look to the Lord for His wisdom and guidance in all that is ahead. It is a high priority of Lutheran Multicultural Mission that we unite the Lutheran community in mission and ministry, that we further expand awareness of the multicultural outreach potential, and that we both stabilize and grow the financial resources required for this outreach. To accomplish these purposes a Spring Mission Festival is planned at Emmaus Lutheran Church. It will benefit Emmaus Lutheran School, build upon the awareness agenda, and provide an opportunity to expand

our individual donor base. Details of the event can be found elsewhere in this issue along with information about other plans for the future.

We are quite excited that delegates passed a resolution to begin providing modest support to Pastor Udhay Raji and the India Mission. LMM is truly becoming multicultural. May we be blessed from above in every effort to expand the Gospel!

In Christ,
Don Van Pelt
LMM President/
Executive Director

SPRING FUNDRAISER AND AWARENESS EVENT

Please join us on Sunday, May 17, for a spring fundraiser and awareness event at Emmaus Lutheran Church (corner of Orange and Laurel). The German dinner will be served at noon, and be followed by entertain-



ment and updates on LMM and its mission. There is no

charge to attend, but a freewill offering will be received to benefit the Emmaus Lutheran School Scholarship fund. Watch your church bulletin and newsletter for more details. We are also planning summer and fall events.



MULTICULTURAL MISSION HISTORY

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

"There's no question the church is behind you because in so many ways you are ahead of the church." With those words, a Lutheran historian applauded the progress of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) since its founding in 1942. Its roots, however, go back nearly a century earlier. Beginning in the 1850s, women of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) - <http://www.lcms.org> started local auxiliaries to meet the needs of people—mending clothes for seminarians, equipping hospitals, establishing schools, developing convalescent and retirement homes, assisting orphanages and residences for people with disabilities, gathering clothing, furniture and food for indigents, and funding mission endeavors at home and abroad.

Not until the 1920s, however, did members of congregational societies begin to coordinate their efforts by uniting in state and regional leagues. Oklahoma was first in 1928, but it took more than a decade before official approval was granted for a national

LCMS women's organization.

Although the U.S. was at war and travel was difficult, the founding convention, held July 7 and 8, 1942, in Chicago, was attended by over 100 women from 15 districts. The 28 delegates adopted a constitution, approved a name, chose two projects, and established a Literature Committee to publish books, a national magazine, tracts and programs. They also determined that 1/4 of the mission gifts collected in local societies would be given to the national organization and 3/4 used for district projects.

The purpose of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), delegates agreed, was to develop a greater mission consciousness among women ("missionary education, missionary inspiration and missionary service") and to gather funds for mission projects for which no adequate provision was made in the LCMS budget. "Missionary" meant the individual member, who was to "win and hold souls for Christ the Master, visit the sick and the shut-ins, relieve the needy, and cultivate the spirit of sisterly good cheer and fellowship."

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Praise & Prayer

Lutheran Multicultural Mission needs Lutheran prayer warriors for the sake our total mission, Pastor Ruiz & Hispanic Ministry, Pastor Raji & India Missions, and all other multicultural ministries currently active in central Indiana.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:12, 18.

PRAISE GOD

1. For excellent attendance by church representatives at the annual meeting
2. For potential resources like Front Porch Alliance to assist us in ministry
3. For progress toward permanent residency papers for the Raji family

PRAYER

1. For wisdom on behalf of newly elected LMM officers to lead effectively
2. For a Lutheran community that is united in spirit and purpose for future mission
3. For a Spring Festival that stimulates awareness and financial support

GREAT TURN OUT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 LMM Annual Meeting was a great success! There were a total of 51 attendees that included many pastors and their wives, delegates and other guests. The meeting began with a wonderful lasagna dinner prepared by Bev Weber, assisted by her mother Sandy Weber. We offer many thanks to Bev and Sandy and also to Jane Queck, who helped find the cooks and plan the meal! We also thank St. Paul's Lutheran Church for hosting the event and providing a cozy atmosphere. Each attending pastor was honored with the gift of a mounted page from an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible and a yellow tea rose was presented to the wives.

Special guest speaker was Rev. Doug Hairston of the Mayor's Front Porch Alliance. Rev. Hairston talked about many opportunities for churches to serve their neighborhoods. To

find out the needs for your neighborhood please contact your neighborhood liaison - http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMD/Neighborhood_Services/TA/Pages/home.aspx

Both of our local missionaries were present and gave updates on their ministries. Hispanic ministry is growing through cell groups - home Bible study groups. A soccer league is currently in the planning stages and hopefully will soon be a reality! Indian/Tamil ministry is also going strong with services being held at Calvary and through home Bible studies and prayer groups. Praise God that His word is being spread in many languages and across cultures!

Pastor David Shadday, pastoral representative to the LMM board, presented a challenge to LMM and the churches in general, to not let our inner city

churches die. Most of the work by LMM missionaries is done in the inner city and our inner city churches can benefit by their growth. If you belong to a thriving church, pray that God will lead you to find a way to help in the ministry of these inner city churches. And if you belong to one of the inner city churches, pray that God will help you partner with LMM and other thriving churches that you may continue to spread the Good News of Jesus where you are at.

And last but not least, an annual budget was passed and a new Board of Directors elected. The only changes in the Board of Directors for 2009 will be Roger Vandrey moving to the role of Vice-President for Finance and Jane Smith joining as Secretary. Welcome Jane! We are still searching for persons to be part of the Finance and Communications teams. If you are interested in either of these areas please contact Don Van Pelt.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR HANDS ON MINISTRY

Many ideas were shared at the annual meeting regarding the Vision and Plan of LMM for the future. Here are some of the immediate opportunities:

Soccer As A Ministry Tool. Efforts continue to form a soccer league for the purpose of Hispanic ministry. Teams are evolving around the area and sponsoring congregations must be found before a league can be established. Once the league is organized, Advent Lutheran Church will host the games and a local soccer club will maintain the two fields. In the meantime, some scrimmage games may be scheduled this spring and into the summer. We welcome the interest and contact of congregations as well as individuals.



LWR Grant. LMM has become aware of a grant opportunity from LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Up to \$20,000 can be requested for purposes of human care, reaching out in mercy and compassion to those in need. Much of the ministry by Missionaries Ruiz and Raji fits this criteria. The fall grant cycle application deadline is November 1. The goal in coming months is to write the grant for use in multicultural ministry, work in partnership with our churches, and involve as many of them as possible.



Front Porch Alliance (FPA). The Office of the Mayor, Indianapolis, has reactivated the Faith-Based Initiative Program. Its mission is to help organizations uniquely designed to support families, provide activities for children, and strengthen community renewal while improving the quality of life in our city. We need to investigate partnership potential with the FPA, such as food bank distribution, health education, or other possibilities.



Support of Fellow Congregations. These are challenging times for everyone, and for some of our congregations in particular need. Emmaus Lutheran Church and School has a long, rich history of Christian education. But a question faces Emmaus and the Lutheran community at large: How can we ensure continuation and expansion of their outreach? This is a sensitive question that LMM must consider because of the implications for multicultural ministry in that area. This is certainly a matter of earnest, continued prayer, as we seek the Lord's guidance in our response. Further information about any of these items is available by contacting Don Van Pelt at 317-862-5184 or donvanpelt@sbcglobal.net.

“LMM has become aware of a grant opportunity from LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Up to \$20,000 can be requested for purposes of human care, reaching out in mercy and compassion to those in need.”

Contact Us!

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The Federation of Lutheran Churches of Greater Indianapolis is an organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) Lutheran churches in the greater Indianapolis area. The Federation, formed in 1922, is the coordinating body for city-wide activities, such as special services and mission outreach, for the 30 LCMS congregations in the Indianapolis metropolitan area

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MINISTERIO JESUS DE GALILEA LC-MS

ENSEÑAR, PREDICAR Y SANAR (MATEO 4:23)
CESION HAYEA ESPAÑOL TAMBIEN PARA DISCIPULOS
AL LATINO Y INTERNAE MAS MISIONEROS
317-862-2436 • CL0READT01@LCMS

INDIA MISSIONS

भारत

Rev. Udhay Raji has been introduced previously as a multicultural missionary in central Indiana. A graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, India, he has been here since 2003. While working full-time as a hospital chaplain to support his family, his passion is gospel outreach to residents from India, many of whom are non-Christian. A recent article in the Indianapolis Star placed the immigrant population from this country at number two, only behind Mexico. At the annual meeting of

Lutheran Multicultural Mission it was decided to directly support this mission by covering some of Pastor Raji's ministry expenses. Calvary Lutheran Church sponsors Pastor Raji, provides an office, and serves as a location for the monthly Tamil service. Many hours are spent in ministry by Missionary Raji beyond his work. This includes pastoral care and counseling, home Bible study groups, baptisms, confirmation, and the like. He served the India Evangelical Lutheran Church as a pastor for eighteen years and is

available for presentations in our churches regarding India missions, persecutions, caste, culture, and women in mission. The Raji family includes his wife, Kalai, and their three sons: Alwyn, Sam, and Jebri. They recently purchased their own home in southern Indianapolis. Further information is available on the Calvary website (www.clcs.org) and contact can be made by calling 317-408-2356 (cell) or by e-mail: uraji@clcs.org.

