



# Plumb Line

Laborers For Christ

February 2009 • Volume 5, Issue 1

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The congregation of Prince of Peace, West Salem, Wis., celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its LCMS charter in December, inviting Laborers For Christ members Fred and Judie Rick to the service. They were part of a Laborers crew that assisted the congregation in building a new sanctuary in 2001 and have since remained connected to the congregation. Project Manager Dale Mellendorf stayed on the project after the building was completed to create the railing, altar, lectern, and pulpit, shown here.

## A connection that continues

Surely there are many times when members of Laborers For Christ say the hard work is worthwhile, even years after the project is finished.

"It's so great when we can see God's hand and the many blessings He gives His people. It is times like this that make the hard work so worthwhile," said Laborers member Judie Rick. Judie and her husband, Fred, attended the Charter Sunday Anniversary Celebration at Prince of Peace, West Salem, Wis., in December, returning to a church for which they worked constructing a new 10,400-square-foot building in July 2001. The congregation received its LCMS charter Dec. 13, 1998.

"It is beautiful and nicely designed," Judie said of Prince of Peace's church. "It was a great project." Fred served as assistant project manager and Dale Mellendorf was the project manager.

Members had been worshipping at West Salem Elementary School until what they call their "disciple-making community center" was complete in January 2002. The anniversary celebration, titled "A Decade of Shalom," was based on this Hebrew greeting meaning "peace." The congregation praised and thanked God for 10 years of being able to spread the message from Romans 5:1, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Ricks were pleased to be a part of the anniversary and to visit with congregation members.

"It is very rewarding to see that they

are thriving and growing," Judie said. "They have a preschool there which is filled to capacity every year.

"We originally attended church in the school building with them while the building process was going on, so it is really a change from the 25 or so in attendance at that time."

Though the congregation was small, Judie said the volunteer participation was good, and included two teenagers doing community service (one of which ended up joining the church and being baptized). The church's membership now stands at 215, with 148 confirmed members.

"We saw quite a few people we had worked with and had such fun remembering the good times," Judie said. The Ricks enjoyed looking at the photo album the congregation keeps in the narthex, reliving the days on the project.

"The shocker of course is how the children had grown," Judie said.

"Some members have gone on to live with Jesus, some have moved away, but a good number were there and it was a great celebration."

Though Laborers For Christ projects take the Ricks all over the country, they try to stay connected to the congregations they have helped.

"Anytime we are passing through an area where we have worked, we make an effort to stop and see them," Judie said.

"We have made so many wonderful friends at every location that it is like having extended family across the United States."

Laborers For Christ is a ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund that helps congregations undertake construction projects and build within their budgets.





# Bringing volunteers 'all aboard'

Getting members excited about its new building project, the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hemet, Calif., congregation and Laborers For Christ were called "all aboard" with Woo Hoo Whistles.

In October, Prince of Peace volunteers began working alongside Laborers to construct the church's new family life center. This Southern California congregation is building up steam—so to speak—and decided to build a 11,400-square-foot facility for its contemporary "praise" service and other ministries and community outreach activities, including English as a Second Language classes, Braille programs, and a quilters group.

The congregation asked Laborers For Christ to manage the project and hosted a Thousand-Fold Workshop, a program that can be used in conjunction with Laborers. The workshop is designed to help motivate volunteer support for the congregation's ministries and building project. Facilitator Carol Stoop uses WooHoo Whistles—which sound like a train whistle—during the program and says it is a fun part of the workshop that has a serious purpose: members use them when a good idea is presented or something special happens.

The Bible verse used as the core theme for the Thousand-Fold Workshop is 2 Tim. 2:2, which focuses on multiplying



Laborers For Christ's Jim Bouvin, right, blows his "WooHoo Whistle" to get Prince of Peace Lutheran Church members "all aboard" to build a new family life center in Hemet, Calif. Congregation volunteer coordinator Bernie Kuenzel, left, was among those who received a whistle at the LCEF Thousand-Fold Workshop to help the church multiply volunteers for ministry.

workers for God's Kingdom.

Not only did the congregation have a motivated membership, but they also received help from the architectural firm that designed the building. Fourteen people from the office spent a Saturday working alongside Laborers framing the structure.

"I've never seen this happen on any other project I've worked on," said Ron Johnson, Project Manager. "In fact, I've never even heard of a project where the architects actually came out and volunteered on the building site."

Joe DiCamillo, Principal with WLC Architects, headquartered in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., said he appreciated the patient spirit the Laborers For Christ workers exhibited toward the volunteers.

*(Information for this story provided by Kim Krull and Carolyn Lewis.)*



Laborers and volunteers, working for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hemet, Calif., start construction on the 11,400-square-foot family life center that will give the growing congregation more space for ministry and community outreach activities. The building is expected to be complete this



## Dedicated in Christ

Ryan McIvor, Vice President of the Northwest District, presented Jeff Arthurs, president of Bethany Lutheran Church, Osburn, Idaho, a dedication plaque after the congregation completed its building project with Laborers For Christ.

The dedication celebration was Nov. 2, 2008.





NAILS Coordinator Don Nordmeyer, left, shows Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., students Seth (in white shirt) and Zachary DeBartolo a map of project sites for the new young adult program of Laborers For Christ. Nordmeyer met the brothers when he visited the campus to introduce NAILS, an opportunity for summer employment and ministry for college students.

## Campus visits netting student Laborers

Don Nordmeyer is combing Concordia campuses for students in search of summer employment with a spiritual edge. Nordmeyer is the coordinator for Laborers For Christ's student program, NAILS.

"This is much more than an opportunity to build something—it's an opportunity to help people and get involved with ministry," Nordmeyer said.

Since LFC began in 1980, most Laborers have been retirees. But the NAILS program is geared to Concordia university and seminary students who will work alongside Laborers as employees of the LCMS organization whose project they are tackling.

Students can sign up to request participation in projects throughout the country. Currently, 11 congregations are expected to have projects operable by May 1, including a childcare facility to be remodeled for Hope Lutheran Church, Park Forest, Ill., and an expansion at Trinity Lutheran Church, Superior, Mont.

In 2008, Nordmeyer visited five Concordia university campuses and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to make NAILS presentations.

"Every single [Laborers project] has left a legacy of spiritual uplift and commitment," Nordmeyer said. "The students are excited to hear about this new opportunity for young people to get involved with this ministry."

Concordia College, Selma, Ala., helped kick off the pilot NAILS project this spring when students joined Laborers to renovate Lehman Center. Laborer Ed Kintzinger, who worked for the college as project manager, supervised and trained the students. He and his wife, Ruby, also led daily devotions.

Concordia College CEO Dr. Portia H. Shields said NAILS gave students an opportunity to earn income they could use to help with school costs and taught a positive work ethic. The students learned "perhaps for the first time, how to work well and smart, what a finished product looked like, and how to work under adverse conditions

and not quit," she said.

Laborers Director Dan Baker calls NAILS a "win-win-win opportunity"—for students, congregations, and for Laborers as a whole. "For young people, this is an opportunity for summer employment that's also a chance to do mission work," Baker said. "It's great experience, especially for future professional church workers."

To learn more, visit [www.lcef.org/nails](http://www.lcef.org/nails) or call 800-843-5233, ext. 6446.

## New Laborers For Christ Members

Kathy Burge, Emery SD  
 Tom Burge, Emery SD  
 Leo Buss, Tucson AZ  
 Elaine McDeid, Jackson MN  
 Bill Nardini, Tehachapi CA  
 Greg Russell, Camdenton MO  
 Linda Sapp, Colorado Springs CO  
 Terry Sapp, Colorado Springs CO  
 Corlyen Stoltenburg, Jackson MN  
 Marilyn Vogel, Loveland CO

## Student Laborers

Nita Aaron, Camden AL  
 Randy Arnold, Tallahassee FL  
 Tracy Baker, Grand Ridge FL  
 Jarrick Bennett, Marian AL  
 Kenny Bennett, Selma AL  
 Shermom Black, Birmingham AL  
 Marcus Catlin, Selma AL  
 Branden Cody, Cottonwood AL  
 Vernon Daniels, Tampa FL  
 Brittney Fortune, Birmingham AL  
 Abigail Glavy, Austin TX  
 John Halman, Brentwood TN  
 Jamie Happney, Heishell TN  
 Justin Hill, Houston TX  
 Troy Jackson, Houston TX  
 Ken Johnson, Montgomery AL  
 Mario Johnson, Selma AL  
 Brian Morgan, Montgomery AL  
 Gerral Pinkston, Harper Woods MI  
 Corey Rue, Birmingham AL  
 Brandon Skanes, Birmingham AL  
 Cortez Stubbs, Birmingham AL  
 Josh Williams, Selma AL





# LFC Program Active Project List

Projects estimated to start by Dec. 31, 2009.

EST. START DATE	CITY	ST	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
*April 09	Chicago	IL	Chatham Fields	Narthex, addition/remodel, suburban: SF 817
April 09	Jacksonville	NC	Calvary	Sanctuary, new/addition, suburban: SF 6,000
April 09	Milford	NE	Good Shepherd	Fellowship, new, rural: SF 9,565
April 09	Omaha	NE	Concordia Jr-Sr HS	School, interior remodel, suburban: SF 7,000
*April 09	Park Forest	IL	Hope	Daycare, remodel, suburban: SF 6,000
April 09	Stafford	VA	Living Hope	Daycare, new, rural: SF 15,700
*April 09	Syracuse	IN	Shepherd by the Lakes	Sanctuary, addition, rural: SF 8,430
May 09	Carthage	MO	Good Shepherd	Sanctuary, addition, suburban: SF 7,500
May 09	Hampton	NE	Zion	Fellowship, addition, rural: SF 5,376
May 09	Superior	MT	Trinity	Offices, addition/remodel, suburban: SF 1,188
May 09	Warrenton	MO	St. John	Fellowship, addition, suburban: SF 13,781
May 09	Evansville	IL	Christ Our Savior HS	Interior, new, rural: SF 15,000
June 09	Greensburg	KS	Peace	Sanctuary, new, rural: SF 5,188
June 09	Kansas City	MO	Jesus El Buen Pastor	Multipurpose, interior, new/remodel, urban: SF 6,058
June 09	Minier	IL	Good Shepherd	Fellowship, addition, rural: SF 5,472
June 09	Sioux Falls	SD	Resurrection	Daycare, addition, urban: SF 16,000
June 09	Spokane	WA	St. John	Sanctuary, new, rural: SF 14,148
October 09	Sierra Vista	AZ	Immanuel	Sanctuary, new/addition, suburban: SF 6,400
October 09	Slidell	LA	Bethany	Daycare, new, urban: SF 6,000

\* Potential crew list sent

## Project Signup Form

Actual starting dates will depend on the organization's timely completion of its work on plans, permits, and financing. If these are not completed in a timely manner, the organization's project will be delayed. Your understanding and flexibility are appreciated. **Please do not leave for any project until you have been specifically called to the project by the organization.**

**I am willing to serve as a Laborer For Christ for any of the following projects:**

*(Please indicate all preferences. Use a separate sheet of paper for additional projects.)*

LOCATION

PROJECT


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (current location): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (current): (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Laborers For Christ, c/o Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
PO Box 229009 • St. Louis, MO 63122-9009  
Fax: (314) 996-1131 • E-mail: laborers@lcef.org



# Sympathy

■ **Harry Patterson** (Bev), Project Manager, died Oct. 12, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Bev; a daughter, Kerri; and grandchildren. Two sons, Bruce and Bryan, preceded him in death. Harry became an active Laborer in 1989 and a project manager in 1992. Harry and Bev worked on 20 projects. Cards may be sent to Bev at: 923 Duck Lake Road, Apt. 116, Highland, MI 48356.



■ **Cherie Kersten**, 42, daughter of Louise Rauch (widow of Jim, LFC Project Manager), died Nov. 5, 2008 after a long battle with cancer and leukemia. Cherie is survived by three children (ages 17, 15, 8), and her husband, Tim, a military chaplain. Cards may be sent to: Louise Rauch, 1428 S Grand Ave, Lyons, KS 67554-3531.

■ **Frank Bottorff** (Coleen), retired Laborer, died Nov. 15, 2008. Frank became an active Laborer in 1995 and assisted on 10 projects. Cards may be sent to Coleen at: 4 Lakeview Estates Drive, Warrenton, MO 63383-5243.

■ **Russell Hosney** (Alberta), retired Laborer, died Nov. 29, 2008. Russell and Alberta assisted on three projects. Cards may be sent to Alberta at: 3900 Chah Dr., Zephyrhills, FL 33541-2595.

■ **Audrey Kelley** (Al), retired Laborer, died Dec. 31, 2008, of cancer. Audrey is the wife of Al, retired Pre-construction Coordinator. Audrey assisted congregations on four projects. Cards may be sent to Al at: 597 Laurelbrook Court, Richland, WA 99352.



■ **Fred Nielson** (Virginia), retired Project Manager, died Dec. 30, 2008. Fred became an active Laborer in 1986 and project manager in 1987. Fred also served on the LFC Standing Committee from 1992 to 1998. Fred and Virginia assisted on 19 projects and hosted the LFC 1998 Rendezvous in Alamogordo, N.M. Cards may be sent to Virginia at: 3207 Sunny Circle, Alamogordo, NM 88310.



# Laborers share skills and customs, witness to camp volunteers

Oct. 4, 2008, was a special day at Camp Okobojo in Milford, Iowa! Nearly 100 friends of the camp, including staff and board members, were on hand to help with Fall Volunteer Day. Tasks included general maintenance and repair, preparation of seasonal facilities for winter, and general clean-up.

In addition to Volunteer Day activities, the Laborers For Christ team was hard at work helping with five construction projects at Camp Okobojo. The projects include "The Refuge," a small prayer chapel that seats 30 to 40 people; Leviticus, a new handicapped friendly, year-round dorm cabin that sleeps 20; Ruth, a new family cabin that sleeps 10 to 12; a year-round fish-cleaning facility (known as The Fish Shack); and a large

addition to the maintenance building. These projects were all made possible through bequests and special gifts from congregations, individuals, families, and the Camp Okobojo Auxiliary.

Mid-morning, the group broke for devotions and coffee. Devotions were led by the Laborers. Following the devotional message, volunteers were then made aware of another Laborers custom when they were invited to write a favorite Bible verse and sign the interior, unfinished walls of the prayer chapel. Many took advantage of this opportunity and returned home from this weekend of volunteering feeling especially blessed through the presence, witness, and sharing by Laborers For Christ. *Submitted by Rudy Spurzenbecher, Project Manager*



A Laborers For Christ team and other volunteers worked this fall to help clean up and make repairs at Camp Okobojo, an LCMS camp located on a wooded peninsula on West Lake Okobojo in Milford, Iowa. Here they are in front of "The Refuge," a small prayer chapel that seats 30 to 40 people.

## Plan now for 2010!

It may be more than a year away, but it's not too soon to mark your calendars. The Laborers For Christ Rendezvous will be April 9-10, 2010, in Lodi, Calif. For more information, contact Tony and Evelyn Belendez at (916) 205-4824 or e-mail [evelynnntony@aol.com](mailto:evelynnntony@aol.com).

## Anniversary

■ **Wilson and Diana Kruger** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 14, 2009. Cards may be sent to: 4231 Rosebud Road, Metropolis, IL 62960.





# Congregation damaged by Katrina now in new church

A group of dedicated Laborers and volunteers "working from morning to night" helped a congregation hit hard by Hurricane Katrina mark the storm's three-year anniversary in members' first permanent worship facility.

"They have been through a lot," said Dale Mellendorf, who served as project manager for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the Slidell, La., congregation that suffered heavy losses in Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. The deadly storm destroyed the rented building where members then worshipped and either ruined or damaged about 35 percent of their homes.

Good Shepherd members used Laborers For Christ to manage the construction of its new 7,200-square-foot worship center and fellowship hall. The new church is located about eight miles northwest of the rental facility devastated by Katrina.

"Our new building allows us to do

more outreach ministry," said Rev. Robert Aumann, Good Shepherd's pastor. "Since the storm, our members are always on the lookout for needs that can be met and how we can reach out to the community with the love of Christ."

Aumann called the Laborers team "terrific people." "I see them working morning to night," Aumann said. "You wonder how they have the strength and the energy to do what they do, but it's their love for the Lord."

The 70 or so members of Good Shepherd worshipped in the Tammany Twirlers Square Dance Hall during construction. The square dance group offered their facility to Good Shepherd after Katrina left the congregation homeless.

"We 'do-si-do' to the altar on Sunday mornings," said Aumann, laughing. The Laborers also participated in Bible classes and the congregation's small-group ministry.



Left, Dale Mellendorf served the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Slidell, La., congregation as project manager, overseeing its first permanent worship facility. His wife Irma is shown in the right photo, working with a Laborers For Christ crew to assist this congregation that suffered heavy losses in Hurricane Katrina.

## Project Changes

- Living Hope, Stafford, VA  
Postponed to March 2009
- Grace, Bear Creek, WI  
Postponed to May 2010
- Zion, Laramie, WY  
Temporary hold (awaiting sale of building)



## Gifts to LFC

When a dear friend or relative who was involved in the Laborers For Christ ministry is called to heaven, often we choose to honor them through a contribution to Laborers.

Donations may be mailed to  
Laborers For Christ  
PO Box 229009  
St. Louis, MO 63122-9009  
or charged to a credit card  
on our secure Web site  
[http://www.lcef.org/giving\\_catalog/laborers\\_for\\_christ.cfm#](http://www.lcef.org/giving_catalog/laborers_for_christ.cfm#).

A gift to LFC keeps the program vibrant and continues the tradition of Christians helping other Christians spread the Good News of Jesus by building places for worship and learning.



# Building for a growing Faith



## Adding on at Grace

Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown, Texas, has grown to nearly 1,100 members since it was first chartered in 1982. A Laborers For Christ team is helping the congregation build a new 8,800-square-foot sanctuary that will seat over 600; the current sanctuary is being remodeled to become a multi-purpose space. Shown above are the rafters of both the old church and the new one as the workers tie the two spaces together; right, Laborer Al Springer works on steel framing. Don Gahring is the Project Manager.



Laborers For Christ was asked to assist the congregation at Grace Lutheran Church, El Centro, Calif., add nearly 1,000 square feet to its original Spanish-style church, which now serves as its fellowship center, Janke Hall. The congregation uses the hall for church and community meetings, classes, and social events. Bernie Gueldner served as Project Manager.

# Messiah gains ministry space with Laborers



This summer Laborers For Christ assisted the congregation at Messiah Lutheran Church, in Mandan, N.D., add over 6,100 square feet to its fellowship hall, shown here in the early stages of completion. Messiah serves more than 300 members and is affiliated with Martin Luther School in Bismarck. Fellowship and spiritual support are important aspects to life on the project, and often come during break time. The late Lloyd Schubert served as Project Manager.





## This takes the cake!

In January, 48 members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Havelock, N.C., attended a presentation by Laborers For Christ Regional Consultant Dave Prevallet. The congregation is considering using Laborers to manage its building project that will enhance the Christian education of the community's children by adding more classrooms and expanding the fellowship hall to accommodate the needs of its growing membership. Plans call for an additional 5,000 square feet, plus remodeling part of the existing structure. To raise funds for the project, the congregation is participating in a capital campaign, implemented with the help of LCEF's Capital Funding Services. Mrs. Anna Maxwell, member of St. Paul, did some building of her own, bringing to the presentation this cake, designed to look like church with the future addition. This building project took 12 hours. Harold Adam, president of St. Paul, said that Mrs. Maxwell is known for her baking talents, though she had never attempted a three-dimensional design before. He also said that she received moral support and architectural assistance from her husband, Bill, who works in construction, and her daughter, Krystal. Dave reported that it was delicious!



The *Plumb Line* is published three times a year by Laborers For Christ, a ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

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