



# Plumb Line

Laborers For Christ

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## Kingsland, Ga., fellowship hall brings Laborer full circle

Seventeen years after taking part in his first construction project working for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Laborers For Christ's Bob McCoy is right back where he started: at the Kingsland, Ga., church.

The first time, McCoy was working in construction at the nearby Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and decided to help Laborers who were erecting Holy Trinity's original church building. Today, he is the project manager, working for the congregation, on a 6,290-square-foot addition, which includes a fellowship hall, six Sunday school classrooms, a kitchen, two bathrooms, and a 35-foot breezeway that joins the new facility to the church.

Serving as a Laborer, McCoy says, is like serving God. "When I get up in the morning, I say, 'Lord, what can I do for You today?'" McCoy, 75, added he plans to continue as a Laborer "until the Lord wants me," mostly because he gets to meet a lot of people and has fun.

This "second time around" at Holy Trinity went so smoothly, McCoy says, that Laborers finished their work for the congregation two months early. The new addition was dedicated March 30.

Holy Trinity's Rev. Paul Koch says he and the 150-member congregation are excited about getting more ministry space. "Our building is used almost every day and night of the week, from Scouts to (Navy) wives groups—not to mention Bible studies and confirmation (classes)—and this will certainly enable us to do much more," he said.

With the extra classrooms, the congre-



Laborers For Christ, working for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingsland, Ga., helped expand the church with a 6,290-sq.-ft. addition.

gation also plans to start a preschool in the not-too-distant future.

Laborers have been a special blessing, according to the pastor, for their "excellent" craftsmanship and "their addition to our worship and study of God's Word."

"It has been a pleasure to get to know these fine men and women, and it has been a positive experience for our whole congregation," Koch said of the Laborers. "Seeing everyone out on a Saturday, swinging hammers and lending a hand, builds a wonderful sense of community that can get so lost these days. The Laborers became a catalyst to help us build together, just as we also worship and learn together."

Koch said the addition was affordable, thanks both to the congregation's ability to employ Laborers—who are experts at "saving a buck without scrimping on quality"—and a Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) loan.

"One of the great things about the Laborers is that this is what they do—they know what churches need and what they don't," the pastor said. "When I tell my brothers in the ministry

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



(Continued on page 7)



## Back to Our LCMS Roots

### A Rendezvous at the Synod's origins

Despite a very cool spring, Missouri warmed with friendship and fellowship as active and retired Laborers came together for the biennial LFC Rendezvous. Hosts Denny and Flo Tellinghuisen, Barb Gahrng, and Dawn Baker worked to bring Laborers together for faith, fellowship, and some Synod history.

The Rendezvous is open to all active, inactive, widows and widowers, and retired Laborers and their spouses. The main objective of the Rendezvous is fellowship and reunion of friendships. This year's event was held April 3-5 in Perryville, Mo., with the event theme "Come Back to Your LCMS Roots."

By attending events like the Rendezvous and the regional Getaway events—which are held where many of the Laborers spend the winter (see sidebar at right)—participants "keep the connection," said Dan Baker, LFC Director. "Laborers are an extremely dedicated group of people. I draw strength from their dedication to the ministry," he said, adding that each event reinforces the enthusiasm and powerful fellowship they all share.

This year's Rendezvous kicked off with a dinner served by members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Perryville, and hosted by LCEF. Under bright blue skies Saturday, tours included the Saxon Memorial and the Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum

in Altenburg, Mo. The museum's extensive collection includes artifacts such as tools used by the Saxon Lutherans who settled this area in 1839; a gorgeous hand-carved organ; clothing and uniforms from various eras; and furniture used in the Log Cabin Concordia Seminary, the first LCMS school of ministry.

A tour of the Concordia Lutheran Church in Frohna, Mo., led then to a chicken dinner held at Concordia School. Entertainment was provided by the Saxon Hills Band.

The next Rendezvous will be April 9-10, 2010, in Lodi, Calif.



Alice Schulz and Flo Tellinghuisen visit before Friday's dinner at the Perryville Senior Center.



Volunteers come from all over the country for the Rendezvous, but Effingham, Ill., was well represented this year!



Don and Donna Nordmeyer, left, talk about the projects they have been on with Del and Stella Carman, and Ed and Sallie Klebe.

## Where do you winter?

A question quite often asked of those Laborers who don't know each other yet, is: "Where do you winter?" No matter where that may be or whether on a project, Getaway events are the perfect chance to continue the connection.

Getaways offer an opportunity for the Laborers, friends, and potential Laborers to gather, share in fellowship and discuss Laborers For Christ experiences during the winter months and in between Rendezvous dates. The 2009 Getaway events will be in January and February. The Southwest region will meet for a potluck supper Jan. 25 in Apache Junction, AZ, hosted by Dan and Dawn Baker. (Many thanks to Denny and Flo Tellinghuisen for hosting past Getaways!)

Two other events are in the works for Texas and Florida, but are still in need of hosts. Please consider being a host if you winter in Texas or Florida. Dan will assist you in the preparations. Contact him at [ddbakerus@yahoo.com](mailto:ddbakerus@yahoo.com) or (517) 206-2088.

- All that is required to host is:
1. Schedule a date and location at a church, camp, or site of your choice.
  2. Be willing to be the person or couple to contact for your area.

*"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

1 Thessalonians 1:3





# Longtime dream of church expansion comes true

Since their restrooms were demolished as part of a 1,139-square-foot expansion, members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church have experienced some "discomfort and disruption" in Atwater, Calif.

But no one has uttered a complaint. "We have waited such a long time, and everyone is thrilled to see that it (the expansion) is actually happening," said Scott Belyea, the church's building committee chairman. "They know how important this is to our church."

Laborers For Christ working for Holy Cross are helping build a "more welcoming" entryway, a deluxe kitchen, and more accessible restrooms.

Along with the expansion, Laborers have helped "revitalize" the congregation, Belyea said. They coordinate congregation workdays and participate in Bible studies. Laborer Frank McKinley sings with the church choir.

"They have brought a united feeling to the congregation and given us something to rally around in the way of the new building," Belyea said. Plans are for a July "grand opening." Members are eager to introduce their community to a facility they hope will help draw more people to church.

"Within the last month, we've already



*Holy Cross Lutheran Church is participating in the Laborers For Christ program to build a 1,139-square-foot expansion in Atwater, Calif. Laborers Jose Avila and Doug Strohman are among those tackling the project that will give the church a "more welcoming" entrance, a deluxe kitchen, and more accessible restrooms.*

seen new visitors (because of the expansion)," Belyea said. "We hope to do more community outreach and use our building as a centerpiece."

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is located about 60 miles north of Fresno and Rev. Tim Francisco is pastor.

# LFC thanks Bill Bruncke, database support

Little did Bill Bruncke know that serving the church meant he would be using the same skills he used while employed by Texas Instruments.

Bruncke retired from Texas Instruments in the mid-1990s, and joined his wife Dolores serving the Church. Dolores was a commercial editor, and published Plumb Line, the newsletter dedicated to the Laborers For Christ (LFC) organization. Through this association, Bruncke learned LFC was developing a computer database with which to manage project and member information.

LFC had been using a database pro-

gram that was not quite meeting its needs. As the staff tried other database programs, nothing seemed to fit. Bruncke had the professional background and skills to take on the task of finding the right system. He was thorough in his approach and knew the right questions to ask.

To gain a better understanding of LFC, Bruncke and Dolores traveled across the country visiting construction sites, meeting members of Laborers, even taking photos of people and projects. He attended committee meetings in St. Louis, conferences and special sessions in an effort to learn how to make the database best serve the organization. He suggested a Micro-

## Project Changes

- Our Shepherd, Indianapolis, IN Postponed until 08/2008
- St. John, Spokane, WA Postponed until 06/2009
- Immanuel, Lakefield, MN Cancelled
- Christ, Yuma, AZ Cancelled
- Immanuel, Sierra Vista, AZ Postponed to 09/2009
- Christ Our Redeemer, Sandpoint, ID Postponed to 05/2010
- Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge, IA Postponed to 04/2009
- Our Savior, McCall, ID Postponed to 06/2009
- Shepherd of the Valley, Junction City, OR Cancelled

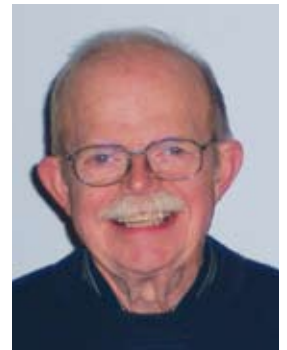
soft program called Access, which served the organization well, thanks to Bruncke's thorough knowledge.

Very often, people who are experts in technical fields have a difficult time communicating and educating people outside of their occupation.

However, Bruncke's special talent has been to not only decipher the needs of LFC, but also to explain the database program to those individuals using it at each individual's knowledge level.

"He has served selflessly and is largely responsible for the efficient and competent management model used by Laborers For Christ," said Curt Connolly, past LFC director.

As LFC begins to use a new database, the staff wants to thank Bill Bruncke for his time and talent, but most of all, for his dedication to the ministry.



Bill Bruncke



# Gifts from Harry and Bev Patterson

Harry and Bev Patterson have served on many projects over the 16 years they have been a part of Laborers, giving of their time, talent and spirit to numerous churches and schools. While those gifts keep on giving, they have bestowed upon the St. Louis staff another one.

As a way to stay active while attending to health issues and as therapy, Harry



Harry and Bev Patterson

took up latch hooking rugs. At the LFC Conference this winter, a lovely hooked rug that had the Laborers For

Christ symbol was presented to Dan Baker, Marcy Scholl, and Ellen Kennedy. To say it was made with love is apparent: The colors are difficult to match, therefore Harry and Bev had to have the yarn hand cut special for this project. They also had to create the pattern of the logo on the canvas.

The couple announced in February they would be retiring from Laborers, though Bev said they will miss being a part of the program and have had many good times with LFC. We continue to keep them in our prayers.



Harry Patterson created this custom-designed hooked rug in appreciation of the St. Louis staff members.



Laborers enjoyed getting to know many of the young people who will use the new family life center built by Laborers For Christ. Students, from left, Ashley Broyles, Kayla Church, and Sammy Burnett regularly sought Laborer Mike Steckelberg for a before-school chat.

## Arkansas congregation gets new family life center—and more

Helping build a family life center where youngsters will play basketball, stage plays, and enjoy recess on rainy days proved especially meaningful for LFC members working for Salem Lutheran Church and School.

That's because Laborers "really got to know many of the kids," said Norm Hoppmann, project manager for the Springdale, Ark., congregation. "We would walk down the hallway and get lots of high fives. I think some of the kids looked at us like extra grandparents."

Hoppmann calls interacting with many of the school's 250 students (in preschool through seventh grade) a highlight of the project.

This was the second time the congregation has employed Laborers to help with a project. Laborers first worked for Salem Lutheran about 10 years ago on a classroom and fellowship hall expansion.

"We had grown too crowded," said Salem Building Committee Chairman Tom Brown. "Laborers made this a doable project for us."

In addition to their construction skills, Brown appreciated Laborers' participation in church activities—worship, Bible studies, and chapel services. Even updating and organizing the school library. Hoppmann's wife, Jeanette, led that effort.

"The whole group went out of their way to be helpful in any way they could to our

church and to our school," Brown said. "They were a real blessing."

Hoppmann says Laborers also felt blessed by getting to know the congregation—especially the young people. He mentions a new boy at the school who "took to us like grandparents" and a group of fifth-grade girls who regularly sought Laborer Mike Steckelberg for a before-school chat.

When students interviewed Laborers as part of a class assignment, they asked why men and women participate in Laborers For Christ.

"We told them we have a lot of fun," Hoppmann said. "And we meet some great people."

To learn more about Salem Lutheran Church, visit <http://salem-lcms.org>.



Laborers Ken Wilbur, left, and Norm Hoppmann work on the new family life center for Salem Lutheran Church and School, Springdale, Ark. The facility includes a nearly full-size gym floor, a small kitchen, and a mezzanine to be used primarily as a youth room.



# LFC Program Active Project List

Projects estimated to start between June 1, 2008, and May 2009.

EST. START DATE	CITY	ST	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
June 08	+Bailey	CO	Shepherd of the Rockies	School, new, suburban: SF 5,541
June 08	+Cape Girardeau	MO	Hanover	Fellowship, interior only, new, rural: SF 10,515
June 08	+Mandan	ND	Messiah	Fellowship, addition, urban: SF 6,493
June 08	+East Wenatchee	WA	Faith	Sanctuary, new/addition, suburban: SF 8,300
June 08	+LaPine	OR	Faith	Sanctuary, new, rural: SF 8,000
June 08	+Pocatello	ID	Faith	Parish hall, new, suburban: SF 2,346
June 08	+Sauk Rapids	MN	Trinity	Multipurpose, addition, suburban: SF 7,719
June 08	+Topeka	KS	District Office	Camp, new, rural: SF 7,270
July 08	+Hemet	CA	Prince of Peace	Multipurpose, addition, suburban: SF 11,400
Aug 08	Laramie	WY	Zion	Fellowship/project management, new, suburban: SF 0
Sept 08	Wilford	IA	Camp Okoboji	Camp, rural: SF 1,176
Sept 08	Stafford	VA	Living Hope	Daycare, new, rural: SF 15,838
Sept 08	Indianapolis	IN	Our Shepherd	Classrooms, new, suburban: SF 22,880
Oct 08	El Centro	CA	Grace	Fellowship, addition, suburban: SF 480
Nov 08	Clintonville	WI	St. Martin	Daycare, addition, urban: SF 16,000
Jan 09	Jacksonville	NC	Calvary	Sanctuary, new/addition, suburban: SF 6,000
March 09	Chicago	IL	Chatham Fields	Narthex, addition, suburban: SF 817
April 09	Cambridge	NE	St. Paul	Fellowship, new/addition, suburban: SF 3,000
April 09	Fort Dodge	IA	Good Shepherd	Fellowship, addition/remodel, suburban: SF 5,000
April 09	Minier	IL	Good Shepherd	Fellowship, addition, rural: SF 5,472
April 09	Westcliffe	CO	Hope	Multipurpose, addition, rural: SF 5,000
May 09	Bear Creek	WI	Grace	Sanctuary, addition/remodel, rural: SF 4,000
May 09	Clive	IA	Living Faith	School, addition, suburban: SF 8,000
May 09	Stoughton	WI	Good Shepherd	Sanctuary, addition, urban: SF 9,000
May 09	Syracuse	IN	Shepherd by the Lakes	Sanctuary, addition, rural: SF 8,430

+ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

## ■ Fred Mammel

Died March 7, 2008. The funeral was March 10 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Mich. Fred has four children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. All memorials will be given to Laborers For Christ. Fred assisted congregations on 13 projects. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

## ■ Carolyn Williams

Mother of Ellen Kennedy, Laborers For Christ office support staff, passed away March 10, 2008. The funeral was March 12. Cards may be sent to John and Ellen Kennedy, 705 Samoa Drive, St. Louis, MO 63126.

## ■ Peg Geda

Died Feb. 4, 2008. Her husband, Larry, preceded her in death.

## ■ Junice Homeier

Wife of Laborer Ken Homeier, passed away March 5, 2008. She had been diagnosed with cancer. They both enjoyed being LFC members. Cards may be sent to Ken Homeier, 946 Monterrey Court, Apt. C, Crown Point, IN 46307.

## ■ Harvey Petty

Husband of Myrtle, died March 19, 2008. Harvey had assisted on five projects. The first project was in Indio, Calif., in 1989 and his last LFC project was in Jackson, Tenn., in 1993. Cards may be sent to Myrtle at 97 C Woodridge Drive, Warrenton, MO 63383-6147.

## ■ Paul Noteboom

Husband of Bonnie, died May 2, 2008, after battling cancer for 7 1/2 years. Paul and Bonnie assisted on four projects. The first project was in Solon, Iowa, in 1999 and the last project in Okmulgee, Okla., in 2000. Cards may be sent to Bonnie at 7434 S. Louis Ave., Apt. 302, Sioux Falls, SD 57108.

# Anniversary

- **Denny and Flo Tellinghuisen** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 14. Cards of congratulations may be sent to 1110 N Henness Road, Palm Creek RV Golf Resort #867, Casa Grande, AZ 85222.

# Prayer Requests

- **Al Neumann** (Harriet) has had a stroke and is now at home, walking with a cane. Please pray for a rapid recovery and complete healing. Cards may be sent to PO Box 539, Houghton Lake Heights, MI 48630-0539.
- Daughter of **Bob and Lois Shelton**, who had emergency surgery for blood on the brain. Please keep the entire family in your prayers for wisdom for the doctors and a complete healing from God.
- **Bob Ahrens** (Ada), Regional Consultant, had knee replacement surgery and some complications. Cards may be sent to 11583 Mapleridge Drive, North Royalton, OH 44133.
- **Don Verseman**, Assistant Project Manager, is suffering from double vision. Doris, his wife, broke her arm. They are planning to assist on the Hanover Lutheran Church project in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Please keep Don and Doris in your prayers for complete healing and recovery. Cards may be sent to 32 Christine St., Perryville, MO 63775.



# Our Savior, Palm Springs, Calif., celebrates dedication

With the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) Our Savior's Community Lutheran Church, Palm Springs, Calif., dedicated its new facilities this past November. Playing the shofar in the above photo is Annette Faudel.

The project included a sanctuary and new two-story ministry center with offices, classrooms, a choir room and meeting rooms. A fellowship center at the church, which was completed in the first phase, was also a Laborer's project.

LFC members returning for the dedication service included Ed and Ruby Kintzinger; Ron and Carol Johnson; Ray and Kern Rohrer; Bob and Pat Eckart; Mark and Liz Munderloch; and Rick and Ramona Brastrup.



Returning to Our Savior's Community Lutheran for a second project, Laborers For Christ built a new two-story ministry center, which added much-needed worship space, offices, and a choir room.



## Sunny skies in Minnesota

Trinity Lutheran Church in Sauk Rapids, Minn., is adding more than 7,000 square feet to its worship space with a multipurpose addition, and a Laborers For Christ crew is there to assist the congregation's volunteers. Construction is progressing well and expected to be completed late summer. Pictured are Assistant Project Manager Ron Fortmeyer, Jeffrey Schendel, Ron McKeever, and Richard Uitto working on the roof in late May.

## KINGSLAND, GA

(Continued from page 1)

about the price tag we're looking at here, they can't believe how affordable it really is, compared to commercial contracting."



Laborers and their wives are installed and welcomed during worship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingsland, Ga. Rev. Paul Koch (center) calls Laborers For Christ "a catalyst to help us build together, just as we also worship and learn together." This was Laborer Bob McCoy's (back row, second from left, in white coat) second project at the church.

## Scrap turned into tools for school

Sitting down to "school" lessons may be something many Laborers have not done in quite a while. But several sat down again after completing the Kingsland, Ga., project and played with some of the children who were trying out the special chairs, benches and tables the Laborers built for the preschool and Sunday school students.

With lumber left over from the building project, Project Manager Bob McCoy suggested the Laborer team create matching tables and pint-sized chairs and benches.

"God gave me the idea: we've got this scrap lumber, let's use it this way," McCoy said.

This is a pattern he has used before when making tables and chairs for his grandchildren. Bob's wife, Dorothy, and two women from the church put their creative touches on them by painting

## New Laborers

Name	City, State
Art Ellwanger	Spokane, WA
Gary Ford	Rockport, TX
Pat Ford	Rockport, TX
Clifford Fox	Puyallup, WA
Gloria Fox	Puyallup, WA
Charles Gross	Black Canyon City, AZ
Gorlyn Hagerbaumer	Mondamin, IA
Ruthie Hagerbaumer	Mondamin, IA
Bill Hilgendorf	Mantiowoc, WI
Lois Luedtke	Freeport, IL
Stu Luedtke	Freeport, IL
Bruce Stanton	Athol, ID
Luke Weerts	Selma, AL

them in bright, primary colors. But what most likely will stick with the kids are the Bible verses painted on the tabletops. Ones such as this:

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' " (Jeremiah 29:11).

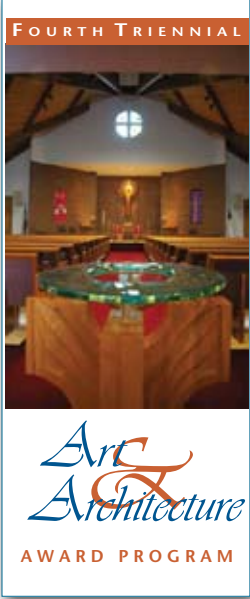
"If you read it and see it for a few years, you'll remember it during those teenage years, those hard years," Dorothy said of her hopes for the Bible verses. A lesson left behind by Laborers, even after "school" is dismissed.



The Laborers for Christ crew took scrap lumber and created tables, benches and chairs for the preschool and Sunday school children. After this photo was taken, Dorothy McCoy and members of the church continued their creative work by painting Bible verses on the tops of the tables.



# Entries sought for Art and Architecture Awards



Every three years, the Architectural Advisory Committee of LCEF sponsors an award program recognizing outstanding artistic and architectural achievement in LCMS projects. The award program is open to all artists, architects, churches, designers, landscape artists, or collaborative design teams.

If you have worked on a project that was completed within the last three years, and you believe it deserves recognition, please encourage any of the above-mentioned entities to enter.

For more information, contact Jane Absheer at 1-800-854-4004, Ext. 6423, or see the Web site, [www.lcef.org/art\\_and\\_architecture/](http://www.lcef.org/art_and_architecture/).



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