

SEEDS OF HOPE

a Newsletter from Outreach for Hope Inc.

Spring 2010 Issue 02



ONE DAY HIGHLIGHTS THREE YEARS OF OUTREACH IN RACINE

Neighborhood ministry happens everyday at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Racine. But one special day during Holy Week raised the hard work into a celebration.

During the Maundy Thursday worship service, April 1, 2010, there were 12 baptisms, 15 confirmations and 27 new members received! Not in recent memory has there been such an obvious and extravagant outpouring

of the Spirit's activity. Excitement and joy abounded! "But this is only a fraction of the story of the Spirit's work at Redeemer," said Molly Doreza, pastor of Redeemer. "We have been working to make this a true neighborhood church, and I believe it is finally happening."

Redeemer's neighborhood has been transitioning over the years. A large

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A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP

As I look at the list of our ministries supported by Outreach for Hope I am much more aware of the strength found in those ministries than in any frailty found in them.

These are among some of our synod's most vibrant, exciting ministries. They are often ministries where the Gospel is carried from the sanctuary into the world, into the neighborhoods. They are often ministries not only centered in the lives of young people, but also ministries led in no

small way by young people. They are often a reflection of the church which God has called us to be.

Recently I was at a Celebration and Reaffirmation of Serenity Inns, a unique ministry geared toward people in recovery. There were stories of lives dramatically changed for the better because of the ministry of Serenity Inns. There was also a wonderful gathering of congregations and individuals who not only support, but celebrate the work done there.

The gathering that day formed a worshipping community of which I was proud to be a part.

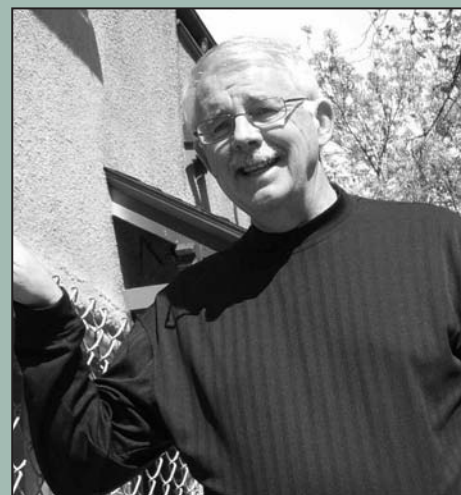
Thanks for the generous support for Outreach for Hope. Stories of hope and renewal are happening in many places in our synod.

Please join me in making sure these vibrant, vital ministries continue to be empowered to share life in Jesus Christ by your continuing support.

- Bishop Jeff Barrow



Bishop Jeff and Katie Barrow are Outreach for Hope supporters



CONSIDER THIS...

A Quote:

The Christian faith for most people is not communicated by doctrinal pronouncements ... but by what goes on in the church in its most local setting. It is here, in the church down the street, that people are caught up in the Gospel promise -- or are turned away.

~ James C. Fenhagen, from his book *Mutual Ministry*

A Bible Verse:

You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien.

~ *Leviticus 19:10*

CHURCH OF THE GREAT SPIRIT

Embodies spirit of Outreach for Hope

“We would probably be meeting out on the lawn if it wasn’t for Outreach for Hope.” Those words of appreciation came from a young woman with a welcoming smile and a winning personality. Carijean represented the welcoming environment of the whole congregation as I came to worship on a Sunday morning in April with Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit. Later I learned that Carijean is the current President of the Church Council.

OFH Gifts Help Ministries

Survive and Thrive

After worship I met with the Council and Carijean said it again. “We would probably be meeting out on the lawn if it wasn’t for Outreach for Hope.” The whole council nodded in agreement. It caught my attention. Would there be an ELCA ministry among Native American peoples in our Synod if Outreach for Hope wasn’t at work? Would the other twenty three congregations and ministries receiving support from Outreach for Hope be able to do the work of being a church presence in their communities without Outreach for Hope?

Your gift of \$20, \$100, or \$1000 makes that kind of difference as congregations, like Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, carry out their ministry in the poorest and most diverse areas of the Greater Milwaukee Synod

Unique Pastoral Needs and Gifts

At the corner of Howell and Oklahoma in Milwaukee, Church of the Great Spirit is a place of support and welcome. It became apparent to me quickly that a number of people who

call this gathering their faith home have health concerns. Others simply needed people around them who would listen to their story. Carijean herself is in a wheelchair, but that quickly becomes only a part of her background. What is evident is that she loves her church and the people who attend with her, and she is a leader.

The congregation’s pastor, Rev. Tim McIntosh, is contracted to work with the Church of the Great Spirit for ten hours a week. I suspect he regularly puts in more hours than that. Tim’s primary employment is as a chaplain with Seasons Hospice. His wife, Bridget, puts in her own time as well, assisting Tim with worship arrangements and using her nursing skills to bring a parish nurse presence to the community of believers.

Worship Shaped by Native Heritage and LBW

Tim, who only learned of this Cherokee heritage at age sixteen, opens the worship with a Smudging Ceremony, which is a time of cleansing and the clearing of negative energy to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Later, prayers are directed toward the four points of the compass, as we stand facing each of those directions in turn. Prayers of the community are accompanied by smoke fed by the four sacred “medicines” of tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar, reminiscent of the prayers that rise to God like the smoke of incense in the Old Testament. Laced around those unique Native American cultural aids to worship is the Lutheran Book of Worship.

Your gift makes the gift of the Great Spirit possible

This little gathering of Christians is a gift to our Synod. They are why I come to you asking for support of Outreach for Hope. The Greater Milwaukee Synod is blessed by the richness of congregations that serve in unique settings, that serve in the midst of poverty, that serve in cultural diversity. Your donation to Outreach for Hope makes it possible. As Carijean said, “We would probably be meeting out on the lawn if it wasn’t for Outreach for Hope.”

Please make it your goal to help congregations like Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit not only to survive, but to thrive in our Synod.

With gratitude for your support,
Rev. Jim Bickel ~ Executive Director



Pastor Tim leads worship



Council president, Carijean Balak (on right) and Bridget McIntosh

OFH MINISTRY SITES SUPPORTED IN 2010:

Ministries Present Variety of Outreach Programs

On any given day ministry at the sites supported by Outreach for Hope takes on many shapes and directions. With each of the ministries listed below is one highlight of its outreach to the poor in its own community. Each seeks to draw people into the circle of Good News and the assurance of acceptance in God's love.

MILWAUKEE – FAR NORTH

Capitol Drive Lutheran Church – Milwaukee

Provides The Gathering Place, offering older adults opportunities for belonging to a caring community, for growing in healthy living, for discovery of gifts for service, and for spiritual growth.

Divine Word Lutheran Church (Parks Neighborhood Parish) - Milwaukee

Lively world music welcomes people into community for spirited worship, nourishing Word and a share in God's healing of our broken world.

Florist Avenue Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Bible Brunch is a Saturday morning program aimed to immerse the church into the life of the neighborhood, connecting with neighbors in concrete, sustainable ways and building a music ministry linking outreach to Sunday worship.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

The Worship Outreach Initiative is expanding its outreach by adding two additional worship opportunities:

A Saturday evening Youth and Family Arts Worship and a Sunday Evensong Service for adults.

Peace Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Starts by providing immediate help for those in need, followed by life-long learning and enrichment particularly through a creative Confirmation program, and transforming worship and spiritual services.

Pentecost Lutheran Church (Parks Neighborhood Parish) - Milwaukee

Lively world music welcomes people into community for spirited worship, nourishing Word and a share in God's healing of our broken world.

MILWAUKEE – NEAR NORTH

All Peoples Church – Milwaukee

Puts strong importance on youth through Urban Expressions by Urban Youth, a program comprised of four components: Wednesday Night Alive, Kids Working to Succeed, Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, and Hip Hop Worship.

Cross Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Cross Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry seeks to connect faith to life by putting emphasis on the power of being included into the community along with the support of food, AODA counseling, medical and dental care, access to employment and other support services.

Hephatha Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Worship, holy communion and holy baptism are connected to care for the

poor and to the special needs of young people while putting a strong emphasis on being a life giving partner of the neighborhood.

Incarnation Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

The God Bless the Kids Spot Neighborhood Youth Outreach Ministry provides a safe, welcoming environment in which neighborhood youth are offered a range of enriching experiences that put them into the presence of the church.

Reformation Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Gives structure and hospitality to people whose lives are unpredictable and broken, by ministry through Neighborhood Ministers, a Neighborhood Store and Coffee Shop, Nurture and Nourishment Food Pantry, and a Summer Youth Work Program.

Serenity Inns - Milwaukee

Provides transitional living and supportive health, educational, and vocational services for men seeking to move from addiction and homelessness to continued recovery and independent living.

MILWAUKEE – CENTRAL AND SOUTH

Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit - Milwaukee

A community and cultural ministry to the American Indian population in the south Milwaukee area, providing worship with a blend of traditional

Lutheran and traditional native dimensions, working together in programming with several other Indian community groups.

Redeemer Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Its Outreach Training Center provides training for outreach to the community through evangelism and neighborhood presence, with special focus on the immediate neighborhood and Marquette University, along with the development of an advocacy program on behalf of Afro-Colombians.

Our Saviors Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

The Wednesday Noon Prayer Services and Lunch provides an opportunity for persons living in poverty to be fed spiritually and enjoy a warm, nourishing meal, experiencing the warmth and support that comes by being part of a community of faith.

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Lao Ministry - Milwaukee

Witnesses the love of Jesus the Christ to immigrant families (primarily Buddhist) from Laos, through ministry of direct service, invitation, evangelism training, and fellowship events called LIFE - Lao Immigrant Family Enrichment events.

Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Targets the Spanish speaking residents of the Near Southside of Milwaukee, served by a fulltime pastor, who ministers primarily to Latino people, with worship, spiritual direction and leadership formation.

Unity Lutheran Church - Milwaukee

Is an intersection of ministries that connect people at various levels through a Soup Kitchen, an Active Adult Center, and an Open Door Free clinic, all housed within its walls, combined with an emphasis on spiritual growth and worship, leading back to service.

RACINE

Emmaus Lutheran Church – Racine

Building on past years of community work and preparation, an ELCA Latino ministry for Racine was begun Pentecost Sunday 2009 which provides Spanish worship and a fellowship meal after, with the ministry enhanced by English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Racine Neighborhood Camp - Racine

Created to offer free quality care and Christian programming to elementary school children of the unemployed and “working poor” in the urban neighborhoods of Racine, including “God Time” worship, and opportunity for teens to be employed as camp staff and helpers.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Racine

Puts an emphasis on a Thursday night youth program called, Spark: Fanning the Flames of Faith, which includes food, games, learning, and teen leadership mentoring, with a growing team of volunteers from the congregation and community to provide the help and leadership.

Redeemer Lutheran Church – Racine

Began a program three years ago called Terrific Tuesday/Martes Maravillosos, an after-school program of enrichment and support for neighborhood children and their families, including a community meal, worship and Bible study.

KENOSHA

Grace Lutheran Church – Kenosha

Is central to the ELCA's ministry to the poor in Kenosha, providing the space for the Urban Outreach Center, a rotating nightly shelter for the homeless, including the only shower facility in the rotation, and a site for the LSS Strengthening Humanity Network.

ELCA Urban Outreach Center - Kenosha

Provides educational, emergency, spirituality and youth development services to over 4,000 individuals every year, with Bible Study, clothing closet, personal and infant supplies, GED classes in Spanish and English, computer classes, and a wide range of youth programs.



Confirmation

BIKERS SET GOAL AT \$50,000 TO SUPPORT OFH

Third Annual Outreach for Hope Ride set for September 11, 2010

You don't need to be a bicycle rider to enjoy the goals of this event, but it can't hurt. There is something for everyone at the Family Fun Biking Event begun in 2008, hosted by Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha and now opened up to the whole Greater Milwaukee Synod.

- ~ For the casual family and child biker, a ride on the paved and flat Glacial Drumlin Trail, 2 to 12 miles, you decide.
- ~ For the more avid bicycler, approximately 40 mile mapped and cued ride on country roads around Dousman.
- ~ For everyone, even if you don't ride, a Synod-wide potluck picnic at Corey Park in Dousman, with games, biking stories, and Outreach for Hope ministries highlighted.

Donor will match all gifts

For those who simply want to support Outreach for Hope, you have an opportunity to donate and **have your gift doubled by a generous challenge grant of \$25,000**, available between July 15 and October 1. You don't need to ride or attend. Your donation sent in will be matched.

Registration:

To learn about registration and additional ride and picnic details contact Nic Bur (262-650-9697) or Dave Hammer (262-650-6329) from the Ascension Spirit Spinners. Registration is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, \$35 per family. There will be a "treat bag" included with registrations along with trail passes for those who don't already have one. There is no minimum for pledges, but participants are encouraged to get pledges and donations for Outreach for Hope.

Pacer Congregations:

Fifteen congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod have made a commitment to set the pace for recruiting participants and raising funds to support Outreach for Hope through the Family Fun Bike Ride Event. Would your congregation like to join in on setting the pace for recruiting and supporting Outreach for Hope? Call Rev. Jim Bickel at the OFH office, 414-671-1212.

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, September 11, ride in the morning. Picnic at Noon.



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number of families are low income and there are many children in need of the kinds of ministries Redeemer offers.

Three years ago, with the generous support of Outreach for Hope, Redeemer began a free mid-week children's program – "Terrific Tuesdays/Martes Maravillosos" to connect the parish with neighborhood kids. The congregation had a long and supportive relationship with nearby Mitchell School which enabled this new ministry to grow quickly.

The three-hour program includes homework help, bi-lingual study, crafts and activities, storytelling and games. After a healthy dinner, the kids meet for worship.

"We currently enroll 45 children, from kindergarten through fifth

grade," said Doreza, "and we are seeing the need to provide programming for middle school kids as well."

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer also benefits in other ways from Outreach for Hope gifts. Along with three other ELCA congregations in Racine, it hosts a five-week, free Neighborhood Camp for neighborhood kids. This year Redeemer hopes to enroll sixty children.

Doreza reflected on the impact of these ministries: "Along with our regular Sunday School, the number of neighborhood children participating roughly equals our worshipping membership! When we adopted our mission statement three years ago ("Knowing God's Grace, Sharing God's Love") we took the 'sharing' part seriously!"

Maundy Thursday's wonderful celebration is tangible evidence of God's spirit working through a missional church. It is exciting, and shows every indication that growth will continue.

"We are deeply thankful for the help of Outreach for Hope - God's work, through your generosity!"



THE OUTREACH FOR HOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Redeemer in Racine has an unforgettable Maundy Thursday

Bishop Jeff Barrow expresses his support for OFH

Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit a unique gift in our Synod

Bikers hope to inspire OFH supporters to reach a \$50,000 goal

Learn the focus of each of the 24 Outreach for Hope Ministries

REDESIGNED OFH WEB SITE, OUTREACHFORHOPE.ORG

Almost everything you want to know about Outreach for Hope can be found at our redesigned internet web site. Take a few minutes to log on and explore.

Access to the OFH web site:

Go to our domain name,

www.OutReachForHope.org

or

www.GreaterMilwaukeeSynod.org

and look for "Outreach for Hope" on the furthest tab to the right

What you will find:

Lots of Pictures

Answers to Common Questions

A 2010 list of church and ministries support by Outreach for Hope

Instructions for a variety of ways you can give a gift to Outreach for Hope

The Outreach for Hope newsletter

Past issues will be archived & available

A brief history of Outreach for Hope

The board and staff



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The mission of Outreach for Hope, Inc. is to provide financial support to congregation-based Word and Sacrament ministries with the poor in the Greater Milwaukee Synod - ELCA.