

LUTHERAN NETWORK ON MENTAL ILLNESS/ BRAIN DISORDERS



SERVING ALL LUTHERAN FAMILIES
ELCA AND LCMS
Summer 2008



MENTAL ILLNESSES ARE
MORE COMMON THAN YOU
THINK—

One in four families is af-
fected by mental illnesses.

More than half of the nation's
jail and prison inmates suf-
fer from mental health prob-
lems.

25% of all beds in our hospi-
tals are filled by persons with
mental illnesses.

35% of the homeless on our
city streets suffer from schizo-
phrenia.

15 percent of all Americans
will suffer a major depressive
episode during their lifetime.
Less than a third of them will
receive any treatment.

The government spends only
\$14 for research on each pa-
tient with schizophrenia or
\$10 for those with major de-
pressive disorders.

The government spends \$161
per patient for multiple scler-
osis research, \$1,000 for
muscular dystrophy research,
\$130 for heart disease and
\$203 for cancer research.



13TH ANNUAL ALL-LUTHERAN CANDLELIGHTING

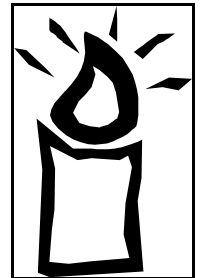
With this newsletter, you will
also receive the church bulletin for the
13th All-Lutheran Candlelighting in
observance of Mental Illness Awareness
Week. The Lutheran Network on Mental
Illness/Brain Disorders provides this
opportunity to bring information on
serious mental illnesses, and the need for
compassion and understanding for indi-
viduals with these illnesses.

All-Lutheran Candlelighting is
observed in one Sunday in October, the
choice of date to be left up to the
congregation. On this Sunday, we ask
that all churches light a candle and say a
prayer for all persons and their families
who are dealing with serious mental ill-
nesses. A short liturgy is provided as well
as brief information on mental illnesses.

Some congregations welcome
families and friends of persons with
mental illnesses to come forward with
single candles and add them to the
bank of candles on the altar.

Some churches give the oppor-
tunity for a person experiencing
mental illness to speak to the
congregation.

Often the pas-
tor presents the entire
liturgy and prayer.
This is sometimes the
only time during the
year that mental
illnesses are discussed
in our congregations.



VICTORY ON MEDICARE!!!

On July 15, the House and Senate successfully overrode the President's
veto of legislation (HR 6331) making critical reforms and improvements to the
medicare program for beneficiaries living with mental illness. The vote in the
House was 383-41 and the vote in the Senate was 70-26.

In addition to preventing a cut in fees to physicians, the legislation also
makes improvement to the Part D drug benefit and establishes parity for cost
sharing for outpatient mental health services.

The bill, strongly supported by NAMI, extends expiring provisions to
improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to
enhance low income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural
areas, including pharmacy access.

To learn how your senators and congressmen voted, go to nami.org,
click on Take Action, Legislative Action Center, Key Votes. Enter your zip
code to see how your representatives voted on this issue.

LNMI SPONSORS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mary Moller, national recognized expert on Psychiatric Nursing, spoke at the annual Parish Nurse Conference held in July at Concordia Mequon, Wisconsin. Mary Moller uses a format which includes persons with mental illnesses, their families and professionals all learning from each other.



The presentations included the keynote, Wellness: Choice not Cliché, and a breakout session titled Psychiatric Wellness: It's more than a state of mind. Both sessions, attended by more than 120, were well received by parish nurses and others.

Laura Gray, LNMI network member, introduced Mary. In 1993 Laura and her husband Rev. Barton Gray took the course using Moller's method. Cost for the July program was provided by a grant donated by a former member of the network to provide Parish Nurses with information on serious mental illnesses.

The Moller presentation was recorded. If you are interested in seeing this program, or if you know of a parish nurse who would be interested in this, please contact Laura Gray at 989-356-6920.

— Mental illnesses ARE physical illnesses —
David Satcher, former Surgeon General



Therefore since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Romans 5:1-5

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is a major public health problem. It is the 11th leading cause of death overall in America. It is the 3rd leading cause of death for young Americans between 10-24. It is the 2nd leading cause of death for American college-aged students.

What do we know about the cause of suicides?

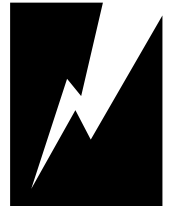
More than 90% of people who die by suicide have depression or another diagnosable mental or substance abuse disorder.

How do suicides vary by age, gender, etc.?

20% of all suicide deaths are among veterans. 80% of completed suicides are men. Older white men have the highest suicide rate of all age groups.

How common are suicides?

Suicides outnumber homicides by three to two. There are more suicides globally than deaths from war and violence combined. Approximately twice as many Americans die by suicides than from HIV/AIDS.



Who is at risk?

Persons at high risk for suicide include those who are severely depressed and feel hopeless—those with a past history of suicide attempts—those who have made concrete plans or preparations for suicide. (Source: SPAN USA)

Where can I find information to help me?

Suicide Prevention Action Network USA—SPAN
Www.spanusa.org
Phone: 1-888-649-1366

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Www.afsp.org
Phone: 1-888-333-AFSP



Editor's note: any concerns, suggestions, or mailing changes may be e-mailed to:
janecarlson@wowway.com
(Please use "LNMI" in subject line or it may not get through.)
For LNMI/BD brochure on Mental Illness, call: Pastor Lisa Cleaver,
Director Disability Ministries:
1-800-638-3522, ext. 2692