

Lutherans worship outside the box

Last summer in the beautiful Beartooth Mountains, four Montana Synod congregations, with support from the ELCA, held a two-day revival—Lutheran style. Under the theme “Sacred Places, Sacred Faces,” the weekend events occurred outdoors in a big white tent just north of Red Lodge.

While there was no snake handling or gettin’ slain in the spirit, the Spirit was definitely present in celebrations of revival and renewal through baptism, healing, prayer and communion.

More than 350 Lutheran and non-Lutheran folks participated, enjoying workshops on prayer and evangelism, toe-tapping music from two bluegrass gospel bands, worship, testimonies and meals together.

The revival was a witness to what four small congregations can do by joining together in cooperative ministry. Sponsoring congregations were St. James Lutheran in Columbus, Joliet Lutheran in Joliet, Immanuel Lutheran in Absarokee and Messiah Lutheran in Red Lodge.

Throughout the weekend, pastors and laypeople from these congregations led and assisted with worship and joined together in a mass choir.

Guest revivalists were the Rev. Anthony Chatman of Oklahoma City and the Rev. David Lowry of Chicago, who led workshops and preached.

The sponsoring congregations received resource materials and financial support from ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congrega-

tional Mission and the Rev. Kathryn Love, ELCA director of prayer and renewal.

Offerings received benefited Lutheran Disaster Response efforts to aid victims of the Midwest floods.

This was not your typical Lutheran gathering, but still it offered spiritual revival, a time for refreshment, renewal and rekindling in the spirit of joy, hope, peace and the love planted at baptism. Gifts were stirred up for the sake of God’s mission and ministry in these local communities, the synod and beyond.

If you would like more information on planning a revival in your area, please contact the Rev. Kim Wilker at Messiah Lutheran Church, Red Lodge (406-446-2430). □



Anointing is part of the healing service.



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More than 350 Lutherans and non-Lutherans met at the tent for a two-day revival sponsored by four Montana Synod congregations.