



# DiaconoNews

A bi-monthly publication for Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA

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[www.elca.org/diaconalministry/](http://www.elca.org/diaconalministry/)

November, 2008

## Diaconal Ministry

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## Bringing a Labyrinth to Life

By Kim Winchell

I've been a fan of labyrinths for a long time. I had heard about them for some years even before I had my first opportunity to walk one, during (quite appropriately!) the Synod's Candidacy Committee "Entrance Retreat" for those discerning a call to ministry.

It was outdoors, a beautiful, inlaid stone tile labyrinth, in the famous (11 "circuit") style of the Chartres Cathedral one. At that time, and in that setting, it lent itself well to reflections on journey, uncertainty, questions (from the outer path) of "how can I ever get from here, to there?", but finally trusting the way to the Spirit and emerging hopeful, if still uncertain, about "what's next?".

Since then, I've had opportunity and blessing to walk a variety of labyrinths, in many settings – from backyards and church yards, to Holden Village's mountain meadow one, to the lovely one at the Del Ray Beach retreat center (where the Feb 07 "Consultation on Vocation & Service" was held). I walked that one barefoot, in the moonlight, for a special quiet time with God and in thoughtful community with others.

This is the story of why and how I came to build my *own* labyrinth, "out back" on a portion of our 38 country acres. I once had a "prayer bench" beneath some large pines out there. During an ice storm, in Feb 06, a large, ice-heavy pine branch came crashing down and pretty much smashed the bench to bits. It presented a powerful, and rather sad, despairing image of chaos and destruction into a place of peace and prayer. I missed my special place.

*(continued on p.4)*



*Kim beginning her labyrinth circle*

## A Discernment of Vocation or A Vacation with God

By Anurag Mani

I met with my Florida-Bahamas Synod Candidacy Committee in May of this year, and was advised to consider attending the DMFE event either in July or wait until January of 2009. Fortunately, I was able to register for the July event. I felt humbled by the affirmation and support of the committee.

I am a 2nd Year Clinical Pastoral Education Resident studying and extending pastoral care on the Oncology units at Florida Hospital at Orlando, Florida. As a requirement for my Chaplaincy or Supervisory ministry, I need to obtain Ecclesiastical Endorsement from my denomination. And the first step of this process in the ELCA is to become a rostered minister. I had two options: "Associates in Ministry" or "Diaconal Ministry".

"Ministry at the Intersection of the Church and the World" beautifully described my personal "call" to ministry and left no doubt in my mind to pursue this roster; though the thought of going to Gettysburg, PA for two weeks was welcomed with feelings of excitement mixed with some reluctance.

So, there I was, riding in this black Lincoln sitting in the front seat next to David, a cheerful, bearded, Caucasian man in his fifties. David was my chauffeur for this crisp Sunday morning, and was responsible for safely transporting me from the Baltimore- Washington airport to the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. Everyone else had already arrived the day before, which gave me ample time to talk with David and become "educated" about the history of Gettysburg. Suddenly, I was taken over by a feeling of nausea. "What am I doing here? Maybe I should have waited till January! These thoughts devoured me like a hungry lion. I found myself feeling homesick.

David did his job very well by safely "delivering me" to the seminary. I proceeded to my dorm room where I was extended a warm welcome by a neatly-placed sign pasted on the door boasting my name. I was still feeling a bit nervous about it all, but also felt a certain "calm" that only God can give that let me know that everything was going to be 'alright'.

After a short rest I sauntered over to the main hall. I thought that this was also a good opportunity to start feeling a connection with other candidates especially since I was the last one to arrive to the event, and most probably they all had already met each other and introduced themselves. After having the opportunity to casually meet just a few of my "new friends" for a few minutes, the time started moving very quickly.

Not long after my initial meeting with a few of the other candidates, I found myself sitting in an auditorium with all of the twenty seven other participants scattered around me as they were all introducing themselves one at a time. "This will be some experience", I thought to myself. "Many of these participants were just beginning seminary, and here I am, already finished seminary and top that with two years of CPE Residency!" I sighed with an air of pride surrounding me thinking, "I already know what I am going to do"! Next, I found introducing myself to a small group of participants along with a group leader.

Over the next few days we were bombarded with lectures ranging from the Trinitarian exegesis of the Diakonia, to the history of the diaconate and so on. As a good ex-seminarian, I jotted down most of everything that was taught. Here began my conversion from a 'What am I doing here' to 'Wow! This is an involved learning experience'. The days were packed, starting at 7:30 in the morning until 9:00 at night, which included times for breakfast, lunch, dinner and a few hours of break. This was the second stage of my formation or, should I say "re-formation. (continued on p. 5)

Anurag's small group at DMFE 2008



## Earthkeeping Listserv Launched

Just launched: an Ecunet-based listserv, to use for "LENS" (Lutheran Earthkeeping Network of the Synods) and for anyone, really, in the ELCA who has an interest in earthkeeping topics and support!

**Here is the invitation from Mary Minette, ELCA Director for Environmental Education and Advocacy:**

Please join our discussion group for care of creation issues in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

How are you heeding God's call to care for creation?

Is your congregation or synod forming a "green team"?

Are you thinking about your personal carbon "footprint" and ways to cut back on your energy use?

Use this e-group to ask questions, post news, share stories, offer feedback, and generally discuss environmental issues and actions in your congregation, synod and our church as a whole.

**Additional helpful info:** Link for subscribing - send an email to this site, with subject header of "subscribe."

Note that subscription is free IF you have no more than 3 current Ecunet lists that you subscribe to.

[LUTHERAN\\_EARTHKEEPING\\_NETWORK.topic-subscribe@faithgroups.com](mailto:LUTHERAN_EARTHKEEPING_NETWORK.topic-subscribe@faithgroups.com)

**Once subscribed** .. subsequent messages/posts to the list go to: [Lutheran\\_Earthkeeping\\_Network.topic@ecunet.org](mailto:Lutheran_Earthkeeping_Network.topic@ecunet.org)

## Visiting with the Deaconess Communities

by Kim Winchell

This past spring (April) and summer (June), I was blessed and honored to attend two national deaconess gatherings and to bring greetings on behalf of our own diaconal ministry community. It was a wonderful opportunity to observe, and learn from, these sisters in Christ about how they "do community."

April 25-28, the ELCA Deaconess Community held their bi-annual business assembly, at a retreat center near Omaha, NB. I was not able to stay for the entire event, as I needed to be back in Michigan to take part in a consecration (Peggy Vuylsteke's). In a change from previous policy to this year's meeting, (and after much discussion), the community voted to continue to meet yearly, but to make each such gathering a balance of business and community fellowship time.

Another discussion-filled change was the adoption of a bylaw revision that modifies the role of the Directing Deaconess to be more of a "pastoral leader and presence" as well as the public representative of their community. This change opens the way for their Board of Directors to hire an additional person to fill the role of "Executive Director" for the Deaconess Community. The Directing Deaconess and Executive Director will co-lead the Community. Sr. Anne Keffer was re-elected as Directing Deaconess.

The Deaconess Community has also been in the process of adopting and implementing a Strategic Plan, "Bridges to Vision and Mission," with strategies aimed in five areas:

- 1) Community Identity
- 2) Grow Individually and Community Wide
- 3) Organizational Structure and Function
- 4) Financial Planning and Monitoring
- 5) Visibility (marketing, promotion of the community / roster)
- 6) Corporate and Individual Opportunities for Ministry

During one evening of the meeting, there was an opportunity for members to participate in discussion forums on three of the Strategic Plan areas: Community Identity, Organizational Structure and Function, and Corporate Opportunity for Mission / Ministry. I attended their discussion on "Community Identity" and appreciated the challenges we all face in supporting and mentoring candidates and in discerning the best ways to identify, articulate, foster, and be more intentional about "community" in our respective rosters.

In June, I had the pleasure of attending the Lutheran Deaconess Conference's "RAM" (Regular Annual Meeting) 2008 at a 5-day meeting that was held on a small college campus in Portland, OR. (*Continued on p. 7*)



*The stone layout of the labyrinth*

Some months later, I was walking our dog and saw with fresh eyes a place in a part of our field that just invited the image of a labyrinth. That image stayed with me, and I became ever more certain, and eager, to create a labyrinth in that spot, about a quarter mile back from our house.

It took some months, to prepare the dirt, decide the dimensions (48 ft in diameter) and materials (about 4 inches of wood chips, over a lot of mesh landscape fabric), to haul the rocks (most of them from our own property or nearby farm fields), and to lay it all out.

But, it was truly a labor of love, and a wonderful spiritual practice. The placement of the rocks, alone, took a solid month of usually an hour or two each morning and each

evening.

I used an 11-circuit design pattern that I'd gotten at a labyrinth workshop (you can also find them online) as my map and guide. The paths are approximately 18 inches wide; the center almost 4 ft wide. If I had it to do over, I'd make the center a bit larger.

Many of the stones in it (especially those at the entrance and rimming the center) come from special places. I am particularly fond of a large black one from Lake Superior that has a natural round depression in it, which is great for catching rainwater for a "natural" font at the entrance.

I finished my labyrinth last fall, on Sept 17, the Feast Day of Hildegard of Bingen, and blessed the center with a bit of healing oil that came in the mail a few years ago, from Elaine Brant. (Thanks, Elaine!) It seemed pretty appropriate to put some of that oil from the Mount of Olives in the center, for this labyrinth is meant to be a place for peace, healing, and wholeness. My labyrinth is a place to connect with God, in the midst of the bit of creation surrounding it – the dome of the sky overhead, with the trees, birds, deer, and humming insects all around.

You know, I'm kind of grateful, now, for that pine branch smashing my bench! If you're passing through my part of Michigan, let me know if you'd like to come for a walk on the "Winchell Labyrinth." Or, if you want more specifics on the "how to," let me know.

*Note: For deeper information on the history of labyrinths and how to use them, Kim suggests you visit [www.veriditas.org](http://www.veriditas.org), the web site for the organization started by Episcopal priest Lauren Artress, possibly the person most responsible for the increasing awareness and popularity of labyrinths in the U.S. in recent years.*



*Close-up of Kim's "natural font" stone at the start of the labyrinth.*

**We Need Your Articles:** The editorial staff of DiaconoNews is always looking for fresh news to share with you. Here are some of the areas that we'd like to develop and we invite you to share: a favorite quote, a good book, creative idea for a special worship service, your call story, your faith story or where you found your towel and basin and how you use them in your call. Entries can be sent to: [LBulock@hotmail.com](mailto:LBulock@hotmail.com) Deadline for the next newsletter is December 15. New newsletter editor Lynn Bulock is also the Community Educator for the Ventura County (CA) Homeless & Housing Coalition, and will be consecrated into diaconal ministry in January, 2009 in the Southwest California Synod.

(Continued from p. 3) I felt “beat”, homesick, tired both physically and emotionally, and broken mostly spiritually. I found myself embraced by the community and more intimately, by my small group. We had Chapel services in the morning and at night and Spiritual Devotions every evening led by John Lagen and Sue Setzer.

I still remember John speaking in his deep and “peace-filled” voice, ‘One should be a reservoir and not a canal’. As a CPE student, I have been repeatedly reminded of self-care, but somehow this analogy spoke to me in volumes! The ongoing spiritual devotions helped me realize the status of my spiritual life, which was seriously seeking a retreat with God. I found myself being molded into a reservoir. I was on a vacation with God. During these two weeks I also came to understand the meaning of the gifts of the Spirit. What are my spiritual gifts?! Is Chaplaincy or CPE Supervision the only options I have? I went there thinking that I had a pretty good idea of what I would “do” vocationally, and was surprised to find myself wondering about other vocations as well! It was such an exonerating feeling. I was not running towards a goal, but rather, I started thinking “laterally”, becoming that “reservoir”, letting the Spirit guide me. I was discerning my vocation.

The day-in-context was spent visiting an inner-city church in Baltimore, Maryland. For the first time in my life, I was presented with the hard life in the USA. Poverty surrounded the church. The community was rife with dilapidated houses, young people loitering in the streets, boarded windows, shops with iron grills for protection, and streets that offered an eerie feeling of being mugged at any moment. *What a beautiful place for a church to proclaim its presence!* I learned the meaning of “ministry”, a ministry of servant hood; ministry that takes courage, passion, and that can only be pursued because of the call of the Spirit. As I found myself riding in a van along with five other participants towards the airport, I thought I have never seen such passionate, spirit-filled and sincere people. I was blessed to be a part of them. I was humbled by the sacrifices they had made and were making to pursue their call and make a difference in this World. The Diaconal Ministry community exemplifies the servant-hood nature of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not sure of the details of where the Spirit is going to be leading me. What I am sure of is what I learned from this event; the Spirit calls us to do various jobs in this world. I can either “open myself” to be a “reservoir” to God’s “call” to me throughout my life in my vocation, or, I can choose to become a “canal” and “close” myself to what God might “call” me to do throughout my life and career. I believe that I was given the opportunity to attend the DMFE in July of 2008 so that I could learn this at a very crucial time in my life so that I will be more patient, silent, faithful, and ready to do whatever The Spirit CALLS me to do!

*Note: On September 3rd, 2008 Anurag accepted a full-time Chaplain position at the South Seminole Hospital, a campus of Orlando Health, in Orlando, FL.*

**You are invited to attend**  
**the Biennial gathering of the**  
**Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA**  
*On the Way to Diakonia*  
*Crossroads of Grace...Revive and Reconcile*  
**July 18-20, 2009**  
**Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA**

We will meet prior to the world gathering in order to welcome new members to our community, reconnect with each other, take care of community business and worship together. This year we add the joy of being host to the world DIAKONIA gathering.

For a downloadable or printable registration form, go to our website at: [www.elca.org/diaconalministry/resources/](http://www.elca.org/diaconalministry/resources/)  
 For further information, questions, or to learn of volunteer opportunities, at the World Diakonia event contact Sr. Carol Burk of the ELCA Deaconess Community at: [cburk@stphilipschurchsc.org](mailto:cburk@stphilipschurchsc.org).

## Update on “Guiding Principles” for the DM Community

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Dear Community,

My hope is that the Guiding Principles Team will be able to re-engage this fall on the next round of our discussions, with a goal of discerning and making any policy or structural recommendations for how we live out “community.” Any such recommendations, along with the previously shared draft guiding principles, will be shared via the community listserve and brought to our next Gathering in Atlanta (July 09).

The main thrust of all of this, at least from my perspective (and our good Lord knows, there are many perspectives among us!), is fairly simple – though not easily accomplished. It is to agree upon and establish guidelines for how we both “be” community and “do” community, in the best possible ways for and with one another. So, you are invited once again:

- 1) To review the draft community purpose statement and principles. See below, and please share your comments on CDMTalk and/or DMTalk (by sending an email to CDMTALK.topic@ecunet.org) – and *thank you* to all who have already done so. If you are not currently subscribing to one of the list serves, send Kris an email requesting an invitation at krisp@visi.com.
- 2) Consider being a part of the Guiding Principles Team discussions (occasional conference calls and group email discussions)
- 3) Send along to me (kwinchellm@aol.com) any community policy and/or structure questions that you would like the GP Team to consider, as well as your suggestions

A reminder: we are not throwing away, dismissing, or ignoring the previous “foundational” sorts of community documents. However, most all agree that the community has grown in such a way that it’s time to think about articulating in a clear way (1) what we expect in having and calling ourselves a “community”? and (2) what does that then mean, in terms of how we organize and relate to one another?

I assure you that our Deaconess sisters, even with their very intentional and well-structured “community,” still wrestle with these same sorts of questions, at their own gatherings. It’s a natural kind of process, for any groups as they grow. Thanks be to God, for all the blessings of how our community has grown!

### DRAFT [June 2008] Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles

We understand the purpose of the DM Community of the ELCA is:

**“To encourage and empower one another as servants of God and partner with others to bridge church and world.”**

### Our Community’s Guiding Principles:

We are grounded in the Word, through faith, prayer and scripture.

We listen for God’s voice – expecting the Holy Spirit to guide us through prayer, scripture, community and the cries of the world.

We work collegially – intentionally making respectful connections with each other and with our partners in ministry.

We seek to raise up effective leaders – empowering them to lead this community as we engage church and world.

We bear witness to God’s work in the world – speaking boldly and serving justly in lives of Christ-like service.

-- Kim Winchell, DM Leadership Team Vice-Chair & Liaison, Guiding Principles Team

## Job Opportunity:

### Executive Director- Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) is seeking an Executive Director to manage a growing non-profit Mission on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. The mission is founded on the belief that God's love and grace is for all people and should be shown in how we love and care for our neighbors.

Answering to the Board of Directors, the ED will implement policies, develop programs, hire and supervise staff, maintain Mission facilities and have complete oversight for Mission administration and fundraising. Candidates must have excellent organization and communication skills, at least 5 years experience in non-profit management and ability to work within a somewhat isolated setting. Master's degree and experience within a multi-cultural environment is highly desirable. Willingness to respect Navajo culture and partner with the community required.

NELM has been part of the Rock Point community for over 50 years, operates a K-6 school (70 students) and provides programs in the areas of health, education, and community support. Rock Point is a small community that is located in the four corners area, within a few hours of canyon hiking, beautiful scenery, several National Parks and Colorado skiing. Excellent pay and benefits; position includes housing on Mission grounds. Send cover letter, resume and three references before November 7, 2008 to [oraugustson@losalmos.com](mailto:oraugustson@losalmos.com) or mail to:

Ron Augustson

1880 Camino Mora

Los Alamos, NM 87544

#### A note from diaconal minister Sue Vogel-Herrera:

I lived and worked as business manager at the mission from 1992 to 1997 and I am currently on their board of directors. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Sue Vogel-Herrera, Diaconal Minister**

**Executive Director, East Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop**

[athriftylady@yahoo.com](mailto:athriftylady@yahoo.com)

Cell: 480-694-4775

*(Continued from p. 3)* Their theme was "2008 Servant Stories: Spiritual Life," which was the third in a four-year cycle on "Next Best Steps." This four-year focus, on the aspects of Work/Ministry, Theology, Spiritual Life, and (in 2009) Community, is part of an ongoing discernment process in this deaconess community (comprised of women from both ELCA and LCMS backgrounds) on the question (first raised in 1998) about whether they should allow men to be a part of their diaconal community.

There were several outside speakers, who offered presentations on Gender, Diversity, and Sexual Abuse – themes that the community felt had relevance for their decision-making question about men in the diaconate. The approximately 120 participants at this gathering (Deaconesses, students, and guests) were divided into "small groups" that convened on a regular basis throughout the event, to process and discuss all that was shared.

In both cases of these Deaconess Community gatherings, attendance is required, unless there has been an "excused absence." In both communities, there is an expectation of an annual "dues" contribution. The Lutheran Deaconess Conference deaconesses (they tend not to use the title of "Sister") also relate to one another on a regular basis through regionally-based "conferences," where a chairwoman convenes either a meeting or conference call. Both communities are also intentional about including students, inviting them to be a part of the community early on, as part of their formation.

## Birthdays

### November

- 2 Joanne Otte
- 3 Pat Kane
- 10 Dawn Alitz
- 12 Rachelle Gilbertson
- 14 Judy Bergeson
- 17 Rebecca Kolowe
- 18 Shari O'Brien
- 18 Anna Wagner
- 19 (Catherine Smith)
- 25 Kelly Wilkins
- 30 (Diane Luscombe)

### December

- 5 Harry Hiltner
- 15 Joel Bradtke
- 15 Lauren Mache Skrundz
- 15 (Brandy Muslovski)
- 20 Ann Chida
- 22 Kim Gonia
- 23 Christine Connell
- 29 Terri McMaster

### January

- 2 Suzanne Rigg
- 3 Gracia Hegener
- 4 Don Burgess
- 12 Ann Myhre
- 12 (Tara Shilts)
- 14 Tammy Rade
- 17 Joyce Freund
- 17 Audrey Forbes
- 22 Patty Lee
- 27 Margaret Howell
- 28 Terri Endres
- 28 (Nina Livesey)
- 29 Mindy Holland
- 30 (Cynthia Jones)
- 31 (Joel Nye)



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA

# Holy God, hear our prayer

## Prayers of sympathy

*Heather Feltman*, on the death of her mother, September 18  
*Kirsten Liesch*, on the death of her husband, October 21

## Prayers for healing and hope

*Lillian Naber*, mother of Gloria Strickert, hospice care for multiple myeloma  
 DM Candidate, *Charlie Smith*, dialysis and awaiting transplant  
*Alex Herrera*, husband of Sue Vogel-Herrera, cancer remission  
 DM Candidate, *Tamara Harder*, battling breast cancer  
*Diana Luscombe*, recovering from a severe auto accident. She continues to make remarkable progress that exceeds everyone's expectations and dreams as evidenced by her taking many steps without the aid of her therapist

Magee Rehabilitation, Room 567-2  
 1513 Race St  
 Philadelphia PA 19102-1177

*Marjorie Myers*, partial renal failure  
*John Endres*, father-in-law of Terri Endres, for speedy healing as he recuperates from total knee replacement October 22.  
*John Holland*, father-in-law of Mindy Holland, on his final journey home to the Lord following his battle with brain cancer.  
*Pat Kane*, successful removal of melanoma on his forearm, late September  
*Jerry Schmidt*, husband of Esther, recovering from prostate cancer surgery October 15

## Prayers of congratulations

(celebrating 10 years of consecrated diaconal ministry)

*Jennifer A. McBride*, October 11, 2008  
*Douglas B. Spiotta*, November 1, 2008

## Upcoming Consecrations

*Kathy Garrison*, call to Art of Pastoral Care in Fairfax, VA on November 22 (#158)  
*Charles Smith* will be consecrated on 12-06-08, (#159)  
*Mary Black*, 12-13-08 (#160), call to Atonement Lutheran Church in Denver  
*Beth Rietz Pearce*, called to specialized ministry to serve with Mary's Hope, serving victims of serious childhood trauma and abuse, especially sexual abuse, December 14 (#161).  
*Lynn Bulock*, 1-25-09 (#162) synod call to Ventura County (CA) Homeless & Housing Coalition

## Joyous Occasions

*Rachelle Gilbertson*, healthy baby girl, Carlee Ann, born October 1  
*Joanne Otte*, on her recent marriage October 18

## Prayers of discernment to those approved, awaiting call

Denise Benjamin, Joel Bradtke, Ed Broestle, Ellen Doughty, Robert Fisher, Sue Franke, Tonya Gunton, Susan Haley, Nicole Houck, Troy Jacobson, Janet Johnson, Diana Luscombe, Rachel March, Jane Mason, Kathy Massa, Rebecca Mastalerz, Janice Miller, Richard Mohr-Kelly, Emily Myallis, Sarah Parker, Janice Phoebus, Terra Rowe, Diane Runyan, Janet Schauer, Nancy Selinger, Shirley Talbot, David Thoresen, Georgia Van Hoesen, Christopher Wagener, Sue Way, Loren Wehmeyer, Kelly Wilkins

## Developing Country Entrepreneurs Need Loans

By Kris Perry

Are you looking for a meaningful way to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in developing countries to start a business or keep an existing business thriving? Consider the Kiva Program. This program (and there are others as well) enable people like you and I to participate in microfinance, which provides financial services to the poor. The basic idea is to make small, short-term loans to impoverished entrepreneurs who don't otherwise have access to capital, helping improve their businesses and therefore their lives.

Through this program, you can loan as little as \$25 or as much as \$1,000 to an individual in a variety of countries. I have personally loaned \$350 each to four individuals: A man in Tajikistan who owns a grocery store; a woman in Tanzania who sells charcoal, and a woman in Peru who is a seamstress. One loan has already been paid and I have re-loaned that \$350 to a woman in Nigeria who owns a food market. I receive regular updates on the status of the loan re-payment and once the loan has been paid in full, I have the option of receiving my funds back or re-loaning them to another individual. It has been a joy to watch my dollars at work as those in need begin a business or continue to strengthen an existing business.

To learn more about how you can participate in this meaningful program, visit [kiva.org](http://kiva.org). Feel free to share this website with friends and family members who may be looking for a way to help others.

## REGIONAL EVENTS UPDATE

Have you attended one of the Regional Events on Word and Service Ministry? If so, we would love to hear from you as you share your personal reflections on the event. Please send all articles to Lynn at [lbullock@hotmail.com](mailto:lbullock@hotmail.com).

**Future Regional Events are in the process of being planned.**

*The **Region One Word & Service Gathering*** will be held March 11-12, following the Lutheran Staff Association Annual Gathering at Cannon Beach, Oregon. If you attend the LSA gathering the additional cost will be \$50. If not, the cost will be \$125 for this event alone.

*The **Region Three Word and Service Gathering*** will be held January 26-27, 2009 at Luther Crest Bible Camp, 8231 County Road 11 NE, Alexandria MN 56308. Cost is \$58 and includes room and meals. The registration form is available by contacting the Region 3 office at: [sandy.pilgrim@ecunet.org](mailto:sandy.pilgrim@ecunet.org).

If you are unable to attend your regional event, the other regional events are open to you. We hope you will find a regional event that fits your schedule and plan to attend.