

Servant Call

Celebrating 41 Years of Ministering to Lay Ministers

September 2008



Affirming, upholding and clarifying the role of professional Lutheran lay ministry; and encouraging, promoting and providing for individual development through education and training

2009 LSA Conference "Unforced Rhythms of Grace: Rediscover your life..."

Whether you are an office manager, administrator, program assistant, treasurer, secretary, bookkeeper, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, lay minister, or church musician; and regardless of whether you are volunteer, part-time, or full-time, you probably have a routine, or a structure of priorities that organizes your time and your tasks. While that structure is very likely what keeps us together at times, it can also be what boxes us in, and closes us off to some of the experiences that God might have for us.

Our 2009 Lutheran Staff Association Conference will explore just that. The way in which we are encouraged and invited to "Rediscover our lives" when we allow ourselves to be immersed in the "Unforced Rhythms of Grace." Our Keynote speaker, Rev. Susan Briehl, and workshop leaders will help us to experience the fullness of that grace, and rediscover our lives in forgiveness, in play, in community and in our deepest selves.

Please plan to join us this March 8-11 in
Cannon Beach, Oregon.

A special note for rostered leaders of Region 1:

Word and Service Consultation

Bringing together members of the three lay rosters of Region 1, will be offered in conjunction with the 2009 LSA Conference.

March 11-12, Noon to Noon following the conference.

\$50 in addition to LSA Conference registration

Look for more information to soon

IN THIS ISSUE:

~~~~~

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2009 CONFERENCE DETAILS.....         | 1 |
| YOUR LSA BOARD.....                  | 2 |
| 2008 CONFERENCE RECAP.....           | 3 |
| CONTACTS.....                        | 3 |
| 2009 CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER..... | 3 |

2009  
Lutheran Staff  
Association  
Conference:  
March 8-11, 2009  
Sunday–Wednesday  
  
Cannon Beach  
Christian  
Conference Center  
Canon Beach, Oregon

Cost: \$275  
Registrations must be  
postmarked by  
February 14th.

See inside for more details  
and registration forms

***Ryan Luiten, President***  
**Family and Youth Ministries**  
**Immanuel Lutheran**

Ryan's passion is sharing Christ's love with young people, and he gets to do that every day as Family & Youth Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church, a job he shares with his wife Elizabeth. They live in Moses Lake, WA with their 19 month old boy Blazer. Ryan enjoys rooting for the Mariners, playing with Blazer, and his daily 7 second commute to work.

---

***Cathie Carlisle, Historian***  
**AIM, Evangelical Outreach Support**  
**ELCA Region 1**

Cathie is an Associate in Ministry. She was among the first group of students to receive a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies from the Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle and was commissioned on June 1, 1977. Her first Church Staff Conference was at Westminster Abbey in B.C. in 1977. She has been attending our conferences ever since. Over the past several years she has volunteered to lead workshops and provide some background support. She thinks being on this Board is a kick! Since graduation from LBI, she has served as administrative assistant to the Region 1 Mission Director for the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA, where they are currently preparing for the implementation of a new vision in the life of outreach and mission development in the church. As a member of the Northwest Washington Synodical Women's Organization, she was also elected this year as a delegate to the Triennial Convention and Gathering in Salt Lake City.

**Al Roehl, Vice-President**  
**AIM and Chaplain at Foss Home and**  
**Village in Seattle**

Al has been a long time attendee of LSA conferences and recently attended the one at Holden Village last May. He works as a chaplain with long term care and assisted living residents at Foss Home, a non-profit ELCA facility in north Seattle. He plays the guitar and sings and uses that ability often in his call to Foss. He loves his fulfilling work bringing the Good News of Christ to people living those last few years of their life. He is married to a nurse, Lori, and has twins, Luke and Rachael, who are in their second year of college. He enjoys offering spiritual direction in his work and through an organization called "The Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life" His prayer is to provide conferences that will reach a wide range of lay professionals in the ELCA.

---

***Lisa Gray, Publicity***  
**Director of Youth Ministries**  
**Zoar Lutheran Church**

Lisa lives in Portland. Her passion is working with youth, helping them grow in their faith, and especially developing leadership skills. Her favorite thing to do is travel. She's had the opportunity to experience and serve in nine countries. When she's not traveling she likes to read, do art, and spend time with her friends and family. She is excited about the opportunity to serve on the LSA Board, because she thinks that communication and connection are the most vital parts of a healthy society and world, and that fellowships and networks such as the LSA help achieve that!

***Kim Long, Treasurer***  
**Office Coordinator**  
**Emmanuel Lutheran**

Kim is working on her third year as a LSA board member and currently serves as treasurer and registrar. She got hooked on LSA at Holden Village back in 2003. Kim enjoys her children, working with numbers, reading, needlework, and playing with her animals (4 dogs, 7 cats, 6 finches, 1 mini Rex Rabbit and a 75 gallon fish tank). She has three children: Patrick (23) who just moved home again; Nick (20) at home, who is starting his freshman year at Lower Columbia College and majoring in technical theater; and Katie (15) at home, starting her sophomore year as a member of the Wrestling Cheer Leaders and working as a photo lab assistant and active in Art Club at RA Long High School.

---

***Jessica Thompson, Secretary***  
**Discipleship Coordinator**  
**Mount Cross Lutheran Church**

Jessica was born & raised in the Juanita/Kirkland area. She graduated from Pacific Lutheran University (2005) with a B.A. in English Literature and Religion. She and her husband Luke returned to the Pacific Northwest in 2007, after spending two years in Michigan. Jessica and Luke live in downtown Tacoma, and in their spare time they enjoy jazz, films, cars, various outdoor activities and reading.

## 2009 LSA Conference Keynote Speaker



**Susan Briehl**, a Lutheran pastor for twenty-five years, has served in parish, campus and retreat center settings. She is an associate with the Valparaiso Project on Education and Formation of People in Faith. Her writings include *Come, Lord Jesus*, devotions for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, *Prayer Around the Cross: A Guide to the Liturgy* (with Tom Witt), *Turn My Heart: A Sacred Journey from Brokenness to Healing* (with Marty Haugen), and several liturgical and hymn texts.

She served as Executive Director of Holden Village, a Lutheran center for renewal in the North Cascade Mountains in Washington State. She began that ministry in August of 1994 along with her husband, Martin Wells. Previously they served for 8 years as campus pastors at Pacific Lutheran University and for 5 years as pastors of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Bellingham, WA.

Susan holds both a B.A. and an M.A. in English from Washington State University and a Master of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. She was ordained in 1981. She has written numerous books, hymns, and worship songs.

Surrounded by the Mountains of Holden Village...

## 2008 Conference Goers Empowered to Serve



The 2008 LSA Conference was a wonderful and inspiring event for those who journeyed into the isolated retreat of Holden Village last May. Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieck led challenging and enlightening keynote addresses, while Pastor

Shelly Wickstrom presided over our closing worship and led a great workshop on Boundaries. We gave some thought to the volunteers that help us so faithfully (or how to recruit them!) in a workshop with Karen Dicken and Mary Chamberlin. Estelle Morley helped us to consider our role as those who welcome people into our churches and organizations, and we thought about the importance of our own stories in sharing our faith, in a workshop



led my Lisa Gray. Al Roehl led us in inspiring music

at the beginning of our sessions, and throughout our days.

We also enjoyed sharing our meals, our talent show, and our worship with the community at Holden Village.



## Contact your LSA Board...

### Ryan Luiten—President

509-765-8621 (w)  
509-764-8370 (h)  
1014 South A Street  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
E-mail: rlute11@hotmail.com

### Al Roehl—Vice President

206-834-2885 (w)  
13023 N Greenwood  
Seattle, WA 98133  
Email: aroehl@fossicare.org

### Kim Long—Treasurer

360-423-3250 (w)  
360-430-0356 (c)  
2218 E. Kessler Blvd.  
Longview, WA 98632  
E-mail: finance2218@emmanuel-lutherans.org

### Jessica Thompson—Secretary

253-564-2200 (w)  
8902 40th Street W  
University Place, WA 98466  
Email: dc@mountcrosslutheran.org

### Cathie Carlisle—Historian

206.624.0093 (w)  
766 John St, Ste B  
Seattle, WA 98109  
Email: cmcarli@yahoo.com

### Lisa Gray—Publicity

503- 266-4061 (w)  
503-481-7966 (c)  
190 SW 3rd Ave  
Canby, OR 97013  
E-mail: zoaryouth@canby.com



If this is the first issue of *Servant Call* (the *Lutheran Staff Association* newsletter) you've received — WELCOME! This is the official communication vehicle of lay ministers in the Lutheran Church. Who are lay ministers? They are non-clergy staff members of Lutheran congregations, agencies or organizations. This might include any of the following positions: *Administrative Assistant / Office Assistant / Secretary / Parish Worker / Receptionist / Communications Specialist / Bookkeeper / Parish Administrator / Volunteer Coordinator / Newsletter Editor / Director of Family Ministries / Director of Christian Education / Director of Youth Ministries / Director of Music Ministries / Musician / Choir Director / Etc.*

*LSA* exists to provide strength and encouragement to the lay ministry community. Our annual conference gives these workers in God's kingdom opportunity to gather for education, peer support, recreation and networking. Some are from small churches, isolated and without much contact with other church workers. Others work on large staffs in metropolitan congregations, but still seek the company of others who are engaged in similar tasks and ministries.

An *LSA* conference is a bit like a family reunion: though the faces may vary from year to year, it's a time to deepen our faith and expand our knowledge through keynote sessions, Bible study; to exchange work-related information and ideas in the workshops; and to catch up on news and share concerns as we realize that each of us is part of a larger family — the family of Christ.

*LSA's* goal is to have each congregation represented by at least one lay staff worker at our conference!

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR PASTOR, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND OTHERS**

- Please Route To:**
- Council President*
  - Pastor*
  - Lay Staff*
  - Office Staff*