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Partners' Voice is published by LCMS World Mission—National Outreach Ministry

Staff:

- Rev. Al Tormoehlen
- Tina Kassebaum
- Frank Kohn

1-800-433-3954

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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2010

Partners' Voice

The Newsletter of The 72—Partners on the Road

We need you!

Growing Opportunity to Equip Others for Outreach Ministry!

THE NEED FOR MORE PEOPLE TO SERVE WITHIN THE 72 MINISTRY IS GROWING QUICKLY. WE ANTICIPATE A NEED TO HAVE 15-18 INDIVIDUALS SERVING ASSIGNMENTS EVERY QUARTER OF THE YEAR BEGINNING WITH FALL 2010. TO FULFILL THESE ANTICIPATED REQUESTS FOR PARTNERSHIPS, WE WILL NEED TO ADD 15-20 NEW TEAM MEMBERS IN JUNE 2010.

Teams of The 72 partner with congregations who desire to equip their members with skills for effective outreach ministry in their community. In addition to the typical three-week assignment, The 72 has incorporated a short track seminar model, partnering a team with a congregation for the duration of a weekend, up to four weekends in a 12-month period. The three-week assignment is available in all 35 districts, whereas the short track seminar is only available in select districts.

The 72 is looking for individuals who are passionate about equipping people in the LCMS with skills to share the Good News about Jesus with people they encounter in daily life throughout their community. Team members not only equip, they also encourage LCMS members to carry Jesus with

them wherever they go sharing His love, and through it all, excitement grows as the message goes out and people respond.

For more information call either Rev. Al Tormoehlen, director or Tina Kassebaum, assistant at 1-800-433-3954 or send us an e-mail to: The72@lcms.org.

Apply today!



The Director's Desk

Growth and improvement are hallmarks for blessed new year

MY DEAR PARTNERS IN CHRIST:

So much has been happening in The 72® that has kept us all so busy! This past year, we have developed and implemented new ideas and goals. And we pray that this growth and development will continue into the future through the strength provided by our Lord through His Holy Spirit.

I would like to highlight three items from these past 10 months.

The **first** is the eLearning opportunity, piloted in October 2008 and launched for training our new team members in March 2009. Ninety-two percent of the new teams and mentors for our April 2009 training said that our new eLearning is a useful tool for training. By February 2010, team members will be able to find all the material they need for an assignment on The 72 Share Point. At the present time, it holds all of the eLearning modules created to date, all of the material that congregations receive from our office, and most of the modules from the 2009 Resource CD. The materials are always available (with an Internet connection) on this site for review prior to an assignment or for brushing up on a specific topic. The

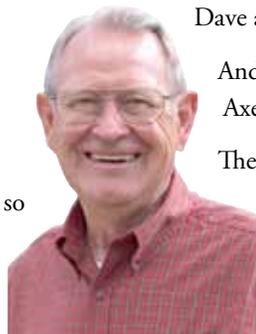
The 72 provides a measurable positive impact in the congregations where we serve ... we thank the Holy Spirit for giving these blessings through our ministry.

72 Share Point can only be viewed by team members of our ministry.

The **second** new development I wanted to share began last year as a pilot project partnership with two of our LCMS districts. This year, it has blossomed and we now have partnerships with eight LCMS districts. In each

district we have field representatives who work with a district staff member to further the ministry of The 72 to work with congregations in that district.

These eight districts are: Florida-Georgia, Minnesota South, Minnesota North, Rocky Mountain, Pacific Southwest, Southeastern, Southern, and South Wisconsin; working as field representatives in these districts are: Dick and Jean Evers, Bruce Manzey, Kerry and Shirley Koestler, Tim and Connie Hutchison, Al and Joy Axelson,



Rev. Al Tormoehlen

Dave and Dee Allen, John Carver, and Jim Berg respectively.

And **third**, I saved the most exciting news for last. Al Axelson reported at our August 2009 training that:

The 72—Partners on the Road ministry provides a measurable positive impact in the congregations where we serve, because:

- Numbers support it.
- Pastors and lay members report it.
- We offer the broadest coverage of evangelism topics.
- Close relationships with congregations.
- Lowest per-diem cost to congregations.

We thank the Holy Spirit for giving these blessings through our ministry and look forward to the continued blessing as we partner together in the future.

Serving our Lord and His Church with much joy to equip people to bring the Good News about Jesus to their local communities and then to welcome them into their congregation so that they will be nourished through Word and Sacrament ministry

Your partner on the road,

Rev. Al Tormoehlen, Director

The 72—Partners on the Road

LCMS World Mission, Outreach Ministry



Assignments Completed — Winter 2009

Congregation	Location	Team Assigned	Dates
Spirit of Christ*	Ham Lake, Minn.	John and Caroline Boll	Jan. 9-29
Trinity*	Savannah, Ga.	Les and Carol Roth, Deana Hegedus	March 6-27
St. John Lutheran Church of Lariat	Farwell, Texas	Dalton and Deanne Noack	Feb. 6-27
Resurrection	Pensacola, Fla.	David and Kathryn Wilkins	Feb. 6-20

Assignments Completed — Summer, Fall 2009

Trinity	Mission, Kan.	Al and Joy Axelson	May 1-21
Heit's Point	Lincoln, Mo.	Ken Lampe	May 1-3
Peace	O'Fallon, Mo.	Bill Blankenship, Kerry and Shirley Koestler	May 29-June 19
Trinity	Franktown, Colo.	Tim and Connie Hutchison, Ken and Vi Lampe	June 5-26
Trinity	Franktown, Colo.	Tim and Connie Hutchison	Aug. 16-31
St. Paul	Garner, Iowa	Bob and Shirley Brandt	Sept. 11-Oct. 2
Holy Trinity	Kingsland, Ga.	Ron Raschke, Lois Schaefer, Dave and Dee Allen	Sept. 11-Oct. 1
Trinity-St. James	Munger, Mich.	Les and Carol Roth, Jim and Lorri Schumacher	Sept. 12-Oct. 2
Trinity	Great Falls, Mont.	Loren and Marge Rehmer	Sept. 20-Oct. 4
Christ†	Shakopee, Minn.	Bruce Manzey	Nov. 14

Upcoming Assignments — 2010

Amazing Grace	The Villages, Fla.	Marian Parker, Dave and Dee Allen	Jan. 8-29
St. Paul*	Miami, Fla.	Dalton and Deanne Noack, Toni Ruiz	Jan. 29-Feb. 21
Hope†	Bradenton, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	Jan. 23
Concordia†	Sarasota, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	Jan. 30
Zion New Life†	Winter Garden, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	February/March
Our Redeemer†	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dick and Jean Evers	Feb. 19-20

Potential Assignments

St. Paul, Stevens Point, Wis.; Living Faith, Cummings, Ga.; Bethlehem, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; Emmanuel, Fort Wayne, Ind.; King of Kings, Gardner, Kan.; St. Peter, Rockford, Mich.; Trinity, Lone Oak, Minn.; Eastern Heights, St. Paul, Minn.; Zion, Ada, Minn.; St. Paul, Granite Falls, Minn.; Immanuel, Rosebud, Mo.; St. John, Fairfield, Mont.; Zion, Power, Mont.; St. Paul, Havre, Mont.; Spirit of Joy, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Christ Memorial, Houston, Texas

*Denotes congregation that is part of The 72's partnership in some districts. †Denotes short-track seminar (only available in limited locations).

In The Field



- **St. John Lutheran Church**
- Dalton and Deanne Noack
- Feb. 6-27, 2009

Much happening through this rural ministry

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LARIAT, TEXAS, IS AN AMAZING MISSION OUTPOST! SPEND THREE-WEEKS IN THIS SETTING AND YOU WILL KNOW GOD IS AT WORK IN AND THROUGH HIS PEOPLE IN THIS DYNAMIC RURAL SETTING MINISTERING TO FAMILIES WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS OF THE CHURCH.

God blessed us with the opportunity to work with 24 key people in areas chosen by the leadership team, who also selected 11 modules ranging from one to three sessions and one session in the nearby community of Muleshoe to practice meeting neighbors via a Prayer Canvass. The schedule allowed for us to be available to the congregation for a session in the morning or afternoon and every evening.

The congregation provided us with a fifth wheel and found creative ways to feed us from their own stocked shelves, delivering home cooked meals, and invitations to join members for a meal at their favorite restaurant.

We noticed some great models when we were with them such as the tremendous community response to support their Pre-School program—Life in Christ Academy. We saw the outpouring of support when St. John's hosted a free ribeye steak dinner as a

side-door event. They received enough donations to fund a whole year's budget with this one event. Then there is the beauty salon, operated by a very caring member who has multiple opportunities to share Christ's love by listening and handing out Spanish New Testaments. And finally, the active group of Braille Workers producing Scripture for the blind. This does not begin to share with you all of the things that happen through the ministry at St. John.

Following our presentation with our final evaluation and recommendations, the leadership team members met and laid out an intentional action plan.

May God bless every intentional step taken to train and strengthen the membership so that they will intentionally reach out and bring in the lost for Jesus! To God Alone be the Glory!





■ **Trinity Lutheran Church**
 ■ Al and Joy Axelson
 ■ May 1-21, 2009

Congregation worships at two campuses

THIS WAS OUR FIRST MULTI-CAMPUS ASSIGNMENT, AND THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE TRAVELED TO AN ASSIGNMENT VIA AIR TRANSPORTATION. THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVED FROM BOTH THE STAFF AND MEMBERS WAS EXCEPTIONAL IN ALL AREAS.

Trinity was founded in the early 1940s. Since that time they have planted a half dozen other churches. Currently, Trinity worships at two campuses, the east campus (Mission, Kan.) and the west campus (Shawnee, Kan.). The east campus is the



original home of the mother church.

The differences between the two campuses are striking. The east campus includes all ages, from infants to retirees. Some members live nearby, but many reside in suburban communities south and slightly west of the community of Mission. Typical members of the west campus reside fairly close and are mostly younger families with small children and both spouses employed. The west campus has a very strong, well-attended preschool.

Most of our modules took place at the east campus with a few taking place at both campuses. Although we always modify our presentations to some extent for each assignment, at Trinity we made significant changes.

One of the significant suggestions we shared with the congregation in our final report addressed the greeting process at each campus. The west campus has a small area and it creates an environment where interaction occurs naturally. With it being a temporary site, we strongly urged them to consider how the present space helps the greeting process as they look for a more permanent facility for the west campus.

The east campus has the extreme opposite situation. Its entry area is unusually large



and allows some worship attendees to avoid interaction. After quite an amount of discussion one of the staff members drew up a sketch – laying out some solutions to the problems in the area. Since we have heard from the congregation, they have approved making those changes along with other major construction items.





■ Trinity Lutheran Church

■ Tim and Connie Hutchison, Ken and Vi Lampe

■ June 6-26, 2009

Unique assignment a team of The 72

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL OF FRANKTOWN, COLO., WAS THE SITE OF A THREE-WEEK EXCURSION FOR OURSELVES AND KEN AND VI LAMPE.

This assignment was a unique experience for the following reasons:

- Trinity is eight miles from our home (which was also the temporary housing for the Lampes).
- Pastor Terry Beltz was on a four-month sabbatical leave during our assignment.
- The congregation had adopted 27 servant events during the time of the sabbatical.
- VBS was conducted in the middle of our assignment.
- A return assignment was scheduled for us in August 2009 (*see page 7*).

Although many things seemed to be in competition with the assignment, we found that the modules were enthusiastically received by a loyal number of the members. Several programs were underway or in the early planning stages when we said goodbye.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the great help and support we received from Rev. Dewyth Beltz. He is a retired pastor who stepped into residence at Trinity during the sabbatical leave of his son. Dewyth's energy, enthusiasm, and wisdom was invaluable for all of us.





- **Trinity Lutheran Church**
- Les and Carol Roth, Lois Bendix
- March 6-27, 2009

Holy Spirit, warm sun bless The 72 team, congregation

THE WARMTH FROM THE MARCH SUN AND CLIMATE REIGNED OVER SAVANNAH DURING THE 72 ASSIGNMENT; BUT MUCH WARMER WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S BLESSING UPON THE OUTREACH SESSIONS CONDUCTED AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

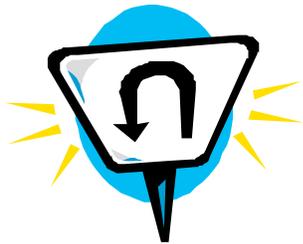
We, Les and Carol Roth, leaders for the assignment, conducted the first and third weeks at Trinity and then were joined in the second week by Lois Bendix. While there, we presented modules on outreach in the

social room and education center of the church. A breakfast was served for everyone after the early service each Sunday. Many of the members stayed for the Bible classes that we conducted each Sunday. This presented additional opportunities to share the 'whys and hows' and the importance of outreach.

Trinity's pastor, Rev. John Hopkins, has a strong heart for outreach and attended all the outreach sessions. In several modules, class members shared the view that friendli-

ness in their congregation is paramount and that this strength can be used in outreach ministry. This was observed in their greetings at church, as well as at meetings and activities.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the members of The 72 who did an excellent job of preparing and assembling the PowerPoint presentations for use in The 72's assignments.



Return to Trinity, Franktown, Colo. *(By Tim and Connie Hutchison)*

A meeting was held on July 27, 2009, to formulate and address the next phase of the assignment. It was exciting to note the plans that were implemented as a result of the June assignment. Some of the suggestions had already taken place, like placing new entrance signs marking the driveway from the highway that are easier to see and read.

Without as much competition, 144 people were able to attend our sessions in August; 74 of them had not been able to attend during the first assignment. It was nice to see interest in our modules, especially the Usher/Greeting training which we offered –25 people attended.

We look forward to hearing more about what is being implemented in the future at this congregation.



- **Heit's Point**
- Ken Lampe
- May 1-3, 2009

The conference, held for Elders to discuss the topic Inactive ministry, was a success. Twenty-two elders and five pastors attended the event and the material was well received by all. The participants represented 10 congregations from across the state of Missouri. Such an event has never been held at Heit's Point prior to this conference.



One realization from the weekend was during a round table discussion titled: Headaches & Heartaches. It was in this discussion when participants realized that the struggles churches' face are not always specific to the congregation's size, but can exist in any church.

Ken says that all the participants wanted to keep in touch with each other and hopefully this means he will hear about the results of the conference once the participants returned to their congregations.



- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Bob and Shirley Brandt
- Sept. 11-Oct 2, 2009

Revitalizaion is focus for church in 'typical' midwestern community

GARNER IS A TYPICAL BUT GROWING MIDWESTERN TOWN OF ABOUT 3,000 RESIDENTS, WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES CONNECTED TO AGRICULTURE.

St. Paul is a large congregation with many families with young children. Yet, in recent years it has experienced a sharp decline in attendance in worship and Bible class.

Although various factors have contributed to the decline, the members of St. Paul's invited us to partner with them and they identified their chief goal as revitalization. They also emphasized how it goes hand-in-hand with efforts to reach out into the community with Christian love and the Gospel.

Some of the modules offered were: Assimilation, 21st Century Church, Side-door Strategies, and Touching Lives with the Gospel. We were greatly impressed by the preplanning and publicity that was given to these modules and others. As a result, we had good attendance at the modules and Bible studies. We sensed a strong commitment on the part of a large lay group with the support of the pastor to carry out the ideas presented.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve in this congregation, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them and encourage them that He will strengthen His kingdom through their efforts.



First Impressions

■ Dave and Dee Allen

■ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
Kingsland, Ga.

■ Sept. 11-Oct. 1, 2009

WE REALLY ENJOYED OUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT AT HOLY TRINITY IN KINGSLAND, GA., AND ITS DAUGHTER CONGREGATION, MESSIAH, IN BRUNSWICK.

At first, there was a lot of anxiety about our assignment. Some of our fears were: would we be able to help the congregations; would the presentations of the modules go smoothly; would we really appear to know what we were doing? Well, we should not have worried because we had awesome leaders in Lois Schaefer and Ron Raschke. They quickly got us to work, and with their expertise and leadership, we were able to confidently share the modules and Bible studies. Of course, the Holy Spirit was right beside us every step of the way. The four of us were well suited to work together. Ron is the lion; Dave is the beaver; Lois the otter; and Dee is the golden retriever.

The people at Holy Trinity and Messiah were so warm and welcoming. They were very appreciative of all that we had done. The people who were involved in the modules were very eager to try new ideas on outreach. After three-weeks, they had become like family and it was very sad to say good-bye.

The highlight for us was the Prayer Canvass for Messiah. It was neat to see that people from Messiah who were feeling shy and timid about knocking on strangers' doors, found out how easy it was to ask someone if their church could help the community



or pray for them. The results of the canvass were amazing! After visiting 30 homes, six future contacts were received, along with 15 prayer requests. Last we heard, Messiah is planning to have more canvasses. God is so good!

Another neat experience for us was to be with Ron as he witnessed to our waitresses. We experienced at least three times when he was able to give Bibles to our waitresses and also share the Gospel with them. We experienced some very good hints about how to witness, and Ron makes it look so easy.

We worked long hours and were really glad there were four of us working with two congregations. Brunswick is about 40 minutes away from Holy Trinity. So, two of us were on the road each day. (Editors note: this is not typical of most assignments)

The weather was very hot and sticky in southern Georgia. One day some of the members found a pigmy rattlesnake in the fellowship hall. Lucky Dee didn't see that!!! She did find a tree frog in our trailer and that was enough of dealing with reptiles for

her!

We did have two days off while we were there. We had a lot of fun visiting local beaches and eating yummy seafood.

All in all it was a wonderful experience. It just shows you that God can and does use ordinary people—a retired marine and a retired school teacher—to do His work! We are looking forward to our next assignment, which will be to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Oxford, Fla., Jan. 8-29, 2010.

The Yield

Ready to make difference in church—and community

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Garner, Iowa

David Rosendahl
Sept. 12-Oct. 2,
2009

OUR QUEST TO BRING THE 72 TO OUR CHURCH BEGAN WHEN OUR EVANGELISM TEAM RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LCMS WORLD MISSION WITH THEIR INFORMATION AND A DVD. THEY TOLD US OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A TEAM COME FOR THREE-WEEKS OF SESSIONS AND TRAINING TO LEARN HOW TO HELP OUR CHURCH BECOME FRIENDLIER AND

DEDICATED EFFECTIVELY TO REACHING PEOPLE BOTH INSIDE OUR CHURCH AND ALSO OUT TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

After talking with the ministry's director about the application process, we talked and prayed about it—with our evangelism team, the church council, and the members; before finally completing the application for a team to partner with us in September.

We were asked to assemble a leadership team to prepare the congregation for the assignment. We decided that we would get more people involved if we had teams to accept the leadership team responsibilities. So we recruited six to 12 people to be on each team. Each Coordinator position became a Team, e.g. the Publicity Coordinator became the Publicity Team. We found this worked very well because it got about 45 people involved in the preparations, and as they became involved, they learned more about The 72. Each of these people then took on ownership of the event and told other members about what was going to happen. (Viral marketing)

Another part of the application process was to find out from our



Bob Brandt with Dave and Connie Rosendahl

members what they thought the church needed so that the team could recommend modules that would be best. We have more than 100 of our members in a ministry called, "Dinner for Eight." So we asked the participants of this ministry to talk about the needs of our church over dinner. This worked very well. We also felt that this approach got more of the congregation involved in the process.

Bob and Shirley Brandt finally arrived, and we could not have asked for a better fit. They were great and we learned so much. We had more than 20 sessions and more than 100 adult members attend at least one of the sessions.

We are now in the post-assignment phase of this partnership. A committee was formed to prioritize the ideas so that we can form smaller committees to accomplish the goals. As we take on each task we would hope to implement as many things as possible in the coming months and maybe even as long as the coming years.

We recommend The 72 to any church who feels that they want to make a difference both in their church and community.

Time and resources well spent

Peace Lutheran Church
O' Fallon, Mo.

Rev. James Prince
May 29-June 19,
2009

First, I want to thank LCMS World Mission and The 72 staff for all you've done to help us make The 72 visit to Peace possible during this past summer. Their presence among us for three-weeks was a tremendous blessing. I enjoyed working with

Bill, Kerry, and Shirley and I know the congregation did, too. We found them to be wonderfully dedicated servants of the Lord. They brought a wealth of information and imparted it to our congregation with obvious passion and conviction.

Reflecting on their visit I have described our experience with them as sort of like "taking a drink from a fire hose." It was an immersion experience in the outreach and inreach opportu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

With Spirit-inspired help of The 72, many lessons learned



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (TLC) HAS TWO CAMPUSES: MISSION, KAN. (EAST CAMPUS) AND SHAWNEE, KAN. (WEST CAMPUS). WE ARE APPROACHING OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY, AND WE HAVE 550 INDIVIDUALS IN WORSHIP EACH WEEK.

We had prepared to start a capital campaign in the fall of 2009 and thought The 72 ministry would be a good preface to our campaign. We applied for a team from The 72 in late 2008. Al and Joy Axelson stayed with us in May 2009. The 72 ministry was a tremendous blessing for TLC. We held 14 sessions, a Prayer Canvass, and a community outreach event called “The Simple Life – Living Better for Less.” Approximately 150 members attended various sessions. Twenty people participated in our Prayer Canvass, and approximately 40 volunteers supported our community outreach event.

First, The 72 was a blessing for the planning team. We held regular meetings prior to Al and Joy’s arrival, including devotions and brainstorming sessions. Our faith grew a lot just in the planning process.

Peace Lutheran (continued from page 10)

nities we might consider—sometimes to the point of being overwhelming. However, the final report they issued upon their departure is a document that will be worth referencing from time to time as we consider future efforts of the congregation. The task of prioritizing it still remains. At the same time

Second, The 72 helped us refocus on our community. For years, TLC was a community church. Over time, as members moved to distant suburbs, TLC lost some of its community feel. Our sessions, and particularly the Prayer Canvass, helped us reconnect with our local municipality and neighbors. We have had another neighborhood canvass since The 72 team left to continue learning about the increasing diversity of our neighborhood.

Third, Al and Joy came exceptionally prepared and committed to provide a “birds-eye” view of our ministries and effectiveness. Our sessions and their feedback have positively impacted various ministries at TLC. Their organization was tremendous and really made it easy for us to facilitate the assignment.

Fourth, the outreach event we held (“The Simple Life”) was a tremendous learning experience for us. We offered community services and well-known local speakers in our city’s annual festival. We walked in a parade, and several hundred patrons came to visit our booths and hear great speakers on such topics as saving money and entertaining kids with recycled items. Among other things, we learned that our neighborhood is more diverse than we thought.

We also learned that Lutherans are not al-



ways comfortable discussing their faith in a public setting. In addition, some Lutherans do not fully understand what it means “to be a Lutheran.”

Finally, since completing the assignment, we updated our demographics study and are currently planning targeted outreach opportunities for 2010.

Our suggestions for congregations as they partner with a team from The 72 are:

- Motivation is critical.
- Give careful consideration as to how you promote the sessions/events.
- Recognize that many of your members are not comfortable in faith conversations, so you have to be realistic about what will entice someone to participate.

Al and Joy set a great example for personal testimony and encouraged many members to take some risks in their daily routine and recognize faith-sharing opportunities.

all that was learned together and suggesting next steps to keep the momentum going.

We were pleased with the experience. If we are able to implement only a fraction of the ideas they helped us with, the time and resources will have been very well spent.

Meet the new *Partners*

David and Deanna Allen

DAVE WAS BORN IN SYRACUSE, N.Y., AND RAISED IN THE DEEP SNOW COUNTRY OF WESTERN NEW YORK STATE IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED PERRY. HIS FAMILY ATTENDED THE METHODIST CHURCH WHERE THE ALLEN BOYS COULD BE FOUND IN SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MOST ANY SUNDAY MORNING.

After high school, Dave graduated from Alfred State Tech, and the State University of New York at Brockport. Immediately upon graduation, Dave enlisted in a Marine Corps officer training program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in June 1964. While serving in Vietnam he decided to make the Marine Corps a career. For the next 20 years, his assignments kept him on the move every two to five years from coast-to-coast to include a second overseas tour.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 1984, Dave worked in the aerospace business for several companies and especially enjoyed six years as a full-time general aviation flight instructor.

Deanna was born in Le Mars, Iowa, and attended Grace Lutheran Church, where she was baptized and confirmed. Her family moved to California, where she attended high school and college. Deanna always knew she wanted to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a teacher. At age four-



teen, she began teaching Sunday school and vacation Bible school at Trinity Lutheran Church in Baldwin Park, Calif. She earned a teaching degree at University of California at Northridge. Later, she earned a Master's Degree in Education at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Most of Deanna's teaching career has been in private schools (pre-school through sixth grade) with over twenty years in Lutheran schools in Virginia. Her mission has been to help children and their parents know the Lord. She retired from full-time teaching in 2005, but does some substituting, just to stay in touch with the children.

Dave and Deanna met while he was stationed in California. It was under her influence that Dave was introduced to the Lutheran church. Since their marriage they have been members of Lutheran churches

in California, Rhode Island, and three churches in Virginia to include their current church home, Redeemer Lutheran in Fredericksburg, Va. Along the way, Dave served as a choir member, property manager, stewardship chairman, elder, council member, congregation president, Bible study leader, and small group ministry leader.

Dave and Deanna have been involved with small group ministry for more than 12 years. Currently they recruit, train, and mentor small group leaders at Redeemer. They have both served as Stephen Ministers. Deanna is also involved in the Telecare Ministry and Altar Guild. In the past, she served as a member of the stewardship committee, Sunday school superintendent, vacation Bible school co-chairman, Sunday school teacher, and small group leader.

Over the last couple of years they have been influenced by the LCMS *Ablaze!* program and have prayed about how to use their spiritual gifts to support the *Ablaze!* goals. Do you suppose it was just a coincidence that they found themselves in weekly Bible study and then a small group with a current member of The 72 ministry? Not likely ... the Holy Spirit works in wondrous ways.

Dave has three daughters from a previous marriage. He has been blessed with 10 grandchildren and four greats. Deanna has been privileged to be step-mom and step-grandma to these growing families.

Marilyn Newstrom

MARILYN NEWSTROM: GREW UP ON A DAIRY FARM IN KANSAS, WHERE SHE ATTENDED A SMALL COUNTRY PAROCHIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Kansas State University, and moved to Washington D.C. to work for the federal government.

During her 30-year career, she lived in Virginia and California and worked in human resources offices and as a program manager on a joint-Army, Navy, and Air Force project. She subsequently earned her MBA from California Lutheran University.

From the churches she has attended over the years, Marilyn has learned



about a sense of community, the Bible stories, fellowship, personal relationships, life in the spirit, small groups, and worship. Being given the privilege to coordinate 50 Days Ablaze! at St. John's in Alexandria, Va., she gained a deeper understanding of God's mission and her place in that mission to spread the Gospel.

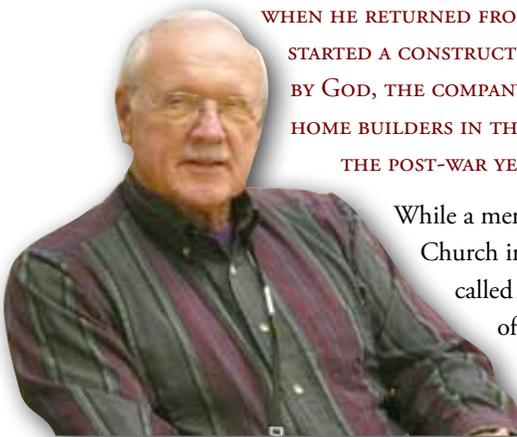
The 72—Partners on the Road provides Marilyn the opportunity to equip and encourage others to share the Good News from the time they get up in the morning, until they go to bed at night.

Marilyn has one awesome son, Russell, who lives and works in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Edward Einem

EDWARD EINEM: WAS BORN IN MILWAUKEE, WIS., THE YOUNGEST OF THREE CHILDREN. UPON GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, HE ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE SERVICE, IN 1947, HE STARTED A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND BLESSED BY GOD, THE COMPANY GREW TO BE THE LARGEST HOME BUILDERS IN THE FOX RIVER VALLEY DURING THE POST-WAR YEARS.



While a member at Faith Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wis., Ed was called by God, through a couple of sudden deaths within the congregation, to leave the building profession and enter Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill. Upon completion of training and ordination in 1963, he was called to Waukegan, Ill., to begin a mission congregation. After five years, the congregation was self-supporting and a transition Institutional Chaplaincy Ministry was made. This ministry included additional training through the Clinical Pastoral Education program, designed to develop ministry skills to troubled, sick, and dying individuals. During this time,

Ed served as a chaplain to the Lutheran Home and Services to the Aging in Arlington Heights, Ill. During this time, as he became acquainted with the need of the Jewish community needing to hear the Gospel, he was called upon to chair a program being developed by the LCMS called Project Compassion. Project Compassion became a ministry of volunteers reaching out to the hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons throughout the United States.

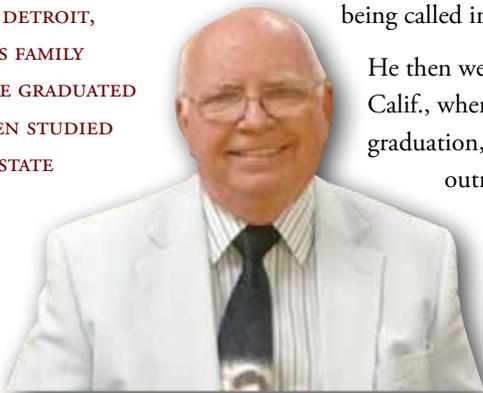
In 1961, he married Marion Liedtke of Milwaukee, Wis., and began a family which includes three children, two sons and a daughter, and five grandchildren. His beloved wife and help mate of 47 years was taken home to be with our Savior, October 1, 2008.

In 1972, the Michigan District of the LCMS called him to start a Project Compassion program in the Detroit Metropolitan area. The focus of this effort was on the many homes in urban Detroit. However, as the ministry grew, it spread to 160 facilities throughout South East Michigan. At the time of his retirement in 2006, it included 16 chaplains and ownership of four nursing homes in Michigan. God has lead, guided, and blessed the ministry of Project Compassion to this day. All thanks, praise, and glory be to Him.

Phil Schamehorn

PHIL SCHAMEHORN: WAS BORN AND RAISED IN DETROIT, MICH., UNTIL THE AGE OF 5. AT THAT TIME HIS FAMILY MOVED TO MOUNT CLEMENS, MICH., WHERE HE GRADUATED FROM MOUNT CLEMENS HIGH SCHOOL. HE THEN STUDIED AT PORT HURON JUNIOR COLLEGE AND WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, BOTH IN MICHIGAN, EARNING HIS ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

Phil's family never went to church as he was growing up. He worked at Ford Motor Co. and working on Sunday was the norm. So as far as his family was concerned, God was nowhere in the picture. Then after 12 years, Phil's marriage fell apart and he found himself with many questions. After a year of searching for answers to those questions, Phil's brother walked into a Country Western bar, which Phil was frequenting one evening, and proceeded to invite him to attend church the following Sunday. The next Sunday, Phil did attend church and heard the pastor read from Matthew 11, "Come unto me all of you who are weary and heavy laden" and that was the beginning of his journey of faith. Five months later he was baptized and after eight months knew he was



being called into the ministry.

He then went on to study at Concordia College in Irvine, Calif., where he completed his bachelor's degree. Upon graduation, he was called to be a director of Christian outreach at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Orange, Calif. He served in that capacity for two years then traveled to Fort Wayne, Ind., to pursue the Masters of Divinity degree becoming a pastor. Phil served four churches, including Our Hope Lutheran Church in Huntertown, Ind., where he served 14 years until his retirement in September 2008.

Phil has always had a zeal for reaching the lost and felt joining The 72 ministry would help fulfill his passion.

Phil and his wife, Martha, live in Fort Wayne, Ind. They have four grown children; Julia, Carolyn, Martha, and Philip. Martha is currently employed at the Lutheran Heart Center in Fort Wayne.

Lenita and Kenneth Schroeder

Lenita and Kenneth Schroeder: have been involved throughout their life in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In their early years they were Sunday school teachers and involved with the choir. Lenita has worked in many areas of occupations. Ken is a graduate of Concordia University, Seward, Neb., and has served as a Lutheran teacher for 47 years.

Lenita's hobbies include: beading, crocheting, and photography. Ken's hobbies include photography, arts, and crafts.



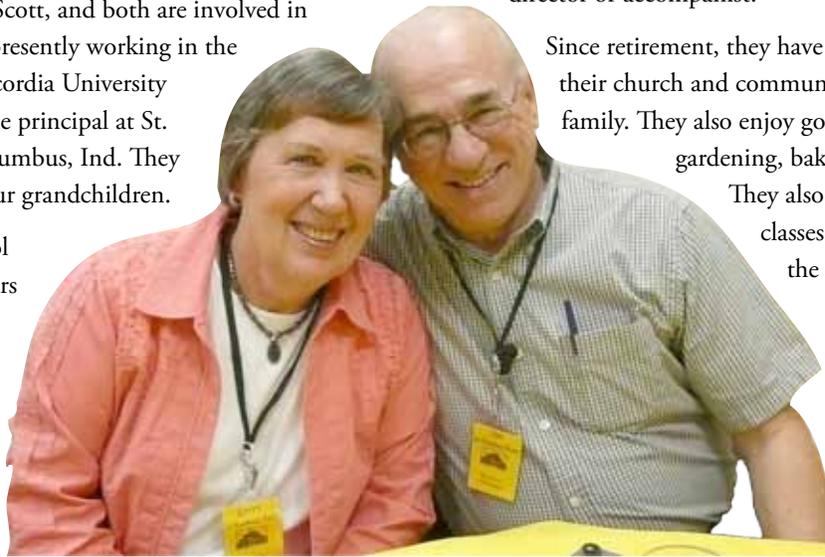
Jim and Lorri Schumacher

JIM AND LORRI SCHUMACHER: BOTH HAD FARM UPBRINGINGS, LORRI IN HINTON, IOWA, AND JIM IN MAYER, MINN.

They met at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn. and finished their college education at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill. Lorri graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1965 and Jim received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966 after spending one year in River Forest's student intern program teaching at Trinity in Edwardsville, Ill. Jim also earned a Master of Arts in Educational Administration in 1975 from Central Michigan. Lorri earned a Special Education Certificate in 1994 from the University of Utah.

Jim and Lorri were married on July 30, 1966. They were blessed with two children, Vikki and Scott, and both are involved in Lutheran education. Vikki is presently working in the education department at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. and Scott is the principal at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ind. They also have been blessed with four grandchildren.

Jim has been a Lutheran school principal/teacher for all 40 years of his ministry. Both Jim and Lorri ministered in seven different schools in Illinois, Michigan, Washington, Minnesota, Utah, and back to Michigan where Jim retired in 2006. The schools



Jim served ranged from rural to large city, small enrollment of 50 to large enrollment of nearly 300; strong conservative Lutheran communities to West coast culture and a minority in Mormon country. Jim has enjoyed being a student of the Word as both a student and teacher over these many years.

Lorri taught for 18 years in Lutheran schools in the lower and middle grades. She also was the Bethesda Parish Ministry Consultant in Michigan for nearly five years and finished her teaching career as a special education teacher to profoundly mentally and physically impaired students for nearly six years. Over the years, she has also used her talents as a church organist and working with choirs as a director or accompanist.

Since retirement, they have enjoyed volunteer work in their church and community, traveling, and visiting family. They also enjoy golf, going on walks and hikes, gardening, baking, and gourmet cooking.

They also like to play cards and take classes in community education at the local university.

They look forward to learning how to communicate the love of Jesus Christ to others in a variety of ways as we all wait for Christ's return.

Concluding Thoughts

Dave, Dee, Marilyn, Ed, Phil, Lenita, Kenneth, Jim and Lorri join 42 others in the ministry of The 72. At the present time, January 2010, 51 individuals serve the ministry with their spouse or individually. Here are some thoughts our teams have shared with us about their involvement in The 72 ministry.

Dick and Jean Evers, serving since 2002, told our editor: "These experiences (planning and serving assignments) have strengthened our own personal faith, and grants us the privilege of serving our Lord together as a couple in ways that we had not

envisioned before we became involved in the ministry."

Loren and Marge Rehmer have been involved in The 72 ministry since its inception in 1996. Loren shared this with us: "It is rewarding to come to a parish with little or no outreach program, meeting wonderful Christians, and help them develop a plan of action to reach the lost in their community."

Jim and Lorri Schumacher were part of this last year's new team training. They shared with us that The volunteers who serve with The 72 ministry are, "Very ordinary people,

yet with extraordinary gifts and desires to share Christ. That has created special bonding spiritually and socially as all exhibit a real joy in the Lord. They are fun to be with."

Les and Carol Roth, serving The 72 since 2006, appreciate that the class material, provided by the ministry, is professional. Les recently shared: "The rewards of God's presence in enabling the presenter are so evident. Come on board and join us; using your gifts to enable congregations in this important mission of outreach. It is a powerful ministry!"

Happy Birthday

With many years to come on the road, blessed by our Lord:



January

Toni Ruiz (Jan. 1)
Lorri Schumacher (Jan. 3)
Helen Lee (Jan. 8)
Ed Einem (Jan. 12)
Tim Hutchison (Jan. 19)
Joy Carver (Jan. 22)

February

Kathryn Wilkins (Feb. 9)
Al Tormoehlen (Feb. 9)
Les Roth (Feb. 19)
Bob Brandt (Feb. 26)
Joy Axelson (Feb. 26)

March

Shirley Koestler (March 2) Kerry Koestler (March 21)
Russell Rebholz (March 6) Deanne Noack (March 21)
John Carver (March 19)

Belated December

Phil Schamehorn (Dec. 3) Caroline Boll (Dec. 23)
Jim Schumacher (Dec. 11) Norman Barnette (Dec. 25)
Al Walck (Dec. 14) Dave Allen (Dec. 31)



Get your articles in for the next *Partners' Voice*

Articles for the next issue of *Partners' Voice* are due by Monday, Feb. 15.

Please send them to Tina Kassebaum, editor. Mail to LCMS World Mission; Attn: Tina Kassebaum, The 72 assistant; 1333 S. Kirkwood Road; St. Louis, MO 63122. You may also send them by e-mail to The72@lcms.org.

Prayers

† Heavenly Father, keep protective watch over all The 72 team members as they travel to their assignments in January, February, and March. We thank you for protecting all who traveled to their 2009 assignments.

† Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us an everlasting hope. As You faithfully promise, stay with us while we share Your love with those we encounter in our daily lives.

† Holy Spirit, give us patience as we learn to share the Good News about Jesus. Continue to enlighten us with Your gifts and keep us in the one true faith, so that we may share it boldly with those who do not know You.

† Lord Jesus Christ, our Great Physician, we continue to pray that you continue the healing work and guidance for those who have been suffering with illness and disease, provide a measure of peace and patience as they continue to look to you for their healing.

Prayer Warriors

Members at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee, Wis., are prayer warriors for the teams of The 72. Contact Mr. Jim Berg to let these warriors know to pray for your partnership with each congregation.

