Mission Builder Messenger

CSM Unit of the ELCA

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Director of Mission Builders

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Return Requested

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Thank you to all Individuals who have chosen to help Mission Builders help others.

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Mission Builder Messenger

Mission Builders is a ministry within the Congregational and Synodical Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Update from the Director…

Since our August Newsletter, our portion of building responsibilities and management oversight on the large projects in Bottineau, ND and in Elkhorn, WI have been completed. In mid November after many delays as a result of a concrete contractor not completing form and steel prep work for the foundation, Mission Builders helped complete foundation and slab preparations and our Christo Rey project in W. Columbia, S.C. commenced framing. It has been nine years since we as an organization have had the privilege to build a mission structure (1st building) for a congregation. Howard and Ann McCartha (local) manager of the project, Don and Janette Rantala (N. Wisconsin) along with the remaining crew members have worked through several holidays , lots of rain, and several challenges from the local county to be ahead of schedule. Many thanks go out to Bishop Herman Yoos of the S.C Synod who championed from day one the concept of providing a place to worship for a large local Central American and Hispanic group of faithful Christians. I also want to note that without financial and other support in SC from Lutheran Men in Mission the project would not have gotten off of the ground. Mission Builders on site had the privilege to work alongside a Latino framing crew of five guys who volunteered one day to come and build many of the interior walls. Wow could they move fast! From Gene and Caryl Ziegenhagen from MN., Arvin and Susan Petcher from western MN, Rourk and Audrey Richardson from northern N.D., and , Craig and Dianne Stange from southern N.D. many of whom are newer to Mission Builders and Kirchner and Paula Waytt from MD whom were revisiting an area where they used to live and volunteering on their third project, my many thanks for the unselfish gifts of time and talent you are sharing in the area during the build.

This past winter our organization changed our policy regarding future building projects.

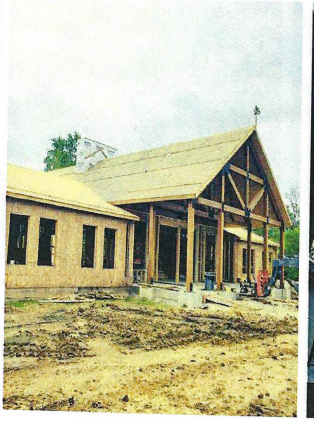
We also have specified activities needed by a congregation to set the stage for working with local building officials not familiar with our ministry. The value of these initiatives has been reinforced with a larger non– refundable deposit upfront. We have been blessed to be able to offer many congregations who we anticipate building with (through Bob Apel, an architect out of Ohio), pro bono concept needs floor plans and elevation drawings . On a few occasions congregations/ camps choose not to build with us, but rather choose to take our drawings and utilize a local contractor. As part of our new policy we now charge a very nominal fee for his services. We have also implemented a vetting document for ministries, and once we have decided the organization is someone we want to partner with, we are sharing with them more best practices/ guidelines for ministries in an effort that they be ready for Mission Builders with RV parking and foundations before we get onsite. If a ministry is prepared for us and we can build the project in the season originally planned, the fee applies to the overall construction management fee our organization has had for years. With any new policy, there is learning, sometimes good and sometimes bad. As of today we have yet to receive any deposits for the spring of 2020. We are in what I would describe as final talks with three organizations totaling about 22,000 sq. ft. of buildings, but no one has written the check. In addition four other organizations have re– evaluated their situations (lack of zoning, or planning, or fundraising success at this time) and are deferring construction to 2021.

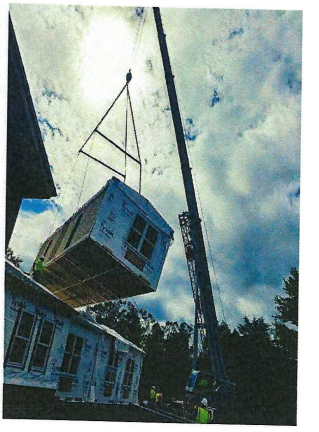
In our most recent newsletter, we shared several pictures of the **Lutherdale** project. Needs analysis and design for the conference center with hotel style handicap accessible rooms started three years ago between the camp and our Mission Builder director and our pro-bono architect Bob Apel who provided floor plans as well as renderings for consideration by their board. Estimates by Ted Erkenbrack and Bill Speer highlighted the need for the camp to explore alternative building methods if there was any hope of approaching the planned budget number. Modules for the hotel wings were manufactured in a factory and craned into place as our final remaining Mission Builders were getting ready to leave. Many thanks to Steve and Carole Schenk the original construction management couple and also Jim and Chris Dyess, the final construction management couple, Rich and Lindsey Hofer foremen couple. Thank you to a flexible crew Chris and Karin Dunker, Joe and Shirley Emrick, Carl and Connie Hoffman, Arvin and Susan Pletcher.

LUTHERDALE IS A FAITH COMMUNITY, DEDICATED TO BUILDING LIVES IN CHRIST, THROUGH THE WONDER OF GOD'S CREATION, AND THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD.

Lutherdale

Life Changing Adventure





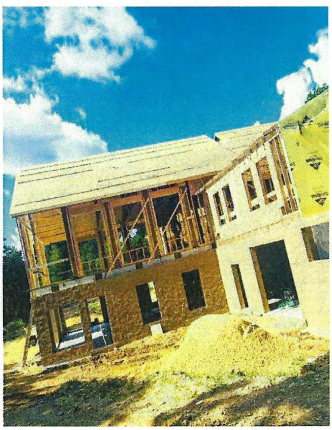
SHARE *the* ADVENTURE

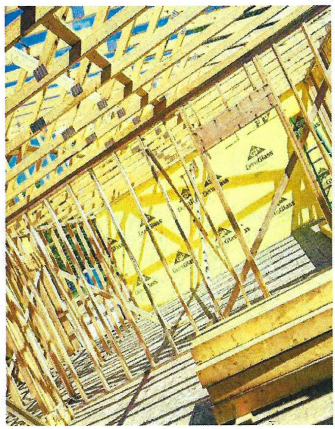
A Capital Appeal to Open New Ministry at Lutherdale

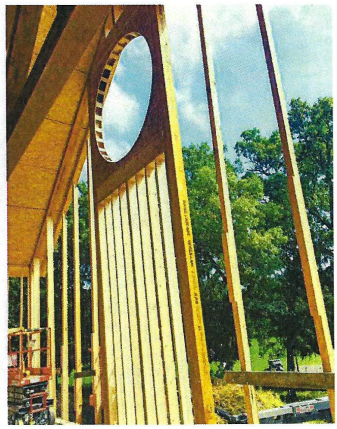
THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, GENEROSITY, AND SUPPORT IN THE OPENING PHASE OF OUR *SHARE THE ADVENTURE* APPEAL.

With the cost savings provided by a partnership with ELCA Mission Builders, volunteers, modular construction, and skilled contractors, the new Lodge will be ready for our first guests in 2020. The adult-friendly Lodge has 20 comfortable hotel-style rooms, each with a private bath. The new Lodge provides flexibility and comfort with large and small meeting room space, as well as a hospitality center.







Mission Builders

Carl and Connie Hoffman

December 2019

It all started when Connie and I decided to buy an RV. We had always been "tent-campers" but getting up from an air mattress and riding out thunderstorms was getting to be a bit much for us. Since we did not have a vehicle capable of towing anything larger than a "teardrop" trailer, we decided to get a motorhome. After looking at several, we fell in love with a Winnebago Via – a small "class A" on the Sprinter frame.

Our first long trip was from our home in Arkansas to the north shore of Lake Superior. Of course, our trip was a learning experience including two tire failures. (We finally got that figured out – don't have low-pressure passenger tire stems on high-pressure truck tires!)

Realizing we had a lot to learn about all the different systems of a motorhome, we went to the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) national convention in Indianapolis and I went to a lot of seminars. (Bear with me – I'm finally getting to the Mission Builders part.)

FMCA conventions have wonderful commercial display areas. You can walk through beautiful motorhomes that you will never be able to afford. You can see all kinds of devices that make your RV more comfortable and reliable. You can see all kinds of really cool gadgets for sale. Each vendor has an elaborate and expensive display area.

Then there was one very modest booth – the only booth in the whole display area that was not trying to sell some very expensive gizmo for your RV. The booth consisted of a banner and a card table. Behind the card table with some handouts was a guy named Bill Graves – our national director of Mission Builders.

Connie and I had recently "retired" and we were looking for something to do in retirement that would give our life meaning – not just "consuming." As we talked with Bill, we realized that this Mission Builder stuff might be just the sort of thing that we were looking for.

We decided to give it a try – at least a little try. So, in early summer 2018, we travelled from Arkansas to Ferndale, WA and volunteered for two weeks. And we were hooked – at least I was hooked. Connie still wondered how she would fit in while I was busy swinging a hammer. We decided to commit to Mission Builders the next summer (2019) for the entire building season. We spent from mid-May until late September at Camp Lutherdale near Elkhorn, WI building a lodge for adult ministries. It was a long time away from home; it was a hot summer; it was a rainy summer; it was a humid summer; and it was a wonderful summer. Having come to the building project with very little construction experience, one thing that I really appreciated was being taught construction methods and the use of power tools. I was both taught and supervised in using such tools as power saws, pneumatic nail drivers and even lifts in a safe manner. Even when something that I was doing needed to be corrected, that correction was done in a supportive and respectful way. I feel that I will be coming back next year to the next project with a good base of construction knowledge on which to build.

I would encourage anyone – construction "newbie" or experienced builder – male or female – young and strong or "mature" like me – to come and take part in Mission Builders. Of course, it was not just "all work and no play" last summer. The group went to Friday night fish fries and barbeque rib competitions. We took the "mail-boat" around Lake Geneva and toured the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee. We all enjoyed taking part in the annual quilt auction at Camp Lutherdale. We worshiped together at area ELCA congregations each Sunday. The absolute highlight of the summer for Connie and me was an excursion to Chicago to see "Hamilton." This bus tour included transportation with a delicious meal at a restaurant in Chicago before the show. There was no fighting Chicago traffic – we were dropped off and picked up right in front of the theater. All of this was a gift to the Mission Builders by Camp Lutherdale. Some people are not able to commit for a whole building season. We look forward to participate in another Mission Builders project this next summer. However, this time it will not be for the entire building season. During part of the summer, we will have a new grandbaby to visit at our youngest daughter and son-in-law's station in Misawa AFB, Japan.

Carl and Connie Hoffman

The following is from an e-mail to Bill Graves from Rourke Richardson discussing his wife Audrey and him regarding their initial exposure to Mission Builders working at Metigoshe Ministries near their home in N.D.

"I first became aware of the Mission Builders after hearing at church that there was a need for additional volunteers at Metigoshe. In mid July, I started as a volunteer at Metigoshe Ministries. During the next two months I came to realize how fulfilling the volunteering was. The Mission Builders and the Mission volunteers went out of their way to welcome Audrey and I into their lives. I decided it would be a pleasure to serve other ministries across the country. This was when I made the decision to become a Mission Builder. I enjoy building and figured this would be a good opportunity for me to serve others. I am a retired truck driver and Audrey is a retired RN. We are enjoying our retirement and looking forward to joining the team in South Carolina in January."

The following text and pictures come from Metigoshe Ministries communications to their constituents… "Thank You Mission Builders!

Thousands of hours of work, prayer and fellowship have been led by our Mission Builders. They have truly been partners with Metigoshe Ministries since they began their work with us in May 2016. The Mission Builders worked alongside many volunteers from Metigoshe congregations and other friends of Metigoshe Ministries. Together they helped the many. Our Mission Builders will leave us on October 1st but they will not leave our hearts. Most importantly, they will leave behind wonderful ministry facilities which will serve generations to come. Thank you!"

Below is a Metigoshe communication from this summer...

Construction Progressing Quickly at Metigoshe Ministries with Mission Builders

This summer Metigoshe Ministries has undertaken the construction of an expansion to the current Lakeside Christian Center. Partners in this work have been the ELCA Mission Builders whose mission statement is "Together we Build". The Mission Builders focus not only on providing project management and construction work, they also place value on working with volunteers and building community and faith throughout their time on the project. Project foreman Dean Hatzenbihler says "It's amazing what a group of dedicated retired people can accomplish in one season!". A group of twenty four Mission Builders from all across the United States has been living on site in RVs and working Tuesday through Saturday alongside volunteers and contractors on the new construction. Metigoshe Ministries Executive Director Jon Halvorson is grateful for the partnership with Mission Builders and says, "We are thankful to have partnered now for three years with the Mission Builders. Their community engagement is a blessing, and we estimate they have also been able to help us save between $300,000 and $500,000 on our projects."

The expansion will provide six overnight theme rooms, three large group meeting/conference rooms, a small gathering room, chapel, sauna and two offices. With its completion, this new facility will greatly expand retreat and conference capacity and offer a variety of options for multiple user groups using the facilities at the same time. Construction of the new facility will be funded through gifts provided to the *Ensure the Adventure* campaign, now underway.

Metigoshe Ministries is a year round Lutheran outdoor ministry serving over ten thousand youth and adults annually regardless of religious affiliation. Summer camp programs and year round retreats and conferences are available to all. Contact Rev. Jon Halvorson (701-263-4788) for more information or online at metigosheministries.com.

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Construction work underway on the Lakeside Christian Center expansion at Metigoshe Ministries.

Mission Builder Team with members from Oregon, Montana, Texas, Alabama, Florida and North Dakota Below left to right...Terry Theil, Gene Ziegenhagen, Pr. Gerald Check, Rourke Richardson, Dean Hatzenbihler-

Foreman, Craig Stange, John Sharps, Bob Risberg– Manager, Les Sitz, Allan Ost, Don Harris, not pictured Paul Knudson, Peter Ribble, Mark Bjerke, Arnie Fichtenberg

Additional comments from Metigoshe

Thank You Mission Builders!

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Christo Rey Latino Mission 1st Church structure West Columbia, SC

Pastor Jorge Leon, a congregation family and Bishop Herman Yoos

The first wall going up above with Church leadership, congregants and Mission Builders helping lift

Below a picture after less than 4 weeks of Mission Builder framing work

Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Lexington, South Carolina

ELCA Mission Builder Project November 2019

Mission Builders (MB) relax after wall raising in the McCartha's RV following an afternoon of wall raising. McCarthas are 'sharing' their RV with the Rantalas this winter as they live within commuting distance of the church site.

There is much laughter with the MB group.

The Rantala's teenaged friends from Germany joined in the wall raising and socializing that followed. *Jeanette Rantala, MB*

Christo Rey Truss Day– The project has seen a large amount of volunteerism from the congregation, the community, and Mission Builder groupies stopping through and donating time. This means lots of future friends in yet another community.

"Building Structures, Community, and Faith"

Mission Builder Advisory Board names new members…

Our Mission Builder Board recently saw two members retire. Bishop Mark Narum from ND, and Spencer Ruff from Minnesota. We sincerely appreciate their many gifts and much wisdom shared during their years on our advisory board.

I am pleased to announce that the other members of the board brought forward Bishop Herman Yoos of SC., Jon Halvorson from ND., and Dean Hatzenbihler from OR. to serve on the board. We are thankful for them being willing to help chart forward the future of our ministry.

Welcome again to our newest Mission Builders

Dennis and Janette Hanson

Donna and Dennis Kisser

Paul Knudson

Rourke and Audrey Richardson

Potential projects MB's continue planning with are in Michigan and Minnesota. Please pray alongside me for successful negotiations with local officials allowing us to build and successful fundraising in time for spring projects.

Prayers and Concerns…

Improved Health… Arnie Fichtenberg

Passing of … Allan Awtrey

Gifts received in memory of: Lillian Simonsen–

Bob and Marne Helberg

Gifts to Mission Builders- Redeemer Lutheran Church New Palz, NY, Chris Risberg, Bob Risberg, Loren Johnson, John and Sandra Sharps, Les and Jeannie Sitz, Robert and Jackie Sorenson, Bill and Becky Graves (Christo Rey Ministry project gifts in-kind)

Donations to Mission Builders can be made through the **Thrivent Choice Program**. In addition **Action Team Grant** requests can be made through your local advisor to help purchase supplies, tools, or to finance trips to far away locations.

There are several hundred people who receive our newsletter. Many of you are not able to do the physical labor, others still have full time jobs, and many are still considering MB's. Consider visiting one of our future projects and volunteering for a day. We will give you a bright orange t-shirt!