

# Central States Synod - ELCA

## Area Ministry One Newsletter

July 2008

Fun in the Sun for Middle and High School Youth....

### **High Plains Lutheran Youth Gathering**

**Saturday, July 19, 2008, 1:00 p.m. Mt**

**to Sunday, July 20, 1:00 p.m. Mt**

**Enders Reservoir (North of Benkelman, NE)**

Camping, fishing, seven (7) kayaks, devotions  
and Sunday morning worship.



For more information contact:

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*Salem Lutheran Church, St. Francis*

Rebekah Peterson at 785-846-7834 [ccfarmlink@st-tel.net](mailto:ccfarmlink@st-tel.net)

*Bethesda Lutheran Church, Page City*

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*Note: All youth must be accompanied by sponsor! Please bring your Bible. Thanks!*

### **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

- Kara Gfeller of **Bethesda Lutheran Church, Page City**, and a sophomore at Triplains High School set many school records this year. She also was the KEMFA Powerlifting State Champion in the women's 105 lb. class and ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the bench press with a lift of 110 lb. 1<sup>st</sup> in hang clean with a lift of 110 lbs. and 2<sup>nd</sup> in squats with 150 lbs. lift. Kara also placed 1<sup>st</sup> in State in the 100m dash for 1A schools.
- Todd Snethen of **Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Goodland**, and Ashley Barrie and Nathan Jorgenson of **Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brewster**, are headed to Sky

Ranch Confirmation Camp at the end of July.

- Miranda Johnson Pena of **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** graduated from the Goodland Learning Center in May.

### **MISSION GROUPS IN THE AREA**

Twelve members of a United Methodist mission group stayed in Goodland with Pastor Jane on their way back to eastern Kansas.

Youth from St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Columbia, MO, will stay at **Sharon Lutheran Church, Sharon Springs**, and lead worship at **Bethany Lutheran Church, Weskan**, on their way out west.

Area One Contacts:

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## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

At 2:00 PM MDT Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> members of **Sharon Lutheran Church, Sharon Springs,** and **Bethany Lutheran Church, Weskan,** will lead worship at Prairie Manor in Sharon Springs.

Members of **Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Goodland,** will lead worship on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM at Wheatridge and 2:30 PM at Good Samaritan in Goodland.



## ATTENTION YOUTH

Youth at **Emmanuel Lutheran, Goodland,** and any others who wish to come are invited to a get-together Thursday, July 17 at 3:30 PM. We will have a Bible Study, plan activities for the fall, and plan for the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Come and then stay for VBS.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY NEWS

During the workshop sessions of the Assembly I went to a community called "New Town" in St. Charles County on the northwest side of St. Louis. This is a development built on the theme of "new urbanism" which means the area emphasizes accessibility and community with less dependence upon vehicle use in the immediate area. The living arrangements vary from apartments above businesses to town homes and single family dwellings. There are several locations for community activities.

The ELCA and the Reformed Church in America are working together on a mission church in New Town. It is called "The Bridge" signifying no beginning or ending. The group has leased a one-room building within New Town that serves as

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office and has crafts for sale that feature gifts from developing countries. This is to be the contact point, along with prayer walks, for meeting and inviting community persons to become part of the "church."

The idea is that small groups will meet in homes for worship and become involved in community service. There are community buildings where all "members" will be able to gather when they choose to have an inclusive event. I find the idea interesting as this is the way Christians first worshiped – meeting in their homes. The discussion of the group on the tour made me wonder if our future as rural American Christians might also be a return to "church" in the community rather than a building?

-Sharron Knox, **Our Savior, Brewster**

I had the great opportunity and pleasure to attend the Central States Synod Assembly in St. Louis, Mo from June 5-8, 2008. The theme for the Assembly this year was "God's Work, Our Hands, Making all Things Happen." And things were happening!

As a first-time voting Member, it was amazing to see the full and packed schedule for the Assembly. The main purpose for the Assembly is voting on the Resolutions. There were numerous, and most were passed by the margin necessary. Reports such as the Treasurer's Report were presented and accepted.

With Plenary sessions and worship and fellowship, the 4 days were full and complete. I had not realized previously how much work is done at Assembly, and I am proud to have been a part of it this year in St. Louis.

-Susan Murray, **Emmanuel, Goodland**

Comments by others as well as a complete list of actions taken by the Assembly will be in the August Newsletter.

## PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O God, we give you thanks for our country and our many blessings. Help us to appreciate what we have been given. Prod us to share our bounties with others so that all your children may be fed and nourished. Amen