

Region IV Newsletter

SPRING 2011

VOLUME XXIII • NUMBER 1

**Interview with
Marshall Bowen**
ALCM National Conference Chair
Carole Lea Arenson



Editor's Note: Since the National Conference in Seattle is coming this summer, we thought it a good idea to get a perspective from the chair. We thank you Marshall, for taking the time to share your personal insights with us.

God's People Sing: Abundance, Challenge, Joy!

Abundance of music, style, and presentation.
Challenge of discernment, breadth, and quality.
Joy in resources, abilities, and opportunities.

July 31 - August 3, 2011
Seattle University
Seattle, Washington

1. What are some of the highlights in the upcoming ALCM National Conference we do not want to miss?

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to answer some questions about the 2011 ALCM National Conference. We are gathering in Seattle, WA from July 31 through August 3, 2011. In addition, there is a "Post-Conference" on Thursday, August 4.

There are many highlights. Seattle University is a fantastic location! We are in downtown Seattle only a few minutes from Pike Place Market and the famous Space Needle. I cannot think of a better location to get a little vacation time before or after the conference.

For the conference itself, we are lucky to have the up and coming theologian Christian Scharen from Luther Seminary as our "teacher" for the event. To reflect on how what he is saying relates to the pastors and musicians in the parish, we have Pamela Fickenscher as our "pastor."

For those who love to sing, the high point will be our Monday evening Hymn Festival co-sponsored by St. James Cathedral. Dynamic Anton Armstrong will be conducting our Festival Choir. Be sure to arrive early and attend the Saturday evening

rehearsal if you want to sing in the choir. The inspiring John Ferguson will be our organist and together they will be planning an evening that uses the "abundance" of music which is available to church musicians at work in the church today.

Other musical highlights will be the Sunday evening organ recital by Faythe Freese at St. Mark's Cathedral (right after the famed St. Mark's Compline) and the Wednesday afternoon performance by Male Ensemble Northwest at the Bastyr University Chapel.

2. Speaking of "abundance" how does the theme of "abundance" flow through the event?

I am glad you asked. When I accepted the invitation to chair this summer's conference, I wanted to make sure we addressed one of the many questions I know people are asking here in the west. Region IV is where I have lived and worked as a church musician my entire life.

When I talk to fellow church musicians here in our part of the country, I frequently hear questions about how to deal with the wide variety of music which we encounter today in our churches. Many of the styles and instruments we are using now were just not a part of the organ and choral conducting classes we all had in college. While this question grew out of my conversations with fellow church musicians here in the west, I can only think that this is a question we are all facing throughout the country.

So, early in the planning process the conference committee spent time discussing this question and how it could be asked at our conference. Our theme, "**God's People Sing: Abundance, Challenge, Joy**", will be addressed at our plenary sessions, the Hymn Festival and at the panel discussion on Tuesday. My friend, Paul Westermeyer, will be the moderator of the discussion. He has been a part of the conversation with the committee from the beginning. He realized that in all of his extensive writing he has never really addressed this question head-on. He has now written an article on the subject, which will be in the ALCM periodical "Cross Accent". It is coming out later this spring. Be sure to watch for it. In addition, we will be starting an online discussion at www.alcm.org.

We are very lucky to have a panel from across the Lutheran church denominations. Our own president, Lorraine Brugh, will represent ALCM; Aaron Christie for WELS; David Johnson for LC-MS; Donald Neville for ELCIC; and Scott Weidler for ELCA. The

(con't. on pg. 10)



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Submission Deadline	Issue
January 15	Spring
April 15	Summer
October 15	Winter

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians's Region IV Newsletter has a circulation of 12 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming; Three Canadian Provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan; Australia and New Zealand. It also includes members of the National Board of Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and selected leaders in Canada and the United States. It is the main source of communication between and for the leading Lutheran Church Musicians of the West.

Think you missed an article in one of the earlier Region IV Newsletters? They are currently archived on the ALCM National website. www.alcm.org



From the Editor

Carole Lea Arenson
Region IV Newsletter Editor



This first 2011 issue has a range of articles for you. One regional newsletter priority is for us to know each other better. Therefore, we continue posting new members, updates on last issues new members and having a member interviews. We thank you Katherine Crosier for your efforts to make this happen.

Another priority is to continue offering "Stuff That Works". We thank Jennaya Robison for her recommendation of 17 anthems for Children's Choirs and/or Youth Choirs.

Our last issue introduced a new feature called "Question Box: Ask a Pro" with two "pros" ready to answer your questions. We want to get this off the ground and hope you will help by submitting some questions. (See page 5 for more details.) Please consider doing this now! Or no later than March 1st so our pros have time to write.

As promised for this issue, we have the entire lecture Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer intended to share with us at our Gathering in Boulder prior to his promotion to Assistant to the Bishop in Canada. It is entitled "Watery Beginnings" and is a very good read.

National and Regional events are crucial to our organization. Marshall Bowen, National Conference Chair, has given us his personal insights for the 2011 ALCM National in Seattle. Hopefully we will have an overwhelming representation from Region IV since it is in our backyard!

Region IV President Joy Berg informs us that Region IV has already selected a place with dates for the 2012 regional event. There are more details in her "From the Prez" article. Way to go Joy!

As usual this newsletter features current topics. The two are entitled: "Thank God for our Lutheran Colleges" and "Tragedy in Tucson".

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 15th. Please consider being a writer for our next issue. If you have a question for the "Question Box: Ask a Pro" please submit it by March 1st so our pros have time to respond. Submit to: carole.arenson@cox.net

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From the Prez

Dr. Joy Berg
Region IV President



Happy New Year ALCM Region IV! And may this year be a blessed year in your life.

I spent Christmas Eve singing with the choir at the American Church in Paris, France. It was a wonderful, creative and inspirational time of worship. The music and the words the speakers chose to use for introductions and messages made a huge impact on me.

Many equally wonderful experiences and offerings were given to our North American churches over Christmas. Several of you were leaders in that: from placing liturgical words into carol tunes for use during worship (a church in Alberta), to presenting the Praetorius Mass and part of Bach's Christmas Oratorio (wow!) for Christmas Eve services (a church in Hawaii). You are gifted and creative leaders!

Welcome to several Region IV new members. Kathy is presenting some more information from last issue's new members in this newsletter.

A steering committee, with membership from Hawaii to Canada, is in place for our next regional ALCM conference. We are beginning our work on the 2012 conference: "Rehearsing God's Story". The dates will be July 23 - 25, 2012 (Monday-Wednesday) with a possible post-conference extension day. The location is California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. We will be focusing on: the texts we sing in choral pieces and in liturgy, how the form of worship is elaborated through the lectionary, the musicians which surround these words, how we enliven the story of who God is and what God has done for God's people. Set these dates aside now. It promises to be a wonderful time to gather together, to give and receive insights, and to be renewed in your calling. More plans will be revealed through the next several months. We would love to have you there!

The national ALCM board is meeting next week (mid-January). Because of the high cost of flying from Canada to Valparaiso, I will be joining the meeting on a conference call for the three days instead of being there in person. I do look forward to the thoughts exchanged and the plans being made.

I hear from and read about several of you on an on-going basis (i.e. if you would like to see more about the creativity with that church in Hawaii, check www.insanity.blogs.ichwelcome.org). You are an amazing group of people, gifted with incredible talents and experience, and given a well of energy and inspiration. Thanks for sharing. Continue sending me information as to what you do in worship with your ensembles, your planning methods, and we will share these insights through this medium. Enjoy your new year and your calling.

ALCM
Thirteenth Biennial Conference

**GOD'S PEOPLE SING:
ABUNDANCE
CHALLENGE
JOY**

Abundance of music, style and presentation.
Challenge of discernment, breadth and quality.
Joy in resources, abilities and opportunities.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
JULY 30 - AUGUST 3
2011

ALCM
ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS

Stuff That Works: Children/Youth Choirs

Jennaya Robison, Director of Music
La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, AZ

Adoration - arr. Pat Messic
Choristers Guild/Lorenz Corporation
2 Part with Keyboard • Ranges: B^b4 – E^b5
Elementary/Middle School • General

Adoration combines the familiar praise chorus, *Father, I adore You* and the 13th century *Adoro te devote* tune. Don't let a chant tune scare you! This is a fantastic piece in which two part singing is introduced through the use of melody and countermelody. There is an optional three measure ending in which your SATB choir can join the singers. The piece can be used with two levels of children's/youth choirs – the younger singers singing *Father, I adore You* and the older singers on the hymn tune.

Build New Bridges - Wayne Wold
Augsburg Fortress
Unison, Opt. 2 Part with Piano • Ranges: C4 - E^b5
Elementary/Early Middle School • General/Service & Community

Build New Bridges is a unison/2 part piece in which the text focuses on "building new bridges out of love, hope, and peace." Not only is the song perfect for talking about building relationships as a community, it is an excellent vehicle to develop singing in two parts (optional). Much of the two part singing is an "echo" with brief harmonization as the singers reach the final cadence. The range extends to an E^b5, making the song an excellent choice to develop confidence in the singers' upper registers.

A Lenten Love Song - Helen Kemp
Choristers Guild/Lorenz Corporation
Unison, Keyboard • Ranges: D^b4 – C5
Elementary/Youth • Lent/Maundy Thursday

A Lenten Love Song is a perfect way to teach the story of Maundy Thursday and Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane. It begins with an optional narration and continues in f minor. The repetitions of the descending six note pattern help focus the listener on the important text that describes the scene in the garden. The song ends as the key changes to F major and the "ubi caritas" text and melody are sung. This is a beautiful way to be able to have children participate in the worship services during Holy Week.

Let All the Gates Be Opened Wide - Brahms, arr. Hal Hopson
Choristers Guild
Unison (opt. 2 Part or Mixed), Piano, Opt. Flute • Ranges: D4 – D5
Upper Elem./Middle School, Opt. Adults • Palm Sunday/Advent

Let All the Gates Be Opened Wide is a perfect choice for an Advent or Palm Sunday processional/anthem. It is written with an optional second part doubled by the flute. Repetitive text makes the anthem easy for very young singers to learn and memorize. A creative option is to combine the children's choir on part I and the adult choir with the flute on part II.

On a Starlit Night - Jill Gallina
Shawnee Press, Inc.
2 Part with Piano • Ranges B^b4 – C5.
Elementary/Youth • Christmas

On a Starlit Night is an accessible, easily learned countermelody to the first stanza of *Silent Night*. The countermelody is introduced the first time through, at the repeat *Silent Night* is sung, and finally the two melodies join. I have also had the congregation join on the *Silent Night* stanza during the worship service.

Rise, Children, Gonna Praise the Lord: A Collection of Spirituals for Young Singers - Michael Burkhardt
Morning Star Music Publishers
Unison/2 Part w/Orff/Handbells • Medium Ranges
Elementary • General

Michael Burkhardt has compiled several familiar spirituals in the collection. Included with each 8-12 measure Spiritual is a detailed "Performance Plan." Use the spirituals as unison singing to build vocal technique, use them to sing in canon, and/or use them with Orff instruments, chimes, or handbells. These are excellent ways to teach independence and part singing.

Send Down the Rain - Joyce Eilers
Jenson Publications
2 Part Treble, Piano • Ranges: B4 - D5,
Upper Elem./Middle School, Unchanged Voices • General

This is a 2 part treble composition written in a syncopated, gospel style which follows a "verse/chorus" structure. The verses are in unison and the chorus is written with a modified "call and response." There are a few measures in which the parts harmonize, but it is brief. This is an excellent selection to introduce part singing and syncopation.

This Day - Lowell Alexander, arr. Kirby Shaw
Hal Leonard Publishing
2 Part Treble, Piano • Ranges B4 - D5
Middle/High School, Unchanged Voices • General/Conf./Graduation

Kirby Shaw's arrangement of the Point of Grace song, *This Day* is unforgettable. The text describes that "this day is fragile... fleeting... it will pass by. Let us pray that we might be a friend...share God..." This is a perfect piece for a special occasion such as Confirmation or Graduation.

Wade in the Water - Spiritual arr. Max V. Exner
Choristers Guild
Unison • Ranges: B^b4 – E^b5
Elementary/Middle School • General/Pentecost

This African American spiritual has optional hand motions. The piece is an effective way to talk about the Spiritual and how it was used in American history. It is also an interesting way to discuss the concept of the Holy Spirit.

We Are Called to Be His Servants - John Carter
Augsburg Fortress
Unison (Optional Divisi and Optional Solos), Piano
Elementary • General

We Are Called to Be His Servants is a great teaching tool to discuss with singers a “call to action”. The text of the piece states that “We are called to be His servants, to be salt and light.” The text further states that if a “sister” or “brother” is in need, we must help her/him. Ranges are comfortable and the text-based syncopation helps the singers quickly learn the song.

Who Is This Tiny Babe? - Suzanne Lord
Choristers Guild
Unison/2 Part • Ranges: D4 - D5
Elementary/Youth • Advent/Christmas

Who Is This Tiny Babe? combines two flavors of the Advent/Christmas season. The song opens in d minor and the singers question “Who is this tiny babe in a manger?” As the song progresses, the singers realize that this baby is “love, precious love from on high.” The key changes to D major as the singers sing the song of the angels: “Alleluia, so sing the angels, so sings my heart!” The descant (part II) functions as a countermelody and could be omitted if necessary.

You are the Shepherd - Keith and Kristyn Getty
www.gettymusic.com
Unison • Ranges: B^b4 – E^b5
Elementary/Youth • General

Self described “modern hymn writers”, Keith and Kristyn Getty, have developed numerous new compositions which truly combine “old and new.” *You are the Shepherd* is a fantastic piece to teach your whole congregation. The text is particularly poignant when sung by children: “You know my name, you know my voice. Before I was born I was your choice.”

More “Stuff That Works”

All Night, All Day - arr. Ruth Artman
Hal Leonard Publishing
2 Part, Piano, Opt. Handbells and Finger Cymbals
Elementary/Youth • General

Clap Hand! - Douglas Wagner
Kirkland House
Unison, Piano
Early Elementary • General

Every Morning's Sun - Sue Ellen Page
Choristers Guild
Unison/2 Glockenspiels, Opt. Keyboard
Elementary • General

How Can I Keep From Singing? - arr. Michael Burkhardt
Choristers Guild
Unison/2 Part, Piano • Advanced
Elementary/Youth • General

When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight - M.K. Beall
Somerset Press
2 Part (also available SATB)
Elementary/Youth • Christmas

Question Box: Ask a Pro



Last issue we introduced the “Question Box”. It is a place to ask questions which will be answered by a “pro”. Your name will not be published, but your question will be. One of our pros will have answers in the next Region IV Newsletter. We are currently looking for questions. If you can send them to me prior to March 1st we hope to have some answers in the next issue.

The first professional is Dr. Gregory Peterson who was a key-noter at the Gathering in Boulder 2010. Greg will answer questions and provide valuable advice about organ related issues, anything related to supporting the congregational song, music in worship, using global music, new cultural challenges, and more.

The second professional is Bradley Ellingboe who was a presenter and choral director at the Gathering. Brad will answer questions about adult choirs, the human singing voice, church choirs and related issues.

Details: Email your questions to carole.arenson@cox.net by March 1st.

Mark Your Calendar

2011

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3/1 | Deadline for questions for the “Question Box” |
| 4/15 | Deadline for Region IV Newsletter submissions |
| 7/31 - 8/3 | <i>God's People Sing: Abundance, Challenge, Joy!</i>
ALCM National Conference
Seattle, Washington |

2012

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 7/23 - 7/25 | <i>Rehearsing God's Story</i>
ALCM Region IV Biannual Event
California Lutheran University
Thousand Oaks, California |
|-------------|---|

Thank God for our Lutheran Colleges!

Carole Lea Arenson

A big “Thank You” to our Lutheran Colleges who continue the marvelous tradition of reinforcing our faith in song!

This year my sister and I decided to honor our mother’s memory by attending three Lutheran Christmas Festivals in four days. Mother inspired us to sing our faith and she so enjoyed Lutheran Christmas Festivals. Pat flew to Minneapolis from Florida and I came from Arizona.



In order we attended: Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN; and Concordia College in Moorhead, MN

When anyone hears of our venture they immediately want comparisons. “Who was the best?” “Which one had the best musicians and directors?” The point of this article is to thank ALL our Lutheran colleges for the marvelous work they are doing in music ministry. Can you begin to imagine how our local congregations would suffer if suddenly there were no College Christmas Festivals or no Lutheran College Choirs? In this single year the three colleges together had almost 2000 students participating! These are the very people who will give leadership in congregations throughout the country.

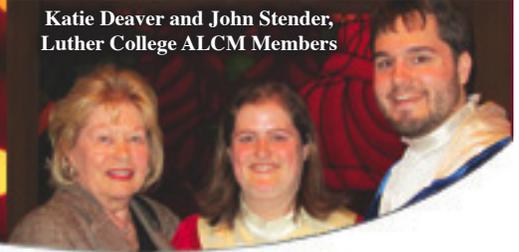
Instead of comparisons, let me share some impressions.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo



Luther College has the smallest venue, but has an acoustic advantage for music. The Center for Faith and Life is the only venue with a pipe organ. Of the three we had the privilege of attending, Luther College was the only one with a stand-alone Handbell Choir participating in the festival. The venue at Luther was not large enough to have all choirs upfront at one time. They turned this “disadvantage” to their favor with choirs appearing in the aisles during the congregational carols. We were in the balcony and found this very inclusive. It made us feel an integral part of the whole, since a wonderful singer was an arm’s length away.

Katie Deaver and John Stender,
Luther College ALCM Members



Dr. Gregory Peterson was organist, handbell director and arranger for the congregational hymn, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. The meticulous planning for rotating the choirs was impressive. However,

the space limitations meant there were no seats for the singers, as was the standard for St. Olaf and



Concordia. One of highlights for me was the first combined choir piece with orchestra. *Hope for Resolution* combines the 11th century chant, *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* with the South African *Thula Sizwe*. Both English and Zulu are used in this piece arranged by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory available through Earthsongs. The use of languages, old and new, traditional symphonic instruments with African drums is both stunning and moving. The fact is that Africa has more Lutherans than the United States. It may be we can learn from our new Lutheran friends.

A Child, A Son, The Prince of Peace



St. Olaf College in Northfield was our next stop. The event was held in the Skoglund Center Auditorium with about 3000 people in attendance over the festival weekend. St. Olaf

College has a long history of Christmas Festivals beginning with F. M. Christenson almost 100 years ago. He is credited with the introduction of a cappella singing in the US. The Lutheran choral tradition at St. Olaf continues to be exquisite. It certainly did live up to our expectations. The St. Olaf Orchestra under the direction of Steven Amundson is spectacular. St. Olaf has been blessed with talented composers who arrange music appropriate for the forces at hand. This Christmas we heard two original orchestral works: *Shepherd’s Jubilee*, by Steven Amundson and *Messiah, Prince of Peace* by Daniel Kallman.

We enjoyed massed choral and orchestral arrangements by John Ferguson, Robert Scholz, Carolyn Jennings, and Christopher Aspaas. It was a joy to have
(con’t. on pg. 11)



Member Profile:

Joseph Z. Pettit

Katherine Crosier
Region IV Vice-President

Editor's Note: Joseph Z. Pettit was listed as a Region IV New Member in the last newsletter.

Tell me about your present church position.

For the last five and a half years I have been the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA. Trinity is often identified with Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) since it is located across the street. We have a worship ensemble, called Jubilate Choir, for the early service with blended worship, a lighter fare. The ensemble has about a dozen members. Our late service is sung by the Cantate Choir and sings the "tough" stuff. We are in the third year of a four-year cycle of Bach masses done on Reformation Sundays. This year it was the G major Missa Brevis (the Lutheran Mass) with a resident, fully-professional orchestra "Camerata Northwest". I also direct a handbell choir and work with an ArtsAlive Program for children combining art, movement, music, crafts, and drama. We have a number of other resident ensembles: Evergreen Brass Quintet, Tacoma Boys and Girls Choirs who rehearse at Trinity in exchange for participation in a number of services per year. The ArtsAlive Program is an ethnically mixed group, and I am hoping this is the new face of Trinity Lutheran. The church has been largely Scandinavian, with some German, but this is changing significantly. My position is considered 2/3rd time.

When did you start music lessons?

I have played the piano since I was five years old. When I was thirteen, I learned to play the organ so I could play for my brother's wedding at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sunnyside, WA (near Yakima). By the time I was 14, I had my first church job with a large Allen Organ. During my last two years of high school, I was the organist at a small Episcopal Church with a Hammond Organ.

Who was your first organ teacher?

The person who had the most influence on me was Virginia Prochnow. She was a graduate of PLU and an organ teacher in eastern Washington. She was the organist at Central Lutheran in Yakima for over fifty years. It was she who dared me to major in organ, against my parents' wishes. She gave me a genuine passion for the instrument. She set up lessons with David Dahl, PLU Organist, during my high school years. I then went on to PLU to receive bachelor of music degrees in organ and church music.

I understand you spent a number of years in Europe. Tell me about that.

It was Richard Sparks and David Dahl's interest in early music which led me to study in Europe. I sold my car and bought a one-way ticket to Amsterdam. Richard Sparks set me up

with Max van Egmond, for whom I had sung a master class at PLU. After I moved to Amsterdam, I called up Max who remembered me as an organist. He pulled out a Schütz Bass Cantata and asked me to accompany him. He said he would make a deal with me. He would give me free voice lessons in exchange for accompanying him. I enrolled at the Academy of Ancient Music, which included weekly classes and lessons at Max's house. Within six months, Max started recommending me for singing jobs. The very first one was the Bach St. Matthew gig with Gustav Leonhardt. I basically stopped playing the organ, except for in Max's living room, and sang full-time. I was there for six years, from 1988-1994, before I moved to Norway as a full-time church musician where I was both organist and choral director.

How was being a church musician in Norway compared to the U.S.?

In Norway, church music positions are civil servant jobs. You are employed by the Church Council and paid by the county. For an American church musician, it was at the same time disappointing and frustrating because in the area I worked almost no one came to church.

There are few church choirs, but people do not have the habit of singing on Sunday mornings. There is no church budget outside of the salary. There is a priest, an organist and a sexton in every church and you are mandated to have Sunday services at 10:00 am. 90% of the county's population belongs to your church, but you never see them except for baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals! We were expected to conduct services at one main church and several chapels in the county, as well as at schools, hospitals and nursing homes. On Christmas Eve, the priest and I would hit every hospital and nursing home in the county.

How about weddings and funerals?

In contrast to my position at Trinity, in Norway I played more weddings and funerals, all of which were included in the contract. I was expected to play every single wedding and funeral in the county. Although I was not receiving extra pay for weddings and funerals, I was paid a living wage, which is in contrast to the American organist's compensation. The government provided for my every need, including free health insurance and free education. I had my tonsils out, spent eight days in the hospital, and only needed to show them my driver's license. I did not even get a bill!

My last position was in central Norway at Røros in the Trøndelag region. The huge historic church had three organs: a baroque, a modern and a choir organ. The building could seat

(con't. on pg. 10)



Tragedy in Tucson

A Reflection by Carole Lea Arenson

It was a beautiful warm sunny day in southern Arizona. Our family was spending the morning at the first flag football game our six year old grandson ever played. They all were playing with youthful energy and a minimal understanding of the game. And then – less than 100 miles south in a suburb similar to this one, tragedy was brutally announced. I am sure you all knew where you were when you first heard the horrific news.

It takes a while to internalize the reality of innocent people being gunned down merely because they happen to be in a particular location at a particular time. The situation worsens when you realize that even a child of nine is not spared. The story is well known to you so a retelling is not necessary. However, I do want to take a few minutes for a “reflection” on the **goodness of people** and the **need for God’s presence** witnessed in Tucson.

The “goodness of people” is evidenced by ACTION.

Many individuals at the scene certainly can be called heroes. They acted instinctively for the sake of others without thinking about themselves. Think of a family member who covers a loved one, taking the bullet himself. Think of a petite grandmother jumping a young strong shooter from behind as he tried to reload. Think of the two men who jumped into action to wrestle him down to ground so more damage could not be done. Think of those who rushed to the side of a fallen victim and somehow helped stem the bleeding. Think of how medical assistance could be coordinated so quickly. It was reported that only 37 minutes passed from the time the shot hit Congresswoman Giffords until she was seen by a doctor. This is miraculous! Some of my medical friends say this is unheard of. Think of those who choose the medical field because they wish to serve. That day they dropped everything and ran to the side of a patient. This list goes on. The evidence shows there was “goodness” in the midst of tragedy.

After the event, we have more stories about the “goodness of people”. Thousands of people found ways to support the grieving families. Sometimes it was by their mere presence. Prayers are continually being offered by people of all denominations. The hospital prayer vigil is well known. There are other prayer vigils which appear out of nowhere. People in white angel gowns surrounded the church the day of the young nine year old’s funeral. People silently formed a human boundary around the church to serve as shield from any disruptions. Bells began appearing everywhere. They were hanging from the Palo Verde trees, found in bushes and on shopping carts in the parking lot of the Safeway store, which was the scene of the shooting. The sound of a bell was to symbolize both a sense of goodness and the knowledge of caring by others. There are more stories about the “goodness of people” in the after events, but these are some good examples.



The need for God’s presence is evidenced in SPEECH and ACTION.

There are many “separations” within our lives. Two big ones are: **Separation of Church and State** and **Separation of Political Parties**. These separations melted immediately after the tragedy in Tucson. It seemed everyone sensed a need for God’s presence. How else can you explain the secular memorial service in a secular building with secular leaders leaning on God? I am referring to the service held at the University of Arizona attended by leading members of both political parties and including the president of United States. This ecumenism was refreshing. The night began with the sounds of Aaron Copland’s *Fanfare for the Common Man* and moved into the opening Yaqui Indian prayer. A professor at the University Medical School introduced himself as half Mexican and half Yaqui. The prayer was directed to “Our Creator”. Soon we found ourselves listening to our Director of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, saying she wanted to spend her allotted time reading scripture: “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God...”. The Isaiah 40 text is familiar to all of us who have sung Handel’s Messiah. It was not long before selections from Luke’s Gospel were read by the US Attorney General, Eric Holder. In President Obama’s speech he quotes Psalm 46 saying, “As Scripture tells us: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.” On the night of January 12th there was NO separation of church and state.

God’s presence is also being referenced by the skilled surgeons who are taking care of Gabby Giffords. The medical progress is so great they can only explain it in miracle terms.

I offer this “reflection”, on the goodness of people and the need for God’s presence, as an encouragement to all who serve in the church. What a marvelous opportunity we are given to be mentor, teacher, prayer leader, and the one who can show how God’s Word comes to life in sung texts. We are on the “front lines” advocating for and pointing to God’s presence in our midst.

Last summer our regional theme, **FAITH: A Compass for Leaders**, gave us a time for personal growth. We now have an opportunity to share what we found. This can be a time for us to help others keep God’s love and peace in their hearts. It may be an opportune time to help others keep “fear” and “hate” from taking root in their heart. It may be a time to help them become filled with “hope”, “peace” and “faith” which God so freely offers to us. God with us.

Update on Last Issue's New Members

Katherine Crosier, Region IV Vice-President



We asked each of our recent new members, who were listed in the last newsletter, to say a few words about themselves and why they joined ALCM. Here are their responses.

Susan Wise Carl

I am organist and handbell choir director at Faith Lutheran Church in Golden, CO. I became a member when I attended the wonderful ACLM Boulder conference last summer.

Samantha Chapman

I am a student at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, WA double majoring in Biblical Studies and Music and Worship. I am also the Music and Worship Director of the Informal service at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Ballard, WA.

Dan Graeber

Specializing in pop, jazz, and musical theater, Dan Graeber is an active freelance accompanist in the Boulder, CO area. He leads the contemporary praise band and is pianist/organist at Christ the Servant Lutheran in nearby Louisville.

Bonnie Knights

I am a retired Dept. of Defense Overseas Schools educator (Japan, Iceland, Germany, Belgium), currently serving as organist and curator at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Lewis (Tacoma WA). I play scheduled Lutheran, Episcopal, contemporary services and RC Masses. Although I am diverse in the liturgies I play, churches I serve, and a graduate of a Southern Baptist University (Stetson), I joined ALCM because I am mostly a passionately entrenched Lutheran. (Ahh... sweet heritage of music and liturgy!)

Rev. Darryl W. Kozak

Having served my first call as a pastor in Brooklyn, NY, I have returned back home to Southern California and now serve as the Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Manhattan Beach, CA. I have been singing in church, school, and community choirs for about 25 years. I find it important as a Lutheran pastor and singer to be a member of ALCM.

Stephen McKersie

Stephen received a degree in Church Music from Valparaiso University and was Graduate Teaching Assistant at Washington University, St. Louis, for five years while doing doctoral work in music. Stephen has been a Director of Music and Organist for 45 years in the SF Bay Area, St. Louis, and Knoxville; he has been a mechanical-action organ builder and

designer with Martin Ott for 21 years; and is now Organist at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, SF Bay Area, and Director of the Marin Symphony Chorus & Chamber Chorus. (Karla Devine is the organist at his church and joined upon her suggestion.)

Leonard Rhodes

Leonard's career has spanned over 40 years as pianist, organist, teacher, composer, arranger, and musical director. He received diplomas in piano from the Royal Academy of Music and the London College of Music. Leonard also studied composition with a protégé of Olivier Messiaen at Morley College, University of London. Rhodes' affiliations include the Incorporated Society of Musicians (UK), The Royal College of Organists (UK), ASCAP (USA), Colorado Composers Forum, and the Guild of Church musicians (UK). He is the Founder and Director of Pikes Peak Young Composers Inc. Currently he is the Director of Music and organist at Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Dillon, Colorado.

Leslie Wolf Robb

I have had the privilege and blessing of serving as Director of Music Ministries for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in San Diego since 1985. Having benefitted greatly from membership in AGO, MENC, Choristers Guild, and other music organizations, I decided to give ALCM a try as well.

David York

David is Minister of Music at Lutheran Church of the Master in West Los Angeles. He holds degrees in organ performance from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA and the University of Southern California. He is also organist at Temple Israel in Long Beach and a Lecturer in Music on the faculty of California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. Timothy Zerlang

In addition to his position as Director of Music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, Dr. Zerlang is a member of the music faculty of Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where he teaches piano and carillon, and serves as University Carillonneur. Prior to St. Mark's, Timothy served at Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto, CA. A member of the ALCM in the distant past, he rejoins us because "...it is long overdue. I look forward to again interacting with my Lutheran colleagues in a meaningful way; to learn as much as I can, and to share what I know."

Bowen Interview Con't.

topic gets at the heart of this question, "Discernment: What music should we choose?"

3. And worship, will it also be "abundant"?

Most certainly. ALCM has a long legacy of quality worship at our conferences. Our worship chair, Martin Seltz, has assembled an incredible worship planning team with Samuel Torvend, Paul Hoffman, Susan Briehl and to assist with music planning, Norma Aamodt Nelson and Beth Ann Bonnecroy.

In his address at the ALCM conference in Milwaukee in 2009, Samuel Torvend gave a stirring call to embrace the abundance when he said: "All the treasure, for all the people, at every Eucharist." When I heard him say that, I wanted to stand up and shout "Alleluia!" You know that Lutheran reserve would not allow it, but I certainly was thinking it really loud. He was specifically speaking of the choice of music in worship. We have an amazing variety of possibilities available and I have every reason to believe that we will be worshipping with "all the treasure."

4. Sometimes it is a workshop which becomes our individual "treasure" from a conference. Can you share something about them with us?

Co-program chairs, David Hein and Nicole Koehler, are presenting an incredibly abundant array of workshops. They range from the nuts and bolts practical to the creative and inspiring. There will be reading sessions for Adult Choir (David Cherwien), Organ (Faythe Freese), Children's Choir, Handbells, Classic Choral, Modest Size Choir and Contemporary. For organists there is a session on leading "Cross-Cultural" hymnody from the organ (John Ferguson) and an exploration of French classical performance practice (Gregory Peterson).

Carole, I hear that you will be leading a workshop on participant-driven worship planning. Thomas Keesecker's offering is on creativity and healing. These are only a few of the more than 20 workshops. In addition, I should mention the "Post-Conference."

One of the challenges to the hour-long workshop format is that there is never enough time. So, this summer, at the Post-Conference we are offering what we call "Master Classes". There will be one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Chair Randy Knutson has developed a full curriculum to give the participants a real chance to dig in and spend some time learning: Organ, Choral, Drumming, Contemporary and Handbells. In addition, there are Denominational Workshops being led by Scott Weidler for the ELCA and David Johnson for the LCMS.

5. Can you talk a little about housing possibilities?

Local committee chair, Arletta Anderson, and her committee have been working hard making sure that the Seattle experi-

ence will be a welcoming one. Seattle University has a variety of housing options. These range from inexpensive dorm room style housing, with the bathroom down the hall and perfect for a person on a tight budget, to "deluxe" dorm rooms with one or two people in the room and the bathroom in there as well.

In addition, there are a few "apartments" with kitchen and living area rentable by the week. Families are welcome to use these higher-end campus living options even if only one person in the family is actually attending the conference. What a great way to have reasonable housing for a family vacation!

For people who prefer a hotel, we have a special ALCM rate at the "Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue". There will be a shuttle bus to get people from the hotel to the campus. So, there is housing to fit all needs and pocketbooks.

6. How do we register?

By the time this newsletter is published, the conference brochure should be out and in the hands of every ALCM member. I would like to thank Karla Devine for her work promoting the conference. Also thanks to the great work of Valerie Hughes, you can read about the conference and register online at www.alcm.org. If there are questions, please call the ALCM office at (800) 624-2526, or send an email to alcmseattle@alcm.org.

Thank you for taking the time for this interview.

You are most welcome. I hope this motivates our readers to attend. It really will be an inspiring, informative and fun conference!

Pettit Interview Cont.

3000 people, but the average Sunday morning attendance was about 35 people. I tried to do a concert series, but no one would come. It seems the area had no tradition for church choirs, but only community choirs. It was frustrating.

How did you hear about ALCM and what prompted you to become a member?

I have always known about ALCM. However, it was my colleague Frederick Frahm in New Mexico who encouraged me to join. He and I discovered and have now published the organ works of Friedrich Wilhelm Markull, 1816-1871. The music will be published by Augsburg Fortress. We feel Markull was the most important Lutheran musician in the 19th century and now he has been completely forgotten.

Lutheran Colleges Cont.

us, the audience, treated as a choir and being directed by many including Anton Armstrong who allowed us to sing without accompaniment, thereby letting strong harmony come alive everywhere.

Out of Darkness + Let Your Light Shine



Concordia in Moorhead, MN, was our last stop. They are known for the yearly created huge mural based on the theme. Their artwork is beautiful. A spotlight illuminates the appropriate portion of the mural which is tied to the musical text. It makes for a very moving experience. They are the only college to travel with their Christmas event and were heading to Minneapolis after we visited. Concordia had a more reserved mood than the first two. They were still remembering the sudden and unexpected loss of their President Pamela Jolicoeur this past summer. Program notes: "Out of Darkness + Let Your Light Shine begins with the recognition that darkness, grief and sorrow touch all of our lives....but for the Christian, darkness is not a permanent condition". We heard some beautiful arrangements by Renè Clausen before the event quietly closed with Compline followed by Chimes.

God bless our Lutheran Colleges.

Editor's Note:

All three colleges have CDs and DVDs available at their websites: www.ConcordiaRecordings.com; <http://music.luther.edu>; www.sto-lafrecords.com

The St. Olaf Music Library does rent orchestral scores for the congregational Christmas hymns arranged by their composers. Some arrangements I have done at King of Glory Church and which I can recommend include: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful* both arranged by John Ferguson plus *Joy to the World* arranged by Charles Forsberg.

The St. Olaf Choir will be celebrating their 100th year with a Choir Reunion from June 2-5, 2011. If you sang in the choir or know of someone who did, do check out the information on the college website. There is estimated to be 1700 former STO Choir singers alive today! If this is true, multiple 1700 by all the Lutheran College Choirs and you will have a very large number of former singers from our Lutheran College Choirs!

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Watery Beginnings: The Journey with Children and Youth in Worship

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer

Editor's Note: When preparing this lecture Larry was serving as the pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. As of August 1, 2010 he has been called to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.



This was initially prepared as a workshop for the Association of Lutheran Church Musician's Regional Gathering, July 2010, Boulder, Colorado. The lecture was to begin with a Preparation for Thanksgiving for Baptism (including the singing of "You Have Put on Christ" Evangelical Lutheran Worship #211). Participants were to gather at the font for the Thanksgiving for Baptism

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship page 97) and baptismal remembrance.

Introduction – Living between Booties and Sandals

John Westerhoff recounts the story shared by Herb Brokering of his visit to a Lutheran church near the US-Mexican border: "When he arrived he was told that Israel, whose parents were Mexican, was to be baptized. Crossing the border to find a present for Israel, he fell in love with a pair of sandals. But they were for an adult, and Israel was an infant. He tried to explain his problem to the saleswoman, but she said it did not matter, Israel could grow into them. Israel slept through the ceremony, but his parents seemed to understand; baptism was a pilgrimage. A few months later he returned to learn that Lisa, Israel's cousin, was to be baptized. Back across the border he went in search of another present. This time he fell in love with a pair of booties only to learn they were for a two month old and Lisa was ten months old. He once again tried to explain the situation to the saleswoman, but she said that it would not matter because Lisa could hang them on the wall to remind her of her baptism. At last he really understood baptism; it was living between booties and sandals, between remembering and growing into, and all of us are on a pilgrimage with Lisa and Israel" (Building God's People in a Materialistic Society, John Westerhoff III, New York: The Seabury Press ©1983, pp. 37-38).

I love this image of the church community as a pilgrim community, living between booties and sandals, between remembering and growing into a community of memory and vision. We are a pilgrim community of watery beginnings and of journeying

together; a pilgrimage with Lisa, Israel, the infant, the youth, the adult, the aged.

So, the questions become:

- How do we live together between booties and sandals?
- How might we live corporately as the body of Christ between remembering and growing into?
- How do we live, on the other side of the water so to speak, as pilgrims together?

We begin with a question: Who are we?

This is a familiar question, one perhaps asked often throughout a lifetime, asked often throughout this earthly journey.

From a Christian perspective the answer is easy, though not easily understood nor lived out. We are baptized! We have been drowned and raised to new life, we have been adopted into a family called the church, and we have been given the name Christian. We have been signed with the cross and claimed as Christ's own forever. We have been re-created in the image of God. We are saints. We are persons of worth. We are lovable, loved, and capable of loving. We are partners with God, stewards of God's creation, entrusted with the Good News of God's saving work in Jesus Christ.

"Baptism," Westerhoff writes, "defines human existence and tells us who we are and how we are to live our lives in a responsive relationship with the holy and undivided Trinity, as reborn sons and daughters of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Building God's People in a Materialistic Society, John Westerhoff III, New York: The Seabury Press ©1983, p. 14).

Who are we? Baptism tells us who and whose we are. Our baptism provides us with a picture of who we really are and a picture of the world as God intends it to be. Throughout our lives we are to strive to live into that baptism.

Robert Webber wrote of this baptismal living: "We are to live day by day, moment by moment in the waters of baptism. Like fish who cannot live apart from the water, we are to swim always in the water of our baptism into Jesus, for the baptismal water represents the creative action of God's hand, of the Spirit moving us to God's hand, and of the Word, both creating union with God and keeping us in God's embrace" (Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life, Robert E. Webber, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books ©2006, p. 158).

Knowing who we are and whose we are, the question now becomes one of reflection on how we might, as a pilgrim community, as baptized children of God, live between booties and sandals?

(con't. on pg. 13)



How we might journey together living between remembering and growing into? Living day by day, as Webber put it, moment by moment in the waters of baptism as if we were fish?

I propose that we live between booties and sandals by carefully reflecting on how baptism is practiced in our midst. And secondly, that we journey together living between remembering and growing into, by carefully reflecting on how baptism is remembered in our midst.

A Rich Baptismal Practice

How is baptism practiced in our faith communities? How is baptism practiced in your faith community? Is there conversation, catechesis, and preparation prior to a baptism? Is baptism an integral part of the Sunday liturgy or tacked on as a seeming afterthought? Even worse is it reduced to a private family affair and removed from the regular worship of the assembly?

Let me suggest several possibilities for a rich baptismal practice:

Ensure that the baptismal font is visible and central in worship. Suggest that the presider stand next to the font during the confession and forgiveness or the thanksgiving for baptism.

If possible during the season of Lent and of Easter, for example, place the font filled with water and the paschal candle near the entrance to the sanctuary so that worshippers must walk by it. Perhaps for a time during the season of Lent prior to the confession, have a child or youth pour water into the baptismal bowl so that all can hear the sound of the running water. Use ample amounts of water.

Seek in planning worship to make each baptism as participatory as possible. Gather the children around the font. Have a child pour water into the baptismal bowl prior to the Flood Prayer over the water. Have a child present the baptismal candle or other gifts. Prior to the words of welcome to the newly baptized, kneel with the infant or have the baptized kneel with the children and have the assembly sing "Jesus Loves Me" inserting the name or names of the baptized into the refrain.

As the newly baptized is welcomed by the assembly, begin a practice of having a worshipper hold the infant or stand with the youth or adult in the midst of the assembly. Ensure that over time a variety of ages, male and female, serve in this way. There is nothing quite like a teenager or a child holding an infant in their arms in the middle of the assembly!

At a worship service which includes a baptism, distribute cards to those who would like to draw pictures or write a letter to the newly baptized to be gathered and presented following the baptism.

Encourage the confirmation students, while focusing on the Sacrament of Baptism, to prepare baptismal bowls which can be presented as a gift to the baptized along with instructions and ideas about using the baptismal bowl in one's home.

During the season of Epiphany, gather the community of faith for an evening of learning and creating baptismal candles for the next year.

Create banners, bulletins or pictures, which might be projected during a baptism, to represent the various baptismal images found in the scriptures: dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6); new birth (John 3); a cleansing bath (I Peter 3:21-22); being sealed by the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14); clothed in a new robe (Galatians 3:27-28; Colossians 3:9-10); a passage on Noah's ark (I Peter 3:18-22); enlightenment (Ephesians 5:14); adoption (Ephesians 1:3-5, Galatians 3:25-29; Romans 8: 14-17); being grafted into Christ (John 15; Romans 11:19-23).

Of course, these are only a few suggestions which might aid the assembly in reflecting a rich baptismal practice. Creative, meaningful ideas abound.

We live between booties and sandals by carefully reflecting on how baptism is practiced in our midst. We journey together, living between remembering and growing into, by carefully reflecting on how baptism is remembered in our midst.

On-Going Baptismal Experiences "Felt and Heard"

Several years ago we had borrowed a television set to watch the Olympic Games. Our four children were quite young at the time. I was enthralled by one particular event. Who would make it to the finals? Who would be victorious? These thoughts occupied my mind and heart as I sang my nightly song to my daughter. We said our prayers and exchanged kisses and hugs. As I began to leave the room I heard my daughter say, "Daddy, you forgot to give me the cross!" I had forgotten our nightly ritual of remembering our baptisms and the cross placed upon her forehead along with the words, "Anna, remember you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked by the cross of Christ forever." My mind and heart were distracted by worldly and temporal concerns, and so I forgot the cross. Her heart was fixed on Christ and the promises given in baptism, and so she remembered and wanted to both hear and feel what had eternal value.

"Humankind suffers from spiritual amnesia," writes Tom Johnson. "We simply forget the Spirit's presence and the promises we received at baptism. We need ongoing experiences, both felt and heard, to remind us of the cross of Jesus which we wear on our brow. We need both water and the word of God to renew and refresh us through God's baptismal promises. We need daily rituals and lifelong catechesis to help us remember what our baptism means and to inspire us to put our faith into

(con't. on pg. 14)



practice at every stage of life...

Symbolic actions or rituals such as: lighting a baptismal candle for prayer, or placing a bowl of water in the bathroom in which to dip a finger and make the sign of the cross before going out into the world or to sleep. These are simple examples of allowing the Spirit to help us remember. The act of remembrance itself is a means of empowerment, direction, and inspiration and often leads to further action” (Celebrating the Seasons of Baptismal Living, Thomas K. Johnson, Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress ©2000 pp. 6-7).

Baptismal living between remembering and growing into, incorporates regular affirmation rituals which can link us to our own individual experiences of God’s faithfulness. These rituals deepen and remind us of our bond with the faith community as a whole and its history of living as the baptized people of God.

How is baptism remembered in your faith community? What rituals are practiced which aid us on our baptismal journey?

Again, let me share some thoughts and ideas. At various times in the church year, baptismal festivals can be celebrated in which all members of the congregation are invited to join in a renewal of baptismal vows. A service of baptismal renewal reinforces how baptism is more a life-long process than a once-for-all event. A baptismal renewal, or affirmation of baptism, might take place on feast days such as: The Baptism of Our Lord, The Easter Vigil, Reformation Sunday, and All Saints Sunday.

In our community of faith at each baptism, following the sharing of the peace, a baptismal hymn is sung while the assembly is sprinkled with water. This connects for the worshippers the event of the current baptism with their own in a visible, tangible, concrete way. Encourage a child or youth to carry the baptismal bowl, if this is possible, as the asperges takes place. At other times, have several pine boughs available so the children can sprinkle the congregation during the singing of the hymn.

When times of learning create opportunity to teach and reflect on the gift of baptism, gather at the font for this learning, or for a time of devotions and prayer. Invite each participate to dip their finger in the water and to mark themselves with the sign of the cross, or have them mark another person while speaking words of baptismal remembrance.

Where gifts of writing abound, develop a congregational devotional resource focused on baptism and the biblical stories of water which could be used as a fifty-day Lenten journey by the entire community. Invite children, youth or other artists to create pictures to complement the writings.

Develop brief repeatable baptismal affirmation rites for life’s milestone moments for use in the assembly or in a home. Perhaps the youth group could celebrate the earning of a participant’s driver’s license with a baptismal remembrance. Gather at the baptismal font, read Psalm 103:1-5, 19-22 or another appropriate reading. Invite the individual(s) to make a pledge of commitment to use this new gift with responsibility and wis-

dom. Remind them that in baptism God promises them they are God’s child and that God will always be present with them. Affirm their baptism with water placed on their foreheads. Lay hands on the person(s) and pray for them.

Another milestone moment is the diagnosis of a chronic or life-threatening disease. Gather around the baptismal font. Read Psalm 91 or 121. Invite a time of silence. Lead a confession inviting one-word expressions or feelings such as: I am angry, I am afraid, I am hopeful, I am sad. Pray together and remember God’s presence with us. Have those present place water on their foreheads in the sign of a cross saying, “Through my baptism, I am a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked by the cross of Christ, who will love me forever, who will never let me go, who is my true hope for abundant and everlasting life.” Offer prayers for healing. Close with a benediction.

Create moments for remembering baptism during committee meetings and at the first and/or final meeting of a church council. Gather at the font. Read scripture together. Pray. Mark one another with the sign of the cross.

During the children’s time on Sunday morning, teach the assembly to mark themselves with the sign of the cross over their bodies in remembrance of their baptism. Reinforce this teaching moment over several weeks, or perhaps, during the season of Lent.

Of course these are only a few suggestions which might aid the assembly in considering on-going baptismal remembrances. Creative, meaningful ideas abound.

Conclusion

As baptized children of God, we journey knowing that our baptism into Christ tells us who and whose we are. Our baptismal practice must be rich and full. Our baptismal remembrance must be on-going and both felt and heard. We journey as a pilgrim community living between booties and sandals, between remembering and growing into a community of memory and vision.

The community of faith is a pilgrim community of watery beginnings and of journeying together. It is a pilgrimage with Lisa, Israel, infant, youth, adult, the aged.

“...If I had the matter under my control,” wrote Martin Luther in his lectures on Genesis, “I would not want God to speak to me from heaven or to appear to me; but this I would want – and my daily prayers are directed to this end – that I might have the proper respect and true appreciation for the gift of Baptism.” (Lectures on Genesis Chapters 15-20, vol. 3 of Luther’s Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1961, p.165, on Genesis 17:22.)

Watery beginnings. Living as a pilgrim community between booties and sandals, between remembering and growing into.

