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IGNITE is the official publication of LCMS Campus Ministry, a mission society serving The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and dedicated to the campus mission field.

*LCMS Campus Ministry equips leaders to make disciples who make disciples on campus.*

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## Connecting Campuses, Awakening Campuses

*“...we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” Acts 6:4 (ESV)*

“We hear church leadership asking for discipleship to happen on a broader scale,” says John Rahtje. “We need to keep thinking ‘Kingdom’ as well as ‘local’ and ‘personal’ when it comes to living as disciples of Christ.” John is pastor at Crave ([www.cravestl.org](http://www.cravestl.org)), the Lutheran campus ministry and coffee house serving St. Louis University.

This “Kingdom thinking,” along with the simple statement of dedication borrowed from Acts 6, “we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word,” serves as the impetus for **acts64**, a ministry initiative that Pastor John and ministry partner Zach Zehnder have launched to serve college and university communities across the St. Louis metro area. To them the “acts” in **acts64** stands for “Awakening Campuses Throughout St. Louis.”

“There is a problem...actually two,” they explain on their Web site ([www.acts64.org](http://www.acts64.org)): “(1) College students are not going to church or doing anything worthwhile to strengthen their faith during their college years; (2) Churches, by and large, don’t seem to care.”

Rahtje and Zehnder admit that it’s not easy to get congregations involved in campus ministry because of the transience of student populations. So to respond to the large number of students in the St. Louis area and the proportionately small number of organized campus ministries, they have introduced **acts64** to reach out to students through partner congregations.

Says Zehnder, a student at Concordia Seminary, “What we hope to do is work in a collaborative college ministry with congregations around the St. Louis area who can make students aware of **acts64** and encourage them to get involved. Every Tuesday

night at 8 p.m., students from around the area are gathering at Crave for worship, prayer, discussion—and free coffee. We also offer opportunities for students to participate in servant events, connecting events, mission trips, and leader development.”



Worship at an **acts64** Tuesday night session

Since **acts64** was introduced in September, 25 to 40 students from at least six St. Louis-area campuses have been attending the ministry’s Tuesday night activities. Crave hosted its 13th Tuesday night session on Nov. 24.

“There are very few organizations that are linking campus-level chapters together,” says John Rahtje. “Intersity [Christian Fellowship] and Campus Christians are. But it just makes sense to bring together students from multiple campus communities in a metro area. From our perspective, we encourage discipleship in a ‘One-Some-Many’ model: it’s most beneficial if it takes place on multiple levels—personal, small group, faith family (that is, congregation)—and even large-group gatherings that link larger communities or multiple communities.”

For more information about **acts64**, visit [www.acts64.org](http://www.acts64.org) ...or visit Crave! You can find it at 3500 Caroline Street, St. Louis.

# Comments from the Interim Executive Director

by Jon Jensen

Our esteemed Communications guy, Greg Koenig, has suggested that this newsletter issue is a tad too long. So... I will limit my comments to just a few items from the action plan conceived in July.

An endowment fund has been established (with the help of a generous donor) for LCMS Campus Ministry at the national level. Obviously, we hope the growth of this fund in coming years will provide for a continuous source of some of the funds necessary to conduct this ministry. The donor and foundation involved may also be interested in working with local campus ministries to establish endowments for them. The campus ministry must be a 501C3. We are also able to provide charitable trusts for your donors. Call or [email](mailto:jon.jensen@lcms.org) me for details.

Many of you receiving this newsletter are aware of the "StudentConnect" feature on the [www.lcmscampusministry.org](http://www.lcmscampusministry.org) website. This connection has been used by parents, pastors, youth workers and students themselves to connect a student with a campus ministry or LSF group. The number of connections, even though we have only just begun to "get the word out," has been very encouraging. Please spread the word about this valuable tool for connecting students and ministry!

We do have a new website coming soon! We look forward to many enhancements which will provide for more resources, improved communication and mentoring for our new campus startups. More details to follow in December.

Many of the campus ministries have worked with Can-Do Missions and Ysleta Lutheran Ministry in Texas, two of our featured ministry partners. I encourage those interested in group outreach trips to give Pat Fick (Can-Do) and Erin Mackenzie (Ysleta) a call for more info. We have



Interim Executive Director  
Jon Jensen

collected some good ideas for trip funding which will be on the website soon; you can also contact us directly for this information.

NAILS is the name of an expanded program put together by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (the Laborers for Christ area; see the related article in this issue). Greg Koenig and I have worked with the good folks there as they hope to reach out beyond the Concordia system with this exciting summer employment opportunity for students. We have begun distributing brochures and posters to dedicated campus ministries. Contact us should you need additional copies.

Stacey Swan (Chair) and the Confabulation committee are doing a wonderful job of putting together our annual conference. Thanks to these volunteers for all they do. Confabulation 2010 will be held May 28-30 at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Please promote this event in your districts!

A great group of mentors, campus leaders with years of varied experiences to share, have helped with three new campus starts so far this fall...PTL!! It's been very rewarding to me and these mentors within our community as we assist new willing hands and hearts in outreach on campus. Thanks to this group and to others who may help as the year progresses.

As a follow-up to the email appeal sent out a few weeks ago, let me add that now is a great time to consider a gift to LCMS Campus Ministry or to the LCMS Campus Ministry Endowment. Each gift you give provides much-needed support to a much-needed ministry. Thank you for your consideration!

Thanks also for your prayers and words of encouragement as LCMS Campus Ministry helps "make disciples who make disciples on campus."

Blessings to you and your outreach,

Jon



## Equipping Leaders, Making Disciples

Mark your calendars! LCMS Campus Ministry's **Confabulation 2010** has been scheduled for **Friday, May 28 through Sunday, May 30, 2010!** The venue for **Confabulation 2010** will be **King of Kings Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska.**

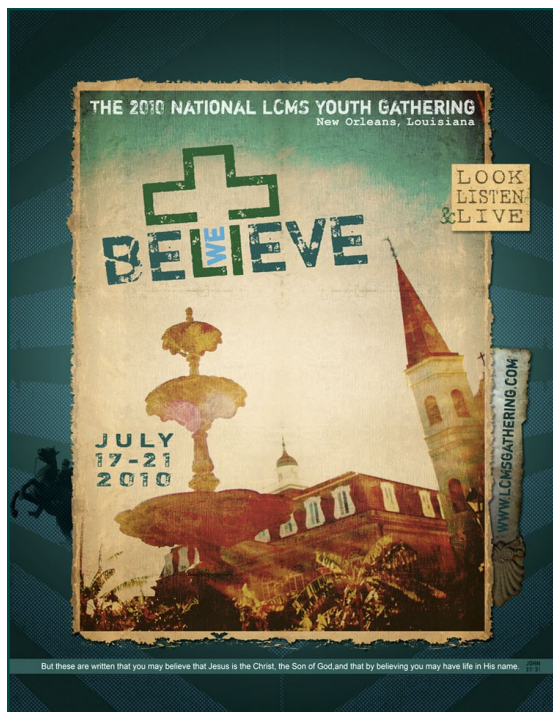
The theme for **Confabulation 2010** is *Equipping Leaders*

*Students and leaders: make plans now to be a part of LCMS Campus Ministry Confabulation 2010*

*to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples on Campus.*

Planning for **Confabulation 2010** has included special attention to providing distinct Student and Leader breakout tracks.

Registration will open soon; watch your inbox for information about conference costs, lodging, and more!



## Serve as a Young Adult Volunteer at the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

*Look. Listen. Live.* Each of these areas of experience will be a focus of the theme for the 2010 LCMS National Youth Gathering: **We Believe**. Held in Orlando, Fla. in 2004 and 2007, the Gathering returns in 2010 to New Orleans, La., the host city of the 2001 Gathering.

You're invited to play a part! As a Young Adult Volunteer, you can plug into the energy and spiritual growth of the Gathering while serving its leaders and participants. You'll arrive on July 15 for orientation and training; then you'll serve in various capacities throughout the Gathering, from Saturday, July 17 through Wednesday, July 21.

Interested? Get started now! For more information, visit <http://www.lcmsgathering.com/?PageID=11068>. You can even apply online while you're there.

## Build up the body of Christ with NAILS

In the summer issue of **Ignite** we posted a teaser about **NAILS**, the Student Laborers For Christ program of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Did we pique your curiosity? Then read on to learn about **NAILS** in more detail.

**NAILS** debuted in the summer of 2009. During the academic year prior to its launch, Laborers For Christ recruited students from Concordia University and seminary campuses, and 10 responded.

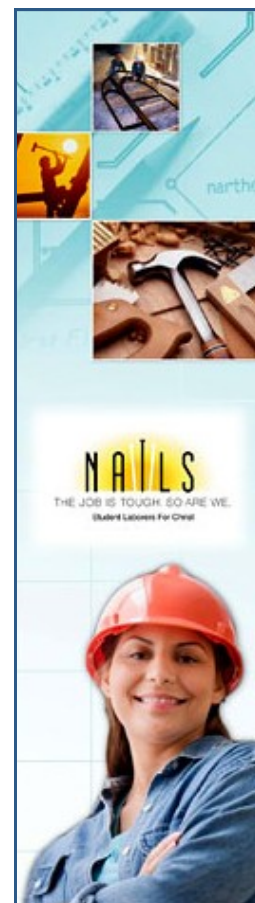
According to a [September 2009 article](#) written by Kim Plummer Krull for the *LCMS Reporter* newspaper, those 10 young people "worked alongside Laborers on construction projects for LCMS congregations from Virginia to Idaho," helping build church and school additions—including former horse stables in Omaha, Nebraska that were remodeled into classrooms.

"Since LFC began in 1980," the article goes on, "Laborers generally have been retired men and women. LFC started **NAILS** to connect with young adults by offering both a summer employment and ministry opportunity.

"**NAILS** participants work for LCMS congregations and earn minimum wage (the same as Laborers' compensation). While Laborers typically live in RVs parked near the construction site, **NAILS** workers are hosted by congregation families. Like Laborers, **NAILS** Student Laborers do more than construction, typically joining congregation members in worship and other church activities."

LFC leaders were pleased with **NAILS'** inaugural summer and decided to expand the program. "We learned this is a real outreach ministry," said Dan Baker, vice-president/director with Laborers for Christ. Baker announced this fall that **NAILS** is indeed expanding, to also include students involved in LCMS campus ministries at other colleges and universities.

To find out more about LCEF's **NAILS** Student Laborers For Christ program, request a brochure from your local campus ministry. You can also visit [www.lcef.org/nails](http://www.lcef.org/nails); there you'll find a comprehensive FAQ area, a downloadable [enrollment form](#), and everything else you might need to get started on your own **NAILS** adventure.





# Lutheran Student Fellowship

A student-led fellowship of Christian college students and a ministry partner of Lutheran Campus Mission Association

## In His way, in His time, God uses campus ministries to change eternities

by Rev. Jay Winters

Her name? Well, it never made the papers. She was murdered about two months ago. A young college student in the prime of her life. She lived in some apartments near Florida State University's campus. She was known for bending over backwards to help people, even when... especially when...everyone else turned away saying that offering help was too risky. Her friends were generally the kind of people that your parents don't want you to keep as friends. Except one.

He was a student also, a Christian who had recently found his faith in Jesus again at a campus ministry. He knew the girl, talked about Jesus with her, and offered to take her to church--a place she hadn't been since she was a little girl. She had gone for about two weeks.

When they went through her apartment after the police had left, looking through her belongings, they found three Bibles and two Christian inspirational books. 5 books that she had been reading out of for the past weeks before. Three books she had been given 2 weeks before she was murdered.

It's easy to see the tragedy, to sigh and wonder what the world is coming to. It's easy to wonder if we're safe and secure or if we've invited a murderer over for dinner. But all signs point to the idea that this murdered girl can see the harder-to-see things of this story. She can see the Hero in this story, the rescue, and the joy.

She can see that there is a Hero in this story, a Savior who gave His life for her. She can see that this Savior used her friend to invite her to a campus ministry, to pray with her, to bring her books and hugs. She can see that this friend invited her because he had come to understand how much of a hero his Savior was—and how he had been saved. She can see that it all happened just in the nick of time, as she rests in the peace of her Savior.

If her friend hadn't ever gone to that campus ministry, he wouldn't have renewed his faith. If he hadn't renewed his faith, he probably would be like so many of us that just keep to ourselves and don't bother with the people on the other side of the fence. He never would have invited her, prayed with her, shown Christ's love to her. She would have been lost, and she would have died that way.

Instead, with faith in a merciful God who saves the baptized who do not refuse His grace, we can give thanks for a God who knows the timing of our lives and puts campus ministries in a place to train students to reach out with His love--even in a nick of time. Instead, with faith in a challenging God who calls us to proclaim His love and story with our lives, we can give thanks for a calling to love—even in a nick of time. Instead, with faith in a God who gives us eternity, we can look forward to the telling of many stories that could have ended in tragedy but didn't—even in a nick of time.

Did you have any feelings of fear as you read this story? For whom did you fear?

Churches and campus ministries train believers to act as Christ's body for times such as these.

Do you feel that training is available at your church? Do you feel you're taking advantage of that training?

Although there are many lesser heroes in this story, the true Hero is Jesus who saved this girl's life in eternity. Is Jesus your Hero?



*Jay Winters is pastor at University Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, Florida, the campus ministry serving Florida State University, Florida A&M, and Tallahassee Community College; he is also National Pastoral Counselor for Lutheran Student Fellowship. You can Friend Jay on Facebook and follow him on Twitter.*

LCMS Campus Ministry's

# StudentConnect

helps students connect with LCMS campus ministries and student groups. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## LSF Region 12 Fall Service Retreat challenges students to nurture ongoing servant attitude

by Emily Goff

Students from schools in Florida and Georgia teamed up this October for their fall service retreat to help a Georgia community in need. The 24 students and their campus ministers came from Kennesaw State University, Macon State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Georgia. They stayed at Faith Lutheran Church in Marietta, GA over the weekend, and traveled to the city of Austell, where heavy rains and flooding had caused significant damage to homes.

The group partnered with Cobb County Disaster Relief (Cobb Disaster), to help provide resources for flood survivors who were living in unsafe homes or were unaware of available resources. The group was divided into three command zones, each of which was assigned a zone commander who would ensure that every house was checked.

The zones swept through assigned neighborhoods, leaving pamphlets and other resources on front doors and mailboxes. If homeowners were available, they were asked to fill out survey questions to help give Cobb Disaster Relief data about who was living where, which homes were abandoned, and where help was still needed. After that work was completed, there was another opportunity to serve: food



and toiletries brought by another service organization were organized, divided, and then distributed to more than twelve families.

Many of the students on the retreat were surprised to see the extent of the flood damage. Several had previously traveled to the Gulf Coast area and seen the damage there; experiencing similar problems so close to home certainly made an impact on them. It also demonstrated how there are many unmet needs in our backyard, so to speak.

The Bible Study and devotions for the weekend encouraged us to reflect on the work we were doing. Our definition of service was expanded beyond construction and other manual labor projects. And we were challenged to extend what we learned *on retreat* about serving others to what we do *on our home college campuses*.

God has placed us on our respective campuses at this time for a purpose—to share *Him*. Because of the love God has shown us through His Son Jesus, we are motivated to love others. Loving them means identifying their needs and doing what we can, with God's help, to meet those needs. In Cobb County that included surveying frustrated homeowners; on our campuses it includes building relationships with people and loving them with the love of Jesus.



## LMCS Campus Ministry partners offer short-term mission service opportunities

### Ysleta Lutheran Mission

What do Immanuel Lutheran Church (North Dakota State University), University Lutheran Church (Purdue University), Campus Lutheran Church (University of Missouri—Columbia), Martin Luther Chapel (Michigan State University), and Concordia University—Chicago have in common? The answer is each of the campus ministries listed above has spent a week serving the Lord in El Paso, TX/ Juarez, Mexico in the past few years via **Ysleta Lutheran**



### Mission (YLM).

In 2009 Campus ministry groups ripped down and re-hung mold-damaged drywall, gave a family of 6 a new roof for their trailer home, painted, tiled, offered free haircuts, taught free CPR classes, and ran a Vacation Bible School. If you would like to speak with the **YLM** Servant Event Coordinator about what opportunities are currently available for your campus ministry in 2010 and beyond, e-mail [service@ylm.org](mailto:service@ylm.org) or call 915-858-2588. You can also visit the **YLM** website at [www.ylm.org](http://www.ylm.org) for more information.

*Article continued on page 6*



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## Mission service opportunities *(Cont. from page 5)*

### Can-do Missions

Want to serve the Lord on a short term mission trip with **Can-do Missions**? Here are some possible options for you to consider:



- **Spring Break Trip to Via Mainero, Mexico**, March 14-20, Cost \$350, Construction and Outreach activities
- **Groundwork Guatemala**, May 8-16, Cost \$300 plus airfare, Human Care, outreach, and possible construction activities
- **Apache Indian Mission, Arizona**, May 5-13, Cost \$400, Outreach, home repair, and human care
- **El Salvador - Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds**, June 18-27, \$695 plus airfare for Thrivent Members, \$1050 plus airfare for non-Thrivent members. Building a house and experiencing the culture in El Salvador

**To support LCMS Campus Ministry with a tax-deductible financial gift**, send a check, payable to Lutheran Campus Mission Association, to:

**Lutheran Campus Mission Association**  
Rev. Richard Boring, Treasurer  
152 South Columbia Ave.  
P.O. Box 407  
Seward, NE 68434-0407

Please include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number. You may also contribute via a secure online connection at [www.lcmscampusministry.org](http://www.lcmscampusministry.org).

- **Brazil** - May 19-31, Cost \$2000, Working at an orphanage - construction and human care activities, and visiting University Lutheran in Brazil

**Can-do Missions** (Christ Among Nations Disciple Outreach) is based at Concordia University, Austin, Texas. To learn more about **Can-do**, visit <http://can-do.concordia.edu> or call 512-313-4332.

## Prayers and praises

- Praise God for bringing students and leaders from multiple campuses in the St. Louis area together through **acts64**. Ask for His continued blessing on this exciting initiative.
- Pray for all students considering serving as Young Adult Volunteers at the 2010 LCMS **National Youth Gathering**.
- Pray for everyone involved in planning and presenting LCMS Campus Ministry **Confabulation 2010**, May 28-30 in Omaha, Nebraska. Pray also for those who will participate in the event.
- Praise God for providing the **NAILS** summer work program through Lutheran Church Extension Fund and Laborers for Christ. Ask God to bless many students, congregations, ministries and others through **NAILS**.
- Thank God for opportunities to serve people in Jesus' name. Pray for the families whose lives were affected by flooding in northern Georgia.
- Give God thanks for the writers and leaders who contribute articles to *Ignite* and thereby share with all of us their passion for equipping leaders to make disciples who make disciples on campus! Pray that many more share their stories!