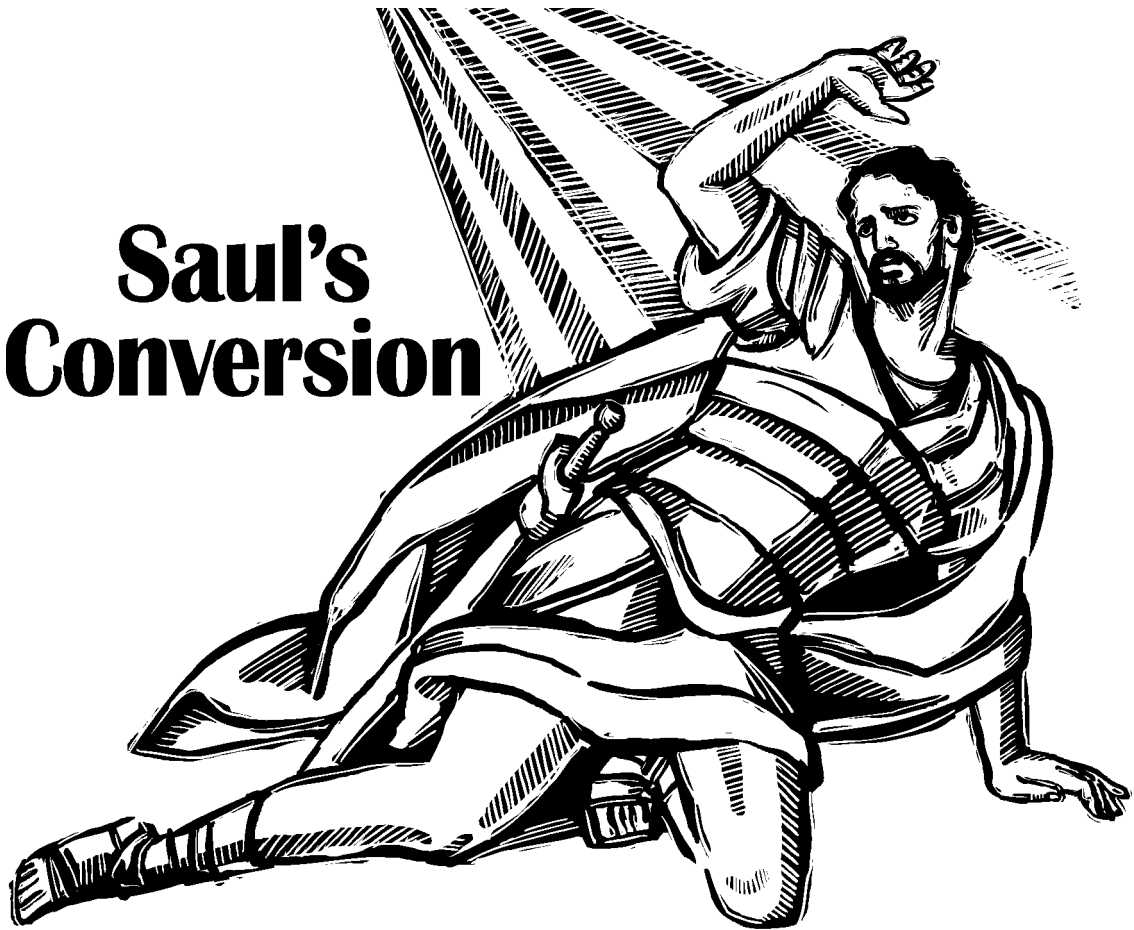


The Church of the Damascus Road

7th Annual Meeting

Saul's Conversion



12:00pm, November 8, 2008
Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church
Walnut & Third
Lytton, Iowa

Opening Devotions

Hymn — WOV 651 “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Greeting and Kyrie — WOV p. 28

Hymn — WOV 791 “Alabaré”

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And also with you.

☐ Let us pray. God of Justice, for our sake your Son was condemned a criminal. Visit our jails and prisons with your judgment and mercy. Remember all prisoners; bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will; and give hope for the future. When any are held unjustly, raise up for them advocates bringing them release and giving us the wisdom to improve our system of justice. We pray for all those who are part of the Church of the Damascus Road. Also, watch over those who work in these institutions; give them strength and compassion, and keep them from becoming brutal or callous. Lead us to do for those in prison what we would do for Christ. Amen

— *Prayer by Lynn Noel*

Scripture Philippians 3:12-14 — *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Homily

Hymn — WOV 752 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Judy Lang, Pianist

**The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting
7th Annual Meeting**

Agenda

12:pm, November 8, 2008

Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church

Lytton, Iowa

Welcome, Prayer

Dinner

Devotions — Pastor Carroll Lang (page 2)

The Meeting — Dennis Booth, President

Introductions

- Outside Church Council members and spouses
- Former Outside Church Council members and spouses
- FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers and StoryTeller Volunteers
- Former CoDR members and spouses/guests
- Correctional Facility representatives
- Others present
- Getting to know you
 - Who are you?
 - Where do you reside? How far did you travel to be with us?
 - Are you representing a church? If so, which one are you representing?

Reports

The following reports are included in this packet:

- 4 A History of The Church of the Damascus Road
- 5 Minutes of 2007 CoDR Annual Meeting 10th Anniversary — November 10, 2007
- 6 Outside Council Meeting Highlights
- 7 Outside Council Members/ Memorials/Honoraria
- 8 FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers
- 9 Pastor's Report and Presentations/Sermons/Updates
- 10 Reentry AfterCare Ministry
- 11 CoDR Budget and Expenses
- 12 Church Records, Contributions, \$100-a-Month Club
- 13 Church Attendance at FDCF and NCCF
- 14 FDCF Donations from Offerings
- 15 NCCF Donations from Offerings
- 16 FDCF & NCCF Inside Council Reports
- 17 StoryTeller Program
- 18 Kite Quilt Project
18. CoDR Timeline — 1996 to October 31, 2008

Remarks

- Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor, CoDR
- Former CoDR Members
- Others

Benediction — Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor, CoDR

A History of
The Church of the Damascus Road
by Rev. Carroll Lang

In 1996, the city of Fort Dodge, Iowa, made a second bid to the Iowa Department of Corrections (having lost the first bid to Newton) to convince the IDOC to build a new prison in Fort Dodge. This time around the city's bid committee invited the clergy of Fort Dodge to join them. Three clergymen, the Reverends Marvin Jenkins, Allen Hermeier and Carroll Lang attended these meetings. Persons who had been invited to be part of the bid committee were asked to submit a component to the bid, offering the services they would provide. The clergy provided a "Spiritual Component" to the process, offering two major programs. The first was to provide an experienced parish pastor to start a prison congregation, and the second was to implement the Match Two program (now Reentry AfterCare).

When the Iowa Department of Corrections accepted Fort Dodge's bid, Hermeier and Lang assembled laity and clergy from the area to form a steering committee. During discussion of the nature of the congregation, whether it was to be non-denominational or a part of a denomination, the Steering Committee was unanimous in stating that it should belong to a denomination. The deciding factor was that the ELCA was the only denomination offering to give financial support, so it was decided that the congregation would be part of the ELCA. The steering committee then contacted the Western Iowa Synod and invited Bishop Curtis Miller to join them in guiding the steering committee through the process of forming a mission prison congregation. Bishop Miller told the committee that the Rev. Delwayne Hahn was the Western Iowa Synod's ELCA liaison and he would be the steering committee's primary guide. Since the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City was only 24 miles west, it was decided to include both sites in the plans to start a mission congregation.

The committee met several times at Christ Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and a couple times at the synod offices in Storm Lake. The ELCA Division for Outreach had indicated an interest in starting more congregations like this, so they agreed to support this mission start-up, paying half of the mission developer pastor's salary and benefits. A call committee was formed, represented by the Bishop, Pastor Hahn, the WIS Outreach Chair, and ecumenical representatives. The call committee chair was Fr Stephen Hall+, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge. Several candidates were interviewed. Rev. Carroll Lang was issued the call in June 1997 to begin a word and sacrament ministry at the North Central Correctional Facility on August 1, 1997. Later, when the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility opened in 1998, a word and sacrament ministry began there. Although the call actually came through the ELCA for a mission developer pastor, the actual letter of call is issued from the synod in which the mission is being developed. Salary was determined by the ELCA Division for Outreach. After the Church of the Damascus Road was self supporting, salary was set by the Outside Church Council.

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund was instructed by the ELCA Division for Outreach to purchase a parsonage. Rev. Lang was instructed to locate a realtor and locate 3-5 possible homes in the "medium range" (\$40,000 to \$70,000). Del Hahn and Andrew Beal (Region 5 Building Consultant) came to Fort Dodge to view these homes and decided that we would need to set our range higher as the available homes were deemed inadequate by Mr. Beal. Rev. and Mrs. Lang then spent time with the realtor finding homes in the \$60,000 to \$120,000 range. After another visit from Del Hahn to view the 4 possible homes, a home was selected at a cost of \$96,000. As closing time neared, Andrew Beal had an EPA firm conduct an inspection and discovered lead and asbestos in the home. The purchase was canceled, and the Langs and the realtor began another search with a top range of \$130,000. There were none available, but the realtor had some prospects that were on the market for more than that amount, hoping that perhaps the owners would take a lower offer.

The options were narrowed to three, and then two, both for essentially the same price, but one had sewer and water service while the other had its own pump and septic tank. The first one, built in 1992, was purchased for \$153,000. The ELCA Mission Investment Fund paid for the house outright, and the agreement was that when The Church of the Damascus Road became self-supporting the house could be purchased for the same price regardless of what the market may be at the later date.

The Langs moved into the parsonage on October 11, 1997. In 2001 CoDR became solely supported by surrounding congregations and individuals, with no ELCA support. On April 20, 2002, CoDR was recognized as a congregation of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA, which meant that the parsonage had to be purchased from the ELCA. Pastor Lang was given a housing allowance to purchase the home.

The rest of the mighty acts of God and the activity of The Church of the Damascus Road, are they not written in the minutes and actions of the secretary and treasurer? And the ministry continues to grow.

The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting Tenth Anniversary Celebration

The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting held a special Tenth Anniversary Celebration, November 10, 2007 at St. John Lutheran Church in Pomeroy, Iowa

Pastor Carroll Lang led worship based on Phil. 3 and several hymns CoDR uses often.

Dennis Booth welcomed everyone and encouraged all to look forward.

Bishop Last extended congratulations for the 10th anniversary and called Carroll and Judy Lang and Cynthia Hanks gifts to this ministry. He stated that transformational ministry occurs only occasionally in parish ministry but is a staple of CoDR. Calling AfterCare extraordinarily important, he gave thanks to all who support it.

Pastor Ed Nesselhuf from PCoA shared that CoDR works the way prison ministry is supposed to with a network on the outside and vital ministry on the inside. He holds Come and See events at Fort Dodge to showcase prison ministry.

Paul Harrison thanked all the volunteers who are making things happen in AfterCare. There are now 29 teams in IA in place of 12 a year ago and it's still growing with 5 AC presentations this weekend.

Dennis Booth introduced everyone present: council members, volunteers, storytellers and former members. Judy Lang spoke about the kite quilt ministry; it sends a message of caring to families of inmates.

Bub Gleason spoke about his work with Inside/Out Dads. There are 12 sessions about parenting. He sees the Holy Spirit at work creating community.

Carroll Lang anticipates retirement in 2009 and wants to add Paul Harrison to the staff. That will require increased financial support, but the future is up to the Holy Spirit and to us.

Eight former members also addressed the assembly, testifying that prison was a blessing in their lives because of the opportunity to turn their lives around through developing a relationship with the Lord. They gave credit to God and Carroll Lang, calling CoDR an oasis in the desert.

We also heard that Dateline NBC wants to do a special report on AfterCare. On November 12 there will be a press release on the Second Chance Act providing funds for faith-based re-entry programs.

Everyone received coffee mugs and pens.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Wold, secretary

Church of the Damascus Road

Outside Council Highlights, November 2007 - October 2008

November 2007: Letter was read from the mission endowment fund about starting an endowment fund for CoDR.

December 2007: Budget was approved. Christmas card project reports 2,281 cards used at FDCF with postage of \$936.89. At NCCF 903 cards were used with postage of \$371.82. Appreciation was expressed to Paul Peterson for years of service on the council.

January 2008: Election of officers was held – President: Dennis Booth, Vice President: Kathy Hansel, Secretary: Lee Kuhrt, Treasurer: Rolling Swanson. Council approved paying Judy’s registration for Spouses Retreat. Pastor Lang & Judy will attend pre-retirement seminar – April 4 & 5 in Storm Lake.

February: No meeting because of bad weather.

March: Council approved donation of \$75 to Western Iowa Synod Assembly offering. Early Sunday March 9th, St. Olaf Lutheran Church was vandalized. Our office was included and the computer, keyboard, track ball and less than \$20 petty cash was taken. We discovered that we did not have insurance to cover this. Computer has been replaced. We are now involved in a Companion Congregation Covenant with a congregation that does prison ministry in Tanzania.

April: Looking at renter’s insurance possibilities. Mark & Cheryl Juhl are planning a Country Gospel Concert fundraiser for July 13. Golf Tournament fundraiser is scheduled for June 21.

May: Insurance through Church Mutual was approved by council. Paul Harrison and Jim Wicker will be our delegates to Synod Assembly.

June: Lee Kuhrt had a stroke so Paul Harrison volunteered to fill secretary position temporarily. Outdoor concert and fundraiser at Juhl’s farm is July 13th. Golf fundraiser has many prizes collected. Brothers in Blue was cancelled at FDCF because of inmates being brought in from Polk County due to the flood.

July: Pastor Lang conducted memorial service for a FDCF inmate. Dustin Lutgen thanked Pastor Lang for his wonderful service and his help with the grieving. Brothers in Blue team members will receive volunteer training the morning of August 7th, before the weekend starts. Received a report on fundraisers.

August: Annual meeting was set for November 8th at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton. Received an invitation for Partners at the Cross fundraiser for PCoA on October 25. Rollin is raising funds for it. Discussed distributing Kite Quilts.

September: Further plans made for annual meeting. Decided to send \$50 to WIS Tanzanian Companion Congregation fund. Kathy Hansel has golf fundraiser set for June 27, 2009. Cynthia resigned August 31, 2008. Decided to give Cynthia Hanks an appreciation gift. Joyce Phelps has been hired to fill the office manager position starting September 15.

October: October is Clergy Appreciation Month and a gift certificate was presented to Pastor Lang in appreciation for all his hard work. Discussed looking into starting a foundation after harvest.

The Church of the Damascus Road Outside Council Members

The Outside Church Council shall be made up of persons from: congregations of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 13); clergy of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 2); Synod Staff (nonvoting); Prison Congregations of America (nonvoting), and Pastor of the congregation, who cannot hold office but who has voice and vote.

CoDR Outside Council Members - 1/2008 -12/2008

Mr. Dennis Booth, President	Lutheran, Lytton
Mrs. Kathy Hansel, Vice President	Lutheran, Badger
Mr. Rollin Swanson, Treasurer	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
Mr. Lee Kuhrt	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Mr. Bub Gleason	Our Savior UMC, Manson
Mr. Paul Harrison	Catholic, Mitchellville
Mr. Mark Juhl	Lutheran, Remsen
Rev. Danette Johns, WIS	Liaison (Ex-officio member)
Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, PCoA	Consultant (Ex-officio Member)
Mrs. Joyce Phelps	Office Manager/Financial Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
Rev. Carroll Lang	Pastor

Memorials/Honoraria - November 2007 thru October 2008

This last year (Nov. 07 - Oct. 08), we've received a total of \$578 in memorials and honoraria.

Charlotte Olson, Hardy - Joy Olson memorial
Gary & Nancy Rosendahl, Eagle Grove - Wayne Robinson memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of his mother
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Keith Mickelson memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Keith Mickelson memorial
Dr. Ron & Joan Severson - In honor of Dorothy Botker
Lisa L. Asche, Eagle Grove - In honor of daughter, Amber
Cynthia Hanks, Manson - In honor of Pastor Carroll & Judy Lang
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Dale Patton memorial
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Anna Kleeve memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Lynn Anderson memorial
Gary & Nancy Rosendahl, Eagle Grove - Mary Hanson memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - John Nesbitt memorial
Brian & Janis Campbell, Kim Campbell & family, Emmetsburg - James Thiel memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Roger Morgan memorial
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Tjeran Thompson memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Iline Sullivan memorial
Rev. Donald & Marjorie Wahlgren, Gowrie - Barbara Nelson memorial
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Margaret Lund memorial
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Ruth Hansen memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Gertrude Anderson memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Gertrude Anderson memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Milford Thompson memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Milford Thompson memorial

FDCF & NCCF Regular Volunteers

The following volunteers have taken a special course, been issued a personal ID badge and, with the exception of NCCF regulations, are able to attend a worship service without having to be on a regular Visitor's List:

FDCF- Current Volunteers

D. Dwanyne Anderson, Webster City
Carol Etzel, Fort Dodge
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge
Dale Timmerman, Fort Dodge
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

NCCF-Current Volunteers

Candace Booth, Lytton
Dennis Booth, Lytton
John Everts, Lytton
Marge Everts, Lytton
Bub Gleason, Manson
Ginny Gleason, Manson
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge
Diane Vavak, Rockwell City

The following individuals are regular volunteers for our Storyteller Program:

Ted & Sue Beach, Humboldt
Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate, Coordinator
Dennis & Candace Booth, Lytton
Dale & Nancy Bruns, Jolley
John & Jody Eppley, Humboldt
John & Marge Everts, Lytton
Bub & Ginny Gleason, Manson
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Donna Haack, Pomeroy

Lee & Jean Kuhrt, Pomeroy
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Kenneth & Vivian Perin, Humboldt
Jean Peterson, Pomeroy
Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
Diane Vavak, Rockwell City
Judy Watne, Galt
Lee Wilson, Fort Dodge
Ruth Younie, Pomeroy
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

The following churches/individuals have contributed books for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate
First Congregational UCC, Webster City
New Covenant Christian Church, Fort Dodge
Nancy Peck, Sioux City
First Lutheran Church, Clarion
Trinity Lutheran Ch WELCA, Spencer
Ullensvang Lutheran Church, Thor

Asbury United Methodist Church
Webster City
Ms. Bev Bremer, Le Mars
AAL Branch 8639, Lehigh
Lutheran Brotherhood Br 8563, Milford
Hardy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy
Western Iowa Synod Women's Organization

Many other churches, church organizations and individuals have contributed money for this program

From the Pastor

Eleven Years Behind us -- What Lies Ahead?

In prison, offenders “do time” as they serve their sentences. Ten years is a long time in prison. I am not serving a sentence. I am called to serve Jesus by serving others. Time passes all too quickly, it seems. Ten years have flown by and here we are celebrating a decade of ministry in the North Central Correctional Facility and the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. This could not have been accomplished without a team effort. The guests and volunteers who attend worship, help with Story Tellers, serve on the Outside Church Council, and support The Church of the Damascus Road are what have made our congregation a living, breathing community of faith in action.

What will the future of this congregation look like? A change in pastoral leadership will occur in 2009 as I retire from 40 years of ordained ministry. The call process will take place in the next three months. We hope to use the ICN (Iowa Cable Network) to link all three councils together in the interview process. New pastoral leadership will help our congregation grow in new ways as we continue the prison congregation concept.

One of the byproducts of worshiping with offenders is the desire to help them when they are released, the kind of help that keeps them accountable and on track. The Church of the Damascus Road has gained a good reputation statewide and in other parts of the nation, including Washington DC, as providing the kind of ministry our communities need to keep people out of prisons and leading productive lives. Our Reentry AfterCare ministry, which grew out of the COPE (Congregation Offender Partnership Enterprise) model in St. Louis, MO, has been transformed into a model that fits our Iowa correctional system and is even being adapted to fit neighboring states and as far away as Maryland and Colorado.

It is the volunteers in many communities that make this ministry grow to meet the needs of released offenders. The success rate shows that recidivism can be reduced dramatically. The future of this ministry will see a huge growth as more and more communities step up to the plate to meet this vital need. Christ's Church, the community of faith active in love, is the best arena for this nurturing ministry to take place. And it works!

Adding another staff member, therefore, will be a priority for the future of The Church of the Damascus Road Reentry AfterCare ministry. We need more and more congregations and individuals to add us to their budgets for the long haul (until we close the doors of the prisons), so we can provide a salary for this position of Reentry AfterCare.

What the future will look like is up to all who support this ministry to mold and shape it in the years ahead. It can be done because God has empowered us with his Holy Spirit and has promised to be with us always, even to the closing of the prisons (wink).

— Pastor Carroll Lang

Presentations/Sermons/Updates - November 2007 - October 2008

11-04-07 Presbyterian Church, Pocahontas
11-13-07 Bethany LC, Laurens, Presentation, John Everts
11-25-07 St Olaf LC, Fort Dodge, CoDR Prison & AfterCare Sunday
12-02-07 St John's LC, Carroll 9am Worship, Presentation
01-06-08 St John Lutheran, Corwith, (canceled, due to illness)
01-20-08 Lutheran Church, Holstein, 8:15 Worship, 10:30am Worship
01-27-08 Presbyterian, Sac City, 10:15am Worship
02-03-08 St Paul LC, Lakota 9am SS, 10am Worship
02-17-08 Immanuel LC, Swea City 9am Worship, Social after (canceled due to weather)
03-30-08 Calvary, Stratford, 9am Worship, South Marion, 10:30am Worship
04-20-08 United Church of Christ, Allison, 10am CoDR sermon
05-11-08 Zion St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield 9am worship, SS hour-RAC discussion
05-18-08 Kanawha LC, 9:30am Worship & presentation
06-08-08 Immanuel LC Swea City, 9am Worship, Adult Social after
06-22-08 First Baptist, Fort Dodge, Supply
08-17-08 Zion LC, Gowrie, 9:30am Worship
08-24-08 Family of God LC, Brooklyn Park, MN-CoDR Sermon/video. 9:30am worship, potluck after
08-31-08 St Paul LC, Rolfe, 9am CoDR sermon, communion, fellowship after
09-28-08 Christ LC, Le Mars, 10am CoDR Sermon/Video, catered dinner after
10-19-08 United Methodist Church, Clarion, 10am SS presentation
11-05-08 United Methodist Church women, Rockwell City - Bub Gleason presentation
11-09-08 Hamlin LC, 9 am, Brayton LC, 10:45
11-16-08 UMC, Emmetsburg, 9am
11-23-08 Bethlehem LC, Royal

2008 Reentry AfterCare in Review

Mission: Empowering Christian Communities to assist in the successful transition of ex-offenders into society.

Reentry AfterCare, a **GREAT 08!** Through the network of so many great people working together, this past year has been amazing! Reentry AfterCare is now a stand-alone ministry with a national board and a volunteer base in the thousands that grows every week, the number of participants that have been placed also broke a hundred and kept right on going at a speed that is the true reflection of those who have taken ownership in this great ministry. Also, each day is the opportunity to assist a person in transition, their family, friends, employers and the faith-based or community-based organization that serves them. With Directors on the ground in other states and building relationships with FBCO's and government agencies, the following wave of events has been really fun to see what started as energy develop into synergy!

Pro's of Con's: Held in one of three different settings, "Breakfast with Benefits", "Lunch and Learn", or "Dinner and Dynamics" these events are focused on the employers in each community, and finding ways to match a persons skills who is to be released from the DOC to the employers who have a need for that skill. By matching that skill to the employer and educating the employer and employee to the benefits; Tax credits, bonding, Accountability circles, and educating everyone on the value of "**Working Together Works**". These events are always in cooperation with Workforce Development and United States Department of Labor, with an open invitation to all staffing companies and employers in the local area.

Job Fairs: Many of the areas that have RAC Teams have formed employment coalitions and are planning job fairs that will educate the employers about the benefits of hiring from this arena, and to the obstacles as well. Following an educational morning the fair is open to the public where the employers can take applications and the potential employees can participate in learning how to sell themselves to the workforce. Classes are held for the participants on writing a resume, dressing for the job and communication skills, with a large focus on removing the mindset that a felon can't get a job!

Investing in Communités, not More Prisons!

These are day events held by Reentry AfterCare, in partnership with Department of Corrections, Workforce Development, Department of Human Services and every faith-based and community-based organization in the area. Focusing on the "Rule of Twos" (endorsed by Nebraska Corrections) and "Working Together Works," the day is spent in capacity-building and networking interactive exercises, which is the perfect lead-in to an evening of volunteer training equipping more volunteers to serve the army of Reentry AfterCare teams that are forming.

Alternatives to Incarceration: We are, on average, completing about eight alternatives to incarceration per month. With the success rate that has been established during reentry, it's awesome to see the movement toward prevention as well.

Transitional Housing: Now with over 35 Transitional Houses in the RAC Network and three being organized at this time, I look forward to this coming year as we launch *Transitional Learning Centers*. By networking resources from Workforce Development and the employers in the community while providing life skills and spiritual guidance, the goal is to need LESS homeless shelters and remember the benefit of teaching people to fish instead of just giving them fish.....

This past year, of course, has not been without learning curves, both by participants and the teams that served them, but as always, **Remember! Working Together Works!** Special thanks to all of the volunteers and agencies that has made this a *Great Year* for Reentry AfterCare.

Blessings and Peace,
Paul Harrison
National Director
Reentry AfterCare
P.O. Box # 562
Altoona Iowa 50009
#515-230-8815

Reentry AfterCare Teams

Spirit Lake, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Holstein, Lytton, Boone, Webster City, Spencer, Forest City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Ames, Pleasant Hill, Des Moines, Muscatine, Burlington, Davenport, Grimes, Sioux City, Council Bluffs and more teams forming weekly. Many, many more teams have been added. For a map, go to www.reentryaftercare.org

CoDR Budget and Expenses - January thru October 2008

The Church of the Damascus Road

Budget 2008

<u>Human Resources</u>	
Pastor Salary	46,967.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	6,000.00
Social Security Offset	5,352.00
Pension & Benefits	16,543.42
Continuing Ed.	500.00
Professional Exp.	<u>500.00</u>
Total	89,062.42
Office Mgr.'s Salary	11,275.00
CoDR Payroll Tax	<u>863.00</u>
Total	12,138.00
Pulpit Supply/Mileage	1,500.00
Accompanist/Supply	2,600.00
Mileage	<u>5,500.00</u>
Total	9,600.00
<u>Administrative</u>	
Telephone	2,400.00
Printing	800.00
Postal Expense	1,800.00
Office Sup & Equip	1,700.00
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,400.00
Annual Meeting	300.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	9,400.00
<u>Mission</u>	
Prison Congregations of America	6,508.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	651.00
Newsletter	4,700.00
Congregation General	400.00
Congregation Worship	500.00
Congregation Education	100.00
Conference Expenses	1,000.00
AfterCare Training/mileage	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>250.00</u>
Total	16,109.00
2008 Budget Subtotal	136,309.42
Office Rent*	6,000.00
Grand Total	142,309.42

*Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.

January - October 2008	
Income	136,025.63
Expenses	<u>122,076.72</u>
Gains	13,948.91

The Church of the Damascus Road

Expenses: Jan-Oct 2008

<u>Human Resources</u>	
Pastor Salary	39,139.20
Housing Allowance	11,000.00
Utilities	5,000.00
Social Security Offset	4460.00
Pension & Benefits	12,419.11
Continuing Education	416.60
Professional Expenses	<u>416.60</u>
Total	72,851.51
Office Manager's Salary	9,056.65
CoDR Payroll Tax	<u>692.77</u>
Total	9,749.42
Pulpit Supply	654.66
Regular & Sub Accompanist	2,050.00
Mileage	4,603.58
Other mileage	<u>599.08</u>
Total	7,907.32
<u>Administrative</u>	
Telephone	2,178.52
Printing	744.12
Postal Expense	1,792.01
Office Supply	730.34
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,050.58
Office Equipment	2,117.21
Insurance	1,063.00
Miscellaneous	<u>909.39</u>
Total	10,585.17
<u>Mission</u>	
Prison Congregations of America	7,067.44
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	806.75
Newsletter	4,705.54
Congregation General	210.40
Congregation Worship	466.68
Congregation Education	51.00
Conference Expenses	851.16
AfterCare/Ex offender Expense	6,625.33
Miscellaneous	<u>199.00</u>
Total	20,983.30
2008 Expense Subtotal	122,076.72
Office Rent*	6,000.00
Grand Expense Total	128,076.72

*Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.

Balances as of 10/31/08:	
Checking	3,431.37
Savings	14,131.43
MissionPlus	<u>31,383.88</u>
Total:	48,946.68

Church Records 1997 through October 2008

Baptisms, Affirmations of Baptism, and Marriages

	Baptisms		Affirmations		Marriages	
	NCCF	FDCF	NCCF	FDCF	NCCF	FDCF
1997 - Oct. 2007	28	64	5	8	8	29
Nov 07 - Oct 08	0	2	0	0	1	1
Total	28	66	5	8	9	30

Contributions

<u>Categorized - Contributions 1997-2007</u>	<u>1997-2007</u>	<u>Jan-Oct 2008</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lutheran churches	544,420.04	44,974.56	589,394.60
Methodist churches	22,441.44	1,491.55	23,932.99
Episcopal churches	21,319.00	1,200.00	22,519.00
Presbyterian churches	26,198.91	2,064.31	28,263.22
Other churches	22,545.12	2,050.00	24,595.12
Organizations	10,132.97	1,000.00	11,132.97
Individuals	366,579.19	76,999.73	443,578.92
Grants/Thrivent	35,731.67	5,790.00	41,521.67
Reimbursements	14,791.57	259.18	15,050.75
Miscellaneous Income	<u>6,504.55</u>	<u>196.30</u>	<u>6,700.85</u>
Total:	1,070,664.46	136,025.63	1,206,690.09

All figures are from the Quicken records on our computer.

\$100-a-Month Club Churches and Individuals

Augustana Lutheran, Manson Bethany Lutheran, Emmetsburg Bethany Lutheran, Spencer Emanuel–St. John Lutheran, Lytton First Lutheran, Algona First Presbyterian, Fort Dodge Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge Hardy Trinity Lutheran, Hardy Immanuel Lutheran, Forest city New Covenant Christian, Fort Dodge Our Saviour’s Lutheran, Callender Our Saviour’s Lutheran, Humboldt St. John Lutheran – LeMars St. John Lutheran – Pomeroy St. Mark’s Episcopal, Fort Dodge St. Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge St. Paul Lutheran, Holstein St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer	St. Paul Lutheran, Sheldon Trinity Lutheran, Webster City Zion Lutheran, Clear Lake Zion Lutheran, Gowrie Zion St John Lutheran, Sheffield John & Marge Everts, Lytton Patricia Gohman, Kingman, AZ Pr. Carroll & Judy Lang, Fort Dodge Troy & Karyn Leininger, Spencer Eunice Loots, Fort Dodge Larry & Cindy Lubinus, Grimes Adam & Inga Sanford, Frisco, TX Melba Shelby, Fort Dodge Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City Sukup Family Foundation, Hampton Mary Wilkins, Fort Dodge Vincent & Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge
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Church Attendance

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Fort Dodge, Iowa

Worship services 5/22/98 to 10/31/07

Services	Inmates	Pastor	Volunteers	Visitors	Total Attendance	Communed
443	27,634	443	1,263	3,024	31,314	

Worship Services 11/1/07 to 10/31/08

Services	Inmates	Pastor	Volunteers	Visitors	Total Attendance	Communed
50	1,539	50	101	213	1,903	1,779

North Central Correctional Facility Rockwell City, Iowa

Worship Services 8/28/97 to 10/31/07

Services	Inmates	Pastor	Volunteers	Visitors	Total Attendance	Communed
516	10,982	516	1,608	2,711	15,960	

Worship Services 1/4/07 to 10/25/07

Services	Inmates	Pastor	Volunteers	Visitors	Total Attendance	Communed
49	831	49	236	189	1,306	1,234

<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>	<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>
NCCF	FDCF
8/27/97 - 12/28/06 31	5/22/98 - 12/27/06 71
1/5/07 - 10/25/07 33	1/4/07 - 10/31/07 71
11/1/07 - 10/31/08 27	11/1/07 - 10/31/08 37

FDCF and NCCF members have served in leadership roles during the weekly worship services. Many serve as liturgy assistants by reading the 1st and 2nd readings, Psalms, and Prayers of the People. In addition many have provided vocal and/or instrumental music. Others assist Pastor Lang during communion or are greeters.

These statistics include many inmates, volunteers and visitors who have repeatedly attended services. Our Volunteers began serving in 1999 after applying for the position, and then being trained to be an official volunteer. Upon completion they were issued official badges which allow them to attend a worship service without being on the regular Visitor's List. In 2001 NCCF changed their regulations allowing only ten visitors. We are no longer able to take any person under age 18 into NCCF

Church Giving

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Benevolence

Between 1998 and 2008, our FDCF members have given \$11,802.40 in benevolence gifts. During the past year, the FDCF Inside Council members voted to disperse their offerings as follows:

December 31, 2007

Prison Congregations of America	\$20.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$20.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	\$16.00
RBC Ministries	\$16.00
American Cancer Society	\$11.00
Muscular Dystrophy - Iowa	\$11.00
Children International	<u>\$66.00</u>
Total	\$160.00

February 7, 2008

ELCA World Hunger Appeal - Souper Bowl	\$22.00
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April 2, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$10.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$10.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	\$7.00
RBC Ministries	\$7.00
Children International (Quarterly dues)	<u>\$66.00</u>
Total	\$100.00

July 16, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$10.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$10.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	\$7.00
RBC Ministries	\$7.00
Children Interantional (Dues)	<u>\$66.00</u>
Total	\$100.00

September 22, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$17.53
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$17.53
RBC Ministries	\$14.74
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	\$14.74
Children International	<u>\$66.00</u>
Total	\$130.54

November 2007 through October 2008 total contributions \$490.54

Church Giving

North Central Correctional Facility Benevolence

Between 1997 and 2008 our NCCF members have given \$7,369.21 in benevolence gifts. During the past year, the NCCF Inside Council members voted to disperse their offerings as follows:

December 19, 2007

Prison Congegations of America	\$11.25
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$11.25
ELCA/Division for Global Missions (Patricia Bentsen)	\$22.50
Angel Tree of Prison Fellowship	<u>\$45.00</u>
Total	\$90.00

March 21, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$25.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$25.00
ELCA/Divisions for Global Missions (Patricia Bentsen)	\$50.00
Mike Billhauer (accident victim)	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total	\$200.00

June 11, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$18.75
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$18.75
Global Mission Support/ELCA - Patricia Bentsen	\$37.50
LSI Disaaster Relief - Parkersburg tornado	\$25.00
Vicky Lamuth Benefit	\$25.00
Sioux City Gospel Mission (Food Pantry)	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$150.00

September 22, 2008

Prison Congregations of America	\$17.53
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	\$17.53
ELCA/Division of Global Missions (Patricia Bentsen)	\$33.26
Lord's Cupboard	\$33.26
Paul Harrison	<u>\$33.26</u>
Total	\$134.84

November 2007 through October 2008 total contributions: \$574.84



NCCF CROP Walkers



FDCCF CROP Walkers

FDCF & NCCF Inside Council Reports

FDCF Inside Council President

2008 has seen a lot of new faces, and we have said goodbye to a lot of familiar faces. As we try to encourage each other day after day, sometimes we are faced with challenges that are out of our control. The one thing that I would like to encourage us all is to give control to God in every situation in our life, whether good, or bad. As it says in 1 Peter 5:7, Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. When God sees us doing this, it please Him, and He answers our prayers when they align with His perfect will. How we all want to do the will of God, but maybe some of us just don't know what His will is for our lives; all we have to do is ask. Jeremiah 33:3 says: 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' God continues to bless me, even though I don't feel like I deserve it. He knows our true heart, so let us let Him guide us with His Holy Spirit.

Being blessed by God is not something that I can put into words to describe how it happens, but I know when His Holy Spirit fills me, and there is no greater feeling in the world that I have ever experienced, or could ever experience to equal it. I can only show you when I see you what God has done for me, and how He continues to bless me. Being President of The Church of the Damascus Road at FDCF for the last three-and-a-half years has given me a new sense of direction in my spiritual walk. I have seen prayers answered right in front of my eyes, and I know that it's only the power of God that can make these things happen. I have seen people prophesy to ones that they just met, and would have no knowledge of their previous life situations. That is the power of God in the flesh. I continue to seek His will for my life even in this situation of being in prison. I encourage you to do the same in your life, no matter where you are.

—Tony Halsrud, FDCF Presiden10/31/08

NCCF Inside Council President

It has been a good year for the Church of the Damascus Road. We have seen many men make a commitment to Christ and many others strengthen their existing relationships with each other and grow in the Spirit of the Lord. Brothers in Blue weekends both in March and October were very successful. The fellowship we established that weekend and the friendships formed have continued to grow throughout the year. We have spent considerable time in prayer for our friend Steve Cooley as he was injured in a work-related accident just days after his release. He is never far from our thoughts and prayers. We also held up in prayer for our resident musician Robert Anthony Williams when he went to the hospital for a lengthy stay. We really missed him and we're glad to have him back. What a gift he brings to our Thursday night worship service when he sits down at the piano.

We heard from two of the "graduates" of CoDR, Jon Neely and David Porter. Jon is doing well in his new job at a soybean processing plant and David recently purchased a new home with his wife. It is encouraging to see men leave and do well. But we have welcomed back to the flock several men that came back for one reason or another.

The Reentry AfterCare efforts that we have undertaken have certainly seen some roadblocks, but the interest is still there as we realize that the odds are against us as we leave. Without Christ we couldn't consider that our lives would come together and our hopes of reconciliation with our families would take place. We appreciate all the people that have taken the time to reach out the Christian hand and help us. We have seen some men drift and others do extremely well. We know that without your help our road to recovery is a difficult one. We appreciate all who have done so much to help us.

We had a beautiful Day this year for the annual Crop Walk. It is nice to know that we contribute to the needs of others and that we are making a difference in other people's lives.

— Dan Skalla

Story Tellers Story



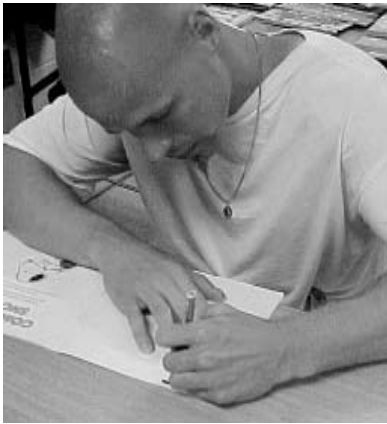
1. Volunteer "engineers" set up recorders before fathers arrive.



2. Fathers select books to read to their children. Books, cassettes and envelopes are donated by outside congregations and individuals.



3. The father reads the book, recording it on cassette tape. A brief greeting may be given at the beginning and the end of the recording.



4. A brief message may be written in the front of the book.



5. A store order is filled out, except for the amount of postage, and signed.



6. The envelope is addressed to the child or in care of parent or guardian.



7. Book, tape and store order are stuffed in envelope and taken to mail

Another Story



An inmate in FDCF, shared this photo of his son listening to a tape of his father's voice reading the book he is holding. This inmate has read books and sent them home several times and wanted to share how much his son enjoyed it.

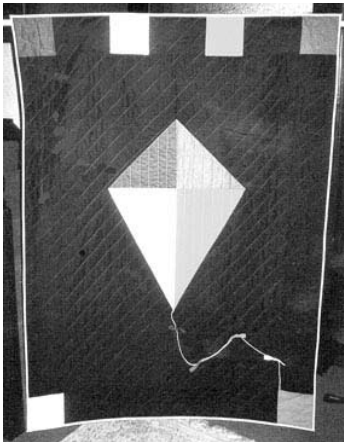
Inmates at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City have monthly opportunities to select books to read to their children, recording their voices on cassette tape, and sending the book and tape to their children. The child then puts the tape in a player and opens the book and turns the pages as his Dad reads to him.

Inmates who wish to participate in this project of the Church of the Damascus Road need to sign up ahead of time. At FDCF they can do this in the chapel on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. At NCCF they need to contact David Porter or Pastor Lang to be scheduled to read.

Recording sessions are on 3rd Fridays at FDCF and on 3rd Saturdays at NCCF.

Kite Quilt Project

The Kite Quilt project was introduced to us in September of 2005 at a gathering of Prison Congregations of America. We were given one quilt and a pattern at that time. The design for the quilts was created by Mrs.



Mrs. Kaona Hazlett, wife of Rev. Chuck Hazlett, the first pastor of the prison congregation in Appleton, MN. The design is a kite of four colors (green, blue, red, and yellow) on a background. A “kite” is a memo that inmates use to contact prison staff to request an interview or to ask a question. A “kite” is a form of communication and a Kite Quilt communicates that we remember the families and loved ones of those who are in prison. The quilts are given to families of inmates to send a message of love to the families at home.



We decided this was a project we would take on, so we made copies of the pattern and have been asking quilting groups in churches to make kite quilts for us. By our annual meeting in January of 2007, we had about 10 kite quilts. Thanks to the work of many people. Thanks to Ginny Gleason for promoting this project in the United Methodist Churches and to Candace Booth and Marge Everts for promoting it in the Lutheran Churches. I have been promoting this project whenever Pastor Lang and I go to churches to talk about Church of the Damascus Road. Thanks to all who have put in hours making these quilts.

We now have over 40 quilts. We have started giving inmates application blanks and have already received 13 applications. So we will soon be in need of more quilts. Thanks to all who have made this possible.

—Judy Lang

The Church of the Damascus Road Timeline *What do eleven years look like?*

1996

Fort Dodge Bid Committee for the prison included 3 pastors.

1997

Fort Dodge bid, including a prison congregation, accepted.

Prison Congregation Steering Committee formed.

June - Pastor Carroll Lang called by Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA to be pastor of The Church of the Damascus Road (CoDR).

August 1 – Pastor Lang started.

August 28 – First worship service at North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF).

October – First newsletter, called the Flash, sent out.

October – Associated Press visited worship at NCCF. Article & pictures were in newspapers in several states.

October – ELCA purchased the parsonage.

1998

January 8 – Outside Council organized.

February – Gail Lund hired as secretary.

March 28 & 29 – “40 Winks in the Klink” fundraiser.

April 18 – Paul Rueter shared his experience with CoDR at Western Iowa Synod Assembly.

May 22 – First worship service at FDCF.

June – Started ELCA Mission Investment Fund account.

August 21 – Had to have 3 worship services at FDCF.

September 2 – Worship at FDCF changed to Wednesdays.

September – 1st joint Inside Outside Council meeting, NCCF.

September 26 & 27 – First annual CROP walk.

1999

January – Rosemarie Prochelo hired as secretary.

June – First joint Inside Outside Council meeting, FDCF.

September 1 – Cynthia Hanks hired as secretary.

October – Brothers in Blue held at NCCF.

2000

January – Purchased new keyboard for FDCF.

May – First Brothers in Blue at FDCF.

May/June – Waldorf College students produced video, Prisoners for God.

September – Started Story Teller ministry.
September 9 – Fundraiser dinner at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge.
September 23 & 24 – Reentry AfterCare Training at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Humboldt.

2001

March 24 – Reentry AfterCare training at Asbury Methodist Church, Webster City.
May – Purchased office furniture. Leased a copy machine.
October – Purchased new printer.

2002

January 26 – PCoA board met here. Fundraiser with Higher Power at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge.
January – Purchased new keyboard for NCCF.
April 20 – Recognized as a congregation of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA.
May – Purchased new iMac computer for office.
July 19 – Fundraiser with Phil & Pam Morgan at Asbury Methodist Church, Webster City.
October – Pastor Lang given housing allowance.

2003

January – Zion-St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, became Mission Partner for 3 years.
January 25 – 1st Annual Meeting at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.
February 22 – Fundraiser with Higher Power at Asbury Methodist, Webster City.
March – Purchased rebuilt typewriter for the office.
April – Became associate member of Chamber of Commerce.
July – Story Tellers at NCCF moved to Saturdays.
September – Purchased projector for PowerPoint & videos.

2004

January 24 – 2nd Annual Meeting at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.
February 28 – Fundraiser for Reentry AfterCare with Brown Family Singers at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Dodge.
July – Celebrated Pastor Lang’s 35th Ordination Anniversary.
September 29 – Pastor Lang got Governor’s Volunteer Award.
December – First Christmas card give away at FDCF.

2005

January 22 – 3rd Annual Meeting at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.
February – Purchased new copier.
July – Purchased microphones, guitar, case & stand for FDCF.
October 29 – Attended PCoA Benefit Dinner in Sioux Falls, SD. Received a Kite Quilt & pattern.
December – Started DSL for the office.
December – Christmas card give away at FDCF & NCCF.

2006

January – Zion-St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, renewed mission partner for 3 years.
January 22 – 4th Annual Meeting at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, at 4:30 PM.
January 30 – Attended Grant Writing Workshop at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake.
March 25 & 26 – Reentry AfterCare Training at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cherokee.
May 6 – Booth on making Kite Quilts at synod Assembly.
June – Awarded Compassion Iowa Grant (June 2006 through February 2007.) AfterCare Steering Committee formed. Paul Harrison is helping with ReentryAfterCare.
October 29 – Reentry AfterCare training at Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer.
December – Christmas card give away at FDCF & NCCF

2007

January 28 – 5th Annual Meeting at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Humboldt, at 4 PM with workshops at 2 & 3.
May – Purchased a CD cabinet for FDCF.
June 30 – Reentry AfterCare Fundraiser golf tournament, Oak Ridge, Goldfield.
July – Inside/Out Dads started at NCCF.
August – Purchased new keyboard for NCCF.
November 10 - 6th Annual Meeting and CoDR 10th Anniversary Celebration at St. John Lutheran Church, Pomeroy at noon with workshops at 10 & 11am
December – Christmas card give away at FDCF & NCCF. Had to remove sound equipment, except piano, at FDCF.

2008

March - St. Olaf Lutheran Church was vandalized, including our office - computer, keyboard, track ball, & petty cash taken. Companion Congregation Covenant with congregation in Tanzania.
May - purchased renter’s insurance
June 21 - 2nd annual Golf Tournament fundraiser at Oak Ridge, Goldfield
July 13 - Country Gospel Concert fundraiser at Mark & Cheryl Juhl farm, Remsen.
July - Pastor Lang did memorial service for FDCF inmate
August 7 - Brothers in Blue team receive volunteer training at FDCF.
August 31 - Cynthia Hanks, office manager, resigned after 9 years of service.
September 15 - Joyce Phelps was hired as office manager.
October 25 - Partners at the Cross fundraiser for PCoA at Sioux Falls, SD.
November 8 - 7th Annual Meeting at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church at Lytton at noon with Reentry AfterCare workshop at 10:00 am
December - Christmas card give away at both NCCF and FDCF.

—Judy Lang

