

Mission Builder Messenger

CSM Unit of the ELCA

msnbuilder1@gmail.com

Director of Mission Builders

Bill Graves

119 Gulf Hibiscus Drive

Port St Joe, FL 32456

Return Requested

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To those Mission Builders, spouses, and volunteers working on projects in North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin, Thank You.

To those of you still thinking about a visit, there is still time to work with us in N. Dakota and Washington State

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

Update from the Director...

Since I last communicated with you...

Our projects have all started construction with one project in the mechanicals stage, a couple of weeks away from drywall. Construction managers for each of the projects have kindly provided pictures and a recap from their local communities.

I was personally blessed to have the opportunity to have a 30 minute conversation with our National Presiding Bishop Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton about Mission Builders. She was very receptive to our ministry and will help make others aware of our need for volunteers.

We have been blessed to have Youth groups , Senior groups, Adult groups and numerous volunteers from around the country at our three summer projects. Additional help is needed in Minot, ND as well as Ferndale, Washington .

Our first Hispanic mission start up church to be constructed seems more likely to become a reality in Lexington, SC in November. Check our web site elcamissionbuilders.org for updates. Because of the nature of the project and timing (November– March), this could be a great project to bring down a group from up north. For those of you who are full time RV'ers who head south for the winter, consider stopping by on your way south, or on your way north in the early spring. For those of you who flee the cold and go south, consider working us into your schedule.

Tree removal and site work is under way for both of our large projects for next spring. One of the onsite RV parking areas was utilized this summer and can fit up to 10 RV's. We are hoping for May 15th start dates on both projects but will keep you informed.

Because of the size of the projects next year, I will ask that you consider when you are planning on coming as well as how long you plan to work. I will likely need spring/ summer crews and summer/ fall crews, unless a person or couple are interested in being at the project for the duration. People will always be welcome to visit for a few days or a couple of weeks. All capable of doing the work are welcome.

Bread of Life Lutheran Church Minot, ND

Coming back to Minot ND is certainly exciting for Steve and Carole. The fact that Mission Builders was asked to come back to Bread of Life is also exciting. Mission Builders built the original building over 25 years ago and seeing the pictures and listening to the stories of the members that were part of that build has also been very rewarding as a testament to what Mission Builders continue to do. We were able to post many of the pictures on the Mission Builders facebook page, I encourage you to look at them and see not much has changed over the years. One story that we were told was that the congregation provided ALL the lunches and ALL the evening meals, except for Sundays.

Ground breaking this year was on May 6. Site clearing began that same week. Of course it doesn't rain until you dig a hole in the ground for the footings, and it did rain. We delayed the Mission Builder crew for 10 days so we could get the slab poured to have a good working surface to build walls.

Our crew this year is a great combination of new and local folks. Steve and Carole Schenk are managers. Jim Carey is foreman, his first project in that role getting his "on the job training". Don and Vicki Harris, their first project ever, after retiring, selling their home, buying a bigger camper, here they are all the way from Florida. Arvin and Sue Pletcher, part time, coming and going from Minnesota. We also have 3 local Mission Builders all from right here in Minot. JoAnn Linrud, Phil and Marilyn Olstad, and Terry and Kathy Thiel. Wall raising was June 30th and over 70 members came to help and be part of the celebration and to enjoy root beer floats.

The new addition includes a larger narthex, another larger main entrance, more restrooms, more meeting/class rooms and a large multi purpose room that will some day become their sanctuary. To see many more pictures on the progress go to Bread of Life facebook page. A member, Janice Hewitt, is out everyday and posts them every evening.

Please continue to keep our project and our crew in your prayers as we also continue to do the same for you.

God's Mission Builder's Steve & Carole Schenk

Enthusiastic congregational members sharing the spirit.





Ladies above learning safe miter saw operation.

Steve gets a hug for a personal hard hat.

Busy day with volunteers building walls.



Christ Lutheran in Ferndale, Washington



On May 27th, Christ Lutheran, Ferndale, WA held a groundbreaking service for their building project. As part of the program, Rich Hofer, Mission Builder manager for this project, spoke about our participation and involvement in this congregation while we are on site. Typically, the congregation with whom we partner for a build has been on our list of upcoming projects for 2 or 3 years before they are ready to break ground. Christ Lutheran was an exception to the norm. They had been in the planning stages for several months when they heard about Mission Builders. Pastor Jana quickly called Bill Graves. It was fall, 2017. The plan was to build summer 2018. Bill's response would normally have been, "I'm sorry. Our schedule is committed for the next 3 years." Instead, he said, "This morning we had a cancellation for summer 2018, and we can consider your request." Pastor Jana calls it a 'God thing' and says that her only regret is that she is gone on Sabbatical for three months as the build starts.

This crew officially started June 11. We had an early "give it a try" volunteer couple from Arkansas join us for 2 weeks. Carl and Connie Hoffman were available in early June, so we happily accepted their help in demo and building preparation. We sure hope to see them on future Mission Builder projects. When seasoned crew members Arnie and Mem Fichtenberg, John and Sandy Sharps, and Daryl and Gwen Dawgs arrived, they settled in and got right to work.

We have a temporary campground which can accommodate 7 rigs in the church parking lot. If we walk a few steps and look between the trees and rooftops, we have a beautiful view of majestic, snow covered Mt. Baker. The azaleas, rhododendron, roses, lavender and hydrangeas decorate the neighborhood with huge blooms. Deer sometimes wander right past the campers. The region abounds in strawberry plants, raspberry and blueberry bushes, and members have provided them in bowls, jams, cob-



blers, and pies. We have indeed been blessed during our stay here with hospitality in homes, Saturday lunches on the jobsite, and an abundance of snacks from good cooks. Joanne, a former school orchestra director and wonderful violinist, often comes to morning break/devotional time to share her beautiful music. When it's time to return to work, there's often a lively piece of music to get everyone moving again. The evangelism committee often provides treats specifically for the contractors on site. They also hosted a neighborhood strawberry shortcake meet and greet for the neighbors to introduce the crew, share the plans, and thank the neighbors for their patience through the noise and mess of construction. As on most projects, there is a dedicated core of volunteers on the job every week willing to do anything from demo to cleanup to construction. One young man, Tony Toretta, a newer member of the congregation, stepped up to co-manage the project with Rich. He teaches ag, welding, landscaping, and shop and is the energy specialist at Ferndale High School. He's devoting his entire summer, fulltime, to the build, and his local connections are invaluable. Some camping acquaintances of the Hofers, Anders and Cheryle Nilsen, stopped by for a week to help too. They had only been parked for an hour before

Andy was on the roof with Daryl, tearing into things! More short-term help is expected in August, including a visit from Bill, Becky and Husker.

We gained a new Mission Builder couple in July. Dean and Cris Hatzenbihler live in Salem, Oregon. They were introduced to Mission Builders by LuVerne Anderson. Cris recently retired as a nurse, and Dean brings great skills from 40 years as a mason with foreman experience. Their 'try it out' period lasted for about a day before they committed to spending the rest of their summer on the project. Their nametags are ordered, and we're thrilled to have them on the crew.

The project includes 3,000 sq. ft. new space in three different areas of the church. A new kitchen with storage room off the fellowship hall has already been framed in with wall and roof sheathing completed. Another small addition in the area of the preschool creates a new director's office and entry. Walls have been completed in this section. The largest addition will be at the main entry of the church creating a much needed expanded narthex, two handicap accessible bathrooms, a fireside room, and an office addition. Wall construction is about to begin. The interior walls of the education wing (2,500 sq. ft.) have been removed so the space can be reconfigured with new bathrooms and larger classrooms. The preschool area will also have two new bathrooms and a new reception area.



Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, WI.

After weeks of filing for permits, reviews by state and local authorities , we started construction the last week of June. During our wait, we chose to pre-build walls for the 2600 sq ft home, so when we were permitted and when we did have a foundation, we could make up for some lost time. Our crew of five Mission Builders constructed almost all exterior and interior walls in six work days. Now out of work and still waiting for the slab, we put metal trim and fascia on a camp home and the large dining hall. In preparation for the large lodge and hotel structure we will be building in 2019 we cut down and removed 27 large trees from the building site and other areas of the camp.

The day after the slab was poured, camp counselors and staff helped carry the walls into place. The next day a youth group from Calvary Lutheran Church in Rush Pointe, Minnesota helped tip up, brace and sheath the walls. By the end of five days of work all walls were sheathed, trusses were up and most of the roof sheathing was in place. 21 days post starting construction you see windows in, a roof on, and most of the siding in place.

The crew has included Bill & Becky Graves, Rick and Bailey Johnson, Les & Jeanne Sitz, Gene and Caryl Ziegenhagen, Dan & Paulette Kilts and Dave & Clara Spitler. We were blessed to have friends of the Sitz's come by and work for three weeks when we were in the middle of the heavy work. Hopefully we will see Ralph & Peggy at future projects. Bob and Chris Risberg arrived August 1st and will oversee the project thru the turn key phase, as Becky & I are now in Ferndale, WA working with the crew there before heading to Minot.



Beautiful campground site in the middle of everything two hundred yards from
Lauderdale Lake



Our team worked really hard to make up lost time. We did find time to get out on Lauderdale Lake and hold several pitch in dinners (ribs, steaks, fried Northern, gumbo, chili,), pick and eat fresh strawberries, and of course every Sunday after church we were looking for the best breakfast to be found near each different country church we attended.

Bill Graves



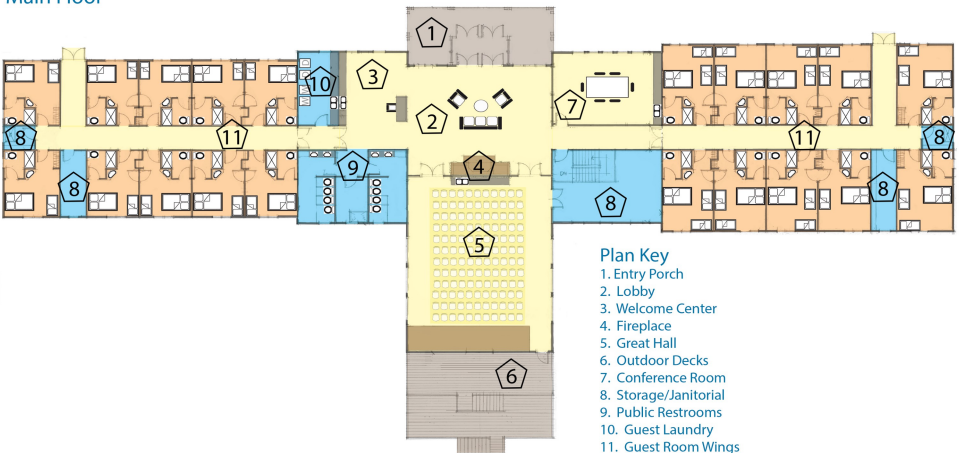
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Christo Rey Mission Congregation Lexington, SC, 1st structure 6,000 sq ft.. Project decision to move forward to be made by October 1st depending upon funding. Howard McCartha manager, 6 additional builders needed. Estimated start date 11/6/2018 Estimated end date 4/1/2019.

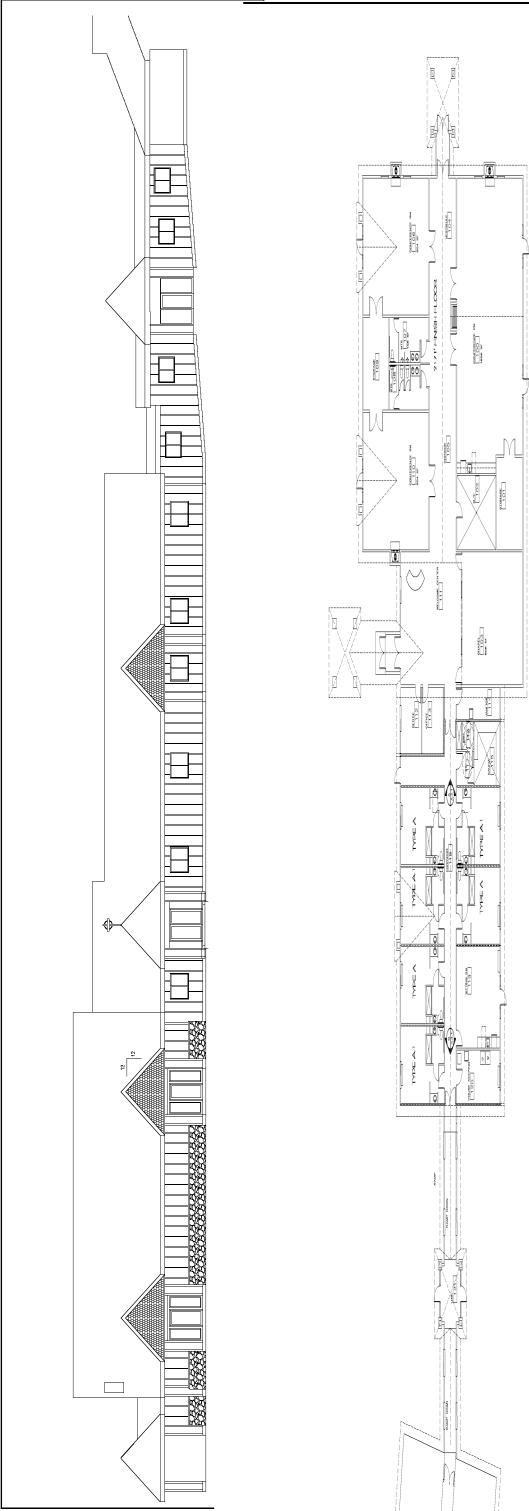
Lutherdale Lodge & Conference Center located on Lauderdale Lake north of Elkhorn, WI is a 21,000 sq ft lodging and conference facility. Scheduled start date is May 15th. Currently we anticipate the need for five builders. Less than an hour from Madison & Milwaukee. There is a lot to do in the area besides boating, fishing, hiking, & eating local foods.



LUTHERDALE LODGE
Main Floor



Camp Metigoshe Christian Center Lodge and Conference Center located N. of Bottineau, ND in the Turtle Mountains, is surrounded by lakes. Local hiking fishing, and kayaking opportunities



Prayers and Concerns...

Bonnie Peaslee undergoing continued care;

Spencer Ruff undergoing tests

Chris Dunker currently undergoing treatments for prostate cancer.

Passing of ...

Rev. Paul Baughman

Donald Klein

Ryan Risberg

Gifts... In memory of:

Ryan Risberg Bill and Becky Graves, Rich & Lindsey Hofer, John & Sandy Sharps

Donald Klein Tom and Arline Chase

Donald Anderson LuAnn Jacobsen

LaDonna Kruse Bob & Peggy Fifeld, Jim & Jean Sloss, Norm & Stacey Kruse, Paul & Jane Allen Brian & Karen Holcomb, Klea Ecker

To Mission Builders Daryl & Gwen Daug, Bob & Chris Risberg,

Bailey and Rick Johnson, Patrick Haugen Neal & Dorene Weltzin

Dave and Clara Spitler

Donations to Mission Builders can be made through the **Thrivent Choice Program**. In addition **Action Team Grant** requests can be made through your local advisor to help purchase supplies, tools, or to finance trips to far away locations should you choose to help some of our building partners this summer with helping hands from your community.

Should you have pictures, potential articles, or video that could benefit from editing before going on our organizational Facebook pages, please send it to Colter McCarty at colter.mccarty@gmail.com

Membership Recruiting... We have spent more time recruiting than ever before. Your efforts are appreciated in providing leads (name, phone number, e-mail, or mailing address). One out of two future Mission Builders come from your efforts. Since our last newsletter we have gained 6 new builders

Miscellaneous... A SD synod initiative....Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries is looking for a skilled retired Mission Builder to work with the Pine Ridge jobs corps teaching people on the reservation home repair/ home construction skills. Interested individuals should contact Rev. Bill Tesch to learn more. 605-351-8098.