

# Campus ministry neighbors come together

By Gayda Hollnagel



**The site of the new Campus Ministry Center (inset) is across the street from student housing.**

**A**fter years of operating across the street from one another, Lutheran Campus Ministry and Crossroads Campus Ministry are joining forces in a new location to provide outreach to La Crosse university and college students.

The new building, to be completed by Thanksgiving, is on the southwest corner of 14th and Pine streets, right in the heart of student housing.

“It was so clear that that’s where we need to be,” said Paul Petersen, pastor of Lutheran Campus Ministry. “We need to be where they live. We’re talking 3,500 students in a two-block radius who actually live there.”

The two ministries purchased the site from a private developer who

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bought their previous properties at 17th and State streets. The two properties, which were converted from private homes, were fine in their day, but over the years campus life has shifted away from the State Street area, Petersen said.

The money from the sales went toward the new \$983,000 building, which is being financed through a combination of congregational and private donations, grants and loans. National Lutheran Campus Ministry Inc. provided a \$100,000 grant, with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund lending \$263,000 toward the project.

The new Campus Ministry Center will include three levels, with space for a coffeehouse, worship center and outdoor patio seating on the main level. A five-bedroom apartment in the lower level will generate income for operating and maintenance costs. The upper level will have offices for both ministries, as well as a reception area, kitchen and meeting space.

The center is expected to be open

seven days a week.

The ecumenical center is a good fit for both ministries but is especially appropriate for Crossroads, which since its founding in 1964 has been co-sponsored by five Protestant denominations: United Methodist, United Church of Christ, American Baptist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“It’s a good day when an ecumenical ministry, like Crossroads United Campus Ministry, is asked to be even more ecumenical,” said Laura Hoglund, Crossroads pastor.

She said the two ministries have been friends for years, sharing the challenges and joys of serving students while struggling with ever

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## Newly ordained

**Paul Petersen, a Lutheran campus minister for 24 years, was ordained June 25 at English Lutheran Church, La Crosse. Petersen, shown with his wife, Lori, after the service, will continue to serve Lutheran Campus Ministry in La Crosse.**

## From the bishop: Together ... together

*All who believed were together. ... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple ... praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved (Acts 2:44-47 selected).*



But I kept hearing “Spirit Fed, Spirit Led.” The Churchwide Assembly focused much discussion on the report of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force and affirmed its findings and recommendations. We committed ourselves to return to the basic focus of congregations being the center of mission for the church. Throughout I kept hearing our verses from June: *Together ... together ... the Lord added to their number.*

It is crucial to the body of Jesus Christ that Jesus lead our congregations. As each congregation reaches into its community, those being reached will see Jesus lives in that congregation. As congregations see that their local needs as part of regional and global needs, they will reinvest in working together as synods, as the ELCA, as part of the great body of Christ throughout the world. As congregations gather together, as Jesus is seen to live in each one,

as the Spirit empowers, inspires, feeds and leads, we will praise God, we will have the goodwill of all the people, and the Lord will add to our number those who are being saved.

Praying, praising and serving with you,  
Jim Arends, bishop

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tightening budgets and competing with the many interests of students today.

“I am excited we are boldly walking over to 14th and Pine together because there our hospitality and unconventional faith journeying will outshine anything we could have done in our own comfortable little settings on 17th and State,” she said. “I’m particularly excited about the opening of a coffeehouse within the new building because I have seen firsthand how a small coffeehouse ministry widens the circle and creates programs that change lives.

“My former church outside of Chicago has continued to sponsor a very vital coffeehouse outreach called Two-Way Street Coffeehouse. We are just beginning, but I dream of such a space on 14th & Pine where our combined ministries create, challenge and inspire faith for today through music-making, edgy dialogue and a holy presence.” □

In June the La Crosse Area Synod met in assembly centered on the Spirit’s power revealed in Acts 2. We celebrated being “Spirit Led, Spirit Fed.” And with glad and generous hearts we thanked our great God for uniting us in a body that together does more for Christ than any one of us could do alone.

In August, the ELCA met in Assembly in Orlando, Fla., under the theme “Freed in Christ to Serve.”

### What’s your story?

**Donna Berry of Peace Lutheran Church in Tomah, Wis., was among several people sharing their faith stories during the 2011 La Crosse Area Synod assembly. The theme of the assembly, held at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, was “Spirit Fed, Spirit Led.” Berry told of several struggles in her life, beginning at age 8, with the death of her father in an accident. She said she never would have been able to survive all the sorrow without God. “He’s always there,” she said. “He takes the burden off your shoulders.”**



This supplement is sponsored by the La Crosse Area Synod, Bethany Lutheran Homes and Raising up Leaders. To share your stories, contact: Gayda Hollnagel, N5061 Sunset Vista Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650; 608-783-5131; [ghollnagel@yahoo.com](mailto:ghollnagel@yahoo.com).

# Bethany Lutheran Homes

## Living a Full Life

### Mission Statement

Bethany Lutheran Homes provides a continuum of quality compassionate care; Meeting the physical, social and spiritual needs of those we serve...

### Great People, Great Care!

Bethany Lutheran Homes, a corporation comprised of 23 member churches and affiliated with Gundersen Lutheran Health System offers a wide range of care, from independent living, assisted living, dementia/Alzheimer's care to skilled nursing. We have earned a reputation for exceptional care of those we serve through our unique programming and dedicated staff.

### History

Bethany Lutheran Homes of La Crosse, Wisconsin was conceived in the hearts and minds of men and women who said, "We need a home for the aging to live in peace and dignity, where a Christian philosophy will be the guide." Bethany Lutheran Homes began as a dream over sixty years ago.



Bethany Lutheran Homes has several housing options available to the elderly. These options include Independent Apartments, Residential Care Apartment Complexes, Community Based Residential Facilities and a Skilled Nursing Facility.

**Independent Living Plus Apartments** are provided for individuals who continue to make their own decisions and choices. Upon request, personal, supportive and nursing services are made available for the residents.

**Residential Care Apartment Complexes** provide each resident with an independent apartment that are homelike and residential in character. Personal, supportive and nursing services are made available for the residents. Each apartment has an individual, lockable entrance and exit; a kitchen, individual bathroom, sleeping and living areas. It provides residents up to 28 hours per week of personal, supportive and nursing services.

**Community Based Residential Facilities** provides care, treatment, and other services to five or more unrelated adults who need supportive or protective services or supervision because they cannot or do not wish to live independently. This type of facility is limited to those who do not require care above intermediate nursing care or more than 3 hours of nursing care per week.

**Skilled Nursing Facilities** are state certified health care facilities that provide 24-hour care for residents who need more than 7 hours a week of nursing or personal care. Residents may be admitted for short term respite or recuperative stays, or for long term care for chronic conditions.

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# La Crosse Area

I have always had a fascination for hands. Maybe it is the artist in me, maybe not.

They seem to speak and comfort without words. We use them to relate to us in the church: God's work. Our hands.



There is a border in the synod office building that I originally meant to be Christ's body forming a cross reaching out to us, and then multiplying it to form a border. While I was painting it, the hands were added last. To date, some of the border has hands and some don't. It is unfinished or maybe not. This has led to many conversations. Some people think they should have hands, reaching out to each other to show support in working together and service to others. Others say, no, for we are the hands of God. I have really come to enjoy the conversations this visioning inspires, which brings me to Raising Up Leaders in our synod. Interesting, the logo, designed before I came on board, has no hands.

I'm starting my fifth year in the La Crosse Area Synod. In those years, I've learned the great truth to God working through our hands. One example is the great blessing of hands, of all generations, that prayed and made many beautiful prayer scarves for the synod's confirmation students at last year's ConFESTs (Confirmation Festival). Always needed are your hands as Authentic/Affirming/Available Christians to walk with others in Christ.



I have used the above-mentioned border for a visual with our upcoming ConFEST. To emphasize the date, 11-11-11, (Nov. 11, 2011) and the service we will be doing.



The theme: Because we have been "WON by ONE" who serves us, we will serve others side-by-side, 1 by 1, hands outreached together! Christians working and walking together, empowered by the Spirit.

Hands play an important part in raising our children, to hold, nurture and guide. We invite you to come, empower your hands to be the guide and support for growing in the body of Christ with our youngest members, birth to 3. LET THE CHILDREN COME, Saturday, Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., First Lutheran in Onalaska.

Hands comfort, sooth and hold in love and caring. Hands give strength, support and stability to begin walking for the very young and continue walking for the experienced. As we develop worship and educational experiences for the very young, might we also help our elders just as we use our hands in helping to walk.

A memory I hold dear is of my father's hands, strong and full of character with their crooked short fingers and wide palms. I delight now to see similar hands that are my son's. My father alive in him. Similarly, our Father is alive in us. Jesus said to the people in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

In these tough times of confusion, struggle and hurt let the Holy Spirit guide you to the ones who need the comfort and strength God's promise brings. God may be using your hands to be that light of life to others or it may be the young hands of the one texting messages next to you that will comfort you. Be bold, open up your hands and life to reach out and shine God's light and salvation to those around you.

To learn more from any of these paragraphs, to learn more about Triple A Christians, to ask questions, or offer your hands in ministry, please check out our synod website [www.lacrosseareasynd.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynd.org) or contact Rocky Danielson, director for Raising Up Leaders at [rul@lacrosseareasynd.org](mailto:rul@lacrosseareasynd.org) or call 507-450-8702.