

LOVE ON THE MOVE

by
Dave and Loretta Lundy

*Circle Leaders
Alexandria, MN
District III*

Our Love Circle began the year 2003 with a progressive dinner to promote participation and enthusiasm for our local lovers. Nine of our ten couples participated, traveling to three different homes for the various courses of our Love Feast. The script from the "Romantic Dinner" (ask your District Executive Couples for a copy) was used for our open sharing. This provided a warm, wonderful time of fellowship. At the dessert course, we passed around a slip asking couples to sign up for the next six months to host or give the presentation and all slots were filled! What an exciting evening!



LIFE IS A JOURNEY . . . BOTH TODAY AND TOMORROW

Life is a journey through many terrain,
From gardens of pleasure to deserts of pain.
From an ocean of love to a jungle of hate,
From Mountains of glory to canyons of fate.

I've been to the garden and planted seeds
there,
I've been to the desert and felt the despair.
I've swam in the ocean and drank of it's wine.

I've climbed up the mountain to touch the sky,
I went to the canyon and started to cry.
I've traveled both highways,
Both today and tomorrow.
I've basked in the joy and wallowed in sorrow.

My path has been chosen and
I've walked it with care.
I followed my heart and I'm on my way there.
So I'll just keep on walking till I find what I'm
after,
To mountains and oceans and
Gardens of laughter.

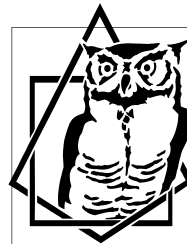
—author unknown

Finding Good Material



from *Ina and Tom
Berkey*
*National Capital Area
District I*

Finding good material for Spiral programs is an ongoing challenge. This is an idea for a wonderful program resource for use with Spirals/Love Circles... "*Meditations of Marriage*" is a six session CD series by Pastor Walt Wangerin, Jr., an award winning author and storyteller in Lutheran circles, formerly on the faculty at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Each twenty minute talk, first heard on the Lutheran Vespers radio series, is accompanied by a study guide which gives the text, scripture reference and prayers. We found the CD's easy to follow and captivating. The set is available from Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 312.380.2967 ext. 2967. A donation of \$25 is requested.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Simple Sabbath Practices

*Wayne Muller. "Remember the Sabbath?"
USA WEEKEND, April 2-4, 1999*

- ♦ **Seek companionship.** One of the most precious gifts we can offer is to be a place of refuge, a Sabbath for one another. Ask for companionship when you lose your way. Give quiet time and attention to others.
- ♦ **Surrender a problem.** The Sabbath reminds us that forces larger than ourselves are at work healing the world. Imagine that these forces already know how to solve your problem. Turn it over to their care.
- ♦ **Make love with your spouse.** Walk barefoot in the grass. The Sabbath is a day of delight!

MORE "Circles of Love"...

"LOVE FLOAT" CIRCLE

By Doug and Leanne Fox
District III

Would you travel 40 to 50 miles to participate in a Marriage Encounter Love Circle? Numerous couples of all faiths think nothing of traveling once a month to participate in the Love Float Circle of North Central Nebraska.

Approximately 20 years ago a newly encountered Catholic couple – Bruce and Veta Hungerford of Long Pine, Nebraska – returned from their encounter weekend determined to keep the flame burning. They invited **couples of all faiths** to experience a weekend – searching out weekends of different faith expressions. From these seeds the circle sprouted and grew and grew. The motto of this circle has always been – any

and all encountered couples are welcome. When homes are not large enough to host the group, churches or other community facilities have been used. If only two couples are able to attend – circle goes on. Each year all circle members are invited to host and give a presentation sometime throughout the year. Yet, if a couple is not able to host or is not comfortable giving a presentation they know they are still welcome to participate in the monthly meetings.

From this determined group of lovers came the infamous "Love Float" – it will be 20 years this summer of encountered couples and their families gathering for a fun-filled family weekend of camping, tubing the scenic Niobrara River, and lots of fun and fellowship. Visualize 50 plus super tubes, tied into groups, floating down the river like small rafts (hence the "love float"). Word continues to spread about this unique family focused weekend with encountered couples and families attending from all surrounding states and many planning their family vacation around the experience.

For information about the Love Float which is scheduled for the first weekend in August or to learn more about the "success story" of this ME Love Circle, contact **Doug & Leanne Fox**, Box 142, Bassett, Nebraska 68714 or e-mail dlfox@huntel.net.

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NORTH AMERICAN BOARD

NAB HIGHLIGHTS

MEETS IN HOUSTON.....

The North American Board convened January 30, 31 and February 1, 2003 in Houston, Texas. Five new District Executive Couples were welcomed and commissioned to the Board. From District I are Ed and Emily Kast, Clergy and David and Jean Fell, Lay; from District III, Dave and Elsa Larson, Clergy; District V, John and Nancy Orwig, Clergy, and Mark and Kari Hooper, Lay.

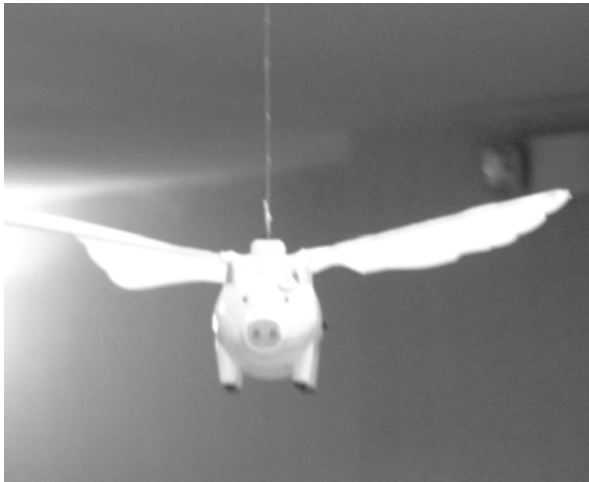


Left to right: Orwigs, Hoopers, Larsons, Fells and Kasts.

Dividing into small groups, we continued to share ideas and creative ways to enhance inviting, post weekend activities and love circles. Much time was devoted to improving clergy awareness of the ministry of Lutheran Marriage Encounter and the vision to strengthen marriages and build the Church.

The National Board of the Catholic Expression was meeting at the same time and location. We were able to coordinate a joint dinner of the two boards. Our district executives were able to meet and dine with the various Section leaders from their own areas. What a delightful experience and true taste of an interfaith experience that we often talk about.

The experience of the couples already on the board, plus the energy and enthusiasm of the new district leaders made our time together productive, enlightening and spirit-filled.



We laughed together as District I introduced us to "ATAPIG" (All Things Are Possible In God).

We cried and prayed together as we heard about the loss of the crew of the Columbia space shuttle.

All of us are honored to be leaders working together....**WE HAVE A DREAM!**



**FLY,
BABY—
FLY!**



LAFF ALONG . . .

A couple at their 60th anniversary was asked the secret of their marriage. Husband said, "When we were married we agreed. I would make all the major decisions and my wife would do minor ones and in 60 yrs of marriage we have never needed to make a major decision!"



EXTRA ♥ RDINARY L ♥ VE R ♥ CKS
... and r ♥ lls!!!

Coming in July, 2004
International
Lutheran Marriage
Encounter
Family Reunion

FOOB, FUN,
FELLOWSHIP,
WORSHIP
AND
SURPRISES

CLOSE TO:
CEDAR POINT,
SIX FLAGS
AMUSEMENT
PARKS,
ZOOS,
MUSEUMS

A great weekend
is being planned
for everyone
including a
children's
program!!!!

Plan **NOW** to come to Cleveland, Ohio for fun on the "North Coast" in the Home of Rock and Roll.
So Many More details to follow!!!
Co-Coordinator:
George & Pat Deveny 440-953-0076
Bob & Renae Schondel 330-335-6809

**A WEDDING IS
JUST A DAY,
BUT A MARRIAGE
IS A LIFETIME.**



**WHAT IS
LUTHERAN ENGAGED ENCOUNTER?**

The Engaged Encounter weekend is a positive and personal experience for an engaged couple, a weekend away with other engaged couples, with plenty of time alone together to build a closer relationship. It is designed to give couples planning marriage the opportunity to talk honestly and intensively in a face-to-face way about their future life together, their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, and their role in church and society.

For information, contact:
George & Barbara Winterfeld
gbwin@bendnet.com or go to website: www.ilme.org/EE

