

*Discovering a Deeper SELF...continued*

found that we were all comfortable completing tasks behind the scenes.

Pastor Al made concluding remarks and encouraged those that wanted to learn more about the Enneagram to take the journey and enjoy their findings.



Later, I went back to Dr. Sager's information and realized that in the journey of the day, he led me "home" and my actions throughout the day reinforced the power of the Enneagram at helping people identify traits associated with their personality style. It also opened up many new doors of insight and understanding of what makes others behave as they do. So, THANK YOU Dr. Sager, Pastor Sager, Al, my friend for engaging me during this journey and during a time of national tragedy so that I may find myself on the Enneagram. While I will long remember the location I was when Columbia was lost, it will be with fond memories knowing I was among friends, in a place of love and on a journey of deeper self discovery.

*For additional information about Al and his Enneagram workshop please contact: asager@columbus.rr.com or give him a call at 614.882.1998.*

*[Ed. note: Dr. Sager, a licensed presenter of the Enneagram, is recently retired from 30 years on the faculty of ELCA's Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH, Prior to coming to Trinity as Professor of Contextual Education, Al served several years as a parish pastor in Texas. Al and his wife Erline (recently retired Specialist Principal with the Columbus Schools) were long time clergy presenters on ILME Weekends. In addition to presenting LME Weekends nationally, they presented workshops on dialoguing, served a term on the North American Executive Team as Clergy and a term as International LME Clergy Executives.]*

## CHECK IT OUT



District I  
is PROUD to ANNOUNCE  
A NEW WEBPAGE !

The attractive and informative site can be accessed  
at  
[www.ilmeone.org](http://www.ilmeone.org).

Many thanks to the talented John McLaughlin for volunteering his time and skills for this worthwhile outreach.



**“Faith is not just  
a matter of understanding God, but  
of experiencing the real presence of  
the holy.**

**It is not just a matter of saying what  
we believe, but of living what we  
believe, practicing what we preach.  
Faith is the mortar that binds us to  
others who have made a covenant  
with the same creator and parent.  
Faith is what empowers us to dare to  
share what matters most with others  
who are searching for meaning and  
purpose in their lives.”**

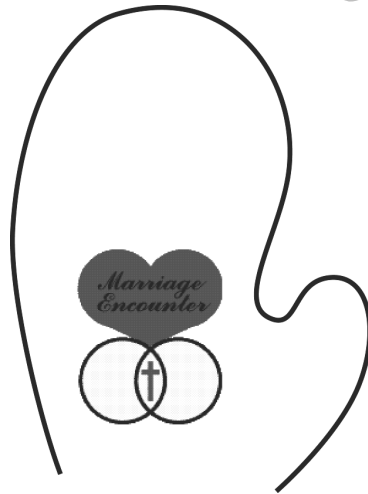
*From Grace Adolphsen Brame's book,  
“Faith, the Yes of the Heart..”  
Augsburg Fortress, 1999*



# DISTRICT I REUNION

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER PRESENTS:

M.E. IN GOD'S PALM



**AUGUST 1-3, 2003**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS,  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

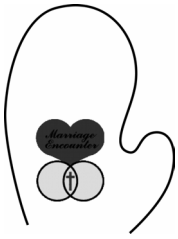
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**FRED & BARB ROUSH**

**7366 ONEIDA ROAD**

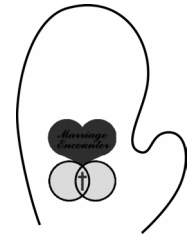
**CHARLOTTE, MI 48813**

**(517-645-2266 or [barbroush@aol.com](mailto:barbroush@aol.com))**



# M.E. IN GOD'S PALM LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

DISTRICT I REUNION  
AUGUST 1-3, 2003



**Location:** Beautiful Campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

List the names of those attending (as you wish them **to appear on nametags**):

Name of adults attending:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:		Email:
Names of children attending/age:			Age:
Names of children attending/age:			Age:
Names of children attending/age:			Age:
Names of children attending/age:			Age:

**Accommodations:**

A dorm room consists of 2 single beds and 1 twin lounge; a bath is shared with adjacent dorm room.

*Sorry, there is no air conditioning; you are welcome to bring a fan.*

Dorm & Reunion Prices	Before June 1	After June 1	
One Couple	\$186.00	\$196.00	\$ ____
One Youth (11-18 yrs) <i>Single occupancy</i>	\$ 88.00	\$ 98.00	\$ ____
One Youth (11-18 yrs) <i>Double occupancy</i>	\$ 75.00	\$ 85.00	\$ ____
One Child (under 10) <i>staying in parent's room</i>	\$ 61.00	\$ 71.00	\$ ____
<b>Per Person Reunion &amp; Meals Only (for those not staying in dorms)</b>	<b>Before June 1</b>	<b>After June 1</b>	
Reunion & Meals Only	\$ 51.00	\$ 61.00	\$ ____

If you wish to share an adjacent dorm room with a specific family, please send in your forms together.

List other family below:

Family sharing suite with:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

**Conference & Meal Information:**

Conference & Meal tickets for: # _____ adults # _____ children
--

Please list any special needs (such as persons with disabilities, allergies, dietary considerations):

--

**Other Accommodations:**

\_\_\_\_\_ We would like information about campgrounds.

\_\_\_\_\_ We would like information about area hotels.

**TO SECURE RESERVATIONS, DEPOSIT OF \$100.00 IS REQUIRED.  
NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN AFTER JULY 1, 2003.**

Please make your check payable to: Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Mail payment & registration form to: Fred & Barb Roush, 7366 Oneida Road, Charlotte, MI 48813  
(517) 645-2266 or barbroush@aol.com



"SEX" continued...

A. Briefly go through this list and mention how each of these elements has brought you closer sexually as male-female. (This is not merely in the sex act.)

B. Point out the fact that sexuality in a 24 hour relationship ties into the other aspects of our day-work, dialogue, children, the house, encounter activities, conversation, entertaining, church, decision-making, fighting, social activities, family crises, etc.

1. Select one of these areas and share some of the ways you see a need to bring the elements you use in sexuality into this area. (Ex. - We certainly allow our children to see us fight - but do we allow them to see us make love? Or pet? Or sneak a feel? Or be physical at all? Are **each** of us physical with each of them?)

2. Share what effects bringing these elements of sexuality into this area has on our relationship.

**PART TWO:**

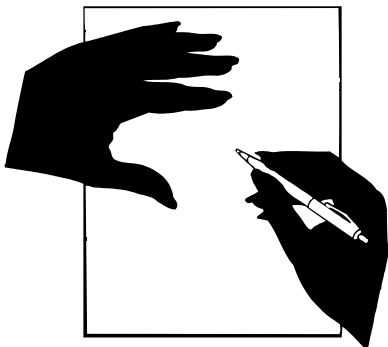
Using sexuality (the total male-female of us) as a resource for our relationship, point out the fact that through our sexuality we learn a lot about each other, and that this information can be valuable when we use it in order to love each other more.

1. Share a specific way I learned through sexuality a way I could be more for you. (Ex. - not being able to verbalize my feelings during lovemaking yet being quite verbal otherwise. How we worked on this **together**, and that **change** is necessary.)

2. Share how I can use this knowledge, how I try to reach out to you, as we do in dialogue, to share the experience and grow.

3. Share the joys of this reaching out.

**10/10:** In what area of our sexuality do I need to be more open with you? HDIFAMA?



**SHARING:** How has our awareness of our total sexuality as man and woman influenced the other areas of our lives?

WUV

BYTES

**THE BEST POSITIONS**  
from Christianitytoday.com

What position is best for communicating with your spouse—face-to-face or side-by-side? Bottom Line Personal says that depends on whether you're a man or a woman. Women love to talk face-to-face, while men usually prefer side-by-side. No wonder guys like to talk about important stuff while driving. And no wonder women hate it when their men tend to move away when discussions get personal. Watch your own body language and comfort zone—and your spouse's—and try to incorporate both approaches. More variety in your positions will spice up your communication life...*both verbally and NON-verbally!!!*



A man is driving with his wife at his side and his mother-in-law in the backseat. The women just won't leave him alone. His mother-in-law says, "You're driving too fast!"

His wife says, "Stay more to the left."

After ten mixed orders, the man turns to his wife and asks,

"Who's driving this car - you or your mother?"



+++++  
"What do you love most about me," a husband asked his wife, "my great athletic ability or my quick intellect?"  
"What I love most about you," responded the wife, "is your enormous sense of humor."

*"One thing that you do that makes me laugh is \_\_\_\_\_?"*  
*How do I feel telling you this?*

Y  
C  
I  
3  
D  
F



H  
C  
O  
A  
3  
D  
F

OHIO Area LME Family Campout — August, 2002

We want to share this photo with you from last summer’s Family Campout. Hopefully, it will get your juices stirring to get geared up for a similar event in YOUR AREA! This event turned out to be a big “HIT” for all 99 people (25 families) that participated. We had every type of camping shelter from tents to motor homes, in use on this fun filled weekend. The weather was perfect for the three day event which was held at Cutty’s Sunset Camping Resort in Louisville, OH.

The dates reserved for this summer’s event for Ohio Area Lovers as well as any other Encountered “Families” that would like to join us are from Friday, July 18th through Sunday the 19th, 2003. This promises to be as fun-filled as it has been from the past two years. We encourage all of our Marriage Encounter friends to attend a marriage enriching, community enhancing and family strengthening events whenever and wherever you can.

With much love...God bless your hearts,  
**Steve and Sue Rufe**, Ohio Area Presenting Couple Coordinators - email: [srufe@juno.com](mailto:srufe@juno.com)



## MARRIAGE IS LIKE A GARDEN

*by Ron and Kristen DeYoung  
Gig Harbor, WA —District V*

Marriage is like a garden in the summer (full of new life); like a garden in the fall (dying plants ready to be pruned); like a garden in the winter (things appear dead and buried but with a little tender care they will be fully alive again); and like a garden in the springtime (with new life breaking through).

Each “marriage garden” is unique and made up of different plants. Each garden looks different, depending on what plants are in it and what was left there from seasons past (childhood experiences). No matter what your garden looks like, the ground must be nurtured and cultivated in order to produce the fruits (you and me) that God intended to grow. It is important when we take care of our garden, we bring in fresh soil so the roots have a healthy start.



“Marriage Is Like A Garden” continued....

What does your garden look like? Does it need a bit of fertilizer?

A couple of years ago, our “marriage garden” was growing with nice, healthy plants. It was producing good fruit, but the fruit could have been much better. We decided to invest in some new garden tools. One weekend in late May, we attended a Marriage Encounter. It was like walking into a tool shed. It was so exciting.



We discovered that we had many of the necessary tools that we need. Our weekend was a time for us to refresh ourselves on just how to use them. During the weekend, we spent time gathering the tools together so that we could move the dirt around a bit and bring in some new soil. This weekend experience gave us new hope for the plants that looked dead on the outside but still had life running through them.



New tools are fun when you first get them and experiment with them to see just how they will work. And the best part is seeing what they will bring forth in the way of new growth and new fruit. It is so rewarding to find out they work great if you use them correctly. You will be so glad that you invested the time and money in them.

Our garden was growing fast. We had fertilized it, and it was beginning to show signs of new life. The plants were growing healthier than before. There were seeds sprouting up in our garden that we didn't even know existed. What joy it brought us after thirteen years of marriage to see new growth. It was not without some weeds, we must confess. This new growth that has taken place by fertilizing our garden has been fantastic. We have been blessed by the fruits our garden continues to produce and look forward to the new growth that takes place daily.



It is always important to work in the garden. Sometimes we just don't make the time. “It can wait until later,” we say to ourselves. We are busy taking

care of other things that need to be done (job, kids, church activities, friends, sports, etc.). We know the weeds are growing like crazy, but there



are other things to do. So we settle for digging through the weeds to harvest the fruits. It seems like no big deal at the time, until you go to the garden and are ready to care for it, only to find out that the weeds have choked out the plants, and there is no longer any life in them to produce fruit.



How does your Marriage Garden grow? What are you using to fertilize it? Treat yourself to one of the best fertilizers on the market...“MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER.” We now know how to use the tools given to us by God to handle the weeds that are bound to grow. After twenty years of being in a relationship with each other, our garden is producing hearty and healthy fruit!



## Lutheran Marriage Encounter Mission Statement

**Lutheran Marriage Encounter is a ministry dedicated to assisting married couples to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing an Encounter Weekend experience as well as ongoing community support.**

## Vision Statement

**The Lutheran Church renewed and our world changed through strengthened couple relationships and stronger personal relationships with Christ.**

## ILME FINANCE COUPLES

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jschmehl@cvn.net

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618-656-6645

## *Prayer Sponsor Couple . . .*

### *Is it a gift or ministry?*

**D**id you ever wonder if being a prayer sponsor couple is a gift or a ministry? Well—it's both! We minister to couples by giving them the gift of prayer and support. We pray for them as they anticipate their weekend, during their weekend and after their weekend. We give them follow up calls to see how they are doing with their dialogue and send them love notes to let them know they are loved and not forgotten. We support them with encouragement to not only dialogue but also to attend circles and stay active in the LME Community. When we do this we feel the everlasting hands of God touch us and the gift becomes ours. It renews the fire within our marriage and brightens the blessings we share with our spouse.

Remember how wonderful you felt when you opened your prayer couple's letter? When you are called to minister to a couple and be gifted by this prayer ministry, say "YES!" The weekend is not possible without prayer sponsor couples and therefore is not possible without YOU.

### **THANKS FOR HEARING GOD'S CALL TO SERVE!**

*This well written article is "lovingly lifted" from the Houston, TX Area newsletter "HEARTBEAT" Thanks to the writers! Send us a copy of your Area newsletters for inclusion in this internationally shared magazine. Mail copies to:*

**Bill & Kay Morrissey**  
800 Branford Road  
Troy, OH 45373

## **YOUR GIFTS TO THE ENDOWMENT-DREAM FUND WILL HELP KEEP ILME ALIVE!**

There are many ways to give: Life Insurance, Real Estate, Securities, Memorial Gifts, Wills, IRAs, Personal property.

For details contact:  
Endowment Dream Fund  
Lutheran Marriage  
Encounter  
P.O. Box 510-335  
St. Louis, MO 63151