

# LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER DISTRICT REPORT

For July, 2017 NAR, ILME & Interfaith Meetings

*(PLEASE SUBMIT TO RUFES NO LATER THAN June 1, 2017)*

## ROSTERS:

*Please attach current rosters.*

## WEEKENDS HELD (November, 2016-May, 2017): *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u># couples</u>	<u># Lutheran</u>	<u># Lutheran</u>	<u># Presenters</u>
				<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<i>(+ Faith Expression if Not Lutheran)</i>
February 3-5, 2017	Lincoln, NE	Holiday Inn Exp.	11	12	0	4 all Lutheran
February 17-19, 2017	Brooklyn Center, MN	Double Tree	15	25	0	4 all Lutheran
April 28-30, 2017	Brooklyn Center, MN	Double Tree	18	19	0	4 all Lutheran

## WEEKENDS SCHEDULED: *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Dates</u>	<u>City/State</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
October 13-15, 2017	St. Cloud, MN	Holiday Inn	New Area
Nov. 3-5, 2017	Sioux Falls, SD	Quality Inn and Suites	
Feb, 2018	Kansas (city TBD)		Outreach Weekend
Feb. 16-18	Brooklyn Center, MN	Double Tree Hilton	
April 20-22	New Ulm, MN		New Area
October 12-14, 2017	Spicer, MN.	Green Lake Retreat Center	

## PRESENTING COUPLE STRENGTH: *(By Area within your District)*

<u>Area</u>	<u>#Clergy</u>	<u>#3<sup>rd</sup> Set</u>	<u>#2<sup>nd</sup> Set</u>	<u>#1<sup>st</sup> Set</u>	<u>#LOA</u>	<u>#Not CPO Encounter Ready</u>
Nebraska	1	1	2	1 (from KS)	0	1 writing 1 <sup>st</sup> set, 3 <sup>rd</sup> set couple needing to complete CPO
MN/WI	1	1	2	3	1 clergy	1 2 <sup>nd</sup> set to finish 1 <sup>st</sup> set

## 5 POINT-GOLD STAR THRUST TO THRIVE UPDATES:

*What are you doing/planning in your District/Areas to thrive in the following 5 areas. Include personal, couple, Area, and District endeavors.*

**Prayer:** *Include specific prayer plans/activities/other.*

*Nebraska held a presentation on prayer at their last Presenter/Area Board meeting. They encouraged/challenged all to be intentional in their couple prayer. Minnesota continues to pray for couples to hear the call to attend weekends and be deliberate in their focus on each other and their relationship.*

**Personal Development:** *What kinds of things are you doing/planning/do you recommend we incorporate in order to thrive in leadership in LME and in life? Weekend to remember is popular in Nebraska. Jim and Jill Steinke attended this seminar to compare and grow in communication and other areas. They report that LME is a MUCH BETTER experience but there is room for both organizations. Nebraska also suggests we continue to build up leadership-some direction on finding video/written material on leadership tactics (maybe Ted Talk on You Tube) would be helpful.*

**Pre-Encounter Excellence:** *Include inviting/recruiting/publicity/Pre-Encounter Contacts, etc.*

*Both Larsons and Steinkes have and will lead couples' study at their own churches. We try to make connections with local churches my email/phone/personal visit as each weekend approaches. Minnesota has focused on encouraging couples from the Weekends to act as a church contact couple, asking them to put information in their bulletins, monthly newsletters, on their media screens before services. Guilfoiles keep these couples supplied with brochures and are willing to go for Temple talks, etc.*

**Encounter Excellence:** *What are you doing /planning to insure excellence in the Encounter Experience?*

*Both Nebraska and Minnesota are focused on providing privacy, good food, a quality facility and comfort to those who attend the weekend. Hospitality is huge for us as is offering our services for questions, reassurance*

*and guidance. We believe the power point has been an excellent tool in helping to achieve understanding of the ME process.*

**Post-Encounter Excellence:** *What is being done/planned to engage/support the newly encountered?*

*It continues to be difficult to encourage couples to become involved in post weekend activities due to busy lives, etc. Couples have “buy in” on the idea of making time for each other but do not grasp the concept of needing to surround themselves with the support of others with similar values. When we get to this part of the ME experience they tend to look at this as we are asking them to add one more activity to their busy lives. Also, they live a distance from others, so getting involved in Journey groups or Love Circles become a matter of distance as well as time.*

**ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/BEST PRACTICES:**

*Include things you are piloting or plan to pilot. If tried, please include observations/results.*

*Minnesota has had difficulty for a long time with the Post Weekend Renewal so this summer we are hosting a Summer Picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Dan and Kelli Pederson’s farm in Sauk Rapids, MN. which is in Central MN. Dan and Kelli are presenters. We have been specific about inviting couples from the last 3 weekends, with special invitations along with a general invitation in our local publication, notes to Love Circles and churches*

*Nebraska continues to have camping trips twice a year. They encourage invitation of non encountered couples and families.*

**ENRICHMENTS/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

**CPO ACTIVITIES:**

*In what ways are you connecting with other WWME Faith Expressions?*

*In Nebraska, the Methodist website couple lives close to Lincoln and they are invited to the local presenter Board meetings. They assist each other with weekends as prayer couples. There is also a local SDA couple who is eager to be a prayer couple for LME weekends and another SDA couple out state who is willing to drive several hours to come to a sing-off.*

**VARIETY OF MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCES:**

*If you’re holding or considering anything other than the traditional Weekend, please include here.*

**UPDATES TO SHARE:**

**STRENGTHS AND HOW WE APPLIED THEM:**

*In both Minnesota and Nebraska, the leadership communities are strong and supportive of one another. In Nebraska especially, distance is an issue and they are only able to meet face to face a couple of time per year.*

**WEAKNESSES AND HOW WE ADDRESSED THEM:** *In both areas, the lack of community support is an ongoing issue. We ask couples off the weekends but few want to get involved. The community that we have is aging. We praise God for the dedication of those still involved and pray for the spark that will ignite others. We continue to count our blessings for the presenters who do so much already and continue to step in and take over unfilled community positions.*

**SUCCESSES / PROBLEMS SOLVED / OBSTACLES OVERCOME:** *In Nebraska, they are thankful for a new couple who said YES! to being newsletter editors. They are celebrating this and are helping them get off the ground.*

**CHALLENGES WE FACE / PROBLEMS THAT NEED SOLVING:**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** *For Kyle and Amy who have written EWS by have not been able to write any further. They are teachers so hopefully this Summer will allow them some writing time.*

**HELP DESIRED:**

In looking at the Weekend, both of our areas are finding the mealtime table questions are not always helpful. The couples are at times in need of a break. The questions are often awkward and cumbersome. Some questions no longer seem relevant. While they can be a lead in to knowing how couples are responding to the weekend, it seems it would be nice to have a few “ice breaker” questions at each meal in addition to the ME experience questions. What are other areas doing?

In Nebraska, when Weekends are held in a new area, it is usually the closest presenting couple (and sometimes the newest presenter) who takes on the role of facility couple and prayer couple coordinator. This can be overwhelming. Does anyone have any suggestions?