



THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter

September, 2014

Editors: Larry and Coke Guilfoile, North American Region Presenting Couple Coordinators

Email: lme2some@frontiernet.net

Phone: 651-257-6960



New District 1 Clergy Contact Couple: Ed and Emily Kast



Ed and Emily are from Saginaw, Michigan. Ed and Emily have written a presentation called "Support the Dream that encourages all encountered alumni to make ongoing financial contributions to Lutheran Marriage Encounter. Watch for its posting on the ilme.org website once the NAR Board minutes are written. In the mean time, email us if you would like a copy. All are encouraged to use this presentation at their

Community Small Groups, Area Boards, Love Circles, District meetings or where ever Encountered couples gather.



LME WEEKENDS GUIDELINES

Presenting Couples were asked to share their thoughts and feelings earlier this Summer on what constitutes a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend, what makes a presenting couple Lutheran, and should non-Lutherans be asked to become presenters. The NAR Board adopted the following guidelines for LME Weekends at their meeting in August 2014:

"The norm for our weekends shall be:

4 Lutheran Presenting Couple presenting

Holy Communion for team on Friday

Holy Communion for the Encountered on Sunday PM

Exceptions for areas shall be determined by the District Boards/Execs. Examples are:

- Clergy Presenting Couples are always Lutheran (except for emergency).
- Small weekends may have only 2 or 3 Presenting Couples.
- 1 or 2 Presenting Couples can be non-Lutheran.
- Weekend recruits for presenting may be non-Lutheran.
- A Lutheran spouse married to a non-Lutheran spouse are considered to be a Lutheran Presenting Couple.
- Presenting Couples must be active in a Christian Church.
- Confession/Healing may replace Holy Communion on some weekends.
- Holy Communion is the norm on Friday eve with Team unless the Pastor is uncomfortable with it.
- When using only 2 Lutheran Presenting Couples, the Lay couple will be the Admin couple.

In order to be a Lutheran Weekend two of the Presenting Couples must be Lutheran."

More information on these guidelines can be found on the ilme.org web site.

Areas from around the country report success with calling post weekend groups "Community Small Groups", "LME Small Groups", or "Jorney Groups" instead of "Love Spirals" or "Love Circles".



ALSO AT NAR:

- Some areas are ending the weekend with a "Service of Forgiveness and Healing" instead of a worship service that includes communion. A sample service will be posted on the ilme.org website. Until that happens contact us and we will email you a copy.
- A statement was also adopted regarding Same Sex Married Couples. At this time LME defines marriage as the union between one man and one woman. The complete statement can be found on the ilme.org website with the first part being adopted as part of the by-laws and statements 2-4 adopted as additional information only.



NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1

Several ideas presented to regularly invest in the Dream including "Donate your Dimes" or "Toss in Your Tens". Think 10&10 like in John Chapter 10, verse 10: "I came that they may have life and live it abundantly." Couples are invited to keep all the dimes they receive as change throughout the year in a special container. Then on October 10th the dimes are donated to LME.

DISTRICT 2

The Dallas/Fort Worth area changed the format of the Continuing Our Journey presentation. At the end of the talk the presenters take a moment to give the usual brief fact about themselves. Then the couples circle up and sing "There's A New World Somewhere". The community comes in and the prayer couple ceremony follows. Additional chairs are brought in and the community supports the newly

encountered couples by participating in the Sunday afternoon service. Following the service all participate in a cake reception. The reaction has been very positive. A heartfelt solidification of the LME community and an affirmation of unity was the common experience.

DISTRICT 3

A non-weekend (Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon) was held in June, 2014, in Minneapolis. 16 clergy and two lay couples attended the weekend. All were excited about what the weekend did for their relationships and were eager to share LME with their congregations. There have been many requests for brochures and the plan is to try another non-weekend in 2015.

DISTRICT 4

Weekends continue around the area and some weekends have been held jointly with our Methodist brothers and sisters. The CPO is making that possible. Paul and Beth Lynn Lindstrom have accepted the loving task of maintaining the International Prayer Vigil. Thank you, Paul and Beth Lynn.



John and Nancy and Don and Judy enjoyed time in Turku, Finland for the ILME Family Reunion. They were given this banner to bring back as a memory of their trip. The swans are the national bird of Finland. Ask John about his experience in the hot tub!



REMINDER TO PRESENTERS:

If you move, change phone numbers or emails, etc. be sure to let your area presenting couple coordinators know so they can pass on the information to the DPCCs who will update us. We want to keep

ILME PRAYER CHAIN:

Anyone wishing to become part of the ILME Prayer Chain or anyone who has a prayer request contact Jim and Pam Bush at BUSH905C@aol.com

DEEPER WEEKEND REMINDER: Lutheran Deepers are now being combined with the Methodists, so the next Deeper will be presented by the Methodist Clergy and Lay Couple and is scheduled for Nov. 7-9, 2014 in Texas. Lutheran registrations should go to Dave and Elsa Larson at: delarson@windststream.net