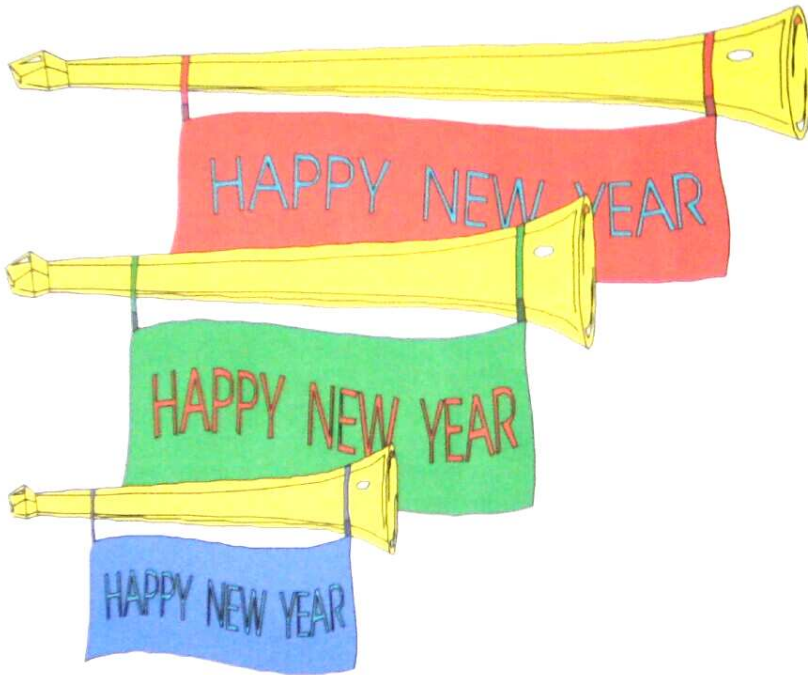




# THE PRESENTER HOTLINE

North American Lutheran Marriage Encounter Presenter Newsletter  
January, 2009

Editors: Fred & Julie Schamber, North American Region Presenting Couple Coordinators  
Email: [fischamber@comcast.net](mailto:fischamber@comcast.net) Phone: 724-325-3166



As we begin this new year, we thank God for each of you and for your continued dedication to the ministry of Marriage Encounter. May it be a year filled with blessings for you and for Marriage Encounter!

Do you have couples in your area planning to attend a Deeper? Following are some reminders:

- The next Deeper is coming up very soon: **January 9-12**, at the Holiday Inn in Houston with the following one scheduled for **September 18-21**. Please keep Deeper Coordinators, Dave & Elsa Larson, at [delarson@windstream.net](mailto:delarson@windstream.net) or phone 402-483-5404 informed of couples in your area preparing to attend a Deeper.
- Couples attending the Deeper are to write the Deeper Homework questions and also the Self talk III: A,B,C, & D. This is to be workshopped and sent back to the writers, but no re-writing is necessary before the Deeper. These writings plus the registration form should be sent to the APCC, then on to Larsons.
- Also, if you would like to schedule a Deeper Deeper (very inspirational weekend for presenters), contact the Larsons.

## **JANUARY DEEPER WEEKEND**

**Deeper Coordinators Dave & Elsa Larson have let us know that there are 3 couples signed up for the January 9-12, 2009 Deeper Weekend at Houston. If you have not already done so, sharing letters can be sent to either of the presenting couples or to the Deeper Supply Couple:**

**Arnie & Sue Kaestner  
931 Moss Spring Lane  
Houston, TX 77024  
Email: [2arniesuek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2arniesuek@sbcglobal.net)**

**Most importantly, please keep the Weekend and all attending couples in your prayers.**

### **LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOOUNTER DEEPER WEEKEND January 9-12, 2009**

#### **Presenting Couples:**

**Bob & Linda McGurn (Clergy)  
47 Hunt Glen Drive  
Granby, CT 06035  
860/653-2173  
[mcgurn@snet.net](mailto:mcgurn@snet.net)**

**Jim & Detra Swenson  
11806 N.W. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
360/574-6009  
[jimanddetra@comcast.net](mailto:jimanddetra@comcast.net)**

**District I                      Roger & Jennifer Keller (Clergy)  
445 Fisher Road  
Cabot, PA 16023  
724/360-2786  
[prkeller@connecttime.net](mailto:prkeller@connecttime.net)**

**District V                      Denny & Carol Coerber  
9417 32<sup>nd</sup> St. SE  
Everett, WA 98205  
425/334-5644  
[dc.coerber6@comcast.net](mailto:dc.coerber6@comcast.net)**

**Scott & Kris Moore  
5626 75<sup>th</sup> Ave Ct W  
University Place, WA 98467  
253/566-4927  
[moorfunfamily@wamail.net](mailto:moorfunfamily@wamail.net)**

## **Marriage Encounter Outline Committee Report**

***We thank all of you who submitted suggestions for the next revision of the Marriage Encounter Outline. As we said, outline revisions are not planned for the immediate future, but the Worldwide committee met for a weekend in November, and Tony and Cathy Witczak have furnished us with the following report of that first meeting:***

**“We were very pleased with the first meeting of our Outline Committee. Seven couples and four priests from the first tier of the committee gathered in Newark for this effort, and it was obvious as the weekend progressed that the Holy Spirit was there as well. We represented the main cultural groups in North America and a diversity of years encountered, and all of us were understandably anxious about how to approach this daunting task. Yet we were able to move forward together with very little disagreement. This was in part thanks to the direction of our facilitators, Scott & Karen Seaborn and Fr. Mitch Walters, but it was also because of the prayerful attitude of openness that prevailed. We thank all of you who were praying during that time and we ask for your continued prayers as the work continues.**

**At this time there is very little to report other than that we are looking at the outline to determine if we can eliminate redundancy and identify things that don't add value. One of the goals is to shorten both Friday evening and Sunday afternoon to accommodate the needs of today's couples.**

**We also hope to update and improve our weekend by looking for a different transformation story and by considering the use of modern technology. There have been many requests for greater emphasis on the call to be open and apostolic and we hope that the outline that evolves will address that need also.**

**We will continue to meet via conference call. Another face-to-face meeting is planned for the summer of 2009. After that, we may have more to report and to share with the second tier of the committee. The second tier has many couples & priests including couples from the Interfaith board. They will give direct feedback on the work of the first tier as it evolves. We are sure that using this collaborative process and relying heavily on prayer, we will come up with an outline that meets the needs of our times while still holding true to the core values of our movement. We hope this helps. Thank you for the observations you sent. We all appreciated the efforts of those who took the time to write their suggestions as they helped to guide us in this project!**

**With our love,**

**Tony & Cathy and Fr. Emile”**

## 2009 District Presenting Couple Coordinators:



### District 1 Charles & Billie Roach

Charles & Billie have been married 20 years. They live in Marion, NC, and have 4 married sons and 10 grandchildren.

Email: [roachves@charter.net](mailto:roachves@charter.net)



### District 2 Ralph & Judi Golnick

Ralph & Judi have been married 44 years. They reside in Buffalo Grove, IL, and have a son and a daughter.

Email: [ralphandjudig@msn.com](mailto:ralphandjudig@msn.com)



### District 3 Dick & Judy Dehnel

Dick & Judy have been married 38 years. They live in Apple Valley, MN and have 3 married sons and one granddaughter.

Email: [djdehnel@charter.net](mailto:djdehnel@charter.net)



### District 4-5 John & Jennifer Pettinger

John & Jennifer are fairly new in this position so have not been previously featured. They have been married 30 years and have a son and a daughter and one grandson who will be 1 in February. John is a lieutenant for the Denver Police Department and Jennifer is the City Clerk for Lone Tree. They attended a Weekend in February, 1999, attended their Deeper that year in November and presented their first Weekend in April of 2000.

Email: [jjpettinger@comcast.net](mailto:jjpettinger@comcast.net)

Please contact your appropriate Presenting Couple Coordinators for any questions, problems or ideas, or, of course, we are always pleased to hear from you at: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

Fred & Julie Schamber

NAR Presenting Couple Coordinators

*We thank Dean & Marcia Redman of District III for this great story of their outreach weekend in Minot, ND. How about submitting a story (with picture if possible) of one of your weekends?*



## **Minot, ND Outreach Weekend**

"Minot or bust" was the prayer of District III. Minot had been in many prayers for a whole year!

The request for an outreach to Minot, ND, began in the spring of 2007. Pastor Paul Krueger from Minot, in collaboration with Pastors from 5 churches (2 Missouri Synod, 2 ELCA, and a Lutheran Brethren Church), was doing a series on Strengthening Marriages and he wanted a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend to be the culminating activity. Pastor Krueger and his wife had been on a ME weekend many years prior and knew the value of a weekend.

A concern began right away with the request that communion not be served on the weekend because of the mix of church synods involved. Brainstorming ideas of a way to include all the affiliations, it was decided that the weekend could go ahead if a ME presenting clergy couple would be willing to do the weekend without the Sunday communion with the couples. That decided, we began to go ahead with the planning for a weekend.

In April of 2007, Doug and Leanne completed their term as District III Lay Contact and passed the baton to Dean and Marcia Redman. Planning continued and a date was set for a weekend in April 2008. The initial count Pastor Krueger anticipated for registrations was 20 - 30 couples, and when registrations were only 6 by the deadline date, the weekend was cancelled. Thanks to the encouragement from the NAR board in July 2008 and the continued prayer, it was decided in District III that the weekend would be rescheduled for fall and it would be held regardless of the number of registrations. With the commitment of Dave and Elsa Larson, Lincoln, Nebraska, Clergy; Doug and Leanne Fox, Bassett, Nebraska; Milton and Donna Kaufman, Wilmont, SD; and Dean and Marcia Redman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the weekend was rescheduled for Nov. 21-23.

A true commitment to the Marriage Encounter ministry it was! Holding an outreach weekend with no contact couple there took many phone calls, many emails, much preparation, lots of organizing and many prayers - and great flexibility within the presenting team. Pastor Krueger secured the hotel at a wonderful rate, and then the work of getting late check out, no housekeeping, etc., etc., needed to be conveyed. The hotel rooms and the dining contracts were with two separate contacts and it was at times difficult coordinating until the final contracts were ready. We were on a total leap of faith that the hotel and food were good. Vern and Karen

Harrington in Iowa agreed to act as registration couple for the weekend and they kept all informed as registrations by snail mail or internet came in. Although Harringtons like to be at the hotel for registering the couples, time and distance prevented that, the presenters were to act as the registration/hosting couples. One amusing story - Dean and Milton were sitting at the table talking as couples were coming into the hotel. With the ME banner "love one another" proudly displayed beside them we all had a good chuckle and decided maybe it would be better if a husband and WIFE sit there together. Sadly, about 3 weeks before the weekend, job responsibilities kept Doug and Leanne from presenting on the weekend. However, they continued to support the weekend as they did all the work to gather long-distance prayer couples and sharing letters. It was so heartwarming with the quick response of prayer couples and the huge amount of sharing letters that each couple and presenter received.

Supplies and various weekend materials all had to be brought in. Larsons packed their car with the clergy materials and drove 6 hours to Kaufmans in SD. Then they repacked one vehicle with the weekend banners, individual room banners Donna made, table supplies, table graces and song sheets and many more incidentals and they drove together the remaining 6 hours to Minot. Redmans packed a *heavy* suitcase with the notebooks, spirals, and candles for each couple, and boarded the train in WI for their 900 mile ride. Excitement propelled us all on as the fruits of our labor and the answer to many prayers were so close!

Ten couples were in attendance on the weekend--ten loving, warm, friendly couples who seemed to have a great weekend! One couple was a true testament to unconditional love to all. They both had vision problems - the wife was nearly blind and the husband had very low vision issues - but they completed the weekend. The very loving husband would find the page in her workbook and when it was time to write he would turn her notebook to a blank page and she would begin to write. Donna Kaufman also took great care of her as she helped her get to and from the room when wives left. Team discussed how extended dialogue would work and it was decided Marcia Redman would go with her and "Mary" dictated all her thoughts and feelings. A unique experience for all!

Distance prevented all of the presenters from coming back for a weekend renewal or support for love circles. There was much discussion about how we could convey the renewal and love circle information with the journey talk, but with all of us working together all the information was given to the couples. The packets each couple got were a collaboration of the different areas as we all included information we usually put into our packets so the couples went home with a lot of information to help them with dialogue. We are all only a phone call or email away and they were told that, and it was reconfirmed as we all called and wrote letters to each of the couples after the weekend.

A wonderful little Godsend occurred 2 weeks before the weekend. It was discovered that there is an active Catholic ME community in Minot. They actually had had a recent ME weekend. Redmans were able to make contact with the key couple in Minot and they came to the sing-off to meet the couples. They invited the couples to join their love circles and volunteered to help any couple form a Lutheran love circle if they desired. The Lutheran couples were surrounded in love even in the Catholic community.

It is our prayer that next spring there will be another Minot weekend. We did tell the couples we would all come back again, but they needed to do the legwork to get it all going. There were a lot of smiles and nodding. We will keep praying!

Dave and Elsa Larson, Clergy  
Milton and Donna Kaufman  
Dean and Marcia Redman  
Doug and Leanne Fox

## The Idea Corner

What idea would you consider sharing?  
Please send to:  
[fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).



Lutheran  
Marriage  
Encounter



Over 2 million couples in 90 countries have attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend

Most common reaction:

"We fell in love all over again!"

## PowerPoint Slides for Synodical Meetings



Lutheran  
Marriage  
Encounter



The best gift you can give those kids you love:

Parents with a great marriage!

We've found that sometimes if we provide the audio-visual people with slides at the Synodical Meetings, they will show them during down times at the meeting. If they are willing to do this, we feel it really gives Marriage Encounter a lot of credibility with the attending pastors and lay leaders. Some of our other slides say:

- Our weekend dates and locations for the year
- Phone numbers or websites to contact

If you'd like to have copies of the slides shown emailed to you, contact us at:

[fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net)



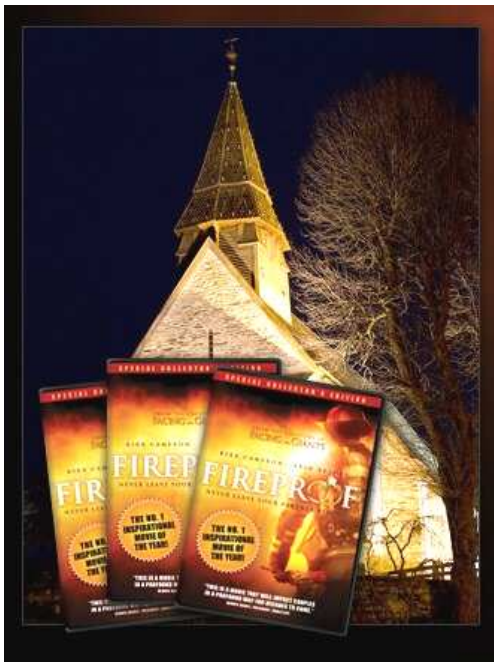
Lutheran  
Marriage  
Encounter



**Dr. James Dobson on Marriage Encounter:**

"One of the highlights of my life ...  
The deepest and most intimate  
exchange of feelings we had known in  
20 years ... Attend a Marriage  
Encounter Weekend!"

Have you seen "Fireproof" -the number 1 inspirational movie of 2008?



The website: [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com) tells us that this movie will soon be out in DVD format and can be pre-ordered now through resources given on their website for around \$18.00. Or Provident Films has partnered with Outreach to provide the official site license DVD for Fireproof movie events at churches. See the website for further information.

Those of us who attended the Marriage Encounter Family Reunion in Florida in July were privileged to preview the movie, and it has enjoyed a fairly long run in many theatres across the country this fall. For those who have not seen it, it is a fantastic movie which stars Kirk Cameron as a fireman who struggles to rescue his marriage as it slowly seems to go up in flames. His father challenges him to a 40-day experiment, "The Love Dare." When he begins to

really understand the kind of unconditional love Christ shows to us and makes a life-changing commitment to God, he then is able to truly love his wife. But is it too late to fireproof his marriage? This action-packed love story will have you laughing, crying, and being pulled to the edge of your seats as you are drawn into the world of firefighter, Caleb, his wife, and a marriage worth rescuing.

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## World Marriage Day

Sunday, February 8 (Always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February)

World Marriage Day is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter and honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily, married life. See their new website: <http://wmd.wwme.org/> for all kinds of ways your church can celebrate World Marriage day.



## WORKBOOK INSERTS

Workbook inserts are available from supply couple:

Dean & Katie Senne

123 Marion Lane

Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-3599

Email: [kddesigner@charter.net](mailto:kddesigner@charter.net)

The newest edition has "2008" at the bottom left corner. We encourage you to use up any older copies of the workbooks as the changes are very minor. Just be aware that the Mission and Vision statements may be in a different place in the older copies, or if you have very old copies, they might not be there at all. So, 3<sup>rd</sup> Setters, as you read these to the couples in the Dream talk, be sure you have checked the copies being used so you know where to refer the couples.

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What would you like to get on your soap box about?  
Send your write-up and picture, if applicable, to  
Fred and Julie at: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net)

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We need some soapbox submissions. If you have an opinion you'd like to express, please send it to us at: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

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