

Inaugural LCMS Adult Event Rooted in Youth Gathering Legacy

Next year marks the 30-year celebration of Synodically sponsored National Youth Gatherings and introduces the first-ever companion LCMS Adult Gathering — a parallel program that invites any LCMS adult (25 or older) to experience a five-day event July 28-August 1.

Jointly sponsored by the DCS Youth Ministry and Family Ministry offices, the Adult Gathering will be held at Orlando's new Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, located near the Orange County Convention Center that will house the Youth Gathering's 35,000 attendees.

Daily programming for the adult event will include Bible

study, workshops, music and recreation opportunities.

Sunday activities will include sponsorship from Wheat Ridge Ministries in an afternoon of "Sabbath focused programming." On Tuesday afternoon, the Adult Gathering will present a "World Expo" that will engage participants with local and global mission opportunities and connect with the One Mission, Ablaze Movement.

Each evening, adult participants will join the Youth Gathering for the Gathering Mass Event.

Adult Gathering registration is being planned for 2000 participants.

Special celebrations will commemorate the 30-year legacy of LCMS Youth Gatherings. Synod President Gerald B. Kieschnick will preach at the Sunday morning worship,

and special guests will include former Missouri Synod Youth Ministry staff.

The Gathering Web site at www.lcmsgathering.com provides adult program details and special helps for building interest in attending within congregations.

Registration for the Adult Gathering is open to individuals; to church groups and to friends/family members who can

register in groups of (up to) ten people.

Registration for the Adult Gathering is \$235 per participant, the same cost as the Youth Gathering. Registration forms are available for download at the Gathering Web site, and can be mailed to the National Gathering Office. For more details, visit the Gathering Web site and select "Contact Us." □



Habitat Home Under Way in Jacksonville

The Jacksonville-First Coast Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter and Habitat for Humanity have joined forces to help those in need achieve greater economic independence.

The alliance — known as Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity — "has put the faith of Lutherans and communities into action," said John D. Burke Thrivent Builds Chapter Specialist.

On September 23, the first group of volunteers raised the walls for the house being built by the alliance. Late in the morning, work halted as Ken Meyer, chapter president, conducted a service of praise on an empty lot across the street. Rev. Frank Marshall of St. Paul-Jacksonville led the group with words of praise. He was assisted by St. Paul's choir.

Glenn Harvell, who will be moving into the house, offered his profound thanks. "I've never

dreamed of receiving, it never crossed my mind that I would one day own my own home."

Harvell, who suffers from polio and walks with crutches, visits the job site every Saturday to "watch my house being built." He works at the library at Florida Community College of Jacksonville.

The home is scheduled to be completed in early November and will be dedicated on December 2. □



Home owner Glenn Harvell with First Coast Thrivent Chapter Ken Meyer.

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