



Why are we rebranding now?

In July 2010 the Synod in convention adopted a number of resolutions that reorganized the structure and governance of our church body. Since that time, a number of changes have taken place at the LCMS International Center. Offices and departments have been restructured and our activities have been unified. Our refreshed branding helps LCMS members and the general public know that, amidst the many changes taking place at the LCMS International Center and across the Synod as a result of restructuring, the essence of the LCMS — who we are and what we do — has not changed. We are committed to our mission and our calling to bear witness, show mercy and carry out our life together as the body of Christ.

What are some branding elements that have changed?

Probably the most notable change in our refreshed branding is the change in the color of the church’s tripartite cross logo, which has changed to blue from burgundy.

Why was the blue color chosen?

The new blue palette for the LCMS cross logo was chosen for several reasons after numerous meetings over several months. The new color palette was viewed positively by the pastors, seminary professors, donors, laity and others participating in the rebranding effort. Royal blue is a classic, conservative color that will stand the test of time. It sets a friendly and inviting tone. The blue color palette also complements the colors of our new mission branding — *Witness, Mercy, Life Together* — better than the burgundy color, which has been in use for almost 30 years and was viewed by some as outdated.

Re-printed from FAQ’s at www.lcms.org/brand



REFLECTIONS

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A New Creation

On the Saturday before Easter I took some time off to wander the Little Snowies. I suppose you could say that is a favorite hobby of mine. “Wandering” happens when you leave the truck and follow your nose for a few hours, and then, when you have gone as far as the clock will allow, you try to find your way back to the truck. Usually the way out releases stress, as my mind wanders and my eyes search out whatever God has in store for me that day. The way back can sometimes create stress as I alternate between lost and really lost.

On this particular day about 13 inches of fresh snow lay on the ground as I started out. (Some of you will remember the Good Friday storm across central Montana.) It was heavy and wet, and silenced the woods. Then the sun came out, and the forest became a new place. Fat drops of frosty water landed on my neck and glasses. From high above, heavily laden branches sloughed off tiny snow banks which plummeted with a plop all around me, and left icy trails glistening in the sun, like April fireworks. All around, the brush was alive with movement. Sodden branches, freed from the weight of the snow, began to spring up, seeming to speed the germination of a new world.

Since my mind was already tending toward resurrection ruminations I began to see everything that was happening as a parable of what was about to transpire on the next day. In the tomb of Jesus everything was silenced, locked down, not by snow but by the icy grip of

death. No one expected death to melt away. Resurrection, despite all the Old Testament prefigurings, despite all the teachings of Jesus, was not yet a way of life. Then it happened and the world became a new place.

It is a marvelous gift to see the resurrection recurring in God’s creation. God has so constructed His world, and His people that we are blessed with numerous signs to point us to Jesus. I see the annual spring thaw not as a sign of the biology of new growth but as a reminder that Jesus is risen, He is not dead, He is alive. Signs are good, when used in a proper way, but reality is even better. The reality of this little word picture is that in Jesus Christ you are a new creation. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God...” (II Cor. 5:17-18) Through faith in Jesus you have been raised from the tomb of your sin to newness of life. This is the work of God.

My walk in the Little Snowies reminds me of your baptism. As the Word of God was spoken over you and fat drops of water rolled off, you began a new life. The old way of being weighed down by sin and death had passed away. Behold the new way of forgiveness and life had come. That baptism is not something that just happened a long time ago. It is with you every day. In Christ, every day is a day of resurrection, of new creation as He forgives you and sets you free. He is risen. He is risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Terry Forke, District President

April

- 25 World Malaria Day
- 27-29 LWML State Convention- Trinity, Kalispell
- 27-5/3 Council of Presidents, St. Louis/FW

May

- 6 Official Visit—St. Mark, Butte
- 8-10 Dual Circuit, Miles City
- 18 Board of Directors—Billings
- 28 Memorial Day-office closed
- 29 Official Visit—Boulder/Anaconda

June

- 11-14 **MT District Convention - Billings**
- 17-29 Red Lodge Youth Camp

Big Sky Handbell Festival

Over 30 handbell choirs, including several from our congregations around Montana, will be performing at Rocky College in Billings on April 28th at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission fee.

A Memorial for the Unborn
 Lutherans for Life will be sponsoring a worship Service at Mt. Olive on May 14th at 7:00 p.m. It is to help congregations, and especially mothers, to deal with the aftermath of abortion.



He is Risen, Indeed!

Easter Sunday at First Lutheran Church, Missoula, was filled with light and song as worshippers celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord. Pictured above is Jett Steen, crucifer, and Jocelyn Anderson, acolyte.



SPRING PLACEMENT SERVICES & GRADUATION EVENTS

The month of May is a busy and joyful time at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. See the schedule of events below.

SPRING 2012 PLACEMENT SERVICES

Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Placement Service

Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel

Guest Preacher: Rev. Jacob R. Sutton, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Terre Haute Indiana

Candidate Call Service

Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. James Baneck, North Dakota District President

Deaconess Placement Service

Thursday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. in Kramer Chapel.

All three services will be broadcast live via the internet. Simply go to www.ctsfw.edu to see the schedule.



Ladies ' Tea at First Lutheran, Helena

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, and the Arnold family thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during these past difficult months.

A Birthday Party was held for Walt Steingruber who turned 85. Walt has been a faithful and active member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Three Forks for 85 years. His family is one of the founding families of Grace Lutheran. Happy Birthday Walt and God's richest blessings!



In July of 2011, Grace Lutheran Preschool in Three Forks was awarded \$500.00 by the Montana District LCMS. With this grant money, we were able to purchase a few items to increase the children's learning experiences during their preschool day at Grace Lutheran. We currently have two programs that have benefited from this grant money, our Pre-Kindergarten class that services children ages 4-5 and an Early Childhood class that services children 3-4 years of age. Some of the products that were purchased include letter-sound matching board, upper case letter builders, letter beanbags, an easel, and a sand and water table. The children have shown great interest in these items while gaining academic skills and playing with others in a Christian environment. Our preschool feels very blessed to have received this grant money from Montana District LCMS to help improve our preschool programs at Grace Lutheran Church.

God Bless,
 Jill Martell
 Grace Lutheran Preschool Teacher
 Three Forks, MT