

What's Up?

St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program Newsletter December 2000

*The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program
of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA, ministers to youth,
in loving memory of Michael David Mower and Michael James Ancona*

St. Michaels Supports Youth Gathering



This past summer, 21 young people from St. Mark's Church joined others from around the world at the National Lutheran Church Youth Gathering in St. Louis, Missouri.

The St. Michaels Fund supported the training of leaders for the Gathering event. A total of \$900 helped pay registration and travel expenses for eight junior and senior high sponsors to attend a three session in Baltimore, MD, sharpening their "youth skills." Following is part of the story as seen by one participant.

What the Gathering Meant To Me

Held once every three years, this tremendous retreat is an event where Lutheran teenagers from around the United States meet to have fun learning about God. The theme of the week was Dancing at the Crossroads. I danced with Jesus Christ all week and had a blast along with twenty thousand other Lutheran high school students.

We danced to Christian rock bands and Christian rappers. One of the highlights of the gathering was singing upbeat songs. My favorite song was Bound Together. I met other Lutherans by joining the conga lines in the aisles of the dome. It was difficult to believe that religion was actually fun. Why couldn't the regular Lutheran church services be this enjoyable? This experience convinced me to try to bring the new excitement that I had about God to other teens. I would like to volunteer as a youth director when I am in college and help young people experience what I did.

Talented speakers, including Desmond Tutu, from around the world were featured. However, my favorite speaker was a middle-aged minister who had an energetic personality. The minister began by asking us "What word do you think of when you think of your parents?" "Boring," I replied without realizing that my mom was sitting three seats down from me. She retorted, "I heard that Robin!" Then the speaker explained that parents had ceased to dance. He said that if you lived your life in Christ, it would be like a roller coaster ride. Then he said that if he died at that moment, his last words would be "What a ride!" After his speech, there were a few seconds of silence followed by an enthusiastic standing ovation. WOW!

The Youth Gathering was an incredible experience that helped me to spiritually grow. It strengthened my faith in Jesus Christ and helped me discover myself. I am looking forward to attending the 2003 Youth Gathering as a volunteer!

By Robin Shelly Quesenberry

Grants for Lutheran Summer Camp

One continuing grant program the Fund Board established in 1999, was an initiative to encourage attendance at Lutheran Summer Camps. For this purpose, the Fund offers a \$50 grant to each child in the congregation and local community to attend one camping session each summer. The money is sent directly to the camp to offset a portion of the registration fee. Lutheran camps in the area that participate in the program are Caroline Furnace located near Luray, VA and Mar-Lu-Ridge, near Frederick, MD.

Last summer, five children signed up for the grants with three going to Caroline Furnace and two going to a Junior Camp session at Mar-Lu-Ridge. One young

camper, an English as Second Language (ESL) student at St. Mark's and originally from Vietnam, wrote a letter saying "I got to go fishing. Trust me, if you go to Caroline Furnace, you will have a great time and best of all you will learn more about God." If you are interested in the grant program for a Lutheran Summer Camp, contact Judy Troast, (703) 455-9030.

Croatia Mission Support

The Fund provided support to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Croatia Mission. The Fund provided a grant to buy commemorative tee shirts for all 30 participants in the **Renewing Our Minds** conference held in Rijeka, Croatia in August 2000. Mike Smith, from St. Marks Church, attended along with 30 young adults *(Continued)*

Croatia Mission Support (Continued)

from 14 countries. The St. Michaels Board members also contributed 75 Bibles that were distributed at the conference and in the local community.

Renewing Our Minds was about renewing faith in Christ and healing the wounds of war. Mike said, "People came from all around the globe. Together we learned what it is like to love one another, to pray together, to cry and to have fun with one another. It was an experience of a life time. They also helped us understand the political side of many countries."



About the St. Michaels Fund

The St. Michaels Youth Mission Endowment Program was established in 1996 as a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Fund provides financial assistance through the distribution of earnings from endowment fund investments for youth and family oriented ministries of the congregation in local, national and international communities. Money and other assets donated to the St. Michaels Endowment Fund are invested in mutual funds, publicly traded U.S. stocks, and other income producing instruments through the Legg Mason brokerage firm. The Fund is managed by a Board:

Dan Ancona <i>Chairman</i>	Judy Troast <i>Vice Chairman</i>
Nancy Mower <i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Members:</i>
Keith Fulk <i>Financial Secretary</i>	Steve Carlson
Allison Griswald <i>Youth Representative</i>	Mary Lou Caroll
	Blake Thompson
	Mary Veraa

Have a Dream

The long term vision of the St Michaels Fund is to establish a youth center. The goal is to underwrite the acquisition and operation of a neighborhood "safe house" where youth from the local area and parents can come for a place to talk, to get advice, to have someone to talk too...a place that might be called "Mike's House." Mike's House is still at the dream stage, but a major step was taken when \$1,000 was allocated toward the down payment for purchasing a 3/4 acre property adjoining the current church property. Closing on the purchase and detailed planning for this opportunity will occur in 2001. They need you and your investment to come true.

Status of the Fund

As of September 30, 2000 the Fund principle was approximately \$39,422. Including gains on principle and accumulated earnings, the total value of the Fund was \$45,964. Current investments are in stocks (20%), equity funds (70%), and a Legg Mason money market account.

Distributions approved during 2000 include:

Youth Gathering	3/00	\$900
Lutheran Social Service Foster Child	3/00	600
Croatia Youth Mission	7/00	390
Lutheran Summer Camp Grants	7/00	250
Allocation for land purchase	10/00	<u>1,000</u>
	2000 Total	\$3,140

How to Apply for Funds

St. Michaels fund distributions are available for youth-related activities that give glory to God; raise up the gospel to young people and families; meet youth ministry needs for non-budget programs, outreaches, and special situations; or otherwise affirm Christ to the church and unchurched youths of the community, nation or world. Typical uses of funds to date have included: scholarships, tuition assistance, conference fees, expenses related to youth ministries, and donations of equipment to oversea missions. Requests for loans or grants should be submitted in writing to the Fund Board through the St. Marks Youth Committee by contacting Brian Stevenson, Youth Director at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (703) 451-4331. The Fund Board reserves the right to make all final decision for the distribution of earnings in response to loan and grant requests.

Making Contributions --- Did you know that:

There are many ways you can make a bequest to the church. The most common are the bequest of a specific dollar amount or the bequest of a percentage of the estate.

Specific Bequests

This is the most common type of clause, giving away a specific amount of money or a specific piece of property or asset. Examples of specific gifts to a church are: *Cash or asset bequests (With tax savings in some cases), Bequest by will or living trust, Accounts that are Payable-On-Death, Life Insurance beneficiary, Gift Annuity, and others.*

For More Information and ideas, contact:
Stan Rose, Executive Director, Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium (703) 548-5017
OR

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Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."-- Matthew 25, v 44 and 45