



# The IMOK Zealot



...because we're *crazy* about the Word of God

**The newsletter of the Indiana-Michigan-Ohio-Kentucky Region of the Lutheran Student Movement**

*Our title is inspired by St. Paul in Romans 12:11 and surrounding texts: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." Essentially, we are infatuated with our Lord, trusting through faith that has been given to us by the grace of God, we seek to understand Christ so that we may live life as a community with the love and enthusiasm only He can provide.*

## SEVEN MONTHS OUT AND I M OK.

Greetings! For those of you with whom I had the privilege of spending various retreats and national gatherings, it will not come as a surprise that I continue to read my IMOK listserve mail and every so often monitor the LSM-IMOK website. It's not a useless hanging-on to days past, but a reminder of the friendship and amazing community experienced during those times. In my four years' participation in the events of the

IMOK region, I enjoyed seven regional retreats and four national gatherings. I remember vaguely the places – the rickety beds in Glen Helen, amazing accommodations at that one camp by the lake, trying to arrange hotel rooms in Columbus. But it's the people I remember more. The campus pastors who always took a few minutes to figure out what I was up to, the musicians bringing their guitars to campfires, the animal game that I never quite figured out, hands that reached out and clasped mine during prayers, and the end-of-retreat hugging that seemed to take more time than packing the campus ministry van.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW:

Please pray this prayer with me:

"Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatred cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace. Glorious Father, we pray for the leaders of The Lutheran Church, Lutheran Student Movement USA, and the IMOK region. Fill us, guide us, and use us as instruments of love in the world. God, bless the IMOK executive board and all the members of the IMOK region as we continue to struggle in our own faith journeys. Help us to reach out to high school and College students who may not know you or are distant from you. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

What a great and wonderful year it has been. Last fall we began a campaign to increase awareness of LSM-USA and the IMOK region. The IMOK region used Word of Mouth (WOM, as it is commonly referred to in marketing), Senior Outreach, and efforts by LSM-USA in the ELCA office in Chicago to

bring LSM to people's attention. WOM is when you invite students in your campus ministries to come on a retreat or join us at the National Gathering. WOM is spread by the use of our listserve and webpage. Within our own region, I'd like to thank Amber Hawn and Tony Piaskowy from Ball State, Katie Obrecht of Ashland, Ben Buss from "The" OSU and Aaron Werner from MSU for all their hard work this year. We had IMOK representatives present at many LYO gatherings and Youth Encounter events throughout our region. I thank everyone who went and encourage you all to consider going again this year. The roots of LSM date back over 80 years! At the National level, we are beginning a campaign, entitled "Feed the Flame." We've made posters and sent them to campus ministries to promote the National Gathering and increase awareness of LSM. The flame represents our passion for faith and LSM. We are called to be Disciples of Christ in our daily lives. As we grow in faith, the flame within us grows, we "Feed the Flame." I

LSM was an integral part of my university experience. In my current job as a junior and senior high youth director, I try to encourage all of my graduating high school seniors to find the campus ministry nearest them and get involved. I attempt to connect them with the LSM groups nearby, but it's a difficult task. As college freshmen, I find there is much more uncertainty about entering new situations and getting involved than I ever perceived. I was lucky to have had an older sister encouraging me to attend my first retreat.

Who is that encouraging person in your campus ministry? Who makes it his or her job to meet new students and actively engage them in the campus ministry group, refusing to allow a retreat to pass without participation? Is it you? A simple invitation is sometimes the push that is needed to change someone from interested

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## IMOK Retreat: Spiritual Snack or Something More?

I remember retreats in high school. They were kinda like a spiritual Snickers' Bar. You know, some charismatic speaker would talk and we'd get all fired up. We had emotional climaxes like the peak of Mount Everest! Then we'd come home and run on all engines for a week, and then... Well, then, nothing. Suddenly, without reason or design, our spirits would fizzle out and we'd be back to the place we were before the retreat. Dead. Stagnant. And things would get worse, because after the high of the retreat, the sugar would wear off and we'd crash. Yup, a good old high school retreat. A spiritual awakening that rolled over and went back to sleep, time after time.

When I got to college, I wasn't sure I wanted to keep doing that. Sure, I had fun at retreats, but I'm in a different place spiritually and emotionally. This year, I'm a sophomore and I've had a tough semester. I transferred schools so I didn't know anyone, I've been sick, I've been struggling with emotional stuff... I wasn't really sure a retreat was the best place for me to be. Though I signed up for two this fall, I wasn't sure I'd be going to either one. I needed to steady my emotions, not whisk them up again. I wasn't sure I'd go, and I didn't go to the first one. But I decided to go to my first ever IMOK retreat, and now I'm convinced that God sent me there.

You see, the IMOK retreat is different from any I've ever been to before. When I arrived, I didn't honestly know what to expect. I had a few friends from different

schools that I knew, so I wasn't alone. Yet, had they not been there, I still don't think I'd have felt alone. This retreat wasn't about cliques and schools and hanging out with only the people you know. This retreat was about fellowship and getting to know others and learn about God and about them, learning about yourself in the process. This retreat was about getting together as a Christian community to worship God, and in true worship all barriers between people are broken down. This is my experience at the IMOK fall retreat.

At the retreat, I found what I've been missing at school this year. I found that peace which passes all human understanding. I found solid spiritual friends on whom I can rely. I'd been craving a good Lutheran church service, and I found that as well. Most importantly, I found God. Yes, where two or three are gathered, there He is. But rarely have I felt His constant presence as strongly as I did at that retreat. God is truly with us.

The IMOK retreat was no Snickers' Bar. I didn't come away from it on a spiritual, emotional high. Instead, I came away filled with the Body and Blood, nourished in my soul. I came away from the retreat happy, at peace, and nurtured in the love of God. I came away wanting to share that love and that experience with everyone I can. I came away knowing that, if I can help it, I will never miss an IMOK retreat. Truly, I have found a community where God resides.

*by Erin Walker (Denison)*

## Three Easy Steps to Starting a Music Ministry

Hello, IMOK LSM'ers! This is Zeb Highben, director of Seek Ye First, the music ministry group at Ohio State LCM. In light of several inquiries we have received about how we got started, where we get music, etc, Ben asked me to write a short article for The Zealot giving some of this information.

**1. Musicians.** The obvious starting place! The important thing to remember is not to worry about any particular combination of instruments or voices. SYF started with piano, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, and drums, but we've done other combinations, too: "What Child Is This" with cello, recorder, and guitar, for example. Capital University has beautiful music at their Thursday night gatherings with 3 or 4 guitars and a djembe (African hand drum). Any

combination can work; the joy and desire to make music in praise of God is the factor that counts.

**2. Music.** Where to get music is the second big question, and there are lots of sources. Camp songs are a great place to start (things like Blind Man and Blessed Be) because they're easy to sing, easy to play, and can work with a variety of instruments. Groups like Lost and Found have songbooks for sale at their website ([www.speedwood.com](http://www.speedwood.com)), and groups like Dakota Road even have some of their sheet music available for download ([www.dakotaroadmusic.com](http://www.dakotaroadmusic.com)). Another great source is our hymnals. Some of our favorite songs to play come from the LBW or With One Voice; we've just given them a little

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have already been told by Teresa Polumbo, LSM intern, that IMOK has the largest number of representatives signed up to attend the National Gathering. Way to go!

In the past year, IMOK and its executive board worked diligently to redraft the Constitution and Bylaws, a project that took well over 6 months. All the hard work paid off last spring when these two documents were adopted by the members of our region.

There is always so much more that I would have liked to accomplish. I feel that IMOK is in firm and caring hands. I embrace this next year as we continue to serve our Lord and his people through IMOK and LSM. Peace and greeting be unto you all,  
Jared Carson  
(Indiana U)

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*"And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" Luke 12:25*

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# Around IMOK:

## Michigan State University:

Campus ministry at Michigan State University has done many things this past semester. Some are new, some are old, and here are just a few.

The summer began with the hiring of a new staff person, Chrissy Bright, after Pastor Lars, Anne, Kari, and Kai moved west. Chrissy has been a student associate at University Lutheran and involved in LSM in some form since 1994.

Classes began at the end of August with many returning and new faces. Congregation members continue to make homemade lunches and drive the van every Sunday.

Campus Ministry hosted a Blood Drive in honor of one of our young members ill with leukemia. We officially welcomed 9 new student members.

A big project was growing hair for Locks for Love. Dec 2 was the literal cut off day. To date we have 71 pony-tails and braids and \$583 to donate to the Locks for Love program. This program is based in Florida and provides hair prosthetics to children with cancer and alopecia. The growing continues as more people have decided to grow their hair out for next year.

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## THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY:

The Ohio State University Chapter of Lutheran Student Movement has been busy as usual this Autumn Quarter with the start of yet another school year ushering in the birth of a new ministry: 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Public House; and many other activities involving Seek Ye First, Swarmers Intramural Athletics, and representing the chapter at OSU and beyond.

13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Public House is the new outreach ministry of The OSU Lutheran Chapel. It serves the purpose of providing an alcohol-free alternative for entertainment in a sometimes riot-ridden area. Live bands known locally and regionally perform, and food from various area establishments is provided through a grant from the OSU Wellness Center and the donation of time of many Chapel Volunteers under the direction of the ministry's leader, Grant Eckhart.

Seek Ye First (SYF) began the quarter performing at a charity benefit concert with other music ministries in the OSU Campus Ministry Association which proved to yield many financial and spiritual gains for all of those involved in the ministries present and in Neighborhood Services, the charity of choice for the event. Following this performance, SYF lead worship at the Autumn Regional Retreat of the Lutheran Student Movement and at Alleluia! Lutheran Church, a mission congregation in Dublin, Ohio. Currently, Seek Ye First is recording its first CD.

Swarmers Intramurals made its return to volleyball action in which it entered the playoffs, once again going down in its second playoff bout. The Quarterly Ping Pong Tournament also took place with Eivind Almaas defeating Nate Nelson for the coveted Golden Paddle.

The OSU Chapel also sent a team to the Central Ohio CROP Walk to stop hunger and made its usual monthly visits to Neighborhood Services to serve the community on OSU's behalf. It also hosted a tailgate party and hayride for all friends of the chapel. For more information on these events, you can check out LSM-OSU's webpage at [www.osu.edu/students/lsm](http://www.osu.edu/students/lsm).

*by Steve Miller*

## PROSPECTIVE WITTENBERG STUDENTS "HOOKED" ON L.S.D.\*

*\*Lutheran Student Days*

The LSM students on the Wittenberg campus have decided to take action on one of our regional goals: high school outreach. Last year it was mentioned that we would like to try to do more outreach, like maybe a lock-in for high schoolers in the area. Well, this idea snowballed into what we affectionately refer to as LSD – Lutheran Student Days. When we first thought of the name, we had no idea that the acronym was going to be so...entertaining! So referring to it as LSD (which didn't dawn on us until halfway through planning – after all the brochures had already been printed saying Lutheran Student Days) became a running joke. Before long, what started out as a small lock-in for area kids turned into a full-scale college visit/overnight for junior and seniors in high school from all over Ohio.

Planning for this event began last spring and it was finally pulled off the first weekend in October – Columbus Day. We figured, since Wittenberg never gives days off for

holidays, and most high schools do, we should do it on a Sunday night when high schools would most likely have a holiday the next day. Columbus Day was perfect. We tried setting up events and fun games and such and even having the athletic complex open for free use, but in the end settled for having a Captive Free team come in instead – which made much more of an impact on not only the kids but those of us running LSD as well. There was also a panel of students from many different organizations (all the campus ministries as well as Greek life, athletic teams, music ensembles, etc...) to answer any questions the students had about Wittenberg or college in general.

The evening started with registration around 4:30pm on Sunday and then all the kids went up to dinner in our fabulous dining hall. After dinner the hosts who had agreed to have 1-2 kids stay in their rooms for the night came to

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## O f f i c e r   R e p o r t s :

### President Katie Obrecht

As your new President, I want to know your opinions about what you want to see happen with IMOK. I have had some suggestions to fund-raise for certain charities/organizations. I have been thinking about having some sort of activity in January/February. Some thoughts as of now are skiing, and a sledding extravaganza. Another thought is a service weekend. Look for a poll coming soon to an e-mail near you!

The exec. staff will be having a meeting soon after the New Year (unless we coordinate a date prior to Christmas). Once a date and location are set, you will all be notified, any IMOKer is always welcome to attend!

On a personal note... I am working on getting an LSM group together at Ashland University. I transferred to Ashland this year from Miami. I am attending, and actually recently became a member of a very active Lutheran church close to campus, Trinity Lutheran. They are very excited about supporting our organization. I ask for your prayers for Ashland University's new involvement in LSM. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

Your sister in Christ,  
Katie

katieobrecht@yahoo.com

### Secretary Benjamin Buss

I am a senior in electrical engineering at The Ohio State University. Since being elected to this post I've updated the email list, tweaked the group site on Yahoo, recreated the AIM buddy list, and put out this newsletter. It is my intent to always be open to suggestions, so if you have any helpful comments on this issue, or anything else, let me know and I'll try to improve next time around. Also, you or your friends can always be added to the IMOK email list or buddy list (AIM) simply by emailing me and telling me to do so. I hope to see everyone in Phoenix for the gathering, and then back here at spring retreat: we'll have a blast!

In Christ's peace, love, and joy,  
Benjamin Buss

buss.15@osu.edu

### VICE-PRESIDENT/TREASURER JOSH THORNTON

Josh is majoring in electrical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He is in charge of IMOK's budget and finances, as well as filling in for Katie if necessary.

Additionally, he is our webmaster, keeping the IMOK website ([www.lsm-usa.org/imok/](http://www.lsm-usa.org/imok/)) as up to date as possible. He has also taken it upon himself to organize the "VanOLove" road trip, in which a vehicle or two will be piled full of IMOKers and undertake a driving expedition to Phoenix for the LSM National Gathering.

### Secretary for International and Multicultural Concerns Marie Seyfried

Greetings IMOKers!! I am your new SIMC. My name is Marie Seyfried; I am a sophomore at Michigan State University. I am pursuing a degree in Speech/Language Pathology. My hope is to work with children with language disorders in pediatric practice.

As your SIMC my hope is to bring a greater understanding of the many wonderful and diverse people that make up the world we live in. Diversity is a wonderful yet challenging gift from God. It challenges us to look deep inside each other and love one-another for who we are. My goal is to shed some light on the many multicultural issues that surround our lives. When I use the word "multicultural" I am talking about all of God's children. If you are Black, White, International, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, transgendered, physically impaired, mentally impaired, or if you just consider yourself "different" my goal is to make you feel welcome as a participant in the IMOK region of LSM. I also want to provide all IMOK participants with information about multicultural issues and perhaps having a few "multicultural experiences".

Marie Seyfried

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*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

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### "SOMETHING CUTE..."

The following are uncensored statements from children:

- ▶▶ Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- ▶▶ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- ▶▶ In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
- ▶▶ Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- ▶▶ Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- ▶▶ Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pairs.

*Contributed by Katie Obrecht*

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*Seven Months from page 1*  
onlooker to enthusiastic participant.

The next student you come across on campus just might be one of my former high school seniors. They want to be involved, but just need someone to show them how. Please – give them a chance. Send them finals week care packages. Invite them to the national gathering or the spring retreat. Let them know when your campus ministry group meets. Check up on them sometime during the week, just to see how they're doing. Don't give up: they might not come around until next year or even the year after that, but they will come. And maybe in a few years they'll be reflecting on the fabulous people with whom they had the privilege of spending New Year's and a few wonderful weekends a year. Isn't it worth the effort?

*by Beth Townshend*

*Music From page 2*

tweak (Shine Jesus Shine, WOV 651; The Church's One Foundation, LBW 369). Be creative!

**3. Permission?** Dakota Road, Lost and Found, and a lot of the classic camp songs are covered under CCLI licensing (Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc.). A CCLI license gives your campus ministry/church the capability to use hundreds of songs in worship services, gatherings, etc, and to copy the lyrics for use in those services. Songs like Blind Man and The Church's One Foundation are public domain, and can be used/played/recorded for free.

I hope this information is helpful to any of you interested in starting your own praise band or music ministry. If you'd like any more info, or if you have specific questions, you can get a hold of us at <lsm-osu@osu.edu> or me at <highben.1@osu.edu>.

Grace and Peace...  
Zeb

*Editor's note: If you haven't heard SYF play, rumor has it that you will soon be able to sample a cross-section of their music when they release their first CD in early 2002...*

*MSU From page 3*

Preparing for the National Gathering in Phoenix has been on the minds of many people here at MSU. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone again. 22 people with ties here are coming. MSU, Lansing Community College, Alma College, Hope College, and Michigan Technological University will all be represented in our group. Fundraisers have included having a parent's night out for the families in our congregation, a soda can drive and parking cars in our parking lot for football and basketball games.

And last but defiantly not least, students have started a college age youth group, meeting on Sunday nights for a little food, song, word and fun. Numbers are small at the moment but hopes are high. It has been a great experience for all who have attended!

I think that's about it! Have a great Holiday Season!!!! Good Luck on all exams, projects and papers. Take Care and God Bless.  
*by MSU Campus Ministry*

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's girlfriend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the Target was a picture of Jesus...

A complete hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced. Dr. Smith said only these words... "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40

No other words were necessary; tears filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

*~Author Unknown*

*Witt from page 3*

pick the student(s) and luggage up and show them to the rooms. Once they were settled, the hosts dropped the students off at the auditorium in one of our academic buildings for the Captive Free concert. After an amazing show by the band, the kids were welcome to mill around and check out the stuff the band had for sale, as well as talk to each other, then we broke up into pre-assigned groups for some small group building time. A few mixers and games later, we met back up in the auditorium for the college life panel. After the panel ended, we all made our way to the chapel for a midnight devotional (including a skit about God's plan for your life and how college fits in) then broke into the same groups for some more in depth discussion. Once the discussion was done we did a group wrap up and song then the hosts met back up with the kids and we all went off to bed. The next morning there was even more events set up for the students. They had a full day of "college visiting" to do, including a tour, another panel and even sitting in on some classes based on their interests. All in all it was a great way to tie in how LSM and faith in general are important in making the most of college and that He has a plan for you, even when it seems the most confusing and stressful.

This event did take some work, but was so much fun and rewarding and really wasn't that hard. Getting help from admissions and pastoral services to pull it off worked really well and made the workload for us fairly light. It's easy enough; even you could do it on your campus. Feel free to email us (lsm@wittenberg.edu) if you want to know more.

*by Amanda Topham*

*Treasurer - LSM Wittenberg University*

The **IMOK SPRING RETREAT** will be **April 12-14, 2002** at **Camp Ohio**. Mark your calendars now!

**Stay up to date!** Get put on the **IMOK email list** by emailing [buss.15@osu.edu](mailto:buss.15@osu.edu) with your request. Also, check out <http://www.lsm-usa.org/imok> for up to date, useful information.

Most LSM outreach to high school students occurs during the winter, email the coordinator for your state to find out how you can help:  
IN/KY: Tony Piaskowy <[ajpiaskowy@hotmail.com](mailto:ajpiaskowy@hotmail.com)>  
MI: James Bartels <[bartels5@msu.edu](mailto:bartels5@msu.edu)>  
OH: Emily Patton <[s05.epatton@wittenberg.edu](mailto:s05.epatton@wittenberg.edu)>

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