



# 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.*

## My Journey With LSM

My involvement with the Lutheran Student Movement began back in mid-October 1995 during a rough time in my life. I was elected regional treasurer for two terms (1995-97). Because of some deep personal issues that the campus pastor at the time was rather closed-minded to, I chose to end my involvement with the Lutheran church Fall Qtr 1997. I returned to the OSU Lutheran Chapel and LSM during winter quarter of 2000. Since then, I've met a campus pastor that has been an inspiration and a support for me, partly because of his racial identity. I have often

struggled with being a minority in the Lutheran church.

Despite those issues and others, a new chapter of my life had begun with LSM. I became more passionate about letting my voice be heard. It started when I was chosen by the IMOK regional council to serve as the interim regional Secretary for International and Multicultural Concerns, a position created a year ago. The speech that I presented in New Orleans at the 2000-01 LSM National Gathering as a Secretary for

*Journey on page 3*

## Van-O-Love: Phoenix OR Bust!

So yeah...once upon a time there was a van, and the van was very lonely. It had been almost a year since it's last trip to an LSM National Gathering. It was in need of some friends, some adventure, and some love. Lucky for it, God answered its prayers through the one and only Josh Thornton. Now Josh is a one of a kind spiffy guy who likes to do crazy things on a whim (and happens to be the son of the van's owners). Josh gathers up a group of random college kids from IMOK and sticks them in the van for a couple of weeks to see what happens when people stop being nice and start getting real. Not only that but God gives the van company of its own kind by providing a ten-foot trailer to cling behind it and carry the stuff.

Now don't fret because this story has a happy ending! The "Van-O-Love," as it is known, took off for Arizona (AKA the greater Phoenix area - since we all know there is no Arizona) on December 26th around dawn. After a slight traffic jam in Indiana, during which some van-o-lovers took a hike, the van and company arrived in Phoenix

just in time for the gathering. At the conclusion of the gathering, it was off again trailer and all! Destination: Las Vegas! So why would you take 11 college students to Las Vegas??? Good question, but whatever happened happened! After cruising the strip that night, the next morning it was off to the Hoover Dam to see all the Dam sites, take the Dam Tour, and shop at the Dam Gift Shoppe. Then, on to the Grand Canyon to see the world-renowned fog! Have you ever seen the Grand Canyon? No one in the van has either...but hey, there was snow and ice to skate on. That night the Van-O-Love stopped at the shadiest motel in New Mexico complete with cheating husbands, their mistresses, and angry wives screaming threats from outside. It was great fun.

Due to looming weather, the van made an executive decision

*VoL on page 2*



## **WORLD HUNGER, OUR REMAINING ENEMY**

### **A.K.A "FILL THEIR CUP: WITT'S 24 HOUR FAST FOR WORLD HUNGER RELIEF"**

"Do you like world hunger? Well I don't!" How often do you hear that shouted across the student center? Anything goes when raising money to help stop world hunger. On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Wittenberg's chapter of LSM set off to do what no normal college student would, on behalf of those who needed help – we voluntarily gave up food for 24 hours!! To set it all up, we had tables set up in the student center lobby the entire week before hand and had people grab a cup to decorate (with a 1\$ donation) and had sheets that students on meal plans could donate their meals. Many local businesses donated gift certificates for free food and other items that were given away with certain cups.

We kicked off this shindig at noon on Saturday after a lovely buffet lunch and then retreated to the chapel to play (just about anything to keep our minds off food). Watching movies, playing board games, going swimming and a wonderful 4am game of sardines kept us occupied, but the highlight had to be the midnight vespers service. Planned out completely by us, we set out a number of candles all over the chapel and spent maybe 30-45 minutes reflecting on why we were doing this in the first place. We had spent so much time running around and goofing off

that this brought it all together. We all finally left the chapel to grab a couple hours' sleep before church the next morning – and the feast to end our fast. The fast was broken at exactly 12 noon with the only sustenance we really need, the Lord's Supper. It was a perfect end to a wonderful experience. From there we retreated into the activity room for some pizza donated by local businesses.

We opened this up to all of campus as well as all of IMOK – and even had a non-Witt IMOKer there (thanks for the support Angela!!) and one who chose to participate, but from afar (I suppose Indiana is "afar" in the greater scheme of things...). We also had about 10 Witt students (some LSMers, some not) participating with us in the chapel and quite a few more that chose to do it on their own around campus. Overall, this was an awesome experience, but we all decided that 24 hours just doesn't give us a real taste of what those so much less fortunate than us actually go through. This was most definitely a beneficial project (raising over 1,100\$ so far), but we're thinking of upping it to 36 or maybe 48 hours when and if we try it again, to make more of an impact on us as well as across campus.

Amanda Topham  
Wittenberg University

## **UC Hosts IMOK Bash to Welcome UK.**

In March the University of Cincinnati LSM hosted a Welcome to IMOK Bash for the new LSM (chapter) that has formed at the University of Kentucky. We met Maria and Nicole and introduced them to the crazies who came down for the party. To the sound of good music we played pool, ping-pong, cut throat Uno, and actually finished a game of Monopoly. Congrats to Josh who perfected the art of the hostile take-over.

In typical IMOK style we partied hard and slept harder. Getting up for service the next morning was tough for all of us but the tantalizing aroma of bacon lured us downstairs. I would really like to thank Susie who cooked an amazing pancake breakfast for all of us. After breakfast and a quick set change we were ready for worship. We sang, we danced, we even had a fountain and for the first time in my life I went to church in my PJ's. Thanks to everyone who came and helped show UK what IMOK is really like. Can you believe it UK wants to come back?

After that great weekend we had to buckle down and study for finals to prove we paid attention in class and learned something. Then we were released from our academic prison to enjoy Spring Break. Some took trips to exciting locations, some hunted for jobs, and some just caught up on sleep. A week later we are back in the classroom starting new classes. Now we are gearing up to have a great time at Spring Retreat. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and having a great time.

Angela Schultz  
University of Cincinnati

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*(Continued from VoL)*  
to drive all the way to Cincinnati the next night even if it did mean driving nearly 21 hours and arriving at 4am. The Lutheran Campus Ministries house at UC is quiet and safe...that is until it is occupied by 11 college students who have been in a van together for weeks...just kidding. So how did everyone come back alive? Well we are Lutheran - haven't you ever heard about the overwhelming grace and love of God? We were helped by DVDs, computers, a DJ, the ability to laugh, devotions, and did I mention the Grace of God! In conclusion, the Van-O-Love was once again a huge success. The eleven strangers that entered it climbed out as friends having shared an once-in-a-lifetime experience that they will cherish always.

Jodie Pletcher  
Capital University

*(Continued from Journey)*

International and Multicultural Concerns gave me that chance to be heard on a national level, pledging my support to the then-winner Anthony Bateza of Iowa State University. Today, I'm writing this letter as the 2001-02 national SIMC, which is like way cool. My platform for last New Year's national gathering in Phoenix included increased communication between myself and regional SIMCs and a record book of my activities to serve as a guide for future SIMCs. 7 out of the 12 LSM regions currently have SIMCs. I'm happy to say that I sent reports and my vision to Tom Saul, the current LSM national president. So far during my term, Marie Seyfried of Michigan State and Paul Skalbeck of Wisconsin-Stout have done great things as regional SIMCs, for whom I give praise to God. Marie is creating a resource guide for people who have questions on a number of issues. Paul has been doing projects in conjunction with his synod office. On behalf of the LSM International, Multicultural, and Ecumenical Relations (IM/ER) committee, I submitted one of the proposed spring break projects to Tom and Teresa this week (April 1-6 2002).

The best memory I have of LSM is the Van-O-Love trip to Phoenix and other places. As a travel nut, seeing the country at an affordable price was a dream come true. Thanks to God for Josh Thornton, Teresa Palumbo, and Sue Rothmeyer for making it possible for me to attend the 2001-02 LSM national gathering in Phoenix. I don't know where life will take me once I graduate in June other than working this summer in the Catskills of upstate New York, but should I move to the Washington D.C. area, I'm really going to miss the guys and girls of LSM-IMOK. I will, however, be at the next national gathering in Albuquerque.

Phil Williams  
Ohio State  
LSM National SIMC

## EXCITED LETTERS FROM THE NEW LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Hey Everyone!

First let me introduce myself. My name is Maria Felice and I am a freshman undecided major at Lexington Community College here in Kentucky. It made me very happy that I have heard the excitement of there being a Lutheran Campus Ministry at UK and LCC and that "...we finally have the "K" represented in IMOK!" The gatherings have started out very small but that was almost expected with the late start second semester. Our Campus Pastor, Barry Neece has done an amazing job with "advertising" our gatherings and being there as a "faith guider" as we started out our college experience. We are currently getting together Tuesday evenings for a free home cooked meal and sharing of the Lords supper along with prayer and fun talk.

Now, I would like to extend a personal thank you from the UK group. We were very excited to be invited to Cincinnati by the Campus ministry there. We got to meet several of you and I can't say enough how great it was. Nicole and I considered it a get away from all the school stress and it was just that. THANK YOU!

I look forward to meeting many of you reading this at the Spring Retreat. See Ya There!

God's Peace,  
Maria

Hey there~

First off, my name is Nicole Rosenberg. I am a freshman Biology/Dental Major at Lexington Community College in Lexington, Kentucky. I was very excited to hear that the "K" in IMOK finally had some representation. It was surprising to see that 3 people (that's all we were at the time) could actually make that difference. Since you have already heard from Maria, I don't want to say much more about our Campus Ministry except that it is great. Pastor Barry has been there every week, even when it was just Maria and I or even the few nights that it was just Maria.

Now, I would like to send my thanks to the great group in Cincinnati for inviting there for the weekend. We learned a lot, took a lot home with us and we got to see what we want our Campus Ministry to be like in a couple of years. We made a lot a new friends and a lot of memories. Hey, we even have our own stories to tell now. I know Maria and I both have said "Thank you" so many times, but Thank you all again. I hope to meet all who read this soon. Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it to the Spring Retreat. I am having some dental work done for the first time. YUCK. See you all soon.

God's Peace and Love,  
Nicole

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*"This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you." --Jesus (John 15:12)*

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## **Update from Western Michigan University LCM:**

After returning from the National Gathering (we sent ten overall, including pastor and spouse), we began a joint worship service with the Episcopal, with their ministers preaching on the second and fourth Sundays of the month using their liturgy and Pastor Bob Cochran (our pastor) preaching on the first and third Sundays of the month using a traditional Lutheran liturgy (Communion Setting Two). We have also done joint services (one per semester) with the Wesley Center at WMU and hope that one if not both will continue into the 2002/2003 school year.

We took a road trip to Chicago on February 23rd, visiting the Shedd Aquarium, Water Tower Place, and a couple of our students went to American Girl Place. We have recaps of both trips on our web site at <http://studentworld.wmich.edu/org/elca/phoenix.html> and <http://studentworld.wmich.edu/org/elca/chicago.html> (didn't send either one along as they are quite large in size).

Now, onto something a little deeper:

Campus ministry is a fun and exciting world, but it is one which is misunderstood by the church as a whole. Some view it as an extension of "youth group", others as "a substitute for church" while a student is at school, and still others have no clue what we do. Having been in campus ministry now for 12 years (on four campuses), I can say that it is something altogether different. The purpose, and hopefully the mission, of campus ministry is to: 1) provide a welcoming community to college students; 2) equip students to lead Christian lives after college; and 3) empower students to use their gifts and abilities in the work of the fellowship. Western Michigan University's Lutheran Campus Ministry is somewhat different than those on most campuses in IMOK. We are the only campus ministry in Michigan not affiliated with a specific congregation (and all the hand-wringing that, talking to others in the region, seems to be a part of that process). We also do not have our own ministry center (we have pretty unlimited access at the chapel on campus (subject to getting our reservation requests in), and also

have an office there). We have a full-time ordained pastor, allowing us to hold special services at Kanley, such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Holden evening service along with traditional Sunday worship rather than venture out into the Kalamazoo community for those opportunities.



He is wholly devoted to campus ministry, and, most importantly, the students honestly have the ultimate say in what goes on. Feedback and input is encouraged (and in some cases explicitly sought out) from our "congregation" on most things that Pastor, I, or our peer minister come up with for programming, fellowship, service, or worship. As someone who wants to eventually become a campus pastor (perhaps full-time, but more than likely not itinerant), I have a real heart for helping college students find God and find themselves in the context of life in the university. Hopefully, campus ministry can carve out its real niche as the home of the church's future (and perhaps current) leaders, and the church as a whole can come to an understanding of what we are. Not a youth group, but not yet a congregation.

Scott Viar  
Western Michigan University

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## **Spring Break in Cherokee, North Carolina**

On a sunny Saturday morning, 12 students and their Pastor from the OSU LSM chapel piled themselves and their baggage into a van and headed south. Nine hours later, the group arrived in Cherokee, North Carolina. Dinner that night introduced the group to the wonders of southern "sweet tea," and Pastor David's stories about what it was like when he was there as a missionary began. After dinner the group piled back into the van and drove up the mountains until they reached the parsonage built by Pastor David. Rooms were divided, and devotions were held, and the group headed off to bed full of excitement for the day to come.

The next day began cold and early, but warm cups of coffee awoke and warmed the group to the day's activities. Once the new pastor, Pastor Mary Louise, arrived, the work began. Some made up trays of food while

*Break on page 6*

# Officer Reports:

President Katie Obrecht

Greetings from your IMOK President! As our days are filling with many commitments and final projects, let us not forget to take time in fellowship and the Word. I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces, both familiar and new, at our upcoming retreat. It looks as though we may break our attendance record this spring with 75+ individuals expected to attend the IMOK retreat April 12-14th! This is exciting news as we are always striving to reach more Lutheran college students with the opportunities we have to offer. There will be some additions to our leadership structure during Plenary if we have a majority vote. In the past year and a half IMOK has strived to build and increase our outreach to high school and college students, introducing to many for the first time the Lutheran Student Movement and the opportunities available. With this expansion we need an individual officially in charge of outreach efforts. Should this position be officially formed, the new office will be called Outreach Director.

Each College or University represented at the spring retreat will be challenged to organize a fundraiser to help defray the cost of attending LSM retreats. This fundraiser will be completed prior to the fall retreat, with all monies being donated to the IMOK account. We will be voting in plenary as to where precisely we would like to see the money used.

If you have a vision for LSM that you would like to see come to life, please share your thoughts with me! Remember that this is *your* organization, and what we are able to accomplish through God is beyond what we can fathom.

So you've been hearing rumors that your President is no longer an eligible player in Lutheran's Seeking Mates... well they're not just rumors IT'S TRUE! On March 6th, a wonderful young man, Enrique Conn, whom I met at Ashland University, proposed to me...and I said YES!

VICE-PRESIDENT/TREASURER JOSH THORNTON

Hey IMOK! Just wanted to give you a little update on the things I've been working on. We finally have 2 checking accounts with Lutheran Brotherhood. (One General Account, and one Outreach Account). The Lutheran Brotherhood Accounts are actually Money Market Accounts, so we will earn interest while our money is in them. The most important thing is that they have no problem transferring the account each year to the new Vice-President. This has been our largest obstacle in the past.

Now that we've got all of our money in order, I have been able to write checks to reimburse everyone, and to make several Donations. I thought I would update you on what Donations we have made:

-The Money earned from Fall Retreat's Penny War's went to World Hunger.

-A donation was made to the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Endowment, in support of Lars unicycle trip across America. Check out <http://www.onewheel.org> for more information about it!

-A donation was also made to the Lutheran Student Movement Endowment Fund. This is a fund being established to support the organization on the national level, and make it more self-sufficient.

I will have a more detailed financial report (with numbers) at the Spring Retreat during Plenary. If you have any questions/comments, or need reimbursed for any LSM related activities, please contact me. [xanier@rocketmail.com](mailto:xanier@rocketmail.com)

Blessing and Peace-

Joshua Thornton

## SIMC Marie Seyfried

This is an excerpt from Marie's report at our last executive meeting:

I did a lot of thinking about ME as a Secretary for International and Multicultural Concerns (SIMC). A trend in dealing with diversity and culture seems to be treating groups as a sideshow ("let's have an Asian experience"). We all identify with a culture my job is to be a resource and to provide resources. Keep a database of region. Places to find out what it means to be an African American in the Lutheran Church; what it means to be an Asian in the Lutheran church. I want you to start delving into what it means to have your own personal cultural identity. We need to realize that we are all part of a web a network that needs to work together. For regional retreats, perhaps we can implement activities to try to help people develop a cultural identity. Another possibility is an alternative worship workshop. Maybe we can do something more "meaty" next fall.

I include handicaps, as well as many other things, in multicultural. We need to move away from just focusing on race all the time. This is a time to affirm each other's culture and work together. We are all minorities in one way or another and need to celebrate our differences.

If anyone wants to represent his or her culture, please let me know. If you have a passionate issue, say it. The SIMC position is a resource to celebrate culture. We should start working something for every retreat. Maybe I can start writing a monthly email about "a multicultural issue." We may also work to make a SIMC corner on the website.

## Secretary Benjamin Buss

Though I've been rather overbooked lately, thanks to the help of everyone who wrote articles, I'm excited to be able to bring this issue of the IMOK Zealot to the IMOK Spring Retreat as promised! (No, I didn't sleep this week.) I also made an Outreach Edition of the Zealot the first week of February to take to high school youth gatherings and such, and I aim to the second edition of that in print in time for the synod assemblies this spring. Additionally, I plan release the next issue of the Zealot around October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 to help promote LSM & the IMOK Fall Retreat to new college students, but I will need the majority of the articles before everyone leaves for the summer in order to pull this off, so let me know if you can write something.

After the retreat I'll add names to the email list, but those not at the retreat can email me at any time to be added. I also maintain a IMOK AOL buddylist under the files section of <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/imok/> – email me if you would like your screen name to be added.

Earlier this year, I attended the LSM-USA Council meeting in Tampa, Florida. We discussed LSM involvement with the various Lutheran Churches in the USA and the Lutheran Youth Organiza-

tion (LYO). I'm proud to announce that IMOK is certainly the role model for web use, balanced finances, and high school outreach, – keep it up! The website (<http://www.lcm-usa.org/>) has been updated and the LSM brochure will be more colorful and attractive soon.

There was also an "ecumenical" aspect to this meeting; meaning student groups from other churches were there as well. Together, we make up the groups cooperating through the Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministry (CESCM) to plan "Celebrate IV," the ecumenical gathering that will be coinciding with the LSM National Gathering at the Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico from December 28, 2002 – January 1, 2003. This should be *incredible*, so mark your calendars today! (Share page 7 with other ecumenical groups on your campus!)

On a personal note, I graduate in June, but will be staying at Ohio State for my MS in Electrical Engineering, so I'll be around for at least another year. This summer, I will likely be hanging out in the Boston area (I hope), so drop me a line if you are passing through.

In Christ's peace, love, and joy,

Benjamin Buss <buss.15@osu.edu>

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*(Continued from Break)*  
others packed a food boxes for the food pantry in the basement. Once all were assembled, a beautiful blended service began. It was truly heart-warming to sing Amazing Grace in Cherokee with the parishioners. Meeting people and hearing the story of how the chapel there began really



began to move the group into their new environment.

After church, the students headed down to the museum to learn more about the history of the people with whom they were interacting. Pastor David then led a walk from the new "commercialized" tourist town to an old replica of a small farm. The day ended with a cook out on the porch while

everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, followed by a talk by Freeman Owle, who shared some traditional Cherokee stories and helped to explain even more about the people and their way of living.

Monday and Tuesday mornings were spent doing work for some of the elders of the community. Gutters were cleaned, yards were raked, trash was picked up, and gardens were prepared. Even a heavy rainstorm on Tuesday couldn't keep this group of dedicated students from finishing their jobs. The afternoons were more relaxing, with a picnic and spiritual walk in the National Park, and Indian tacos and shopping, as well as visiting the site of the first Cherokee settlement in the area. The students were also able to learn more about how the reservation works now by talking with two Cherokees from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

So after three days and four nights of absorbing the Cherokee culture, and learning to be "present-time oriented," the OSU students woke up early on Wednesday morning to head back to Columbus. But they took with them more things than could ever be fully expressed in words. For all who went to Cherokee, the time spent there was very fulfilling, and also peaceful. In the midst of beautiful mountains, spending time with beautiful people, it would have been impossible not to find a new understanding of God.

by Kriss Heskett  
Ohio State



**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.

Mark your calendars for the **IMOK FALL RETREAT** that UC has tentatively proclaimed to be November 1-3, 2002.

# FEED THE FLAME!



## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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