

LutheranRenewal

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Lutheran Renewal is Expanding!

by Nathan Hoff

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise (Hebrews 11: 8-9a).

Abraham went knowing how, but not knowing where. He knew how he would get to where he was going by faith, but he did not know where he was going. Graham Cooke writes:

“Sometimes God does not give us detailed vision because He wants us to walk by faith. He will give us broad parameters rather than specific objectives. Vision is something we see in part and know in part, just like prophecy. God gives us enough to broadly see the next step or couple of stages but no more. When we fulfill those goals, we receive more insight and direction” (*Divine Confrontation*, 27).

Lutheran Renewal’s (LR) Board has experienced this in the past year. Former LR Director Paul Anderson, along Dan and Denise Siemens, have provided fresh renewal resources in the form of relationship investments and consultations, written materials, national and international connections, and conferences. As you know, in October 2012 Paul resigned as director of Lutheran Renewal, but this time the leadership baton will not be passed to one person.

Though Lutheran Renewal has always valued collaboration, the Board now feels clearly called to a season of increased collaboration. So instead of a director model, the LR leadership will now consist of a working Board, in collaboration with a current staff member. Together they will make up the Leadership Team. That Leadership Team will consist of Board members Nathan Hoff, Eric McIntyre, and Fred Thoni, and LR staff member, Denise Siemens.

Our leadership configuration has changed to a model that can be used to multiply the call and mission very effectively. There will be four of us who together will be leading the ministry. The Pentecost message and model has often taken the form of distribution. Even though movements and networks and synods change, the Holy Spirit is always moving and always moving us. God distributes His Spirit on His distributed church to the ends of the earth.

Former Director Paul Anderson writes: “Staff meetings at Lutheran Renewal were seldom boring. Quite often we pondered the question, ‘What will LR look like in the future?’ We always agreed that it would probably involve a team approach rather



Lutheran Renewal

(Independent of North Heights Lutheran Church)

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Arise! Women • AriseWomen.org • 651-490-1517 Ex. 13

Alliance of Renewal Churches • arcusa.org

The Master's Institute • TheMastersInstitute.org

than a single leader. It seemed to us a team could best handle the diversified ministry that Lutheran Renewal was called to. Dan Siemens called me recently, and it was no surprise when he told me that the Transition Team had decided to go with the team concept. I was thrilled both with this decision as well as the people who will form this team. All have years of history with Lutheran Renewal, and making them part of LR's destiny sounded like an answer to the prayers Karen and I and many others had offered. I am thrilled to see the reins of leadership being placed in the hands of such capable and God-honoring friends." (We will celebrate Paul's ministry on Thursday, August 8, at the upcoming Holy Spirit Conference.)

We believe in the future, because we believe it belongs to the Lord. We believe that we are still called to love and equip Jesus' precious Body by leading the way in fostering renewal in the Lutheran Church and beyond. Though unsettled by many factors, we believe the Lutheran Church is poised for renewal, if for no other reason than this: We are thirsty. We are desperate. We are needy. We need our passion and compassion renewed. We need the Holy Spirit.

When the Apostle Paul came to the Ephesian congregation of disciples in Acts 19, the first thing he asked upon arriving did not concern his lodging or stipend. He did not ask about their small groups or governance or worship style. He asked, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?" (Acts 19: 2). That is why we exist. To ask God's precious church, "Have you received the Holy Spirit?" Bishop Bo Giertz writes concerning the Day of Pentecost: "The Spirit is with us as a living, giving Lord, a river of life from God Himself that perpetually flows to us and fills us up again. That is why we constantly pray for the Spirit's renewal, for the Spirit's visitation, so He will come to us as our Helper, Consoler, Comforter, and Redeemer" (*To Live With Christ*, 274).

This is not the time to disengage from the ministry of renewal, but to re-engage. Pray! Give! Join! Be a part of God's movement of distributed grace wherever you are. Renewal doesn't emanate from St. Paul, MN, or a conference. Renewal is where you are. Renewal is wherever the church is refreshed and commissioned by the real presence of God and says,

"Welcome, Holy Spirit!"

Thursday, August 8, 2013
After 7:00 p.m. meeting
 We will have a special reception area for you to personally thank Paul Anderson for his 17 years of service to Lutheran Renewal.

Holy Spirit Conference • August 7-10, 2013

Come, follow Me

Mark 10:21

Francis Frangipane
 frangipane.org

Rick Joyner
 MorningStarMinistries.org

Larry Randolph
 LarryRandolph.com

Len Sweet
 LeonardSweet.com

Programs
 for nursery, children and teens!
 Fee and registration required.

Pastors' and leaders' Day
"Always a Follower First"
 with Leonard Sweet
Wednesday, August 7 • 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
 \$12, if postmarked by July 22
 Onsite registration is welcome. On-site cost: \$15.

All General Sessions are Free!

Brochure and online registration: www.LutheranRenewal.org
 For details, please call: 651-490-1517, ext. 20

Introducing the Leadership Team at Lutheran Renewal

Rev. Nathan Hoff

Current Assignment: Lead Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in San Pedro, CA

Favorite Part of Current Assignment: Gospel delivery. What a joy to deliver Jesus' good news to the broken, the bound, and the poor. It's really fun in an all-ages, many-nations, all-economic classes kind of congregation.

History with Lutheran Renewal: As a young person I attended Holy Spirit Conferences with my family at the Minneapolis Auditorium. I've served on the LR Board since 2009.

Family: Wife, Joy; four children ages 7-13 years

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Twins

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Trader Joe's Vanilla



Eric McIntyre

Current Assignment: Lead Minister of Music at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fridley, MN

Favorite Part of Current Assignment: Seeing people surrender to Father God in worship

History with Lutheran Renewal: After attending my first Holy Spirit Conference with a friend in the late 90s, I returned home and announced to Kris, "Those are my people." I've been leading worship at the Holy Spirit Conference since 2003.

Family: Wife, Kris; two adult sons and one daughter currently in high school

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Twins

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Butter Pecan



Denise Siemens

Current Assignment: Administrator at Lutheran Renewal; Founder of Arise! Women

Favorite Part of Current Assignment: I love to see the freedom, healing, and joy that people experience when they encounter the love and power of God.

History with Lutheran Renewal: Attended the first Holy Spirit Conference in 1972; healed of epilepsy at the 1976 Conference; staff member since 1998

Family: Husband, Dan; two adult daughters

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Chocolate Peanut Butter



Rev. Fred Thoni

Current Assignment: Lead Pastor at Elmwood Evangelical in St. Anthony, MN

Favorite Part of Current Assignment: Seeking to be the compassionate heart of Jesus and getting to be a part of seeing His Kingdom come and His will done today.

History with Lutheran Renewal: Attended the second Holy Spirit Conference in 1973; Board member 2000-2005; served on the monthly Renewal Advisory Team from 1995-present

Family: Wife, Kai; two adult children, one son-in-law, and one grandson

Favorite Sports Team: Green Bay Packers

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Pistachio



(Lutheran Renewal's first Director, Larry Christenson, loves Dairy Queen, so it was important to screen the Leadership Team based on their ice cream preferences.)

Arise! Women



Uplink Groups are starting the week of Sept. 8, 2013. We need leaders and host homes! Contact through the website at AriseWomen.org or e-mail us at office@arisewomen.org. If you want to join an Uplink Group in the fall, check the website in August for group locations.

October 4-5, 2013 • Des Moines, IA
Beloved Daughter, Mighty Warrior

- With Judith MacNutt, Denise Siemens, and more!
- Complete details in late July

October 25-26, 2013 • Thanksgiving Lutheran in Omaha, NE
Signed, Sealed, Delivered...We're His!

- With Linda Morken, Ali Siemens, and Denise Siemens
- Complete details in late July



Leadership Transition at Lutheran Renewal

By Dan Siemens

As the accompanying article by new Leadership Team member Nathan Hoff informs us, one period of Lutheran Renewal history now ends, and an exciting new season for the ministry begins.

Denise Siemens (LR staff), Mark Herringshaw (consultant), and I began giving oversight to the leadership transition of this ministry beginning October 2012. This also was the date that former Director, Paul Anderson, in consultation with the LR Board and Transition Team, stepped away from the ministry in order to give complete attention to his new network, Harvest Communities. Harvest Communities is made up of the thriving young adult ministry *Communitas*, a leadership school for the same age group called *The Harvest Project*, and *Lydia House*, a house church community (*CommunitasMn.com*). Lutheran Renewal will officially honor Paul's ministry tenure on Thursday, August 8, during the Holy Spirit Conference (see page 2).

The transition work is now completed. We are very pleased to see four seasoned individuals, who have faithfully walked with Lutheran Renewal and the renewal movement itself, come to the fore as the new Leadership Team (LT). They wholeheartedly have accepted the challenge they see this ministry move boldly into the future. The new LT include Denise Siemens, Fred Thoni, Nathan Hoff and Eric McIntyre. They come with contagious excitement, new ideas, leadership gifts, anointing and sensitivity to the Spirit. They are determined to discover the cadence of the Spirit for this new day and to ensure that the ministry keeps in step. We hope you will welcome this new team and support them in their new position of leadership.

My tenure at Lutheran Renewal has also come to an end as of June 30, 2013. I leave with a full heart and gratefulness for all that I have experienced over the last 17 years. I am honored to have worked with LR Board members, with Paul Anderson, and of course, my wife Denise, and most recently with my daughter, Ali. I have seen and supported the birth of *The Master's Institute* and the *Alliance of Renewal Churches* and their leaders, Mike Bradley and Kevin McClure. I am also so thankful for key players and friends in renewal like Fred Thoni, all of the wonderful folks on the prayer ministry team, and brothers and sisters working in churches and ministries far and wide. This season has undoubtedly provided me with the experience and the friendships of a lifetime.

I pray for God's continued blessings to Lutheran Renewal and to the larger network as you continue to faithfully follow Jesus wherever He may lead.

Peace,

Dan Siemens
Former LR Transition Team Leader/Ministry Coordinator

Thank you, Dan Siemens

Our family came to the Twin Cities the summer of 1995 and it was a few months later when I invited Dan to join our weekly meeting of renewal pastors. I saw in him a deep stream, a sober-mindedness, and a brother with the kind of wisdom that many could draw from.

One year later Dan joined our LR staff. Because of his experience of renewal beyond the Lutheran church, he became a consultant to me. We had countless conversations regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. I had questions regarding discernment, manifestations, anointing, and prayer ministry, just to name a few of the subjects that traveled over the telephone lines. He'd be a rich man if I paid him for his expert consulting.

Dan has been a gifted teacher at Lutheran Renewal, a sought-after counselor for pastors and church leaders, our prayer ministry leader who opened the door to this ministry in many churches, and most important, a valuable member of our LR team for 17 years. It seems strange to think now that he will longer play that role. Lutheran Renewal will sorely miss his leadership and he will be difficult to replace. In truth, he could not be.

I say "thank you" in this public way as I have said numerous times to Dan personally. Looking back, I could not imagine directing Lutheran Renewal without him as a close partner. (And now that I have left Lutheran Renewal, I still call him for help.)

With gratitude,

Paul Anderson, former LR Director

