



# *Lutherans in Medical Missions*

*May 2020*

## **Reflections of Healing and Hope**

*LIMM's 25 year banquet celebration*



Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020

Social Hour: 6:00pm

Dinner: 7:00pm

Program to follow

Place: Koburg Hall

Concordia Seminary

801 Seminary Place

St. Louis, Missouri



## *A Message from our Executive Director*

Who could have ever imagined that we would be where we are today...quarantined in the middle of a pandemic! I turned to God's Word for comfort and found Psalm 91. Here are a few excerpts: "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Surely he will save you...from the deadly pestilence...under his wings you will find refuge. You will not fear...the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday...no harm will overtake you. I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him." I pray that you are trusting in HIM and HIS promises during this difficult time.

So just what is LIMM doing in this quarantine? Great question! Our BOD met in early March and pledged \$19,000 in grants, which brings the total to over \$23,000 this year! This is only possible through the wonderful donations from you, our faithful sponsors! This year, we will be purchasing a portable ultrasound machine for home visits in Madagascar, partnering with Chicago Lutheran School's Super Hero medical education program, providing funds for 2 nurses and interpreter to teach CHE in Belize, feeding 40 students in Seine Bight for a year, purchasing 8 car seats for KidSafe program, and providing CHE training for a LCMS missionary.

In April, we welcomed 6 new Board members, featured in this month's newsletter. They bring a wealth of experience in ministry, missions, and medicine, and join current board members Linda Jurgens, Hector Hoppe, and David Wesche. It is with deep sadness that we said goodbye to Harold Melser, who went to his heavenly home in February. We will miss him on the Board, but rejoice that we'll see him again someday. Please lift up the Board in your prayers! Thanks for your commitment to LIMM during this difficult time.

*Sharon*

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**Lutherans in Medical  
Missions (LIMM)  
works with local and  
global partners to  
share Christ's healing  
in medically underserved  
communities**

## Welcome to our Six New Board Members

### Lutherans in Medical Missions

For more information, email:  
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Please visit our website:  
[www.limm.org](http://www.limm.org)

**Contact:**  
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[sltomasch@yahoo.com](mailto:sltomasch@yahoo.com)  
815-985-5542

Please visit our Facebook page:  
**Lutherans in Medical Missions**

**Donations may be sent to:**  
Lutherans in Medical Missions  
P.O. Box 766  
Concordia, MO 64020

**Or go online at [www.limm.org](http://www.limm.org) to  
donate through Paypal or credit  
card.**

Contributions made directly to LIMM  
are tax-deductible.

### **Andrew Cureton, M.D.**

Andrew is a graduate of Hillsdale College and the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. He completed his residency at Saint Joseph Health System in South Bend, Indiana where he specialized in Family Medicine and earned a certificate in Global Health. He is a native of Michigan where his parents and siblings still reside. A lifelong Lutheran, Andrew enjoys serving his church as an usher and choir member. He also enjoys writing and advocacy work, and is a practicing physician near Washington, D.C.



### **Rev. David Elseroad**



David is pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hawthorne, New York and a psychotherapist and pastoral counselor with the Lutheran Counseling Center of New York. Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, he is a graduate of Christ College, Valparaiso University (B.A. in political science and history); Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (M.Div.); and Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, New York (D.Min. in pastoral counseling). David completed his vicarage (internship) year in suburban Paris, France, and after ordination in 1976, was called as a missionary to Quebec. During his dozen years in “la Belle Province,” he developed the LCMS’ first French-language congregation, *Sauveur Vivant* (“Living Savior”), and anchored the weekly radio program

*Au pays des vivants* (“In the Land of the Living”) for the LLL. He was subsequently director of programming for the Canadian LLL and manager of multicultural programming for the International LLL in St. Louis. Besides pastoring congregations in Quebec, Missouri and New York, he has served in hospital chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education, completing a CPE residency in New York City and supervising chaplaincy and deacon trainees for many years. A licensed marriage and family therapist, he is marking twenty years with the Lutheran Counseling Center and in private practice this year. Pastor Dave and his wife, Belinda, originally from the Philippines, have a grown daughter and son, and are doting on a newborn granddaughter, their third grandchild. David enjoys reading, world cinema, travel, swimming, walking and hiking, and being a “foodie” (and aspiring chef). He also likes the challenge of learning other languages and cultures. Having taken part in many outreach and medical missions around the globe, Pastor Dave is pleased and excited to serve with LIMM in its mission of sharing the healing Christ through medical care and health education to the underserved of the world.

### Janet Sandersen

Janet is a Registered Nurse. She has been nursing since 1996. Her specialty is in Maternal Child Health. Her passion is working with new newborns and their families. She holds a Masters of Nursing degree in Nurse Leadership from Regis University and has certifications in Education and Lactation. Janet is a Colorado native and enjoys the outdoors. She lives with her husband Marty. They have been married for 37 years. They have two children and one grandson. Janet has had the opportunity to participate in medical missions in Madagascar, Indonesia and Belize.



### Andrea Ferguson

Andrea is a first generation American; her mother was Canadian and her dad was born in India. She has lived in De Ridder, Louisiana for the past 25 years, but has also resided in Tennessee, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Hawaii. Andrea has one sister who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, and one son, John, who is a computer tech. Andrea has been a Registered Nurse for 28 years. She is a life-long Lutheran who has served on several medical missions: a MMT to Madagascar, a mixed-service opportunity to Belize, and most recently to Burundi to assist with teaching the CHE Circle of Life. Andrea is employed as the Health Services Coordinator and School Nurse for her school district, as well as an Emergency Room nurse. She is the Louisiana Board of Director to the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). Andrea is an American Heart Association CPR/AED Instructor/Faculty Training Staff, and a "Stop the Bleed" Instructor. Andrea also serves as a Parish Nurse and the Treasurer for her congregation. She is very active with Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Currently, Andrea is the Louisiana Southwest Zone President, and the Christian Growth Chair for her congregation's LWML society.



### Pat Braun

Patricia was born in Columbia, Missouri, but has lived in Aurora, Illinois for the past 25 years. Married to Dr. James Braun (a retired counselor, educator, and coach), they have four adult children living in various parts of the country and nine grandchildren. Pat has been a nurse for almost 45 years, a nurse practitioner for 30. She has earned a Doctoral degree in Nursing Science, Master's degrees in Nursing and Education, and her Bachelor degree is in Nursing. Pat is Board certified as a primary mental and behavioral specialist. In addition, she has been trained as a Parish Nurse. Pat loves all aspects of Nursing but has had the opportunity to focus her years of practice in Pediatrics working with children and families and has worked in NICU, PICU, General Pediatrics, Outpatient Primary care, Hospice, Public Health and Community and School Nursing. She has educated undergraduate and graduate nursing and health care students and receives joy in preparing professionals for the future. Pat currently practices in the 22 elementary/ high schools in the inner city of Chicago that are supported by the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF). She and her husband attend St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Illinois. Among many other activities, they actively participate and enjoy belonging to the LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) group. Spare time is spent having wonderful experiences with children and grandchildren, traveling (especially participating in mission trips), reading, writing, walking and running, and learning to play the violin.



## Michelle Ritchie

Michelle moved to Lakeland, FL from Anchorage, Alaska three years ago and currently works as a RN/Fetal sonographer at a pregnancy help clinic. She has been an RN for 23 years specializing in ED, Trauma, ICU, and Forensics. A serious moose hunting accident in 2016 placed her on a different career path. She is now a student at Polk State College working on a medical coding license and finishing her BSN. Michelle has been married to her husband, Andy, for almost 30 years. He is a LCMS pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lakeland. Their son, David (age 19), is attending flight school and plans to be a commercial pilot. Their daughter, Grace (age 17), graduates high school next year and plans to go into forensic psychology. Their daughter Faith, (age 14), is a freshman in high school and plans to work as a FBI agent. They are an outdoorsy family and love to hike, hunt, fish, and horseback ride. Currently, they don't own any horses, but would love to again someday. Since moving to Florida, their kids are trying to get Michelle to join them in getting scuba certified. They are still adjusting to life in the South, but own a boat and escape to the ocean every chance they get. Before living in Alaska, their family lived in Minnesota. Their kids laugh that they have now personally experienced EVERY natural disaster except for a tsunami.



### Car Seats for KidSafe Program



Lutherans in Medical Missions partnered with Lutheran Social Services of North Florida to purchase 8 car seats for their KidSafe program. These car seats are distributed to low-income families that are unable to purchase a high quality seat that will safely transport their children/toddlers. Parental training, life skills and health education are also provided. The CDC notes that having access and correctly using child safety seats reduces the risk for death to infants and toddlers by 70%. Thank you, donors, for providing these car seats!

### Mosquito Nets for CLET Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Micah Wildauer writes, "On behalf of the students of the Centre Lutherien de'Etudes Theologiques in Dapaong, Togo, I thank you for the generosity and kindness shown to us by the donation of 30 mosquito nets. Steph Schulte, Africa Regional Coordinator for Mercy Medical Work, was able to deliver them at the end of February. We wanted to present them in a ceremony at the beginning of the third trimester, but the government has shut down all public gatherings and events. We are looking for a time to present them to our students highlighting the importance of proper maintenance, provide instruction for the children, and give opportunity to express thanksgiving to the Lord for such a gift. Our African partners know full well the value of this gift. Durable nets are difficult to acquire in Togo. Many of our students have lost family members to malaria and other fevers caused by mosquitos. We are truly indebted to your kindness and pray that the Lord will bless your endeavors to love your neighbor, even those who are unknown and at a distance. The peace of the Lord be with you in abundance."



***Lutherans in Medical Missions participates in Thrivent's Choice Dollars® program. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to LIMM.. We will use your Thrivent Choice grant funding for future mission projects.***

LIMM is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3). Contributions made directly to Lutherans in Medical Missions are tax-deductible.