

## Spreading the Gospel in Northern Saskatchewan

At the LWML–Canada national convention held July 2009, delegates accepted, as one of their mission grants, the \$18,000 necessary for La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship in La Ronge, Saskatchewan, to purchase a bus. These funds were disbursed in June and the church is now the proud owner of a 24-passenger bus.

La Ronge is 250 km north of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and has a population of 3,500. It is also home to the 2,000 members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band who live on the reserves surrounding the community.

La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship is an active, vibrant, mission-minded

congregation serving its community and outlying areas. Under the guidance of Rev. Wayne Olson, they find many opportunities for spreading the

Bible school. In an effort to bind the community with the church, the Fellowship hosts a variety of children's and family events throughout the year: Advent activities, family movie nights, Easter events and a Reformation party. Twice a month Pastor Wayne travels to a village 30 km away to lead Bible studies.

Like any church, La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship is aware of the difficulty in bringing youth into the church and the importance of encouraging them to have ownership of it. A volunteer worker leads a youth group on Friday evenings. Because most of the youth reside on a reserve located 15 km away, the



*Teens in La Ronge, Saskatchewan mug for the photographer.*

### Mission—Mini Bible Study #3

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The Great Commission; *our* Great Commission; the mission Christ Himself has given us. We say it often. We all know the words, but do we hear them and GO?

La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship is GOing. They are actively reaching out in their community in an effort to make disciples. With a grant from LWML–Canada to purchase a bus (see story next page) they can cast their nets even further. We know God promised that Christ would not come again until all the earth has had an opportunity to hear the word and know Him. Though La Ronge is not a “far-flung” place, there are many people who have not yet heard. What a blessing that, through Pastor Wayne



*A youth activity in La Ronge, Saskatchewan.*

(Olson) and his congregation, that will change. His purpose is the same as that of Paul. “My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:2-3 NIV).

As we GO to make disciples we know Christ is with us, just as He was

with His disciples and prayed for them. “I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them” (John 17:6-10 NIV).

How wonderful to know that when we step out in faith we do not go alone but with the blessing of Christ upon us and the glory of God in us! So continue to shine in the light of our Lord, casting your glow for all to see.

*Roberta Nixon, Christian Mission Committee*

number attending is not as high as it could be.

One of the main reasons given for not attending church functions is lack of transportation. La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship prays the new bus will change this. Some plans for the bus this year include bringing children into town for VBS, taking congregation members out to smaller communities to minister there, helping youth get to the weekly group meetings, and numerous other special events. This summer 36 youth and their chaperones attended the national youth gathering in Edmonton. Though the bus couldn't carry everyone, it greatly assisted in getting people to the gathering. The bus will also be handy for conferences, women's retreats and family camping trips.

Pastor Wayne says: "The congregation of La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship wants to say thank-you to the members of LWML-Canada for the \$18,000 mission grant we received.... The ministry bus is helping us in our outreach efforts to share the love and message of Christ to the people of Lac La Ronge and surrounding Aboriginal communities."

The congregation is "very excited about the arrival of the bus," he continues. "It will greatly assist us in our ministry to the surrounding Aboriginal communities, where people live in isolation and have difficulty finding ways to travel into town for fellowship with other Christians. Having this need met has allowed us to overcome one of our biggest

challenges as a mission church....We are very excited about the opportunities the ministry bus will create for us as we continue to share the Gospel and build relationships with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in the North."

*Roberta Nixon, Christian Mission Committee*

### Mini Mite Challenge

Many of us have easy access to public transportation at a nominal cost. To remind us of the need and to help spread the Gospel to isolated areas like La Ronge, take up the mini mite challenge and put amounts like these into your mite box:

One-way city bus fare	\$2.50
Return fare	\$5.00

