



## Project CIDI Bridges



A worship service combined with an ordination of a pastor proves to be one truly unique *Bridges* experience.

Friends, family members and much of the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church came on this Sunday afternoon for the ordination of their new associate pastor.

The church resides on nine acres of land beyond a sprawling driveway. The visitor is immediately greeted with a flurry of excitement and anticipation in the church foyer as all who gather await the beginning of the ceremony.

Fear of the unknown can keep us away from such gatherings. But more often than not if you project a warm and friendly demeanor, you shall receive it in return. There is complete comfort and security as the outsider sits amongst the pews of worshippers.

Another group of talented singers and musicians fill the air with praise as an enclave of pastors file into the sanctuary along with the group's newest addition.

A reading from 1 Corinthians reminds the faithful not to boast before God, reminding His creation to remain humble. This is a lesson all should take to heart.

The Gospel reading is John 21, which tells of Jesus appearing to his disciples after his death and the miraculous catch of fish.

Finally, the bishop installs the newest pastor who swears to uphold a moral example, to both lead and serve his congregation, and stand firm for the teachings of the Bible.

Members of the church offer up their prayers of world peace and unity.

The ranks of pastors gather around and lay their hands upon the inductee, bestowing their prayers and love.

Attention is given again to the array of musical instruments and talented singers used throughout the hour and a half-long service. Drums, flute and piano harmonize with a traditional pipe organ.

One is left agape as the now associate pastor takes up his electric guitar and vocals as he joins in the music, part of which he himself wrote.

Moments of faith can and should be shared by all, even by those who follow a different path.