



Justice by the cup

The LWR Coffee Project brings hope to Nicaragua

Stories by
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Everyday, millions upon millions of people around the world drink one or more cups of piping hot coffee. But most coffee drinkers know absolutely nothing about where coffee comes from other than the fact that coffee is grown on some kind of farm in the tropics and that eventually it is ground up and sealed in a big tin can to be sold at the local grocery store. And when it comes to the economics and the politics of the coffee business, the average coffee drinker knows even less.

This past January, a group of thirteen college students and eight adults traveled to Nicaragua to visit coffee farmers and cooperative processors to learn about the coffee business and to see how the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project is bringing hope and security to small scale farmers. Three members of the East Central Synod made the trip: Julia Aggen, a student at UW Green Bay and a member of Christ Community in Bellview; the Rev. Paul F. Heykes of St. John's in Morgan; and his daughter Rebecca Heykes, a student at the

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design.

In this edition of *The Lutheran* they share stories and photos from their stay with the coffee farmers of Nicaragua so you will know where your cup of coffee really comes from. When you buy and drink coffee from LWR's fair trade partner Equal Exchange, you can be assured that farmers like them around the world will receive a fair price that covers their expenses and provides much needed income for food, education, health care and community improvements.