

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

May 7, 2003

Dear Fellow Workers:

On this day one hundred and sixteen years ago, the great Lutheran theologian, Dr. C. F. W. Walther died. As we prepare for Ascension Day, we turn our thoughts to a prayer that was written by Walther in 1888: "Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended on high, you gave your own promise: 'I will not leave you comfortless...I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...even the Spirit of Truth.' Oh, send us your Comforter also into our hearts! You know that in our age many go back and walk no more with you, and the love of many has grown cold. Grant us grace, we pray, not only to abide in Your Word, but also to increase in that love by which all may know that we are your disciples. Hear us for the sake of your love. Amen.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SYNOD

- **Vacancies:**

- St. Paul's – Portage/Newport – Wisconsin Dells, WI (requesting a candidate)
- Our Savior's – Hawley/Calvary – Ulen, MN
- Emmaus/St. Mark's – Chicago, IL
- Grace – Weston, OH (requesting a vicar)
- Christ – Windsor/Apostles – Ukiah, CA
- Our Savior – Lakeland, FL (requesting a candidate or a vicar)
- Beautiful Saviour – Springboro, OH (requesting a candidate)
- Our Savior – Bishop, CA

- **Calls:**

- Rev Karl Anderson to Heritage, Apple Valley, MN – (accepted)
- Rev. Erik Gernander to Ulen/Hawley parish – (declined)
- Rev. Jesse Jacobsen to Ulen/Hawley parish – (holding)
- Rev. William Mack to Emmaus/St. Mark's parish – (declined)
- Rev. Micah Ernst to Grace (WELS), Columbus, MO (holding)

- **Vicar requests: (3 to be assigned)**

- Grace – Vero Beach, FL
- Reformation – Hillsboro, OR
- Apostles – Ukiah, CA
- Grace – Weston, OH
- Our Savior – Lakeland, FL
- Our Savior – Bishop, CA

- **Candidates and Vicars**

On May 15th two seminary candidates will be eligible for receiving calls. They are Glenn Smith and Andrew Palmquist. Those eligible for assignments to vicarages are: Erich Hoefl, John Merseth and Timothy Schmeling. Vicar Chris

Dale continues to serve at Trinity in Sebastian, FL, where he was assigned in January of this year.

BORAM

Our synod secretary informs us that the *Book of Reports and Memorials* for our 2003 synod convention and also the convention *Handbook* containing the committee assignments should arrive in the hands of our pastors and delegates by the middle of this month.

NEW HOME MISSIONS

At its recent May meeting, the Board for Home Missions decided to commit itself fully for work at Beautiful Saviour in Springboro, OH, and also making a new start in Medford, OR.

FINANCES

Currently receipts for our synod budget purposes have totaled \$212,306.49 through April. This means at this time of the year we are \$42,693.51 short on our reallocated budget of \$765,000 (\$63,750/month needed). Please bring the needs of our synod before our people, trusting that prayers and offerings will be forthcoming as we think of the love of Christ our Savior and the vast amount of kingdom work there is to do.

CHANGE IN TIME

The Wednesday afternoon memorial service during convention week will occur a half hour earlier than previously announced. The service will begin at 4:30 p.m.

KOREA

Our Foreign Mission Board has been evaluating the possibility/feasibility of developing formal ties with a congregation (Young Kang) in Korea. The congregation is independent and is seeking to know more about Lutheranism. Rev. Norman Madson and his wife Amanda are living in Naju City, Korea, a suburb of Seoul. Pastor Madson is conducting services in English. Fifty people were in attendance at the first ESL service. The congregation's pastor, Rev. Soo Bin Jung, meets regularly with Pastor Madson.

COMMISSIONING

Our church related organization, Thoughts of Faith, commissioned Dr. John Lawrenz to serve as a mentor to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. The commissioning took place at the TOF meeting in Madison, WI on April 4th.

DEDICATIONS

On May 4th Abiding Word in Bowling Green, OH, dedicated a new sanctuary.

On May 18th at the 8:30 a.m. service Peace in Jefferson City, MO, will be dedicating its new sanctuary.

On June 1st Peace, North Mankato, MN, will be dedicating its new church building at 4 p.m.



May 5th Circuit #7 Pastors' Winkel at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa.

RETIREMENTS ANNOUNCED

Rev. Norman Pommeranz, Our Savior, Lakeland, FL

Rev. Martin Doepel, St. Paul's – Portage/Newport – Wisconsin Dells, WI

We thank these faithful servants for their many years of work and wish them God's richest blessings in retirement.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Twelve students from Martin Luther School's 7th grade are visiting in the US from May 2-19. They are attending classes at Mt. Olive Lutheran School in Mankato, MN, visiting our Bethany Lutheran College and doing some sightseeing as well. The students are living with families from Mt. Olive School. We pray that God gives them a very enjoyable, educational and safe trip.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES – UPCOMING

- May 8 –9 - Foreign Mission Board in Mankato, MN
- May 12 - Board of Regents in Mankato, MN
- May 13 - Board of Trustees in Mankato, MN
- May 15 - Vicar Workshop & Call Day
- May 16 - Bethany Lutheran College Graduation Day
- May 18 - Preach at 75th anniversary, Concordia, Eau Claire, WI
- May 19 - Circuit #8 Winkel in Audubon, MN
- May 21 –22 - Circuit #9 Pastoral Conference at Our Savior's, Princeton, MN

PRAYERS

We are happy to hear that Mrs. Harvey Abrahamson has received a report that her body is cancer free pending the outcome of one more test. Please pray for her continued good news.

Prof. Jay Roth is doing well after the recent health concerns that he has experienced. Please remember to pray for his recovery that he may soon be able to resume his duties at Bethany College.

ELS CONVENTION HONORS CHOIR

Please remind your youth about the ELS Honor Choir and Music Camp that will be held on the Bethany College campus during synod convention this June. Again this year we would request your assistance in enthusiastically promoting the Honor Choir to your young people. The ELS Youth Board and Bethany College have both expressed their encouragement and support of this project and invested substantial funding toward it, making the experience quite affordable for our youth. We would hasten to point out the benefits of Honor Choir to your home congregations. Your participating youth will return to your congregations with a renewed enthusiasm for the rich heritage we enjoy as Lutherans liturgically, musically, and doctrinally. We predict that their appreciation of our worship forms and services will be enhanced by the experience and that they will carry this excitement with them back to their families, their peers, and their congregations. The ELS Board for Education and Youth is investing an additional \$100 travel allowance for each student that lives more than 400 miles from Mankato. Perhaps individual congregations will be able to assist participating youth in transportation costs, removing another barrier to possible attendance. In any of these ways, we welcome and appreciate your help and support.

Flyers, letters, and application forms were mailed to all the ELS high school-aged youth based on the names and addresses you pastors have supplied to the Bethany admissions department. Each pastor should also have received this information, as well as a master for a bulletin insert promoting the choir. If you need additional copies of any of these materials, or if you have any questions concerning the honor choir, please contact Lois Jaeger at Bethany. Her email is ljaeger@blc.edu or call her at 1-800-944-3066 extension 365.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

June 15 - Synod Sunday

2:30 – Festival Service, Trinity Chapel

3:30 – Dedication Service of the Mission-Museum Building

4:30 – Picnic Supper (no charge)

7:00 – Seminary Graduation Service, Trinity Chapel

Reception following in the college Great Room

Monday, June 16

9:30 – Opening Convention Service, Trinity Chapel

Official opening of convention

President's Message and Report

2:00 – 4:00 Women's Auxiliary Coffee at the home of Pres. & Mrs. Dan Bruss

7:00 – Cross-stitch –Christopher Harstad presentation on South Korea

Tuesday, June 17

10:30 – Reception of new members and congregations

5:00 – Anniversary Service

5:00 – 7:00 Spaghetti Dinner at Mt. Olive, 1123 Marsh Street, Mankato

7:30 – 150th Anniversary Program

Reception following in the college Great Room

Wednesday, June 18

4:30 – Memorial Service

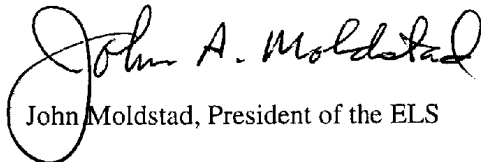
5:30 – 6:30 Sloppy Joe Supper at Peace Lutheran Church, 2090 Commerce Drive,
North Mankato

7:30 – Communion Service, Trinity Chapel

8:30 – Wednesday and Thursday mornings the Convention Essay will be presented
beginning at 8:30 a.m. by the Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, St. Peter, MN.

May our risen and ascended Savior give you the desire and power to serve him
evermore as he rules and governs his Holy Christian Church.

Your servant in Christ,



John Moldstad, President of the ELS

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