

August 4, 2003

Dear Fellow Workers, Members and Friends of the ELS:

Do you like to imitate? Imitating can be humorous. At times it can be cutting and demeaning. One type of "imitating" that we all want to be involved in is mentioned by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, where he writes: *Be imitators, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God* (Ephesians 5:1, 2). By striving to imitate Christ, as imperfect as all of us are, we hope to draw attention to our Savior who has redeemed us and all sinners with his holy, precious blood. So, we sing and also pray: Let us ever walk with Jesus; follow his example pure!

DEDICATION

Our Saviour Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, AZ, dedicated its new building on August 3, 2003. The library at the school has been named in memory of Karen Schneck, former teacher of the school.

ANNIVERSARY

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, East Jordan, MI, Rev. Jeff Londgren, pastor, celebrates its 100th anniversary on August 10 with two worship services in the morning at 8:30 and 10:30. Pres. Moldstad will be guest speaker. Noon meal will be provided and will be held at the East Jordan Snowmobile Club. Pastor John Melke (WELS) will be guest speaker for the afternoon.

CALLS

Rev. William Grimm to St. Paul's Portage and Newport, Wisconsin Dells Parish (accepted)

Installation is temporarily being planned for August 17, 2003.

Rev. Jerome Gernander to Hawley and Ulen, MN Parish (returned)

Rev. Thomas Westendorf to Saved by Grace, Medford, OR (accepted)

VACANCIES

Calvary, Ulen and Our Savior's, Hawley, MN
First Evanger, Fertile and Grace, Crookston, MN
Emmaus and St. Mark's, Chicago, IL
Our Savior, Bishop, CA

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Allen Labitzke was appointed to the Board for Education and Youth (1 year)
Mr. Rodney Kuznicki was appointed to the Committee for Integrating Technology (3 years)
Rev. Milton Tweit was appointed to the Synod Review Committee (3 years)

DEATH

The Rev. Roger Kovaciny's mother recently passed away. Please keep Roger and his family in your prayers.

OTHER NEWS:

The Lutheran Youth Association held its annual convention at our Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, on July 24-27. The theme of the convention was *For All the Saints*. One of the morning devotions was held at the new mission, Peace Lutheran Church, in North Mankato. One of the most interesting activities which was also spiritually edifying for the youth was the acting out of the Parables of Jesus with limited props. They also made a trip to the Valley Fair Amusement Park in Shakopee, MN. The Rev. Tony Pittenger, pastor at Port Orchard, WA, was preacher for the closing service at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. His sermon was based on the text: John 15:3 *Ye are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*



LYA at Peace Lutheran in North Mankato, MN

Classes at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary will begin on August 26, 2003.

There are four incoming juniors making a total enrollment of 13, which includes the four students serving their year of vicarage.

RETIREMENT

Pastor Martin Doepel retired from the active ministry on June 30, 2003. his new address and phone number is as follows:

Rev. Martin Doepel
1613 Aylmer Court
Eau Claire, WI 54703
(715) 833-7068

NOTE TO PASTORS: Please send information to the ELS office on Christian Day School teachers who are being installed in your congregations. We keep a record of pastors who are being installed and we want to do the same for our teachers.

NEWS FROM THE WELS CONVENTION

Your synod president brought greetings to the WELS on Tuesday afternoon. A special presentation of our ELS Historical Society's medallion commemorating our synod's 150th anniversary was made to WELS President Gurgel.

Rev. Karl Gurgel was reelected president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The third-ballot election took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 30.

WELS officially declared fellowship with Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (The Lutheran Church of Indonesia or GLI). GLI faces active persecution in the predominantly Muslim country. Two exploratory posts were forced to close and one congregation had its church building destroyed. Despite the persecution, the Lord has blessed their church with a doubling of membership (about 600) and a tripling of pastors and evangelists during the past three years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 4 - Stewardship Board and ELS Foundation Meeting, Mankato, MN
Aug. 5 – Board of Trustees meets in Mankato, MN
Aug. 10 – Preach for 100th anniversary of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, East Jordan, MI
Aug. 11 & 12 – Board of Regents at the Schwan Retreat Center in Trego, WI
Aug. 17 – Board for Publications meets in Onalaska, WI
Aug. 18, 19 – Doctrine Committee, meets in Mankato, MN
Aug 21-22 – Thoughts of Faith meets in Madison, WI

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Circuit Visitors, please note corrected date (September 25-26) for the Visitors' Conference to be held at the Holiday Inn, Burnsville, MN.

Our Circuit Visitors will be taking note of a newly adopted guideline that will determine a portion of the agenda for future meetings: *The program for each meeting shall include a review of the synod's work on the circuit level as well as on the synodical level. The theme shall be: "Are you carrying out the work that the synod has resolved to do?" A review of the synod's guidelines shall be included, especially reflecting any amendments that were adopted at the most recent convention.*

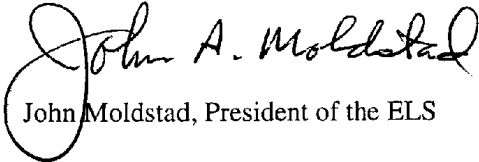
PCM

The next meeting of the Presidium's Committee on Ministry will take place at Heritage Lutheran, Apple Valley, MN, on Tuesday, August 19. The committee continues its study of the doctrine of the public ministry as it works toward producing a statement for possible adoption by our synod.

SYNOD FINANCES

Through the month of June budget contributions have totaled \$55,102. This represents a \$12,815 increase over contribution for the same period last year (\$42,287). At the halfway mark during the year we are \$8,647 short of our \$765,000 adopted budget. We thank our congregations and individual members for remembering the work of the synod in their prayers and in their offerings.

Your friend in Christ,



John A. Moldstad, President of the ELS