

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

September 3, 2003

Dear Fellow Workers:

Ready for the rush? As congregations swing back into full schedules with Sunday School and Bible classes, etc., we think of what Moses wrote in Psalm 90: "*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*" Busy schedules threaten to rob us of seeing the fruits of in-depth study. But with leaders and flocks devoting even more time to the study of God's Word, blessings will result. Wisdom—true wisdom—will increase. What advantages we have for sharing spiritual insights from Scripture with one another! What a chance to reinforce the message of our redemption from sin, death, Satan and hell through the completed work of our dear Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ! Yes . . . bring on the rush!

CALLS

- Rev. Kent Dethlefsen to the Ulen/Hawley, MN, Parish, (holding)

INSTALLATIONS

- Ms. Rachel Freer as kindergarten and grade 1 teacher of Our Saviour Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, AZ, on July 27, 2003.
- Mr. Timothy Schubkegel as principal and teacher of grades 5 through 8 at Our Saviour Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, AZ, on August 3, 2003.
- Mr. Matthew Fager as teacher of grades 3 through 5 at Bethany Lutheran School, Port Orchard, WA, on August 3, 2003.
- Mr. Ryan Rathje as teacher of grade 7 at Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, WI, on August 17, 2003.
- Miss Elizabeth Krause as teacher of grade 6 at Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, WI, on August 24, 2003.
- The Rev. Thomas Westendorf will be installed as pastor of Saved by Grace Lutheran Church, Medford, OR, on September 28, 2003.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, Iowa, will celebrate its 120th anniversary on September 14, 2003. The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr., former pastor of the congregation, will be guest speaker for the morning service and President Emeritus George Orvick, a son of the congregation, will be guest preacher for the afternoon festival service.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, rural Bagley, MN, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on September 28, 2003. The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr., founding pastor of the congregation, will

preach the sermon and the Rev. Robert A. Lawson, Sr., former pastor, will be the liturgist.

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA, will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on October 19, 2003. The Rev. Steven Petersen, a son of the congregation, will be guest preacher.

DEDICATIONS IN OCTOBER

Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, will dedicate its new narthex on October 12, 2003. Synod President John A. Moldstad will be the guest preacher.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, rural Princeton, MN, will dedicate its new fellowship hall on October 19, 2003. Synod President John A. Moldstad will be the guest speaker.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 8 – Planning & Coordinating Committee, Mankato, MN

Sept. 9 – CELC Planning Committee (teleconference)

Sept. 14 – Pres. Moldstad preaches at Hope Lutheran, West Jordan, UT

Sept. 19 – ELS Doctrine Committee Meeting (CICR) Milwaukee, WI

Sept. 19 – Christian Service Board meets in Stoughton, WI

Sept. 25-26, Circuit Visitors Conference, Burnsville, MN

Sept. 29-30, Board for Education and Youth meets at King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Schwark. Bruce and Jeong Yun Choi were united in marriage on August 18, 2003, at First German Ev. Lutheran Church, Manitowoc, WI.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We reported earlier that Pastor Timothy Zenda had surgery August 20th for the removal of his appendix and also a large mass which they discovered during exploratory surgery. We are pleased to report that the large mass (tumor) was benign. Praise God for this good news.

Mrs. Mary Moldstad recently had surgery and is presently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers. She is the mother of Mrs. Dan Bruss and Jon Moldstad (BLC).

Pastor Herbert Larson recently had colon surgery and is staying at the home of one of his daughters. His situation is serious, as the cancer has spread into the lymph nodes. We pray that God will grant healing according to his good and gracious will and that Herb's trust in Christ's salvation remains firm. Herb can be contacted at: 190 Spring Hollow, New Braunsfels, TX 78132 Phone: 830-624-2787.

NEWS FROM PERU

Congratulations to the people of the village of Viejo Limon Cocha on their new church building. Terry Schultz reports, "These villages do not know Jesus, and are pleading with us to teach them!" Kurt Smith and his family are continuing to study Spanish and are beginning to use it in conversation and in witnessing about Jesus. One success has been the watchmen at the village where they live. Tim Erickson reports that the construction of the school at Reynoso is nearing completion. Dedication of the new school is planned soon. Tim and Terry report the great benefit of Casa Emmanuel, the drug rehabilitation center. The clients have been helped and many guided to the Lord Christ and His church.

NEWS FROM CHILE

Karen Kuenzel is recovering from her illness. She had a severe reaction to medicine, was hospitalized, and is now regaining strength at home.

GENERAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The dates of the ELS General Pastoral Conference are Tuesday-Thursday, October 7-9, at the Schwan Retreat Center, Trego, WI. We hope that all of our pastors will be able to attend. Please note that the registration form is to be sent directly to the Schwan Retreat Center. To place your reservation, you may call: 1-800-577-4848.

SEMINARY IN SESSION



The seminary enrollment this fall shows nine full-time men in the classroom, with four others currently serving vicarages. Please pray for the instructors and students at our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

COLLEGE NEWS

We also urge you to keep our Bethany Lutheran College in your daily prayers. The preliminary enrollment figures for the college indicate a head count of approximately 530. This school year marks the first time our college is offering the Elementary Education major.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors of Thoughts of Faith on April 4, 2003, dismissed the Rev. Joel Rakos for cause and also recommended he be removed from the ELS clergy roster. In July the Board for Foreign Missions concurred with the action of TOF and recommended that the synod president

remove Joel Rakos from the clergy roster. While dealing with the case, our synod president received a letter from Joel K. Rakos serving notice of his immediate resignation from the clergy roster of the ELS. Joel Rakos is no longer eligible to receive calls from constituencies in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

HEALTH INSURANCE

This year's convention resolved that the synod ask an appropriate board "to create a clearinghouse for sharing information about plans, experiences and alternatives for addressing the problem of spiraling health insurance costs." The Christian Service Board has been assigned this task.

WEBMASTER

The Board for Publications has asked Rev. Jesse Jacobsen to serve temporarily as our synod's webmaster. The board hopes to have a new and much more advanced site up and running by early next year.

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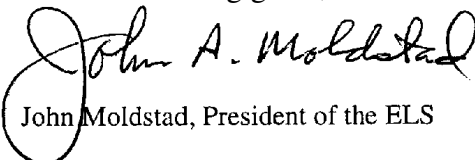
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May God's rich grace accompany you in all your dealings with his precious lambs. May his Word take root and produce a harvest of blessings.

In Christ's saving grace,



John Moldstad, President of the ELS

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