

## **PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER**

November 6, 2003

Dear Fellow Workers:

As we this month come to the end of the church year, our thoughts turn to the end times and our Lord's glorious reappearing. Who of us needs any convincing that signs listed by Jesus in Matthew 24 are being fulfilled? Heresies, false Christs, false prophets, wars, rumors of wars, the love of many gone cold, earthquakes and natural disasters—we've witnessed them all. Thinking of the hour of judgment can be quite intimidating. Finality. No second chance. Unbelief judged. Sheep and goats separated. Are we ready? Yes, by faith in the God of mercy we are ready. Micah asks, "*Who is a God like you who pardons sin...?*" (Micah 7:18) Through the life and death and resurrection of God's Son, we have been made to see how God has tread our sins underfoot and hurled them into the depths of the sea (7:19). Each of us is prepared for meeting our Lord through taking hold of what has been offered us in baptism. Here our merciful God's gracious forgiveness of sins is applied personally to our souls and we are adopted into his family of believers. May we comfort one another while we hear the call to readiness. Let the Gospel ring out loud and clear!

### **VACANCIES**

Our Savior Lutheran, Bishop, CA

First Evanger Lutheran, Fertile and Grace Lutheran, Crookston, MN

### **VICAR REQUEST**

Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, WA

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

The first meeting of the Board for Christian Service's subcommittee dealing with health insurance issues occurred on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The committee is working on establishing a clearinghouse for information to be shared with our congregations. Soon a survey will be emailed to our pastors and congregations requesting some brief information. The committee is welcoming input. Please contact the chairman, Mr. Herb Berg at:

[hberg1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:hberg1@tampabay.rr.com)

### **CA VISIT**

This past weekend I had the opportunity to meet with members of our synod in the congregations of Faith Lutheran in Irvine, CA (Pastor William Stehr); Asian Mission Church, Irvine, CA (Pastor Young-Ha Kim); and St. Paul's Lutheran in Escondido, CA (Pastor Robert Lawson, Jr.). We conveyed to each group that their fellow brothers and sisters in the ELS have been praying for them and the people in southern California who have experienced loss because of the wildfires. We are thankful to say that apparently none of our own synod members were directly affected. Pastor Lawson's home in Escondido, however, was only about 3/4 mile from the fire line.



Our churches in Irvine, CA (Faith and Asian Mission Church), share the same leased facility. It is located at 13955 Yale Avenue in Irvine.



A new sign for St. Paul's Lutheran in Escondido, CA: Pastor Rob Lawson says it will be installed at the front of their property soon.

### **PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Nov. 10-11 — Board of Regents meeting, Mankato
- Nov. 16 — Preach for a mission festival at Peace Lutheran, Deshler, Ohio
- Nov. 18 — Trustees meeting, Mankato
- Nov. 23 — Preach at Faith Lutheran, San Antonio, TX
- Nov. 25 — CELC Planning Committee meeting

## ELS FACTS

Quick facts about mission work in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

- There are 138 congregations in the ELS.
- One in every five pastors serves as a “missionary.”

There are 20 home mission congregations in the U.S. receiving some level of financial support.

- Our newest home mission congregations are located at:  
Clermont, Florida – Plainfield, Illinois – Springboro, Ohio – Medford, Oregon.

There are 7 foreign missionaries (4 in Peru and 3 in Chile).

- There are 33 congregations/groups and 3 Christian day schools in Peru.
- There are 6 national pastors and a seminary in Peru with 13 students/vicars.
- There are 4 congregations/groups in Chile.

## WEBSITE

Rev. Jesse Jacobsen, who is serving as our webmaster, urges people to visit our present site at: <http://www.evluthsyn.org> Your comments are welcomed and may be made via the email address provided.

## OTHER NEWS

- Home missions in San Antonio (Faith), TX; and Fort Mojave (Family of God), AZ, are pursuing building projects. In Plainfield, IL, our exploratory mission is seeking to acquire property. Please pray for our home missions.

In Peru the congregation at Reynoso dedicated its new school on Reformation Day, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Appropriately the name is: Martin Luther School.

The 2004 General Pastoral Conference will be held on Wednesday through Friday, October 6-8, at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat & Conference Center.

Recently the Board for Christian Service sent monetary assistance to a WELS church/school in the Indianapolis area that had been hit with flooding. Our synod's church in Brownsburg sends children to this school.



New exterior of Bethany Lutheran, Princeton, MN, on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October

## **A STORY FROM LATVIA**

“It was at our kitchen table this past July 4<sup>th</sup> that Uldis told us about himself to our family and friends. He had been an unbeliever (atheist) during his childhood and some of his adult life. During his time as a soldier in the Russian army, this Latvian man felt life had no purpose, and many of his comrades felt the same way. They had no belief in God. He became suicidal.

“His younger sister died and the family grieved. His mother had very difficult times with the loss of a daughter and told Uldis she had not baptized her daughter.

“This awakened Uldis, who at this time had three daughters of his own. He spoke with a Lutheran pastor who encouraged him and his wife and daughters to listen to what Scripture says about baptism. After three study periods, the entire family was baptized.

At this time he switched careers and became a pastor in the Latvian Lutheran Church. Uldis now serves in our sister church body, the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia.”  
- submitted by Mr. Dick Waldschmidt, TOF

## **INDIA**

At its October meeting, the ELS Board for Foreign Missions decided to elect a three-man committee to study the possibility of having our synod sponsor part of a former WELS mission in India. Three men serving on this committee are Rev. Steven Petersen (chairman), Prof. Adie Harstad and Rev. Paul Fries. The group in India is known as LMSI (Lutheran Mission for Salvation, India). Pastor Solomon, one of the pastors of LMSI, visited our convention this year. If our synod were to become involved in sponsoring the work in the LMSI, one of the options for supervision of the work could involve the creation of a new church-related organization. An outside funding source would also need to be secured. The Schwan Foundation has expressed interest in supporting this endeavor. Please pray for the board as it decides what to recommend concerning India to our 2004 convention.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- The Rev. Paul Lehenbauer underwent open-heart surgery on October 28<sup>th</sup> and, due to bleeding, had to have a second operation later on in the day. He is stable and the family is optimistic about his recovery.
- Mrs. Stanley Reinholtz is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Mrs. Marlin Goebel is recovering from surgery to correct injuries she received to her shoulder and arm following a fall.
- Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., is undergoing treatment.
- Mrs. Marvin Meyer (Pat) is recuperating following hip replacement surgery.
- Rev. Dan Basel's father was taken to his heavenly home on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Basel family in your prayers.

## **KOSHKONONG ANNIVERSARIES**

Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, WI, is in the process of producing a CD in observance of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its school, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the old Synod, and the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary (next year) of the first service under the oaks. We will let you know more about this later when the CD becomes available.



October 12 was the dedication day the new narthex at Parkland Lutheran, Tacoma, WA.

New e-mail addresses:

Rev. William Mack: [revwmack@milwpc.com](mailto:revwmack@milwpc.com)

Rev. Cory Hahnke: ([hahnke@gorge.net](mailto:hahnke@gorge.net))

Rev. Roger Holtz: [rogholtz@wels.net](mailto:rogholtz@wels.net)

May God grant you his abiding presence as you find strength and comfort in Word and Sacrament.

John A. Moldstad  
President  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

JAM:ma