

HERE ARE SOME NEWS ITEMS FOR DECEMBER:

VICAR GOING TO PORT ORCHARD, WA

Seminary student Piet Van Kampen will take up his vicarage at Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, WA, right after the beginning of the New Year. He and his wife Charity and two sons, Andrew and James will be heading west.

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP:

At this year's convention we as a synod passed the following resolution:

"WHEREAS: The Board for Stewardship is planning to invite all congregations of the synod to join in a solidly Scriptural stewardship emphasis (Tell the Praiseworthy Deeds of the LORD), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all pastors and delegates be asked to return home ready to encourage their congregations eagerly and cheerfully to adopt this new stewardship emphasis." {Resolution 8, Finances, p. 123, 86th Annual Convention of the ELS}.

By now, our congregations should have received the Tell the Praiseworthy Deeds of the LORD. Please put these materials to use! There is no cost for the materials - a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans kept the synod budget from being impacted in this effort. If you desire help implementing these stewardship materials, do not hesitate to contact the Board. For Stewardship chairman, Pastor David Russow, dprussow@yahoo.com, 763-546-3131, and he will assist you. He is also available for pastors' winkels and conferences to help facilitate the use of the materials.

Also, pastors and congregational presidents, watch for a letter from the Board for Stewardship engaging our congregations to help construct a communication pipeline within the ELS. Each congregation will receive an explanation, be asked to appoint or elect a voting member to serve as an ELS Ambassador, who, along with the pastor, will receive and pass on information, both directions, between the congregation and the synod as a whole. The Praesidium and Circuit Visitors in conference have wholeheartedly endorsed establishing this communication network.

ALSO A NOTE FROM OUR SYNOD TREASURER:

Through the month of November congregational receipts have totaled for the year: \$587,020. Our budget for this year is \$765,000. By the end of this calendar year we need \$178,000 to make our budgeted goal. Please keep the needs of our synod in your prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev. and Mrs. Martin Doepel were involved in an automobile accident on their way to church Sunday morning, November 23. They are both doing okay outside of a few bumps and bruises.

Rev. Paul Lehenbauer reports that he is slowly recovering from his open-heart surgery he had in October and is receiving physical therapy at home.

Rev. Arlen Dethlefsen has had surgery on both eyes this week. His wife reports that he has had a little setback and is back in the hospital.

Yvonne Keeler's mother, who lived on the family farm near Lancaster, Minnesota, was taken to her heavenly home on December 3, 2003. Edith was the last of her generation. She will be missed for her vast knowledge of the history of the community and its people. Please keep Yvonne's family in your prayers.

Rev. Paul Petersen is residing in a convalescent home in Madison following an episode of congestive heart failure.

A blessed celebration of our Savior's birth to all of you from all of us at 6 Browns Court,

John A. Moldstad
President