

President's Newsletter

February 5, 2004

Dear Fellow Workers:

In our courts when witnesses take the stand they raise their right hand and call upon God as a witness to their telling the truth. On the Mount of Transfiguration we can say that God took the witness stand himself. He proclaims and visibly shows Jesus as his beloved Son and adds that in him he is well pleased. How wonderful that we have a Savior who has the full glory of God. How wonderful that we have a Savior who is himself very God of very God! It is *He* who has redeemed us. How can we sinners ever be in doubt about our salvation? It is *He* whom we serve. How can we not be certain *He* is with us and blessing us as we go about his gospel work?

News From Around The Synod

Vacancies

- Our Savior Lutheran, Bishop, CA
- First Evanger Lutheran, Fertile, MN, and Grace Lutheran, Crookston, MN

Board for Foreign Missions

- At this time Missions Counselor Steven Petersen and Missionary Terry Schultz are visiting the LMSI group in India. The Foreign Mission Board is expected to made a recommendation concerning India to our convention this year.
- Rev. and Mrs. David Lillegard have returned to the states and are resuming duties at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastian, Florida.
- Change in the South American mission field: Missionaries Tim Erickson and Karl Kuenzel will be exchanging places — Tim Erickson will be serving in Chile and Karl Kuenzel in Peru.

Board for Home Missions

- Construction has begun at Family of God Lutheran Church, Fort Mojave, Arizona. Pastor Wentzlaff reports that they have 14 men and their wives from Builders for Christ (WELS) helping out.
- Cross-stitch has made \$3000 available for new resident outreach.
- Cross-stitch has also provided \$2000 for office equipment updates.

Youth Convention: July 29 – August 1, 2004, in the Orlando, FL, area.

The registration for the convention is scheduled to start at 6 p. m. on Thursday, July 29, at Rollins College. Activities will begin about 8 p. m. following the registrations. The convention will conclude about 1:30 p. m. on Sunday, August 1. A promotional poster and letter of explanation are being mailed to every congregation. You can also get information by checking our synod's website at <http://www.evluthsyn.org/lya.html>



Family of God Lutheran – Fort Mojave, AZ

Synod Convention Preparations

- The dates for the 2004 convention are June 20 – June 24.
- The theme of the convention is: *Seek the Peace of the Land* (Jer. 29,7)
- Synod Sunday preacher: Rev. Jonathan Madson
- Schwan Retreat Chaplain David Thompson will be the essayist.
- Rev. Anthony Pittenger will be the preacher for the Wednesday evening Communion Service.
- Prof. Bill Bukowski will once again be working on a painting.

Lutheran Elementary School (LES) Memorial

The Board for Education and Youth has completed its study of the LES Memorial assigned at last year's convention. It is recommending that the synod implement aspects of the memorial that will assist in developing an education foundation for the establishment of new Lutheran elementary schools. In anticipation of the convention's approval, Pres. Moldstad has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to begin the necessary plans for the solicitation of funds for such a foundation. Please pray for the Lord's guidance on this important endeavor.



Our Saviour Lutheran School – Lake Havasu City, AZ

Finances for the Synod

Congregational offerings for the 2003 fiscal year totaled \$748,803.07. Our budget for congregational offerings was \$765,000, leaving a shortfall of \$16,196.93. The Planning & Coordinating Committee met this past week and recommended to the Board of Trustees to trim the current budget for 2004 by \$73,229. The Board of Trustees approved the recommended revised actual budget for 2004 at \$3,172,750. The congregational contribution portion of the newly revised budget is **\$765,000**. The Planning & Coordinating Committee is recommending to the convention the same \$3,172,750 actual budget for 2005 as in 2004.

PCM

The Presidium's Committee on Ministry released its Ministry Statement to the president on February 2, 2004. On March 22nd the committee will meet jointly with the Doctrine Committee. Hopefully by early this spring the document can be disseminated to all of our pastors for continued study. While the report from the PCM will be printed for this year's convention, no action will be taken. The report will go before the General Pastoral Conference for discussion. Please continue to pray for our synod in its handling of this important issue.

Health Insurance

The Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that on Tuesday evening of our convention week a presentation by WELS VEBA be made. We hope that pastors and delegates will plan to attend the 7 p.m. session on June 22nd with Mr. Jon Flanagan. Please come with your questions.

Prayer Requests

- Mrs. Lynette Jones has undergone major surgery. She is a member of the Bethany College staff and teaches an Education class, 2 Health classes and a Physical Education class. Please keep Lynette and her family in your prayers as she continues her recovery at home.
- Mr. Stanley Reinholtz is recovering from recent surgery and has also suffered a stroke.
- The Dethlefsens are grateful for your continued prayers from which they have received much comfort and strength.
- Rev. Paul Lehenbauer is taking Cardiac Rehab and is doing well. He hopes to eventually regain his full strength.
- Mr. Harvey David Ringen, long life Lutheran and very active member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, has entered the church triumphant. He served as a member of our ELS Evangelism Committee and as a delegate to the annual synod conventions for many years. Two of his grandchildren, Joshua and Rebecca, are attending Bethany College. Please remember the Ringen family in your prayers.

A Call to Rejoice

Dear Members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

Please rejoice with me over the many blessings our Synod and the Kingdom of God have experienced through Faith Mission Society and the dedicated efforts of both Marlin and Jean Goebel. The faithful publication of MISSION NEWS has brought forth much valuable information on our work of missions. Also, from June of 1972 through December 31, 2003, contributions to FMS have totaled \$1,001,068.70. That's over a MILLION DOLLARS! Praise the Lord for His many blessings. Thank you, Marlin & Jean, for many years of faithful service. We now enjoy a new chairman of the Board of Directors, Pastor Bruce Schwark, pastor at Hillman, Michigan. May the Lord continue to bless the efforts of this Mission Society.

Sincerely in Christ,
Paul Schneider, Vice Chairman

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rev. Matthew Brooks and Rebecca Dinyer who will be united in marriage on June 3, 2004, at Peace Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Trip to Ukraine

On March 4 – 13, 2004, your president and Prof. Adolph Harstad (Foreign Mission Board chairman) will be traveling in Ukraine with two members of the Thoughts of Faith Board. During the trip two groundbreaking ceremonies are scheduled. The trip for your president and Prof. Harstad is being funded by a special donor.

Anniversary

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Indianola, Iowa, will celebrate its 5th anniversary on Saturday, February 21, 2004. The Rev. Karl Heck will be guest preacher.

Resignations

- The Rev. Klebe Brumble has resigned from the Board of Regents. He is a type B member of the Board.
- The Rev. John Smith has resigned from the Board for Stewardship for personal reasons.

Corrections

- We wish to correct the statement that was sent around by e-mail in the January Newsletter regarding Rev. Carl Wosje's retirement. He did not retire in January. The date of his retirement is not certain.
- Rev. Christopher Dale's phone number is the same for home and office: (218) 596-8761

President's Activities

- February 2 – Planning & Coordinating Committee meeting, Mankato
- February 3 – Board of Trustees meeting, Mankato
- February 9&10 – Board of Regents meeting, Mankato
- February 15 – Preach at Faith Lutheran Church, Carthage, MO
- February 20 – Synod Review Committee meeting, Mankato
- February 21 – Historical Society meeting, Mankato
- February 22 – Board for Publications meeting, Onalaska, WI
- February 29 – Preach at Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, IA

New Address

Dr. & Mrs. Bjarne W. Teigen are being moved to: Hopkins Care Center, 725 Second Ave. S, Hopkins MN 55343. Their son Norman's address is: 1106 Trailwood North, Hopkins MN 55343

New E-mail addresses

- David Lillegard dlillegard@joimail.com
- Aaron Hamilton hopelutheranutah@yahoo.com
- Andrew Palmquist osllakeland@highstream.net
- Micah Ernst maeceernst@hotmail.com
- Darryl Bakke jbakk2@smig.net
- Oto Rodriguez otochile_4@hotmail.com
- Harvey Abrahamson revabe@mchsi.com

The Lord's richest blessings to all of you,

John A Moldstad
President
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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