

President's Newsletter

April 6, 2004

Dear Fellow Workers:

Would you like a substitute during this busy Holy Week? Remember, you truly have one—an impeccable one, and not just for this week! Isaiah writes, “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted.” In sharing with your flocks the news of how the Christ suffered and died for the sins of the world, may we not overlook **personalizing** his vicarious atonement. He substituted himself for *you* and for *me!* It was your sins and mine for which he paid the awful price. Luther exclaims: “His suffering was nothing else than our sin. These words, OUR, US, FOR US, must be written in letters of gold!” Rejoice in knowing we have a personal substitute who has carried the full weight of our sins, and now we have eternal redemption! The empty tomb seals this great fact!

Vacancies

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bishop, CA

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

Our Redeemer, Kallangur, QLD, Australia (independent)

Update on Synod Convention Preparations

- Synod Convention Dates: June 20 – 24, 2004
- Theme: *Seek the Peace of the Land* (Jer. 29,7)
- Synod Sunday service, 2:30 pm, Rev. Jonathan Madson, preacher; Rev. John Smith, liturgist
- Picnic Supper on Bethany Campus immediately following afternoon service
- Sunday evening, 7 o'clock, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary graduation service; Seminary President Gaylin Schmeling, preacher
- Convention Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Rank
- Essayist: The Rev. David Thompson
- Painting by Prof. Bill Bukowski
- Bethany Women's Auxiliary Reception, 2 to 4 pm at the home of BLC Pres. Dan and Kathy Bruss
- Monday evening, 7 o'clock, Cross-Stitch presentation, Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center
- Tuesday afternoon Anniversaries of Ordination Service, 5 pm
- Wednesday afternoon Memorial Service, 5 pm
- Wednesday evening Communion Service, 7:30 pm, Rev. Anthony Pittenger, preacher; Prof. Mark Harstad, liturgist
- Devotion Speakers: Revs. Robert Harting, Wm. Mack, Paul Sullivan, and Fred Lams
- Order of Service for Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening: Prof. Dennis Marzolf, arrangements
- Tuesday evening: Spaghetti Supper, 5 to 7 pm, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
- Wednesday Evening: Sloppy Joe Supper, 5:30 to 7 pm, Peace Lutheran Church, North Mankato

ELS Historical Society

The ELS Historical Society will begin its 8th Annual Meeting at Bethany Lutheran College on Saturday, June 19th, with registration and coffee at 9:30 am. The theme for this year's meeting is: *Understanding Our Heritage through the Stories Handed Down from Our Forebears.*

Report on President's Trip to Ukraine

In the month of March, Prof. Adie Harstad (chairman of our Board for Foreign Missions), Mr. Dan Browning and Mr. Mark Schwan (members of the board of directors for Thoughts of Faith) and myself had the privilege of visiting our sister church body, the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. On Sunday, March 7th, the ULC dedicated its new hymnbook at Resurrection Lutheran in Kiev. Another highlight of the trip was a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building in Sevastopol.

It was in 1993 that inaugural worship services for the Ukrainian Lutheran Church were held in Kiev and Ternopil. Presently the ULC has 25 congregations and 11 preaching stations. We give thanks to God that the Gospel is being proclaimed vigorously through this former Soviet nation.



ULC Bishop Horpynchuk with a signed copy of the new ULC Service Book. He presented this copy for inclusion in the library of our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Report on Joint Meeting of the Doctrine Committee and the PCM

A collegial and fraternal spirit characterized the discussions between the special committee appointed to study the doctrine of the public ministry and our synod's standing committee on

doctrine. A major portion of the day's schedule on March 22nd was allocated for a point-by-point discussion of the initial draft of the PCM. The president now has asked the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM) to continue its work in honing and editing its February 2nd draft. The hope is that the study document will soon be ready for distribution to our pastors and congregations. Let us keep petitioning our Lord to use these steps of study and discussion for the glory of his name, for the preservation of the truth, and for the sake of confessional unity in our midst.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rev. Andrew Palmquist and Christine Gulczynski who will be united in marriage on July 9, 2004, at Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, WI. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Florida Women's Mission Rally

Pastor Palmquist's congregation, Our Savior Lutheran in Lakeland, FL, hosted the spring rally for the Florida Women's Mission Society. Joslyn Moldstad presented "The Role of Women in Church, Home and Society," using positive examples of how faithful women have served to assist in the mission activities of Christ's church.



ELS FL Women's Mission Rally – March 20, 2004

Synod Finances

Through February this year income from congregational support has totaled \$93,885. Last year at the same point in time the receipts were \$87,296. Pray that the Lord will have us meet or exceed our revised budgeted goal for 2004 of \$765,000.

Tenth Anniversary

Messiah Lutheran Church, Omro, WI, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on April 25, 2004. Pres. John Moldstad will be the guest speaker for the festive occasion.

Reminder to Pastors, Delegates and Teachers

- Delegate information is needed by April 16
- Time requests for presentations must be received by April 16
- We want to be sure and include pastors who are observing anniversaries of ordination this year at our anniversary service. Please let us know if you have or will be observing 25, 40, 50 or more years since your ordination.
- We also want to include teachers who have observed 25, 40 or more years in the teaching ministry. Please check with your Christian Day School teachers to find out if any of them should be included in this year's anniversary service.



Pastor Robert Harting serves Good Shepherd Lutheran (Indianola) located near Des Moines, IA

News from Peru & Chile

Recently the Board for Foreign Missions did some realigning. Missionary Karl Kuenzel and Missionary Timothy Erickson have been reassigned. Rev. Kunzel will be moving from Chile to work in the Peruvian field, while Rev. Erickson will be moving from Peru to work in the Chilean field.

Early this year the Peruvian synod-wide VBS training was offered in the regions of Lima and the

Amazon. Twenty-four congregations were represented at the Lima workshops, and six congregations at the Tarapoto workshops.

Missionary Terry Schultz reports from the Amazon: “Our Jungle Evangelism Team, including Pastor Ronal, two Chayahuita leaders from Parinari and me, were warmly received at our very first visit to two new native villages, Nueva Tocache Sur and Nueva Tocache Norte. . . Not a single person in either village knows Jesus as their Savior. I made a Gospel presentation of over one hour long to each village. The results: The Holy Spirit worked mightily through the Word, as the people were exceptionally attentive and receptive to our message! The natives asked us to return to bring more ‘teaching about the true God’ as soon as we could!”

Korea

Our Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven Peterson, and also the Rev. Young Ha Kim from Irvine, CA, traveled to Naju City at the end of March. They put on presentations for the independent congregation, Young Kang Church, which is served by Pastor Soo Bin Jung.

We continue to develop our relationship with this independent congregation, helping also to facilitate ESL teachers at their school.

Prayer Requests

Mrs. Elizabeth Dethlefsen reports that Arlen’s recent cataract surgery went very well. He has one last surgery in about 3 weeks to correct scar tissue on the retina. The Dethlefsens are grateful to God for His mercy and care and also very thankful for all the prayers which have been given on their behalf.

Ezekiel Ernst, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Micah Ernst, and Bethany College student, is recovering at home after recently undergoing surgery at St. Marys Hospital in Rochester to remove an aneurism from his brain. Please continue to remember him in your prayers.

New Address

Rev. Timothy Erickson, Exp. #1141, P.M. Box 025285, Miami, FL 33102-5285

Death

The Rev. Paul Petersen was called to his heavenly home on March 17, 2004. Christian burial service was held on March 20, 2004, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, WI. Interment was at Roselawn Memorial Park in Monona, WI.

President’s Activities

April 1 – 2 Thoughts of Faith meeting, Madison, WI
April 18 Preach at Faith Lutheran, Litchfield, IL
April 20 – 21 Great Lakes Pastoral Conference, Litchfield, IL
April 22 – 23 Board for Foreign Missions, Mankato, MN
April 25 Preach at Messiah Lutheran, Omro, WI
April 26 Regents/Trustees Subcommittee

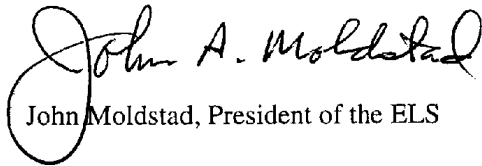
Lutheran Schools Initiative

A specially appointed LES (Lutheran Elementary Schools) Memorial Committee is scheduled for its second meeting on Wednesday, May 12th, at 9 a.m. The committee is helping to plan a course of action for the establishment of a special foundation for developing Lutheran elementary

schools. The plans for such a foundation and the corresponding solicitation of funds are in anticipation of this year's convention approving the Board for Education and Youth's suggested resolution. Truly, the goal of this initiative is a worthy one: impacting the lives of young people with the Word of God and giving them a solid footing in a world that is increasingly inimical to the Gospel.

May the exuberant news of our Lord Jesus' glorious resurrection echo and reecho in your heart as you continue to serve in the work of God's kingdom.

In His saving grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Moldstad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Moldstad, President of the ELS

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