

**President's Newsletter**  
September 1, 2004

**Dear Fellow Workers:**

In Bo Giertz' book, *The Hammer of God*, Pastor Torvik, while looking for direction in his ministry, comes to the realization: "The foundation must remain the old and unshakable one. It rested on the solid rock of the Word, and it bore the ancient road-marks of the church. It led to the same goal as always, passing through the same narrow gate, over the same way of salvation and according to the same order of grace as of old. Nothing of the old was obsolete: the confession remained just as firm, and the answers the church had given through the centuries were just as conclusive against the many enticements of the modern enthusiasts."

Pastors, teachers and lay leaders in the ELS: May the discovery of Pastor Torvik be the realization of all of us as we push into the busy season when church activities dot our calendars. Do we look for something new? ... Remember the old tried and true. The presentation of Christ's forgiveness in good Law/Gospel preaching and in the instruction of, and in the administration of, the Sacraments is what the ministry is all about. May God give us new opportunities to bring home the ancient truths to all we meet. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

**Calls**

Rev. John Smith to St. Martin Lutheran, Shawano, WI—accepted  
Rev. Karl Heck to Peace Lutheran, Jefferson City, MO—holding  
Rev. David Meyer to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, Australia—holding  
Rev. Roger Holtz to Redeemer Lutheran, Iola, WI—holding  
Rev. Ronald Muetzel to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI—accepted  
Rev. Dan Basel to English Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN—holding

**Vacancies**

First Evanger Lutheran, Fertile, MN, and Grace Lutheran, Crookston, MN  
Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, QLD, Australia (independent)  
Redeemer Lutheran, Iola, WI  
Peace Lutheran, Jefferson City, MO  
English Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN

**Anniversaries**

King of Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its school on September 24-26. President Moldstad will be preaching for the occasion.

Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, WI, will celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first communion service held "under the oaks" on September 12, 2004. The Rev. George Orvick will be guest preacher.

Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, IA, will celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its congregation with a special service on September 19, 2004. The Rev. George Orvick will preach for the occasion.

Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, WA, will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 26. The Rev. Glenn Obenberger will preach for the festival service.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, AZ, will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its congregation and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school on September 19.

### **Circuit Visitors' Conference**

Circuit Visitors' Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Burnsville, MN, on September 23-24. Rev. Paul Schneider is scheduled to present a paper entitled: "Properly Perceiving Perplexing Pastoral/Parishioner Problems."

### **PCM**

Recently the Doctrine Committee reviewed the study document submitted by the Presidium's Committee on Ministry. Its favorable review was sent to all of the pastors in preparation for the discussion at the General Pastoral Conference on October 6-8. Questions submitted by pastors and congregations are being collated for the conference.

### **Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI)**

On September 8 the ad hoc LSI Committee will meet in Mankato and make plans in connection with the resolution passed at this year's convention. The Board of Trustees in its August meeting approved a request to the Schwan Foundation for a 2005 Special Project Grant to handle administrative start up costs.

### **Foreign Missions**

A delegation from the Board for Foreign Missions visited Peru and Chile. The board discussed its goal of reducing the Peru field staff in the next number of years. The intent is to rely more on national pastors, where possible, to conduct the work of the ministry in the Lima area. The board is hopeful that a reduction to two American missionaries may transpire by the year 2010.

### **Home Missions**

Abiding Shepherd Lutheran in Cottage Grove, WI, is ready to build. At the August meeting of the Board of Trustees approval was granted for a construction loan.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please remember to pray for Pastor Richard Fyffe who became ill while on vacation in Arizona. He had experienced a serious loss of blood. Doctors performed tests which determined that he had a tumor in his stomach. Preliminary reports show that it is not cancerous but further tests will be needed. He has returned home to Sebring, FL.



Pictured here is Family of God Lutheran Church's new sanctuary addition. Rev. Larry Wentzlaff serves our mission congregation in Fort Mojave, AZ.



Interior view of the new sanctuary at Family of God Lutheran

### **Iowa Outreach Project**

Over forty enthusiastic people met at Redeemer Lutheran in New Hampton, Iowa, on August 21. Circuit 7 is beginning discussions on the subject of Rural Outreach, in keeping with two resolutions passed at our June convention. Pastor Brad Kerkow from the Board for Evangelism made a presentation, and two committees were formed to carry on work in preparation for the next meeting(s). In November another session is planned.

### **President's Activities**

October 4-5—Lutheran Confessional Forum at Schwan Retreat Center

October 6-8—General Pastoral Conference at Schwan Retreat Center

October 14-15—Board for Education and Youth

October 17—Preach at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Mankato, MN

October 20-21 —Board for Foreign Missions

October 31—Preach at Lord of Life Lutheran in Holland, MI



**God's blessings to Melvina in her retirement!** We are grateful to our Lord for the faithful services that Melvina Aaberg has rendered to our synod. For 28 years she has served as the office secretary to the ELS President and also for the Seminary. Elsa Ferkenstad, a recent graduate of our Bethany Lutheran College, is now serving in this position.

**New Addresses**

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**Address Correction**

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May God's rich grace be with each of you.

John A. Moldstad, President  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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