



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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President's Newsletter

October 1, 2004

Dear Fellow Workers:

In a few days the pastors of our synod will be gathering at the Schwan Retreat Center for our annual General Pastoral Conference. The time we spend with each other in study and discussing God's Word is invaluable for our own spiritual edification, for the benefit of the congregations being served, and also for us as a church body walking together in the old paths of pure doctrine (Jeremiah 6:16). Please pray that God blesses our conference.

One again, I would like to update you on some of the happenings in our synod.

Calls

Rev. Karl Heck to Peace Lutheran, Jefferson City, MO—returned

Rev. David Meyer to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, Australia—returned

Rev. Roger Holtz to Redeemer Lutheran, Iola, WI—holding

Rev. Dan Basel to English Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN—returned

Rev. William Mack to English Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN—holding

Rev. Richard Lehmann to (WELS), Janesville, WI—accepted

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

Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI

Anniversaries

King of Grace Lutheran, Golden Valley, Minnesota, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its school on September 26, 2004. This year there are 197 students enrolled at King of Grace.

Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, Gaylord, Minnesota will celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of its church building on October 24, 2004.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, Minnesota, will celebrate its fortieth anniversary with a special service and dinner on October 3, 2004.

A Note from the ELS Board for Stewardship

In order to save on shipping costs, the new stewardship emphasis, "THEREFORE, In View of God's Mercies..." including sermon study and outline, service helps for a

Stewardship Sunday, three bulletin inserts, and a three session Bible study (with a leaders' guide) will be made available to our clergy via e-mail and (in copy-able hard copy) at the General Pastoral Conference.

Also available at the General Pastoral Conference, on a first come - first served basis, will be a reprint of over a thousand copies of "Managing My Master's Money" by Rev. Paul Schneider.



Groundbreaking

Bethany Lutheran College had a groundbreaking service on September 27, 2004, for a new residents' hall on campus. It will be situated along the ravine off the old Edgewood Road area. It should house sixty-two students in sixteen apartment style units.

Florida Hurricane Recovery

The Christian Service Board is gathering money for a Hurricane Relief Fund. Donations must be received by November 1. Please send the donations to: ELS Hurricane Relief Fund, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001.

Circuit Visitors' Conference

Circuit Visitors' Conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Burnsville, MN, on September 23-24. Rev. Paul Schneider presented a paper entitled: "Properly Perceiving Perplexing Pastoral/Parishioner Problems."

Appointments

Rev. Ernest Geistfeld has been appointed the Synod Review Committee for the remaining two years of a three-year term. He replaces Rev. Milton Tweit who has resigned after putting in many years of faithful service on this important committee for our synod.

Prof. Chris Johnson of BLC has been appointed to a three-year term on the Committee for Integrating Technology (CFIT). We thank Mr. Mark French who served on the initial committee as CFIT was being organized.

Synod Convention 2005

The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch will be the essayist for the 2005 convention. The theme of our convention will be, "Abide In My Word" John 8:31-32.

Schwan Retreat Center

Chaplain D. Thompson reports: "The Schwan Center has a very important event coming up in November to which you are invited and encouraged to come. On November 6 we will be dedicating a plaque in honor of the memory of Paul M. Madson, architect of the Schwan Center. The beauty and usefulness of the Schwan Center is due in large part to his creativity, skill and effort which he used to the glory of God and benefit of so many."

Nominations

Forms for nominations are now available on the ELS website. The web address is: www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/parishes/synod/nominations

Demographic survey

Pastors, if you have not already done so, please fill in and return the one page survey put together by our Missions Counselor Steve Petersen. The Board of Trustees has asked that the survey be taken as we make plans to carry out the 2004 resolution on the Lutheran Schools Initiative. If you would like, you can bring along your completed form to the Pastoral Conference.

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 have been collated for the conference.

Budget

Through August we are \$15,344 behind the \$765,000 budget. (This is \$5,230 ahead of last year at this time; total receipts last year were \$748,803.)

LSI

The LSI Committee met on September 10. The committee is in the process of drawing up a job description for a full-time called/hired worker to implement LSI. We are not planning to hold a synod-wide offering until this position is filled. We are looking at 2006 Convention as the time to have the kick-off, with congregations beginning the offering on the local level in the fall of that year. The Board of Trustees has agreed to make application for a special project funds grant to the Schwan Foundation to cover the start-

up costs for such a position.

Prayer Requests

Please keep Rev. David Russow's wife, Kay, in your prayers as she undergoes a variety of medical tests.

Please keep Janet Theiste in your prayers as she recovers from her emergency appendectomy.

Pray also for Pastor Milton Tweit and for Rev. Richard Fyffe.

Bethany Fundraiser for the Jim Faugstad family

Approximately 50 students and staff members from Bethany Lutheran College spent an afternoon harvesting apples to be used in a fundraiser for the Faugstad family. Jim Faugstad, brother of Rev. Dan Faugstad, is undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma, an aggressive blood plasma cancer. All proceeds from the sale of these apples will go directly to the family to defray medical expenses.

New Addresses

Rev. Glenn and Maria Smith
115 Carey Dr.
Springboro, OH 45066
(937) 748-3461

Rev. Milton Tweit
Laurels Edge
77 Stadium Rd., Apt. 236
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 344-4246

Telephone Correction

Rev. Harold Vetter
Phone: (308) 762-3337

President's Activities

October 4-5—Evangelical 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 26 —LSI Committee

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

November 1—Board for Home Missions

November 6—Historical Society

November 7—Preach at St. Paul Lutheran in Clintonville, WI

November 8-9—Board of Regents

November 14—Preach at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Saginaw, MI

November 15 & 16—Board of Trustees

November 28 —Board for Publications

November 30—LSI Committee



On September 12, 2004, Redeemer Lutheran in New Hampton, IA, dedicated a remodeled kitchen facility and a new addition at the rear of its sanctuary.

In Christ's redeeming grace,

John A. Moldstad
John Moldstad, President of the ELS