

## **President's Newsletter**

December 2, 2004

### **Dear Fellow Workers:**

In this most blessed season of Advent and Christmas, I greet you with the shared joy that great mystery of the Word becoming flesh goes with you in all your activities. The seventeenth century theologian Johann Gerhard put it like this in prayer form: "Christ's communion with humanity daily and continually makes You mindful of me. You cannot forsake me because You, by the closest bond of the personal union, ordained to join the human race to Yourself. Therefore, no matter how much my sins hinder me from coming to You for mercy, the communion of the two natures in Christ will not allow me to be driven away. I will depend totally on you, the one who totally assumed my humanity."

### **Calls**

Rev. Erik Gernander to Peace Lutheran, Jefferson City, MO—accepted  
Rev. Robert Harting to English Lutheran, Cottonwood, MN—returned  
Rev. Fredric Lams to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cold Spring, MN—returned  
Rev. Timothy Hartwig to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, QLD, Australia—holding  
Rev. Alex Ring to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cold Spring—holding  
Rev. Ken Mellon to Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI—returned  
Rev. Joel Willitz to Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI—holding

### **Vacancies**

First Evanger Lutheran, Fertile, MN, and Grace Lutheran, Crookston, MN  
Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, QLD, Australia (independent)  
Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI  
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN

### **Installations**

The installation of Pastor Gernander at Peace, Jefferson City, MO, will be on January 2 at 4:00 p.m. Rev. Richard Waters will serve as liturgist and perform the rite of installation.

### **Placement and Ordination**

Candidate of Theology Piet Van Kampen will be ordained and installed at English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, MN, on January 2 at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Erich Hoeft will serve as liturgist and President Moldstad will preach and perform the rite of ordination.

### **Nominations**

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

### **Birth**

Congratulations to Candidate of Theology Piet Van Kampen and his wife Charity on the birth of

a son, Erik Joseph, on November 4.

### **Thanks to Mary Jane**

We want to extend our gratitude to Mary Jane Tweit who is retiring after having served as office secretary for the seminary the past eight years. She also has done much work for the synod office over the years.

### **Lutheran Schools Initiative**

In the coming months the appointed LSI Committee is planning a series of articles in our monthly *Lutheran Sentinel*. The articles will help in introducing the concept of this new endeavor to the members of our synod. At the present time we are waiting to hear if special grant funds will be available to cover start-up costs for a full-time administrator for LSI.

### **India**

A subcommittee of three men from the Board for Foreign Missions will be traveling to India in January to visit with members of LMSI (Lutheran Mission Salvation India). This trip will assist the BFM in making a recommendation to next year's convention about officially adopting LMSI as a mission of our synod. Funding for LMSI (\$15,000/month, plus extra for administrative costs) has been provided and would continue to be provided by the Schwan Foundation.

### **Youth Retreat Grants Available**

Our synod provides grants toward youth retreats which bring together youth from at least two of our churches. If less than 50 are in attendance the grant is \$250. Retreats of 50 or more receive grants of \$500. You can contact the Board for Education and Youth's representative, Rev. Donald Moldstad ([donm@blc.edu](mailto:donm@blc.edu)) for more information and application.

### **Home Missions**

We are happy to report that during this past month of November there were a total of 39 adults receiving instruction in our synod's home missions. Let us pray for the dedicated work of all of our missionaries.

### **Ukrainian Lutheran Church**

Please find an attachment to this Newsletter describing the situation facing our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. The article was written by Pastor Jerome Gernander. We urge all of our ELS members to keep in their prayers our sister church body, as well as the entire country of Ukraine.

### **The Doctrine of the Public Ministry**

Our synod's president and vice president have been meeting regularly to work on some editing of the PCM document. A special meeting of the Presidium's Committee on Ministry is being planned for January in order to give some further advice.

**President's Activities**

December 2-3—Thoughts of Faith

December 5—Preach at Trinity Lutheran in West Bend, WI

December 6-7—Doctrine Committee

January 5 – CELC Planning Committee

January 9—Preach at Zion Lutheran in Tracy, MN

January 20 – Board for Foreign Missions

January 21-22– Board for Education & youth

January 24—Board for Home Missions

January 25-27—Home Missions Seminar

**Prayer Request**

Rev. Milton Tweit experienced a stroke lately. He currently is in the Mankato Hospital but is expected to be released soon.



Elsa Ferkenstad now serves as office secretary for both the synod and the seminary.

May the joy of the holy Christ-child be with all of you,

John A. Moldstad