

President's Newsletter

January, 2005

Dear Fellow Workers:

New Year's greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord, the Light of the world! As we make plans for our church work in this calendar year of 2005, let us pray that we have the mission attitude of the Bethlehem shepherds of whom it is reported: "When they had seen him (the Christ-child), they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17). Let us have the attitude of Anna who "spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). We have the best news to offer a world that so often has images of devastation and destruction fleshed before its eyes. We are working for the Child who gives light to sinners living in darkness and who promises life eternal through faith in his name.

Calls

Rev. Timothy Hartwig to Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, QLD, Australia—returned

Rev. Alex Ring to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cold Spring, MN—returned

Rev. Joel Willitz to Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI—returned

Rev. Cory Hahnke to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cold Spring, MN—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

Tsunami Victims

Our prayers ascend to the heavenly Father on behalf of all who are suffering in the countries of Southeast Asia. The Gospel of Christ ultimately is the real help and hope for all who encounter suffering, and we ask that God would use this epic tragedy to work soul-saving results in his kingdom. If members in our synod wish to contribute financially to the relief efforts, they may direct their gifts to: ELS Tsunami Relief, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. We will then transmit the funds collectively to the WELS Committee on Relief.

Anniversary

Peace Lutheran Church of Kissimmee, Florida, celebrated the 10th anniversary of its church building on November 21, 2004. The anniversary was noted in the regular morning service.

Pastor Herb Huhnerkoch preached on the text used for the original dedication of the building ten years ago, 1 Corinthians 3:5-11 under the theme "We've Moved On." Members of the church council did many of the Scripture readings, which had also been used in the original dedication service. A light luncheon followed the service.



Ordination at Cottonwood

Candidate of Theology Piet van Kampen was ordained and installed at English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, MN, on January 2, 2005.

Installation at Jefferson City

Rev. Erik Gernander was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran in Jefferson City, Missouri, on Sunday, January 2, 2005. Pastor Richard Waters of Carthage, MO, performed the rite of installation.

Gratitude

A woman from one of our Florida congregations sent this note to our Board for Christian Service: "I cannot find enough words to thank you for the generous hurricane disaster relief check which I received a few weeks ago. My mobile home was hit three times by hurricanes and I am still recovering. I am thankful to the Lord that I made it through this horrific summer and I pray that it never happens again."

India Visit

Three men from our Board for Foreign Missions presently are traveling and lecturing in India. Rev. Steven Petersen, Prof. Adolph Harstad and Rev. Paul Fries are visiting the Lutheran

Mission–Salvation India (LMSI). Please pray for these men in their journeys.

Lutheran Schools Initiative

Our synod graciously has received a grant from the Schwan Foundation to cover start-up costs of a full-time administrator for the project known as Lutheran Schools Initiative. We ask our pastors to consider posting the following notice in your church bulletin and/or newsletter:

POSITION OPENING - ELS

The ELS is seeking a motivated individual to take the leadership of the Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI - an ambitious plan to establish Lutheran schools within existing ELS congregations and elsewhere throughout the country). This individual is to be a member, or is willing to become a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and will be responsible for promoting Lutheran Schools within the framework of the doctrine and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

- Must have a passion for and/or experience within the education profession.
- Have leadership, business and management skills.
- Be an innovative thinker who is determined to "get the job done."
- Must have the ability, training, and/or experience in fund raising.
- Be comfortable with public speaking and with making fundraising presentations.

For more specific information regarding the position and/or to submit applications or nominations, please send resume and references to President John Moldstad, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001.

Forward in Christ

The January issue of the monthly WELS periodical includes a full three-page article on the mission work along the Amazon River in Peru. The article is written by our Missionary Terry Schultz.

Home Missions

A topic for discussion at the January meeting of the Board for Home Missions will be selecting a site for a home mission start in 2005. Some of the cities being considered are: Elko/New Market, MN; Faribault, MN; Chaska, MN; Lino Lakes, MN; and Ankeny, IA. Cities in other states (TX, AZ) also will be considered. Please contact Rev. Erv Ekhoﬀ (763-546-3131), the chairman of the Home Mission Board, if you have pertinent information to share regarding these or other sites.

Address Change

Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr.
6383 Scandia Lane
McFarland, WI 53558
608-838-7508

Email Changes

Rev. John Petersen: jjpjto1@aol.com
Rev. Joel Willitz: Willitz@verizon.net
Rev. Herbert Larson: herlars@peoplepc.com



Pastor Ken Schmidt serves at Trinity Lutheran in West Bend, WI. The congregation also operates an elementary school. This last fall Pastor Schmidt was honored for serving as pastor of the congregation the past 25 years.

President's Activities

January 5 – CELC Planning Committee
January 7 – Presidium's Committee on Ministry (Heritage, Apple Valley, MN)
January 9—Preach at Zion Lutheran in Tracy, MN
January 20 – Board for Foreign Missions
January 21-22– Board for Education & Youth (Heritage, Apple Valley, MN)
January 23 – Preach at Our Savior in Naples, FL
January 24—Board for Home Missions (FL)
January 25-27—Home Missions Seminar (Orlando, FL)
February 1 – Board of Trustees
February 2 – LSI Committee
February 7 – Doctrine Committee

February 8 – Board for Stewardship

February 14-15 – Board of Regents

February 20 – Board for Publications (Onalaska, WI)

February 27 – Preach at Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI

In the joy of the world's one and only true Light—our blessed Redeemer,

John A. Moldstad