

President's Newsletter
February, 2005

Dear Fellow Workers:

Greetings to every one of you in the name of our dear Savior. Once again I would like to update you on some items of interest to our synod. As we work together in bringing the message of the crucified and risen Christ to a world trapped in spiritual bondage, we pray that all would see the liberation from such bondage in a perfect Redeemer offered up long ago at Calvary as the all-atoning sacrifice for sins.

Calls

Rev. Cory Hahnke to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Cold Spring, MN—accepted
Rev. Bernt Tweit to Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI—returned

Vacancies

First Evanger Lutheran, Fertile, MN, and Grace Lutheran, Crookston, MN
Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kallangur, QLD, Australia (independent)
Faith Lutheran, Oregon, WI
Concordia Lutheran, Hood River, OR, and Bethany Lutheran, The Dalles, OR

Installation

On March 13 the Rev. Cory Hahnke will be installed as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cold Spring, MN. The service is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Synod Convention Assignments

Rev. M. Bartels will serve as the preacher for our Synod Sunday service on June 19.
Our convention theme this year is: "Abide in My Word." Our essayist will be the Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch of Peace Lutheran in Kissimmee, FL. The Rev. Donald Moldstad of Mt. Olive in Mankato will serve as the chaplain for our convention.

Peru

Three national pastors were ordained during this quarter: Elmer Carrera on December 11 at Ancon; Antonio Vilchez on December 12 at Año Nuevo; and Edison Convercio on December 19 at Huaraz. In a break with past practices, all three ordination services were conducted by national pastors as opposed to the missionaries, even though missionaries were in attendance at the three services. Nine national pastors serve our sister church in Peru.



Rev. Steve Petersen, Rev. Paul Fries, and Prof. Adolph Harstad traveled to India in January to visit the **Lutheran Mission–Salvation India (LMSI)**. The Board for Foreign Missions resolved at their January meeting to recommend to our convention that the ELS adopt the Lutheran Mission - Salvation India as a foreign mission field of the ELS. This work is being funded by the Schwan Foundation. More pictures from the trip can be viewed online at: www.conradfries.com/india05.

Sunday School Materials

Saint Timothy has the following brand new NPH Sunday School Books available for shipping costs (about \$5.00 to \$7.00 maximum I would guess) from the NPH Christ Light curriculum: Copy Masters - Jesus' Passion through the Disciples' Early Ministry - IV - New Testament - Set 3 - A Lessons Teacher's Guide - Jesus' Passion through the Disciples' Early Ministry – IV - New Testament - Set 3 - A and B Lessons Please contact Rev. Karl Heck at: phone #319-668-8961, or email at gotoheck@avalon.net.

Tsunami

Missionary Mark Grubbs writes: “Geographically, the horrible disaster in Asia is far from us here in the Czech Republic. And, yet, in another way, it is very close to us in the Plzen congregation. Many of you have gotten to know 2 Indian students who regularly attend our services, Vivek Menon and Diana Punraj. Both are studying medicine at the University in Plzen. Diana was confirmed in our church 2 years ago. Shortly after the tsunami struck, Diana heard the sad news that 3 of her cousins lost their lives in the flooding. In addition, her parents lost their home, which was located near the ocean. We join in offering Diana our sympathy. Although she is saddened by the loss of her relatives, she is thankful that all of them were Christian believers. According to God’s promises, she knows they have reached their heavenly home.

“In our church and school, special offerings were taken for several weeks. The offerings have been earmarked for relief to India and will be included with offerings taken by our fellow Christians in the US (Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod). By sending the money in this way we can insure that all of it is used directly for helping people. May the Lord bless all those who were affected by this disaster!”



ELS Home Missions Seminar

Orlando, FL, was the site of the biennial 2005 seminar hosted by the Board for Home Missions. Twenty-five men were in attendance, including pastors from our established congregations in the Florida circuit. Rev. Wayne Schultz, a WELS missions counselor, was the keynote speaker.

Email Changes

Rev. Karl Hermanson: rkhermanson@earthlink.net

Rev. Richard Lehmann: rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net

Synod Finances

We received \$757,062 for the 2004 year. The budget for 2004 and also for this current year of 2005: \$765,000.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rev. Brad and Rachel Kerkow on the birth of a healthy son. Jadon was born on January 17.

Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers Lois Halvorson, wife of Pastor Wayne Halvorson of Albert Lea, MN. Lois is battling thyroid cancer and will soon be undergoing radiation treatments. The apostle Peter tells us, "Cast all your care on Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Let us bring this care to our gracious Heavenly Father.

Please remember Rev. Walter Anderson who had a mild stroke on January 18. He is recovering at home and the diagnosis is that he will suffer only mild effects. Prayers on his and Sheryl's behalf are greatly appreciated.

Also pray that God sends comfort to the family of Rev. Chuck Howley upon the death of Chuck's father, James Howley, who was buried on February 4, 2005.

New Worship Site

Lord of Life in Holland, MI, is worshipping now in a new location. Each Sunday at 9 a.m. worship services are held at 512 S. Waverly Road. You may visit the congregation's website for further details (www.lordoflife.org).

From the Synod Secretary

Board Chairmen remember that board reports are due by April 1, 2005, for inclusion in the Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM).

President's Activities

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
March 5—Present at Bethany, Ames, IA
March 6—Preach at Grace, Newton, IA
March 13—Preach at Zion, Irwin, PA
March 20—Preach at Hope, Portage, IN

In the grace of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,

John A. Moldstad