

The ELS BWO/ToF will retain its primary responsibility for overseeing the Gift of Life ministry (a medical/dental and pro-life outreach organization in Ukraine). Thoughts of Faith continues to support Lutheran mission in Europe: in Latvia through the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia; in Czech Republic through the ministry of Martin Luther School with its 200+ students in Plzen, C.R.; and in Ukraine through the Gift of Life program which operates two mobile medical/dental clinics and five pro-life counseling centers.

More information about ToF ministry and other outreach programs of the ELS Board for World Outreach may be found at www.elsworldoutreach.org.

Changes in Frankenmuth, Michigan

As of June 14, 2013, St. John's Lutheran in Frankenmuth, MI, no longer is served by Rev. Joel Willitz. Pastoral duties at St. John's are being carried on in an interim period by Rev. Jeff Luplow, a member of the congregation and an ELS clergyman. At his request, Pastor Willitz has been granted a clergy roster transfer to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Vacancies

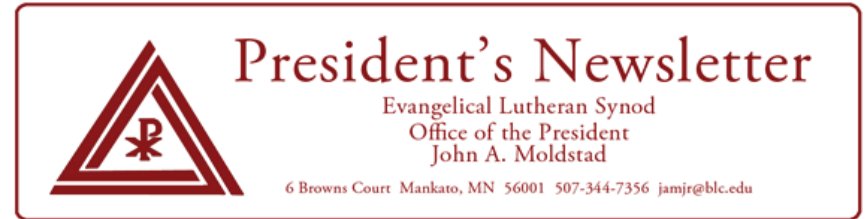
Concordia Lutheran (Eau Claire, WI)
First Lutheran (Suttons Bay, MI)
Abiding Word Lutheran (Bowling Green, OH)
Trinity Lutheran (Sebastian, FL)
Evangelism-Missions Counselor

Calls

Rev. Mike Muehlenhardt to First Lutheran, Suttons Bay, MI (holding)
Rev. Aaron Hamilton to Concordia Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI (holding)
Rev. Nicholas Proksch to Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH (holding)
Rev. Ron Pederson to King of Grace, Waukon, IA (accepted)
Rev. Luke Ulrich to Mt. Olive Lutheran, Mankato, MN (accepted)

President's Schedule

August 5-6 – Board for Home Outreach
August 12 – Board of Regents
August 13 – Board of Trustees
August 14 – Synod Review Committee
August 14 – Meeting at Christ the King, Green Bay, WI
August 19-20 – Doctrine Committee
August 21 – Board for World Outreach Committee Chairmen Meeting
August 25 – Preach for installation in Waukon, IA
August 28 – Communication Committee
August 29 – Staff Meeting
September 8 – Preach at Grace, Redmond, OR
September 9 – Attend Circuit 12 Winkel
September 13-14 – Engage Others with Jesus Retreat in Michigan
September 15 – Preach for Trinity, Rogers City, MI



August 2013

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

I had the pleasure of visiting our LYA convention in Florida during the month of July. Being surrounded by so many of our faithful Lutheran youth brings much joy! But it is also a reminder of the important responsibility the Church has in assisting families as they raise their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4) As we rapidly approach the new school year, we are reminded again of our convention theme of "Engaging Families with Jesus." As parents, congregation members, congregations and as a church body we have the privilege of sharing the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with future generations. Let us take to heart these words: "For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself" (Acts 2:39) and repeat the glorious promises of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord to our children.

In the work of our gracious Savior,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John A. Moldstad".

John A. Moldstad

English Lutheran Celebrates 125th Anniversary

English Lutheran Church in Cottonwood, Minnesota celebrated the 125th anniversary of the congregation on July 7th. ELS President



John Moldstad preached for the special afternoon service. The planning committee met for a year in order to plan the special events.



Planning Committee Back Row l to r: Lon Huso, Lael Bahn, Bob Borning. Front Row l to r: Pastor Piet VanKampen, Jody Isaackson, Ann Borning.

Lutheran Youth Association Convention

Youth from our Evangelical Lutheran Synod met July 25-28 in Winter Park, Florida for the annual LYA convention. 248 youth attended classes on a wide variety of topics, from sharing



the Christian faith through social media to understanding and appreciating our Lutheran worship services. Trips to Universal Studios Islands of Adventure and Vero Beach were also on the agenda. Visit the LYA

Facebook page to see some great pictures of the event! www.facebook.com/ELS.Youth



Help for Shalem

A message from the ELS Board for Christian Service and Board for World Outreach: Shalem, a ten-year-old boy attending one of our churches in India, needs your help. He is in the final stages of liver disease and requires a liver transplant in the next 30 days. His father will donate a portion of his own liver to save his son's life. However, his family does not have the nearly \$50,000 to pay for the surgery and anti-rejection medications. The synod has already committed some financial assistance. Would you, as individuals and congregations, consider helping Shalem and his family with your prayers and your financial gifts? Donations can be sent to ELS Board for World Outreach, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN



56001, with "liver transplant" in the memo line. Otherwise donations can be made through the synod web site evangelicallutheransynod.org/donate. The Lord bless and keep you as you reflect His love in Christ to our neighbors around the world.

The following email regarding Shalem was received from Pastor Solomon Mamidi:

July 30, 2013

Dear Rev. Steven Petersen,

Greetings. Regarding Shalem's surgery.

We are all fearing to the situation. For the surgery it is very big amount. I have not heard so far this much amount for syrgery. In a small family two surgeries, father is liver doner to Shalem. We are all trying all the ways to get some money. Today the wife and husband came both are crying alot.

The family made some money. Some known people and our church members also gave some money, it is all about 1/4 gathered. I know that this is very big amount but I request you whatever you can do please do.

If you have any questions about this, please write back to me.

In Christ,

Pastor Solomon

WELS Meets in Convention

Our sister church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, met in convention July 29 – August 1, 2013 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. President John Moldstad brought greetings to the convention from the ELS, emphasizing the many years of fellowship the two church bodies have enjoyed



together. The WELS decided not to choose a specific Bible translation to use in future publications and also not to create their own translation.

Ukrainian Lutheran Church and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

The Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) has for several decades been supported by Thoughts of Faith (ToF), which in 2009 merged into the ELS Board for World Outreach (ELS BWO). Funding for the affiliates of ToF in Ukraine, Latvia and Czech Republic has been provided primarily by a generous American foundation and supplemented by individual donors. Due to changing economic conditions, in recent years the American foundation was forced to reduce funding for its supported organizations, including Thoughts of Faith and, consequently, the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

Earlier this year, The Ukrainian Lutheran Church requested that the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) become its primary partner. Representatives of ULC, ELS BWO/ToF and WELS agreed to this change and it will take effect in January 2014.