

Emmaus Painting

At the conclusion of the 2013 Emmaus Conference (April 11-12, 2013), a free conference featuring three presidents of the former Synodical Conference (Pres. J. Moldstad of the ELS, essayist; Pres. Mark Schroeder of the WELS, reactor; and Pres. Matthew Harrison of the LCMS), a special presentation was made. A painting commissioned by the Tacoma, WA, conference and created by artist Karen Lucas of Lucas Art and Framing in Graham, WA, was displayed and individual copies were given to each of the three presidents. The scene depicts the famous Easter event of our Lord on the road with the two disciples. This year's essay focused on the history of the Election Controversy in America and how it unavoidably sets scriptural parameters to the way church bodies go about inter-church discussions. The three presidents participated in a round table question and answer session as moderated by Rev. James Braun, the Emmaus Conference organizer.



In December of this year, another informal meeting is planned where leaders from WELS, LCMS and ELS will have a chance to address issues which historically have separated the bodies of the former Synodical Conference.

Home Missions of our ELS

Please pray especially for these churches and their leaders:

- Hope Lutheran, Farmington, MN
- Redeeming Grace Lutheran, Rogers, MN
- Faith Lutheran, San Antonio, TX
- Hope Lutheran, Cedar Park/Leander, TX
- Lord of Life Lutheran, Holland, MI
- New exploratory: Weatherford, TX

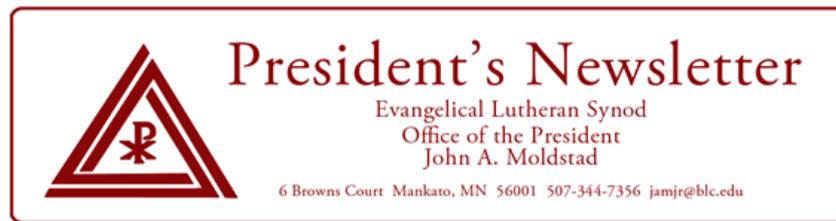
Commissioning Planned

Rev. Kyle Madson will be commissioned for our synod's newest home mission endeavor in the Weatherford/Hudson Oaks, Texas, area. The special service is set for Sunday, May 19, 2013, at Abiding Faith Lutheran (WELS) in Fort Worth. Former seminary classmate, Rev. Chris Eisenbeis (WELS) of Norman, OK, will serve as preacher for the occasion. For any who wish to contact Kyle and Alicia regarding prospects or well-wishes, please use: Kyle.Madson@blc.edu

Mother's Day Offering

Each year our synod takes up a special offering for World Needs on the second Sunday on May. As we honor mothers and give thanks to God for blessings we have received through them, may we remember the less fortunate and those who suffer from disasters.

If you wish to make a gift toward this fund, please write: ELS World Needs, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001.



May 2013

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

Shortly before he died, rose, and ascended, our dear Lord Jesus gave an important promise to his followers. It is one that spurs us on in our work to expand Christ's kingdom. Jesus said this: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3). The "if" clause here is a reality! Our Lord now has ascended! He has completed his work of atonement for the sins of all – including you and me. Now in his state of exaltation he rules and governs all things for the good of his church as his believers wait for the great day of his return. Meanwhile, he gets us excited. He assures us that, through faith in him, we have actual places prepared with him forever in the hallowed halls of heaven!

Blessings in our risen and ascended Lord,

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

Gift of Life

Nicholas and Kerry Laper, Directors of Gift of Life humanitarian ministries in Ukraine, are pleased to give presentations about the Gift of Life work at your church, school, mission festival or women's rally. Gift of Life directs medical and dental vans providing basic public health to those in need and also operates five pro-life counseling centers in Ukraine. Nick and Kerry are available mid October through mid December (the dates can be somewhat flexible). Please contact: nk-laper@gmail.com or Rev. Steven Petersen at spp@blc.edu, or phone 507.344.7852.

Cross-stitch Information Exchange

Cross-stitch, the network of ELS women's missionary societies, will host an information exchange on Tuesday morning, June 18, on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College. The Board of Directors will share information about the purpose of the group and welcomes your ideas for future goals. If you are unable to attend, but have questions or ideas that you would like discussed, please send them to: elsynod@blc.edu.

West Coast Pastoral Conference

Pictured at left with her pastor, Rev. Peter Faugstad, is Lakewood Lutheran member, Dana Mickley, who prepared a wonderful lunch for the West Coast Pastoral Conference at Lakewood, WA, on April 10. Dana and her husband, B.J., joined Lakewood in 2012, after completing a course of instruction with Pastor Faugstad.



Clara City, MN

Women from Faith Lutheran in Clara City, MN, prepared an excellent dinner after a morning of preaching and presentation by our synod president on April 28. Rev. Larry Wentzlaff was away for the day assisting at an ELS "Engage Others With Jesus Retreat" in Portland, OR.



Three-point Parish Forming

Mike and Linda Willert of Cross Lutheran (WELS) in Charles City, IA, attended the recent Iowa evangelism retreat. Pastor Dan Larson, pictured at right, has accepted the call to serve the congregation at Charles City, as a three-point parish is formed with our rural ELS congregations at Saude and Jerico. The installation of Pastor Larson at Cross is set for May 5, 2013.

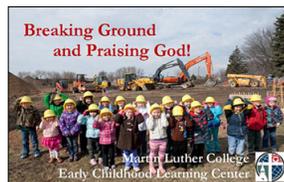


Florida School Expansion

A major step was taken lately by our congregation in Port St. Lucie, FL. Extensive plans for moving ahead with a full K-8 program, adding to its already existing pre-K school, were given a boost by issuing a call (accepted) to Rev. Chris Dale to serve as Assistant Pastor and Academic Dean of Christ Lutheran Church and School. Rev. Michael Dale, brother to Chris, is the head pastor at Christ.

WELS News

Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, recently broke ground for a new Early Childhood Learning Center. The date was April 6. Forty-four pre-primary students are enrolled so far when the center opens in September.



Guntipalli School Project

Our Board for World Outreach is in the process of raising funds to construct a school in the village of Guntipalli, Andhra Pradesh, India. The school would serve the 15 orphans we care for at St. Paul's Orphan home in the village, as well as children who live nearby. Might you be one to assist with a special donation? Rev. Steven Petersen, BWO Administrator, says, "We have the lot on which to build . . . We have over half of the \$30,000 needed . . . We have teachers ready to serve . . . We just need a little more help. 21 individuals and couples have been asked specifically to contribute. Please pray for a good response. And add your own help if you wish." Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:



Guntipalli Project ♦ Evangelical Lutheran Synod ♦ 6 Browns Ct. ♦ Mankato, MN 56001

To view photos of the orphan home and church, go to: www.els.name/worldoutreach/guntipalli

For more information, contact BWO Administrator Rev. Steven Petersen 507.344.7852 or spp@blc.edu

Great Lakes Pastoral Conference 2013

Concordia Lutheran of Eau Claire, WI, hosted this year's conference for the four circuits located around Lake Michigan (#3,4,5,6). Next year the joint conference opted not to meet, with the understanding that pastors and their congregations be encouraged to send in extra gift money for our synod's work. This unusual step was taken – just for one year – in order to spur on the membership of our ELS to support our mission efforts at a time when severe cuts from a major donor are being absorbed. In 2015 the group will be meeting in Midland, Michigan.



Evergreen's New Campus

ELS and WELS churches in the Washington area rejoice that the Lord has blessed the association for Evergreen Lutheran High School in purchasing a new campus with up-to-date facilities. The school is moving miles to the south from Des Moines, WA, to 7306 Waller Rd E., Tacoma, WA, very near our synod's Parkland Lutheran Church and School. The high school has been in existence for 35 years and numerous graduates have attended our Bethany Lutheran College. Stan Baur (253-720-9004), pictured here on left with Gary Ide, is the Evergreen's Development Director.

