

1998

Let There Be Light



Evangelical Lutheran Synod

81st Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**Bethany Lutheran College
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary
Mankato, Minnesota
June 21-25, 1998**



Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

81st REGULAR CONVENTION

of the

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

and the

42nd Annual Meeting of the

**BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
CORPORATION**

Convention Theme :

“Let there be light!”

Essayist:

Missionary Timothy Erickson

Compiled by

Craig A. Ferkenstad, Secretary

Held at

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

and

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mankato, Minnesota

June 21-25, 1998

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THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

SYNOD SUNDAY, June 21, 1998



Bethany Lutheran College Memorial Library

The 81st Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation began with a Festival Synod Sunday Service in Trinity Chapel at 2:30 pm.

The Rev. Steven Petersen, Mission Counselor for the ELS Boards for Home and Foreign Missions, was the speaker. In a sermon based on Acts 26:17-18, he noted that for thirty years



Rite of Dedication

God has blessed our noble mission efforts in South America. ELS missionaries do God's work as they preach law and gospel. They accomplish God's purpose as believers receive the precious forgiveness of their sins, and they share God's blessings as the faithful are finally received in heaven. College Chaplain Mark DeGarmeaux served as liturgist.

Following the Festival Service, the assembly proceeded outside for the Rite of Dedication of the Bethany Lutheran College Memorial Library, conducted by President Marvin Meyer and the Rev. Edward Bryant.



Bethany Lutheran Seminary Graduation

At 7:00 pm the assembly gathered again in Trinity Chapel for the Graduation Service for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Five students were graduated. Seminary President Gaylin Schmeling based his message on Acts 20:28. Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for the sheep and arose triumphant the third day as our victorious Savior. Now He sends forth these Candidates as shepherds under the Good Shepherd. He calls them as pastors to tend the flock of God purchased with His own blood. They will feed and nourish the flock on the green pastures and gentle waters of the life-giving means of grace. In every need the Good Shepherd will be with them holding them in His loving arms all the way to heaven's shore.

A reception in honor of the graduates followed the Service.

MONDAY, June 22, 1998

The first working day of the 81st Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation was opened with a devotion based upon 1 John 1:5-7 conducted in Trinity Chapel, by the Convention Chaplain, the Rev. David Lillegard (Sebastian, Florida) at 9:30 am.

The theme of this year's convention is "Let There Be Light." The first devotion reminded us about the light we have from God's Word. That Word sheds light on sin. God's Word brings our sin to light, so that we confess it and turn to Him for help. The Word of God also sheds light on the gospel. If our biggest problem is sin, then our greatest treasure and joy is the purification of sin, the forgiveness of sin, and the righteousness of Christ which covers our sin completely. Trusting God for this great gift, we have fellowship with Him, and then we have fellowship with each other. We thank God for this fellowship, as we gather together for this convention of our synod. As we walk in the light, we walk with God and with each other. The hymns "Thou, Whose Almighty Word" and "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star" were sung by the assembly.

President Orvick welcomed the delegates, pastors, and visitors to the 81st Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Secretary Ferkenstad called the roll. Eighty permanent voting members and twenty-six permanent advisory members either responded to the roll call or were present at the end of the first working day.

The Credentials Committee reported and recommended the seating of 126 delegates who had been certified by their congregations as representatives to this convention. President Orvick declared the 81st Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be in session in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

President Orvick read his message to the convention setting forth the great work of sending forth the light of the gospel at home and abroad.

Greetings were brought to the convention by President Karl Gurgel (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod), Professor Tom Nass (Committee on Inter-Church relations of WELS), Missionary & Mrs. Timothy Erickson along with Pastor & Mrs. Fidel Convecio, Missionary Mark Grubbs (Czech Republic)

The chaplain closed the morning session by reading from Genesis 1.

The afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Jerome



Pastor and Mrs Fidel Convercio

Gernander (Thornton, Iowa). The assembly sang the hymn "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart." Rev. Gernander read Psalm 18:19-29, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the benediction.

The convention elected its working committees, committee work was assigned, and an additional greeting was brought by the Rev. John Shep.

The convention then recessed so the convention committees could meet to prepare resolutions for consideration.

TUESDAY, June 23, 1998

The Tuesday morning devotion was led by the Rev. John Moldstad Jr. (Mankato, Minnesota). Basing his message on John 8:12, he directed our thoughts to the theme: "Let there be light - from Christ." Apart from faith in Jesus, there is a spiritual darkness which has encompassed all people. At the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus boldly proclaimed Himself as the only true Light of the world. In Him there is forgiveness of sins and eternal life. This Light still shines forth wherever the gospel is proclaimed. As God on the first day spoke and illuminated the dark mass, so today His Word uttered by pastors, missionaries, and individual Christians sharing comfort with souls in need is powerful.

Pres. Wilbert Gawrisch brought greetings on behalf of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC). The first article of "The Eternal Word: a Lutheran Confession for the twenty-first century" has been completed. This article deals with the doctrine of Holy Scripture and will be submitted to the member churches for confirmation.

Following the normal preliminaries, the convention then considered the report of its Synodical Membership Committee. Eight pastors and three congregations were received into membership.

The Convention continued with the election of the President of the synod and Vice-president of the synod. As the result of a first ballot, George Orvick was declared elected to a four-year term as president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As the result of a second ballot, John Moldstad Jr. was declared elected vice-president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The chaplain closed the session with a reading from Isaiah 60.

The Tuesday afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Micah Ernst (Eugene, Missouri). The assembly sang the hymn "O Jesus King Most Wonderful." Pastor Ernst read 1 Peter 2:4-12, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the benediction.

The Rev. J. Willitz made a home mission presentation about the progress of Peace Lutheran Church (Lakeland, Florida). The convention then considered the report of the Home Missions Committee.

A presentation was made on behalf of the Board for Education and Youth by the Rev. C. Keeler. The convention then considered the report of the Board for Education and Youth.

A presentation was made on behalf of Thoughts of Faith by M. Grubbs who showed slides and spoke about the work in Plzen, Czech Republic. J. Shep spoke about the work in Ukraine. Seminary President G. Schmeling spoke about the work at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The chaplain closed the session with the reading of John 3:19.

On Tuesday evening a Mission Banquet was held in the gymnasium celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of mission work in Peru and the sixth anniversary of mission work in Chile. The Rev. Paul Anderson served as the Master of Ceremony. Speakers included: Pastor Fidel Convercio (one of the first ordained national pastors in Peru), Rev. Timothy Erickson, Rev. James Olsen, and Rev. Steven Petersen. An anniversary video was shown and songs were sung by the assembly.

WEDNESDAY, June 24, 1998

The Tuesday morning devotion was led by the Rev. Paul Anderson (Eau Claire, Wisconsin) based upon Matthew 5:14-16 and with the singing of the hymn "Rise, Thou Light of Gentile Nations." Speaking to Christians in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares, "You are the light of the world." How did we become "light?" Certainly not by our own brilliance or working. God called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. God prepared us to become light by revealing the darkness of our sins by His law. Then He kindled in us the spark of faith which burst into the flame of love as He made known what Jesus has done for our salvation. We are to let this flame of love burn openly that men may be drawn to the Source of that light and likewise come to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the normal preliminaries, a presentation was made about Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service and the Lutheran Home Association.

President Orvick introduced the essayist, Missionary Timothy

Erickson (Lima, Peru) who read the first part of the essay: "Let There Be Light."

After recess the Foreign Mission Presentation was made by the Rev. D. Lillegard and the report of the Foreign Missions Committee was considered.

The Chaplain closed the session with the reading of Psalm 139.

The afternoon session began with the singing of the hymn "O Day Full of Grace."

The convention considered the report of its Committees on Doctrine, Finances, and Christian Service.

The Anniversary Service was conducted by the Rev. Thomas Kuster (Mankato, Minnesota). The assembly sang "God's Word is our Great Heritage." Using Psalm 119:105 as his text, he listed a cluster of historical events which surrounds the birth date of each honoree. These represent the path onto which the Lord put us, a segment of history, and piece of our culture. God said to each, here is the path I want you to walk, and as My grace advances through the world, I am making you a part of it. The path is not a dark one, but rather one lighted by the Word, which has worked in the hearts of each honoree, brought them to Jesus and directed them to the ministry. The closing prayer was sung by a Pastors' Chorus: "Thou, Whose Almighty Word."

Following the recess, the convention continued to consider the reports of the Committee on Finances and Christian Service and elected the 1999 Nominating Committee.

The Chaplain closed the session with a reading from 2 Peter 1:16-ff.

The Communion Service was conducted in Trinity Chapel at 7:30 pm with the Rev. Donald Moldstad (Mankato, Minnesota) serving as Liturgist and the Rev. Matthew Thompson (Winter Haven, Florida) delivering the sermon based upon Luke 1:76-79 under the theme "The Dayspring from on High." Christ is the Dayspring from on high who has dawned upon all the world through His life, death, and resurrection. He carried the darkness of our sin and entered in the shadow of death for us. His resurrection light then proved for all the world that He had dispelled sin's darkness and chased away death's shadows. May God grant that His "Dayspring from on High" may dawn throughout the world.

THURSDAY, June 25, 1998

The Thursday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. James Olsen (Ontario, Wisconsin) with the singing of the hymn "The People That in Darkness Sat." Using Isaiah 60:1-3 as the

text, he developed the theme: "Let there be Light ... for the World." Many people are in darkness. In past centuries, our ancestors in northern Europe worshipped dead idols. The forebearers of our brothers and sisters in Peru worshipped the sun and engaged in human sacrifice. We, too, must plead "Lord have mercy upon us!" However, many people are coming to the Light which comes from the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus. Since our Savior paid the full payment for our failure on the cross, our sins are completely pardoned! May many come into this Light!

Following the normal preliminaries, the essayist, Missionary Timothy Erickson completed reading the essay and discussion followed.

After recess the report of the Miscellaneous Committee was considered.

The Chaplain closed the session with a reading from Isaiah 42:16.

The Thursday afternoon session began with the singing of the hymn "Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word."

The convention considered the report of the Higher Education Committee.

An evangelism presentation was made by the Rev. K. Mellon and the convention considered the reports of the Evangelism and Doctrine Committees.

The Memorial Service was conducted by the Rev. Paul Madson (Waterville, Iowa). The hymn, "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense," was sung by the assembly. Pastor Madson based his sermon on Psalm 36:9 and emphasized how those who were remembered in this memorial service could say with the Psalmist "In Your light ... we see light." Though the world sees death as darkness, in the perspective of our crucified and risen Savior the Christian sees it as light. Nourished and preserved in the faith by Word and Sacrament the children of God, having lived in the light of the knowledge of God and His salvation while on earth, shall one day see that light in all its splendor in the life to come. This is the promised end for the children of light: "There shall be no night there ... for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). In His light we shall see eternal light.

Following recess, the convention completed its work by again considering the report of the Doctrine Committee and the report of the Publications Committee, Worship Committee, Committee on Pastoral Conference Records, Committee on the President's Message and Report, and Resolutions, and Credentials.

Pastor and Mrs. Fidel Convercio were asked to come to the stage and President Orvick wished them God's blessings as they

return to their homeland.

Pastor Convercio likewise thanked the assembly for all the hospitality shown. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ has caused this to be a happy moment. His grace has united us in one people. By means of your work, our God that has caused many to hear of the forgiveness of sins. He has blessed us by giving us the privilege of speaking the gospel. We pray He also will give us the strength to stand up for those who preach false doctrine. As you know He has given us all different gifts according to His grace. He uses those gifts to do many different works in His kingdom. For this moment we have been a united church. Now it is time for us to go different ways and each return to His own home. May God bless us all wherever we go. Muchas gracias!"

It was resolved that the convention adjourn at 4:55 pm on June 25, 1998.

President Orvick declared the 81st Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be adjourned in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Chaplain concluded the convention with the assembly singing of the hymn "O Light of God's Most Wondrous Love," the reading of John 9:4-5, prayer, Lord's Prayer, and Apostolic Benediction.

ROLL CALL

PERMANENT MEMBERS

(Pastors serving member congregations, eligible to vote):

Present: H.Abrahamson, K.Anderson, W.Anderson, H.Bartels, M.Bartels, J.Braun, K.Brumble, E.Bryant, L.Buelow, R.Dale, J.Dalke, K.Dethlefsen, M.Deopel, E.Ekhoff, M.Ernst, D.Faugstad, C.Ferkenstad, F.Fiedler, R.Flohr, T.Fox, W.Frick, R.Fyffe, E.Geistfeld, E.Gernander, J.Gernander, H.Gieschen, T.Gullixson, W.Halvorsen, G.Haugen, M.Hoesch, R.Holtz, B.Homan, D.Hoyord, H.Huhnerkoch, C.Keeler, N.Krause, M.Krentz, F.Lams, M.Langlais, D.Larson, R.Lawson, P.Lehmann, R.Lehmann, G.Lilienthal, D.Lillegard, W.Mack, J.Madson, N.Madson, P.Madson, M.Marozick, K.Mellon, A.Merseth, D.Moldstad, J.Moldstad Sr., R.Nep-sund, R.Newgard, G.Obenberger, R.Pederson, J.Petersen, A.Pittinger, D.Raetz, T.Rank, A.Ring, J.Ruppel, D.Schmidt, J.Schmidt, K.Schmidt, P.Schneider, D.Schroeder, B.Schwark, V.Settje, T.Skaaland, J.K.Smith, John Smith, K.Smith, T.Smuda, S.Sparley, F.Theiste, M.Thompson, S.Urberg, H.Vetter, L.Vinton, J.Willitz, M.Wold, C.Wosje, P.Zager, L.Zell

Absent: D.Bakke, H.Behrens, B.Leonetti, H.Mosley, M.Smith, F.Stuben-voll

PERMANENT MEMBERS ACCEPTED AT THIS CONVENTION:

Present: K.Heck, R.MacKain, R.Preus, M.Rogers, G.Sahlstrom

PERMANENT ADVISORY MEMBERS

(Not eligible to vote):

1. PASTORS SERVING NON-MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OR GROUPS:

Present: D.Basel, T.Erickson, M.Brubbs, D.Meyer, N.Merseth, J.Shep

Absent: D.Haeuser, J.Krikiva, J.Krueger, M.Luttman, J.Rakos, O.Rodriguez, T.Schultz

2. PASTORS SERVING THE SYNOD IN FULL-TIME CAPACITY:

Present: G.Orvick, S.Petersen, R.Wiechmann

3. PASTORS NOT SERVING CONGREGATIONS AT THIS TIME:

Present: --

Absent: T.Aaberg, T.Bartels, R.Becker, R.Carter, J.A.Krueger, J.Larson, D.Nelson, W.Neumann, D.Schlict, C.Sieloff

4. PASTORS AND PROFESSORS EMERITI:

Present: P.Anderson, R.Branstad, W.Gullixson, N.Holte, A.Kuster, H.Larson, S.Lee, P.Lehenbauer, J.B.Madson, W.McMurdie, J.Olsen, P.Petersen, F.Schmugge, B.Teigen, O.Trebelhorn, M.Tweit

Absent: B.Anderson, E.Buhr, M.Galstad, L.Gerbhardt, R.Honsey, D.McEl-wain, C.Rusch, E.Stubenvoll, A.Schmitt

5. PROFESSORS:

Present: S.Born, A.Harstad, T.Kuster, M.Meyer, J.Moldstad Jr., W.Petersen, G.Schmeling, E.Teigen, D.Thompson

Absent: M.Harstad, R.Kovaciny, D.Marzolf, D.Metzger, S.Reagles, D.Weber

5. TEACHERS:

Present: L.Rude

Absent: S.Beilke, D.Doelger, L.Engel (em), D.Hahnke, D.Madson, C.Manthy, T.Pietsch, M.Ross, J.Schneck, T.Voigt

PERMANENT ADVISORY MEMBERS accepted at this convention:

1. PASTORS SERVING NON-MEMBER CONGREGATIONS:

Present: K.Kuenzel, R.Otto

2. PROFESSOR:

Present: J.Abrahamson

CONGREGATIONS ADMITTED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hadlock, Washington

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Jordan, Utah

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa

1998 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
H. Abrahamson	Calmar, IA	Trinity	
K. Anderson	New Hampton, IA	Redeemer	Art Borlaug
W. Anderson	The Dalles, OR	Bethany	Terry Nelson
	Hillsboro, OR	Reformation	Lavern Martin
			Mel Salzwedel
H. Bartels	Brownsburg, IN	Good Shepherd	
M. Bartels	Madison, WI	Holy Cross	Graham Armson
			Norm Marozick
H. Behrens	Chicago, IL	St. Mark's	
J. Braun	Klamath Falls, OR	Christ	Dale Hauck
			Virgil Teigland
K. Brumble	Scottsdale, AZ	Redeemer	Wayne Anderson
			Jeff Nelson
E. Bryant	Port Orchard, WA	Bethany	Jim Murphy
L. Buelow	Green Bay, WI	Christ the King	Michael Ruge
R. Dale	Naples, FL	Our Savior	Jeff McKay
			Jack McNiel
J. Dalke	Mt. Vernon, WA	St. Luke	Jerry Salaz
K. Dethlefsen	New Hampton, IA	Jerico	Jim Costello
			John Costello
	Lawler, IA	Saude	Allen Borlaug
			Donald Knutson
M. Doepel	Portage, WI	St. Paul's	Tom Duddy
	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Newport	Leon Worden
E. Ekhooff	Golden Valley, MN	King of Grace	Odean Olsen
			Norman Werner
M. Ernst	Jefferson City, MO	Peace	
D. Faugstad	Belview, MN	Our Savior's	
	Belview, MN	Rock Dell	Jerry Abrahamson
C. Ferkenstad	St. Peter, MN	Norseland	Carl Annexstad
			Lydell Struck
	Gaylord, MN	Norwegian Grove	Richard Eischen
			James Flantz
F. Fiedler	Myrtle Creek, OR	St. Matthew	Harvey Ringen
			George Wuckhuysen
	Sutherlin, OR	Christ	Jacob Young
R. Flohr	Cold Spring	Gloria Dei	Paul Johnson
			Roger Knauss
T. Fox	Burlington, MA	Pinewood	
W. Frick	Litchfield, IL	Faith	Leslie Brakenhoff
			Donald Hutchinson
R. Fyffe	Sebring, FL	New Life	Vern Williams
E. Geistfeld	Crookston, MN	Grace	
	Fertile, MN	First Evanger	August Ollrich
			Truman Opheim
E. Gernander	Clintonville, WI	St. Paul	Harold Routhieaux
	Shawano, WI	St. Martin	Gerhardt Vorpahl
J. Gernander	Thornton, IA	Richland	
H. Gieschen	Alpena, MI	Faith	
	Hillman, MI	Faith	Marlin Goebel
T. Gullixson	Escondido, CA	St. Paul	Karl Geise
			Clarence Waltner

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
W. Halvorson	Albert Lea, MN	Our Savior's	Ben Anderson Leonard Hage
G. Haugen K. Heck	Waterloo, IA Williamsburg, IA	Pilgrim St. Timothy	Art Klein Ralph Keller Robert Schlesselman
M. Hoesch	Ames, IA	Bethany	Keith Lukens
	Hampton, IA	Bethany	
R. Holtz	Bloomer, WI	Good Shepherd	Darrell Hoepner Eugene Lueck Robert Edwards
B. Homan	Madison, WI	Our Saviour's	Donald Heiliger
D. Hoyord	Apple Valley, MN	Heritage	Bill Overn Bob Smith
H. Huhnerkoch	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Our Saviour	Ray Farrow
C. Keeler	Port St. Lucie, FL	Christ	Richard Grant Keith Duin William Sigurdson
N. Krause M. Krentz	Gresham, OR Holton, MI	Saved by Grace Holton	Steve Anderson David Schottey Lloyd Ahlbrand
F. Lams	Hobart, IN	Grace	Norman Matthis
M. Langlais	Brewster, MA	Trinity	Paul Chamberlin Robert Schmidt
D. Larson R. Lawson	Parkersburg, IA Princeton, MN	Faith Bethany	Glen Hansen Dick Vagts
P. Lehmann R. Lehmann	Weston, OH Oregon, WI	Grace Faith	Dennis Behr Sherman Orvick
B. Leonetti	N. Huntingdon, PA	Zion	
G. Lilienthal	Luverne, MN	Bethany	Eugene Mann LaVern Kafka Otto Houg
D. Lillegard W. Mack R. MacKain	Jasper, MN Sebastian, FL Omro, WI Clara City, MN	Rose Dell Trinity Trinity Messiah Faith	Robert Joss Albert Munsterman Edward Schmaedeka
J. Madson	Kissimmee, FL	Peace	Dan Barger Herb Berg
N. Madson P. Madson	Tracy, MN Waterville, IA Waukon, IA	Zion East Paint Creek West Paint Creek	Eric Ouren
M. Marozick	Cottage Grove, WI	Western Koshkonong	Jeff Knickmeier
K. Mellon	Bowling Green, OH	Abiding Word	Bill Blumenschein
A. Merseth	Lake Mills, IA	Lake Mills	Delbert Rosebrook Leighton Humphrey Phillip Peterson
	Lake Mills, IA	Lime Creek	Paul Dahle
	Northwood, IA	First Shell Rock	Lars Petersen

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
	Northwood IA	Somber	Albin Levorson Harold Halvorson
D. Moldstad	Riceville, IA Mankato, MN	Immanuel Mt. Olive	Wilbur Lieske Jay Roth
J. Moldstad Sr.	Audubon, MN	Immanuel	Leslie Just Paul Miller
H. Mosley R. Nepsund R. Newgard	Tacoma, WA San Antonio, TX Forest City, IA Thompson, IA	Lakewood Faith Forest Zion	Jerome Gernander Norman Myre Eugene Erickson Norman Skogen Larry Rude Herb Stark
G. Obenberger	Tacoma, WA	Parkland	
R. Pederson J. Petersen	Suttons Bay, MI Vero Beach, FL	Faith Grace	A. Herbert Weimann Norbert Stege Albert Holman
R. Preus	East Grand Forks, MI	River Heights	
D. Raetz	Lakeland, FL	Our Savior	Phil Griffith John Weber
T. Rank	Scarville, IA Scarville, IA	Center Scarville Synod	Erling Brudvig Art Pederson Paul Anderson
M. Rogers J. Ruppel G. Sahlstrom D. Schmidt	Eau Claire, WI Grants Pass, OR West Jordan, UT Hartland, MN	Pinehurst Our Savior Hope Hartland	Frank Kohagen Ed Hendrickson Donald Jordahl Leslie Nelson (alt)
J. Schmidt K. Schmidt	Manchester, MN Fillmore, CA West Bend, WI	Manchester Wayfarers' Trinity	Ellsworth Butt Ralph Seidensticker George Lawson Terrance Smith Otto Abrams Gary Gotham
S. Schmidt	Chicago, IL	Emmaus	
P. Schneider	Midland, MI	Holy Scripture	
D. Schroeder B. Schwark V. Settje	Kennesaw, GA Bishop, CA Yelm, WA	Resurrection Our Savior Our Redeemer	Robert Rurup Jon Anderson Paul Nielsen
T. Skaaland J.K. Smith John Smith K. Smith	Elderon, WI Saginaw, MI Cottonwood, MN Okauchee, WI	Our Savior's Gloria Dei English Holy Trinity	C. Dwayne Boerner Robert Brown Paul Joubert
M. Smith T. Smuda S. Sparley	Holland, MI Rogers City, MI Oklee Trail Trail	Lord of Life Trinity Oak Park Mt. Olive Nazareth	Robert Brietzke
E. Stubenvoll F. Theiste	Marinette Eau Claire, WI	First Trinity Concordia	Duane Berg Cliff Raether

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
M. Thompson	Winter Haven, FL	Resurrection	Stanley Cooper Eugene Freiberg
S. Urberg	Hawley, MN Ulen, MN	Our Savior's Calvary	Lyle Manthe Joseph Rikhus Tom Hoyord Norman Theis Robbie Lanham Bob Guillory
H. Vetter	Iola, WI	Redeemer	
L. Vinton	Detroit, MI	St. Matthew	
J. Willitz	Lakeland, FL	Peace	
M. Wold	Bagley, MN Lengby, MN	Our Savior's St. Paul	
C. Wosje	Bullhead City, AZ	Family of God	Raymond Green
P. Zager	Lombard, IL	St. Timothy	Leroy Meyer
L. Zell	Richardson, TX	Good Shepherd	James Apolito Charles Fiedler
Vacancies:			
	Bell Gardens, CA	Christ the King	
	Cape Girardeau, MO	Scriptural	
	Cedar Ridge, CA	Shepherd of the Hills	Herb Fischer
	Irvine, CA	Faith	
	Eau Claire, WI	Ascension	
	Mayville, ND	First American	David Flitter
	Piedmont, MO	Grace	
	Princeton, MN	Our Savior's	Lambert Beckers Robert Soule Arnold Kuster Ed Schneider
	Madison, WI	Grace	
	Windsor, CA	Christ	

CONVENTION COMMITTEES 1998

1. President's Message and Report:

Rev. R. Dale
Rev. J. Smith
Mr. Ed Schneider
Mr. Herb Stark

2. Nominating Committee: (elected at the 1997 convention)

Rev. N. Krause
Rev. G. Obenberger
Rev. K. Smith
Rev. P. Zager
Sigurd Lee
Jerome Gernander
Glen Hanson
Al Wollenzien

3. Credentials:

Rev. J. Abrahamson
Rev. J. Ruppel
Rev. J. Willitz
Eugene Freiberg
Albert Munsterman

4. Program:

Rev. N. Krause
Rev. M. Krentz

5. Public Press and Convention Sentinel:

Rev. J. Braun
Rev. P. Madson

6. Doctrine:

Rev. M. Bartels
Rev. J. Braun
Rev. E. Bryant
Rev. L. Buelow
Rev. C. Keeler
Rev. F. Lams
Rev. N. Madson
Rev. R. Preus
Rev. D. Schroeder
Rev. K. Mellon
Robert Brown
Douglas Carnes
Erling Brudvig
Paul Chamberlin
James Flantz
Eugene Mann
Leroy Meyer

Jim Murphy
John Weber
Herbert Weimann
George Wyckhuysen

7. Home Missions:

Rev. P. Anderson
Rev. W. Frick
Rev. M. Grubbs
Rev. M. Krentz
Rev. D. Lillegard
Rev. R. MacKain
Rev. D. Moldstad
Rev. G. Sahlstrom
Rev. K. Schmidt
Rev. E. Teigen
John Anderson
Duane Berg
Eugene Erickson
Ed Hendrickson
Paul Joubert
Frank Kohagen
Lyle Manthe
Lavern Martin
Paul Miller
Jerry Salaz
Ralph Seidensticker
Norman Theis
Clarence Waltner

8. Foreign Missions:

Rev. E. Geistfeld
Rev. J. Gernander
Rev. A. Harstad
Rev. K. Heck
Rev. G. Lilienthal
Rev. A. Merseth
Rev. J. Moldstad, Jr.
Rev. R. Pederson
Rev. J. Ruppel
Rev. S. Urberg
Rev. M. Tweit
Wayne Anderson
Rodney Arends
Graham Armson
Robert Edwards
Richard Eischen
Bob Guillory
Merlyn Hayes
Albert Holman
Tom Hoyord
Leighton Humphrey
Truman Opheim
Jake Young

9. Evangelism:

Rev. M. Doepel
Rev. F. Fiedler
Rev. H. Gieschen
Rev. G. Haugen
Rev. W. Mack
Rev. R. Otto
Rev. A. Pittinger
Rev. D. Schmidt
Herb Berg
Stanley Cooper
Raymond Green
Robert Joss
Robbie Lanham
George Lawson
Paul Nielson
Larry Rude
Bob Smith
Virgil Teigland

10. Higher Education:

Rev. K. Anderson
Rev. K. Brumble
Rev. E. Elkhoff
Rev. D. Hoyord
Rev. H. Huhnerkoch
Rev. J. N. Madson
Rev. D. Raetz
Rev. F. Theiste
Rev. H. Vetter
Glen Hansen
Roger Knauss
Lydell Struck
Clifford Raether
Odean Olsen
Eric Ouren
Melvin Salzwedel
David Schottey
August Ollrich
Vern Williams

11. Education and Youth:

Rev. M. Ernst
Rev. M. Hoesch
Rev. B. Homan
Rev. T. Kuster
Rev. P. Lehmann
Rev. G. Obenberger
Rev. M. Rogers
Rev. S. Schmidt
Steve Anderson
Ray Farrow
Dave Flitter
Karl Geise

Donald Heiliger
Don Hutchinson
Art Klein
Norman Mathis
Jeff McKay
Glenn Obenbeze
Bill Overn
William Sigurdson
Terrance Smith
Dick Vagts
Gerhardt Vorpahl

12. Finances:

Rev. J. Abrahamson
Rev. W. Anderson
Rev. D. Basel
Rev. R. Lawson
Rev. J. Moldstad, Sr.
Rev. J. Petersen
Rev. J.K. Smith
Rev. T. Smuda
Rev. S. Sparley
Rev. M. Thompson
Rev. L. Vinton
Rev. J. Willitz
Rev. P. Zager
Lloyd Ahlbrand
Dan Barger
Ellsworth Butt
Paul Dahle
Keith Duin
Gary Gotham
Dale Hauck
Darrell Hoepner
Paul Johnson
David Mix
Phillip Peterson
Harold Routhieaux
Robert Schmidt
Norbert Stege
Leon Worden

13. Miscellaneous:

Rev. R. Flohr
Rev. R. Holtz
Rev. P. Lehenbauer
Rev. S. Petersen
Rev. G. Schmeling
Rev. P. Schneider
Rev. J.E. Smith
Allen Borlaug
Art Borlaug
Silas Born
Leslie Brakenhoff
James Costello
Marlin Goebel
Richard Grant

Harold Halvorson
Leslie Just
Norm Marozick
Art Petersen
Lars Petersen

14. Synodical Membership:

Rev. P. Madson
Rev. R. Newgard
Rev. P. Petersen
Rev. W. Petersen
Rev. B. Schwark
Rev. O. Trebelhorn
James Apolito
Dwayne Boerner
John Costello
Herb Fischer
Norman Skogen

15. Publications:

Rev. K. Dethlefsen
Rev. D. Faugstad
Rev. M. Marozick
Rev. M. Wold
Jerry Abrahamson
Ben Anderson
Wm. Blumenschein
Tom Duddy
Don Jordahl
Ralph Keller
Donald Knutson
Albert Munstermann
Harvey Ringen

16. Worship:

Rev. W. Gullixson
Rev. Juul Madson
Rev. R. Nepsund
Rev. T. Rank
Rev. A. Ring
Eugene Freiberg
Keith Lukens
Jack McNiel
Jeff Nelson
Delbert Rosebrook
Edward Schmaedeka
Norman Werner

17. Christian Service:

Rev. R. Fyffe
Rev. E. Gernander
Rev. W. Halvorson
Rev. D. Larson
Rev. R. Lehmann
Rev. W. McMurdie
Rev. D. Meyer

Rev. F. Schmugge
Rev. V. Settje
Rev. T. Skaaland
Rev. D. Thompson
Rev. L. Zell
Carl Annexstad
Brian Benoit
Phil Griffith
Leonard Hage
Eugene Lueck
Joseph Rikhus, Sr.
Robert Rurup
Ed Schneider
Robert Schlesselman

18. Minutes:

Rev. K. Dethlefsen
Lyle Manthe
Edward Schmaedeka

19. Pastoral Conference Records:

Rev. P. Anderson
Rev. A. Kuster
Madison, WI

20. Resolutions:

Rev. W. Petersen

21. Tellers:

Candidate A. Hamilton
Candidate J. Jacobson
Candidate T. Zenda

22. Chaplain:

Rev. D. Lillegard

23. Head Ushers:

Rev. M. Ernst
Rev. R. Holtz

24. Parliamentarian:

Rev. J.B. Madson
Rev. M. Tweit

25. Organists:

Prof. S. Born
Prof. A. Burmeister
Mrs. V. Lehenbauer
Prof. D. Marzolf
Rev. P. Zager

President's Message

To the 81st Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Dear Members and Friends of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we gather here for the 81st annual convention of our ELS we do so under the theme: LET THERE BE LIGHT. The reason for choosing such a theme this year is because we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of our mission work in Peru. This was quite an undertaking for our small synod but the Lord has richly blessed this early beginning and we are assembled here to praise and thank our gracious God for such blessing.

At the 51st annual synod convention held June 25-30, 1968, the following resolution was passed.

WHEREAS, Pastors T. F. Kuster and A. M. Harstad, who toured Peru and Bolivia, South America, in January and February, 1968, in the interest of exploring the missionary needs in these countries have reported that between 800,000 to a million people live in the approximately 120 "barriadas" of Lima, Peru, and

WHEREAS, They report that very little Christian missionary work is being done among the thousands of people in these "barriadas", and

WHEREAS, The Mission Board recommends that the Synod begin missionary work among these people, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, a) That the Synod endorse this recommendation with thanks to God that He has granted us this opportunity for missionary work, and further b) That our foreign missionary, Pastor T. F. Kuster, begin work in this area as soon as practicable.

With this resolution our Evangelical Lutheran Synod embarked upon a new undertaking in the course of its history. The synod had always placed mission work as a high priority item in its desire to carry out the Lord's command. It had from its very beginning in 1918 appointed a mission board and joined with the other synods of the Synodical Conference in the work in China, India, and Nigeria. When it withdrew from this undertaking it made annual contributions to the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod to help in a small way the foreign work that it was doing. But finally the time was ripe for our synod to strike out on its own and begin to preach the Gospel on foreign soil.

It is now thirty years since this resolution was passed. We can only stand back and marvel at how the Lord has blessed and guided us during this time period. From that small beginning we now see three missionaries laboring in Peru. We see a seminary training men so that six national pastors now preach the Gospel not only in Lima but in many stations in the mountains and nearby cities. From Peru the work has spread to the neighboring country of Chile where two missionaries work and another has been called. And how wonderful it is to have Pastor Fidel Convecio and Dora present with us for this convention. We also assist our sister synod in Australia, the ELSA. In addition to this our Church-Related Organization, Thoughts of Faith, has established a number of congregations in Ukraine with a seminary training workers in Ternopil. This has resulted in the establishment of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church which is really a daughter synod such as our ELS in Peru. It has also established a congregation and school in the Czech Republic with three pastors and several teachers at work. Work is also going on in the city of Prague under the auspices of the Four Corners Mission Society. We now, therefore, have fifteen Americans and six national pastors at work for a total of 21 messengers of peace to spread the saving Gospel of Christ Jesus, our Lord. We praise and thank the Lord for enabling us to spread the Good News of salvation in this dying world.

As we begin this convention permit me, therefore, to direct your thoughts to the great work of sending forth the light of the Gospel at home and abroad.

First and foremost, when our synod sends out the light it must be the pure light of the Gospel and not a light that is made dim or partially obscured by false doctrine, human tradition or any departure from the Word of God which alone is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

On paper our synod makes all the proper subscriptions of an orthodox church body. In our constitution we confess: *The only source and rule of the Synod's faith and doctrine is the Word of God, revealed in the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments.* We go on to state that *The Evangelical Lutheran Synod subscribes to all the symbolical books, or confessions, of the Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord because they are a correct statement of the teachings of Scripture.* (ELS Constitution, Chapter I, pars. 2 & 3). It also requires that all congregations and pastors make a declaration of unconditional subscription to the Synod's confessions and teachings, and to its constitution and by-laws.

While these constitutional declarations are of utmost importance it is not enough merely to have them on paper. There are church bodies which, on paper, sound pretty orthodox but in reality allow for a wide divergence from what they have officially accepted. What determines the orthodoxy of a church body is not only its official subscriptions but also what is being preached in its pulpits, what is taught in its classrooms and what practices are carried on in the life of the church.

What, therefore, is that pure light of the Gospel that we desire to be proclaimed to this dying world? First of all:

1) It must be based upon the firm conviction that the Bible is the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God. That the Bible does not contain errors, myths and fairy tales. We read in II Tim. 3,16 that *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* And again in II Peter 1,21: *The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.* There is no room for the so-called "historical critical method of biblical interpretation" to be used in our synod.

2) It must be preached and taught in our pulpits and classrooms that the heart and center of the Gospel is the Doctrine of Justification by grace alone through faith in Christ who by His perfect life and by His innocent suffering and death atoned for all of our sins. This is the chief doctrine of the Christian faith. This is the article upon which the church stands or falls.

3) The Gospel that is preached and taught in our churches and schools must be the UNCONDITIONED GOSPEL. Throughout our history the old evil foe has wanted to attach conditions to the message of free salvation. In other words certain things must happen on man's part before he can be justified in the sight of God. In the so-called "Madison Settlement" of 1917, which laid the ground work for the Norwegian merger, it was taught that some people have a better attitude by nature towards God and thus are converted while others are not. One Lutheran church makes faith a cause of our justification, rather than the empty hand by which we receive it. In another Lutheran church today it is taught that before you can become a member you have to point to the day of your personal experience in which you received Christ into your heart. The emphasis in all "decision theology" is that you must do something to make your justification complete. All of this is the Gospel with conditions. It is the Gospel with a barbed wire fence around it. And in the final analysis it is not the Gospel at all. For the true Gospel announces that God has justified the whole world before and apart from any cooperation or decision or better attitude on the part of man.

On account of the perfect life by which our Saviour fulfilled all the demands of God's law and by His innocent suffering and death on the cross by which He

atoned for the sins of the whole world, as we read *Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world*, John 1,29, God has by a forensic act declared the whole world to be righteous, justified, not guilty. *All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*. (Rom. 3,24). Even the unbelievers are justified. Paul writes, *To him who works not, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness*. (Rom. 4,5). And again, *God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them*. (II Cor. 5,19). Now, of course, this justification does not benefit the unbeliever because he rejects the precious gift God sets before him. God's justification has to be received by faith in order to benefit the sinner.

This Doctrine of Objective Justification is so woven into the very fabric of our synod that without it we would just be another Protestant church body. Our history, no doubt, has much to do with this. We have to thank our gracious God for giving us forefathers who in spite of all opposition held on to this truth. They went to battle against the synergists of 1917 who led the old synod into the merger. They testified against the ALC statement that "God purposes to justify those who have come to faith." He doesn't "purpose to justify them." He has justified all men. Without this doctrine we are without hope for then our salvation is immediately placed in doubt. It is therefore beyond comprehension how the largest Lutheran body in the USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America could declare that the Reformation judgments on the Roman church's Doctrine of Justification no longer apply. Rome condemns the article that we are justified and saved by grace alone through faith in Christ. This led to the Lutheran Reformation of the 16th century. But now ELCA has decided that these matters should be set aside and that they no longer apply. They likewise have chosen to ignore the differences with certain Reformed churches on the doctrine of the sacraments and have entered into "full communion" with the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Agreement on such essential teachings such as the real presence of Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper is therefore no longer important, according to ELCA.

4. In order to preserve and spread the pure light of the Gospel our synod confesses that this is done through the Means of Grace: Baptism, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper. *Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*. (Rom. 10,17). And the Augsburg Confession teaches:

To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel. And the Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God, not by our own merits but by the merit of Christ, when we believe this. (Art. V. Tappert p. 31).

There are, therefore, many things that could be written about preserving the pure light of the Gospel so that we have a saving message to bring to people at home and abroad who do not know the way of salvation. If the pure water of life that flows from the fountain of God's Word is polluted and poisoned by false doctrine then we have no reason to carry on an active mission program.

But now we must go forward with the work. Yes, thirty years in Peru is wonderful but there are other nations, other peoples that do not yet know about the Savior. Our forefathers did not sit under the oaks at Lime Creek and cry over what they had lost. No, they immediately organized a mission program, began a church paper of their own, and before long purchased a college and organized a seminary. They cooperated with the Synodical Conference in Nigeria and India and China. In 1925 they called two men to open home missions, one on the east side of Madison and one in Minneapolis. We, too, must always plan to move forward especially now when new doors are open to us and financial resources are more plentiful.

We are about to enter a new millennium. Surely this is a propitious moment in history to take brave steps forward in spreading the Gospel. What opportunities do we have? Let me call attention to some of them both in the area of missions and in education:

- a. We should seriously consider expanding our foreign work to another country or continent. Our board for Foreign Missions is making a study of opportunities in Africa where thousands of souls are crying out for the Gospel.
- b. There may be openings to work in Korea and Russia. A Korean student is enrolled in our seminary and a student from Russia plans to enroll.
- c. A congregation in Avaldsness, Norway, of our sister synod has sent a letter requesting pastoral help.
- d. Your new home missions are being started this year and more opportunities present themselves. Our Board for Home Missions plans new work in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Washington, California, and Florida.
- e. A tremendous opportunity in the field of Christian education also lies before us as Bethany Lutheran College begins its transition to becoming a four-year institution. The training of young people to go out into this world with firm Christian convictions, a commitment to a life of service to the Lord and His Church, and an awareness of the great need for Christian influence in our decaying society is of utmost importance. Our college is distinctly committed to the theology of our synod as is stated in the catalog: "The college and its sponsoring church, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, are committed to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God as the sole authority for faith and life." We therefore need to support our school with our gifts and our prayers.
- f. Funds are set aside each year for the support of Christian Day Schools. Congregations which are interested in starting a school of their own should contact our Director of Christian Education, Prof. Silas Born, at Bethany College.
- g. Work with children and youth in all the various agencies should continue with renewed enthusiasm as we enter the new millennium. Our Board for Education and Youth has done a marvelous job in providing for our children and youth. May the Lord bless their efforts.
- h. Evangelism work in the congregations should receive special attention. Are we reaching out to souls that have fallen away, to those who do not know the Savior, and to families that are so desperately in need during these turbulent times? Each congregation should examine its own program with help and encouragement from the Board for Evangelism.

Some of the items mentioned above are already on-going programs in our synod. Others are mentioned as possibilities for our synod to consider as we approach the year 2000. How shall we proceed? What are the costs of opening a new foreign mission? Shall the synod embark upon a special "Two Thousand Years of Grace" offering? All of this planning for the future will require much thought and investigation. We suggest that the synod authorize the appointment of a special committee to study the issues and bring a recommendation to our 1999 convention.

We, who by the grace of God have been able to hold fast to the pure Gospel, dare not hide this light under a bushel. Jesus says, *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* (Matt. 5,14-16). And the last words of our Lord to His disciples as we find them recorded in the first chapter of the Book of Acts direct us: *Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* (Acts 1,8).

May our beloved Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore, prepare to enter into

the new millennium with courage as the Lord directs us in (Deut. 1,17), *Be strong and of good courage*; with determination and unity as Paul writes, *Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel* (Phil. 1,27); and with great joy as our Savior tells us, *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.* (John 15,11).

Soli Deo Gloria

George M. Orvick

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1998

INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS

Miss Jessica Lambrecht was installed as Preschool Director/Teacher at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida, on June 8, 1997.

The Rev. Kurt Smith was installed as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Okauchee, Wisconsin, on July 13, 1997. The Rev. John Petersen preached the sermon, Alternate Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Mark Bartels, performed the rite of installation, and the Rev. John Braun (WELS) was liturgist. Other area pastors also participated in the service.

Mr. Timothy Ristow was installed as principal and upper grades teacher of Holton Ev. Lutheran School, Holton, Michigan, on August 10, 1997. Pastor Michael Krentz preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Ronald Pederson was installed as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Suttons Bay, Michigan, on August 24, 1997. The Rev. Duane Schmeichel (WELS) who had served as vacancy pastor, preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Michael Krentz read the scripture lesson and other area pastors also participated in the service.

The Rev. Jon Bruss was ordained as professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, on September 3, 1997. The Rev. Jerome Gernander preached the sermon and Pres. George Orvick performed the rite of ordination. Chaplain Mark DeGarmeaux was the liturgist and Pres. Gaylin Schmeling and Prof. Erling Teigen were lecturers. Several professors and area pastors also took part in the service.

The Rev. Joseph Abrahamson was ordained as professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, on September 3, 1997. The Rev. Jerome Gernander preached the sermon and Pres. George Orvick performed the rite of ordination. Chaplain Mark DeGarmeaux was the liturgist and Pres. Gaylin Schmeling and Prof. Erling Teigen were lecturers. Several professors and area pastors also took part in the service.

The Rev. Daniel Faugstad was installed as pastor of the Belview/Rock Dell Parish on September 7, 1997. The Rev. Mark Harstad preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, performed the rite of installation. Several area pastors also took part in the service.

The Rev. Michael Langlais was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster, Massachusetts, on September 7, 1997. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Thomas Fox, preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Richard MacKain was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota, on September 21, 1997. President George Orvick preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, performed the

rite of installation and also served as liturgist. Several area pastors also participated in the service.

The Rev. John Petersen was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida, on September 28, 1997. The Rev. Jonathan Madson preached the sermon and the Rev. David Lillegard performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Matthew Thompson and the Rev. Rodger Dale read the scripture lessons.

The Rev. David J. Webber was installed as rector of St. Sophia Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ukraine, on October 4, 1997. The Rev. Roger Kovaciny preached the sermon and Bishop John Shep performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology Konstantin Mamberger was ordained and installed as assistant pastor of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, Kiev, Ukraine, on October 5, 1997. President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen preached the sermon and Bishop John Shep performed the rites of ordination and installation. The liturgy was conducted by the Rev. Joel Rakos.

The Rev. Mark Grubbs was installed as pastor in Plzen, Czech Republic, on Sunday, October 12, 1997. The Rev. David Meyer preached the sermon, the Rev. J. Kincaid Smith performed the rite of installation, and the Rev. Matthew Luttman was the liturgist.

The Rev. Steven Sparley was installed as pastor of the Oklee/Clearwater Parish, on November 2, 1997. The Rev. Roger Fehr preached the sermon, and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Mark Wold performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Rolf Preus was installed as pastor of River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, on November 16, 1997. Synod President George Orvick preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Mark Wold, performed the rite of installation. Other area pastors also participated in the service.

Candidate of Theology Oswaldo Fernández was ordained and installed as the first pastor of the congregation in Huacho, Peru, on November 24, 1997. Pastor Abraham Rosario conducted the service with Pastor Segundo Gutierrez from Chimbote preaching the sermon. Missionary Timothy Erickson served as lector, and Pastor Roberto Berrospid from Lima conducted the rites of ordination and installation.

Candidate of Theology Andres Robles was ordained and installed on December 7, 1997, at God is King Lutheran Church in San Gabriel, Peru. Pastor Abraham Rosario conducted the rite; Missionary Tim Erickson preached the sermon; and Vicar Braulio Capulian was the liturgist.

The Rev. James Krueger was commissioned to be missionary to Plzen, Czech Republic, on December 14, 1997. The Rev. Frederick Theiste preached the sermon and the Rev. David Meyer was the officiant for the commissioning.

The Rev. Steven Petersen was commissioned to be Mission Counselor for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on January 7, 1998. The service took place at Heritage Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota. The preacher was Missionary Oto Rodriguez, Pres. George Orvick performed the rite of installation, and the Rev. David Hoyord was the liturgist.

The Rev. Karl Kuenzel was commissioned as missionary to Chile on January 7, 1998, at Heritage Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota. Missionary Oto Rodriguez preached the sermon, Pres. George Orvick performed the rite, and the Rev. David Hoyord was liturgist.

Miss Suzanne Eldred was installed as preschool teacher at Our Savior Lutheran School, Naples, Florida, on June 14, 1998.

The Rev. Mark Rogers was installed as pastor of Pinehurst Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on February 1, 1998. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Fred Theiste, preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Paul Anderson, chairman of the Board for Foreign Missions, served as liturgist.

Miss Melissa Draeger was installed as kindergarten teacher at Holton Ev. Lutheran School, on February 8, 1998. Pastor Michael Krentz preached the ser-

mon and performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Martin Hoesch was installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, on May 17, 1998. The Rev. Alf Merseth preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor; the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, performed the rite of installation. He was also installed at a 7 p.m. evening service at Grace Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa (WELS). The Rev. Roger Neumann from Oskaloosa, Iowa, preached the sermon and the Rev. Wesley Bruss from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, performed the rite of installation.

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

The following pastors have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper letters of request are on file.

The Rev. Richard MacKain by colloquy on August 7, 1997

The Rev. Karl Kuenzel by transfer from the WELS

The Rev. Rolf Preus by colloquy on October 22, 1997

The Rev. Gregory Sahlstrom by colloquy on November 19, 1997

The Rev. Mark Rogers by colloquy on November 24, 1997

The Rev. Robert Otto by transfer from the WELS

The Rev. Karl Heck by colloquy on May 19, 1998.

The Rev. Joseph Abrahamson, professor at Bethany Lutheran College



**The Rev. Joseph
Abrahamson**



The Rev. Karl Heck



**The Rev. Karl
Kuenzel**



**The Rev. Richard
MacKain**



**The Rev. Robert
Otto**



The Rev. Rolf Preus



The Rev. Mark Rogers



**The Rev. Gregory
Sahlstrom**

The following congregations have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper documents have been submitted.

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hadlock, Washington

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Jordan, Utah

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa

TRANSFERS

The Rev. James Wuebben was transferred to the WELS upon his acceptance of a call as visitation pastor in that synod.

The Rev. Richard Tragasz was transferred to the WELS upon his acceptance of a call into that synod.

The Rev. Daniel Sabrowsky was transferred to the WELS.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Lutheran Youth Association of Norseland and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Churches celebrated the Centennial of its organization on Sunday, July 13, 1997. The Rev. M. E. Tweit, former pastor, was the speaker for the occasion.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, Illinois, celebrated its 40th anniversary on August 17, 1997. Guest speaker was Synod President George Orvick.

Rock Dell Lutheran Church, Belview, Minnesota, celebrated its 125th anniversary on August 24, 1997. Professor Joseph Abrahamson, a son of the congregation, preached the sermon; the Rev. Tosten Skaaland, former pastor, served as liturgist and Mr. Michael Madson, also former pastor, was soloist. There was an afternoon program during which pastors and friends brought greetings.

Zion Lutheran Church, Tracy, Minnesota, celebrated the 60th anniversary of its cornerstone laying on September 28, 1997. Former pastor, Seminary President Gaylin Schmeling, was guest speaker for the morning service. Several former pastors and neighboring pastors also brought their greetings during the afternoon program.



Rock Dell Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri, celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 2, 1997. The Rev. Richard Tragasz preached the sermon and the Rev. Micah Ernst was the liturgist.

Reformation Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Oregon, celebrated its first anniversary as a congregation on November 2, 1997 — Reformation Day (Sunday).

Parkland Ev. Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington, observed the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its church building on Sunday, March 15, 1998. (The building had been purchased from the U. S. Army and moved from Ft. Lewis in 1947.)



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida, celebrated its 25th anniversary on March 22, 1998. The Rev. Donald Moldstad, former pastor of the congregation, preached the sermon.

Mr. Larry Rude, principal of Parkland Lutheran School, Parkland, Washington, was recognized for his 25 years of service in the teaching ministry on April 26, 1998.

Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, observed the 70th anniversary of its organization as a congregation on May 17, 1998. The Rev. John Smith, Cottonwood, Minnesota, a son of the congregation, preached the sermon, and host pastor, the Rev. Frederick Theiste, conducted the liturgy.

Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, Minnesota, observed the 140th anniversary of the organization of the congregation on Sunday, June 7, 1998. The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, pastor of the congregation, delivered the sermon.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

The Rev. A. V. Kuster, 60 years; The Rev. Frederick Schmugge, 50 years; the Rev. Herbert Larson, 40 years; the Rev. Norman Madson, 40 years; and each of the following for 25 years of service: the Reverends Ed Bryant, David Haeuser, Mark Marozick, Dennis Schmidt, Paul Schneider, John Shep, and Kincaid Smith.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

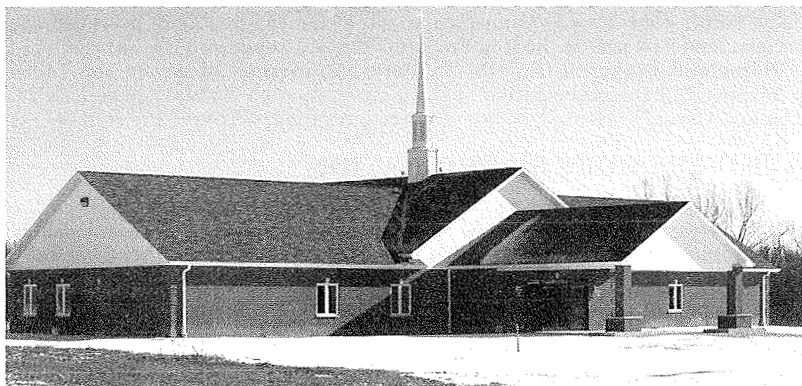
East and West Paint Creek Synod Churches of Waterville and Waukon, Iowa, celebrated the 45th anniversary of ordination for their pastor, the Rev. Paul Madson, on November 9, 1997.

DEDICATIONS

The dedication of the new Seminary/Synod building took place at the 2:30 p.m., Synod Sunday service, June 15, 1997. The Rev. George Orvick, synod president, preached the festival sermon and Seminary President Wilhelm Petersen was the lector. At the end of the service the worshipers walked to the new seminary building for the rite of dedication. Synod President George Orvick performed the rite and Prof. Juul B. Madson was the lector.



Norseland Lutheran Church



Christ the King Lutheran Church

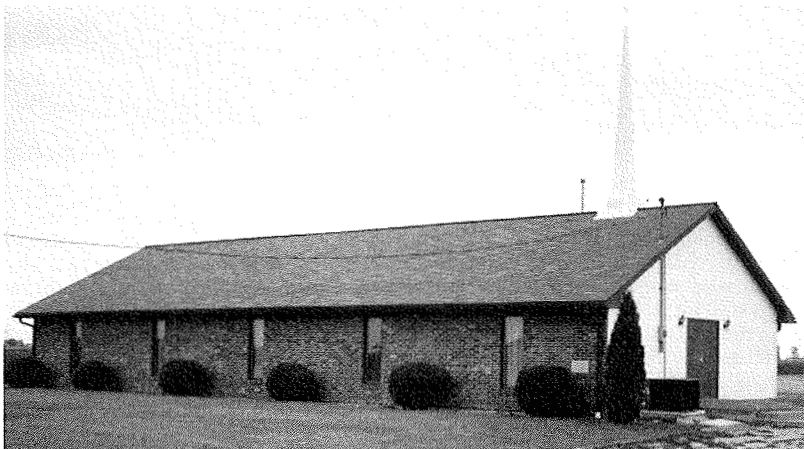
Norseland Lutheran Church, rural St. Peter, Minnesota, dedicated its new narthex on Sunday, September 14, 1997. The Rev. Norman A. Madson, former pastor of the congregation, was guest preacher for the morning dedication service. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, served as liturgist and performed the rite of dedication. During the afternoon the assembly enjoyed a Festival of Scandinavian Hymns which was led by Prof. Dennis Marzolf of Bethany Lutheran College.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin, dedicated its new house of worship on Sunday, November 2, 1997. President George Orvick preached the sermon and local pastor, the Rev. Leonard Buelow, served as liturgist and performed the rite of dedication. Other area pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Frederick Theiste, Harold Vetter, Emil Stubenvoll, Sr., and E. C. F. Stubenvoll, Jr.



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Holland, Michigan, dedicated its recently purchased house of worship on Sunday, December 7, 1997. The Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, chairman of the ELS Board for Home Missions, preached the sermon for the festival service. The Rev. Michael K. Smith, pastor of Lord of Life, served as liturgist and performed the rite of dedication.



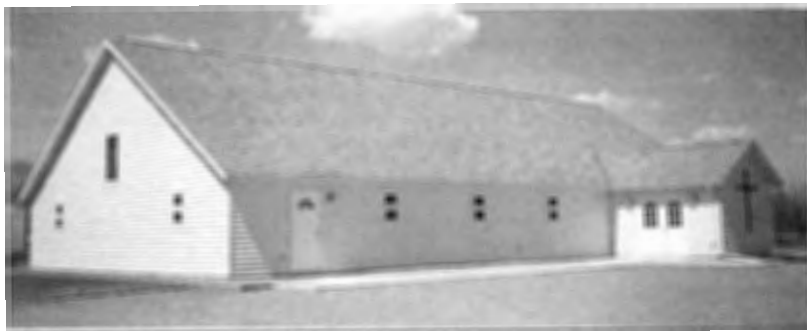
Abiding Word Lutheran Church

Abiding Word Ev. Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, Ohio, was dedicated on January 18, 1998. Mission Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of dedication. Other area pastors also participated in the service.



Peace Lutheran Church

Peace Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida, dedicated its new house of worship on February 15, 1998. The Rev. George Orvick, synod president, preached the sermon and the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, chairman of the Board for Home Missions, performed the rite of dedication. Several other ELS pastors and area WELS pastors also took part in the service.



Faith Lutheran Church

The members of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota, gathered on Sunday, May 3, 1998, to dedicate their new (debt-free) church. Pastor John Smith who served the congregation from its inception preached the dedication sermon. The Rev. Richard MacKain, pastor of the congregation, was the liturgist; the Rev. Norman A Madson served as lector; and the rite of dedication was performed by Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ.

New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida, dedicated its new steeple on Easter Sunday, April 12, 1998.

GROUNDBREAKING

The groundbreaking for the new mens' dorm at Bethany Lutheran College took place on July 13, 1997, in connection with the Bethany Alumni weekend. The Rev. John Smith was the preacher and the liturgist was the Rev. Paul Madison. Members of the Board of Regents, the college and synod administration also participated.

MORTGAGE BURNING

The members of Scriptural Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, celebrated a mortgage burning ceremony on Sunday, August 10, 1997, in recognition of the congregation becoming debt free.

NEW POSITIONS FILLED

The Rev. Steven Petersen accepted the position as Mission Counselor for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and began his work on October 1, 1997.

Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft accepted the position of Business Administrator for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and began his work on April 1, 1998.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Rev. Martin Teigen has resigned from the ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and from its Board for Education and Youth. He preached his last sermon June 29, 1997.

The Rev. Fred Lams was appointed to the Board for Education and Youth to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Rev. Martin Teigen from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The Rev. Daniel Sabrowsky has resigned as visitor of Circuit #10 and from the pastorate of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bell Gardens, California. He has also resigned from the public ministry and has been transferred to the WELS.

The Rev. Herbert Larson has resigned from the Doctrine Committee, December 17, 1997. The Rev. Paul Zager was appointed to fill that position.

The Rev. Carl Wosje was appointed to be visitor of Circuit #10 upon the resignation of the Rev. Daniel Sabrowsky. The Reverend Herbert Huhnerkoch was appointed as alternate.

Mr. Kenneth D. Loomis has resigned from the Board for Foreign Missions. Mr. Larry Otto has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Rev. Matthew Thompson was appointed to the Board for Education and Youth to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Rev. Mark Bartels from that board.

The Rev. Rodney Flohr was appointed to the Board for Home Missions to fill the vacancy created when the Rev. Steven Petersen vacated the Board because of his acceptance of the position of Mission Counselor for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The Rev. Roger Fehr has resigned as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minnesota, and from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

RETIREMENT

The Rev. Herbert Larson has announced his retirement from the ministry. He and his wife Marion will move to New Braunfels, Texas.

DEATHS

The Rev. Robert Waldschmidt passed away on September 22, 1997. Funeral services were held at Hope Lutheran Church, Penryn, California, on Saturday, September 27, 1997. The Rev. William McMurdie preached the sermon, the Rev. James Behringer (WELS) was liturgist, and the Rev. Robert Hochmuth, also of WELS, was the lector. Christian burial services were held at Skylawn Memorial Park, San Mateo, California, with the Rev. William McMurdie officiating. The Rev. Gerald Geiger (WELS) was present at the committal service and spoke briefly to the family group.

Mrs. Milton Tweit (Dagney) passed away on January 13, 1998. Funeral services were held on Friday, January 16th, at Saude Lutheran Church, with Pastor Kent Dethlefsen officiating. Pres. George Orvick spoke on behalf of the synod. Interment was on January 21st at Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery, Amherst Junction, Wisconsin.

Mr. Edward Schutters passed away on January 13, 1998. He taught biology and zoology at Bethany Lutheran College beginning the fall of 1995. Funeral services were held at Trinity Chapel, Bethany College, on Saturday, January 17. The Rev. Donald Moldstad officiated.

Mrs. Sophus Lee (Ruth) passed away on April 19, 1998. Christian burial services were held on Wednesday, April 22nd, at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, with Pastor Erwin Ekhooff officiating. Pres. Orvick spoke on behalf of the synod. Interment was at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens in Crystal, Minnesota.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

The 54th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod met at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, July 27-August 1. There were 447 voting and advisory delegates assembled for the occasion under the theme, "We are Family Under God." The main item of business was a restructuring of the synodical organization. With the new structure, WELS now has a twenty-one member Synodical Council replacing the former Coordinating Council and Board of Trustees to guide the synod's ministry between conventions.

Under the new structure Pres. Karl Gurgel will act as chief executive officer and First Vice President Richard Lauersdorf will be the new full-time vice president for mission and ministry. The Conference of Presidents has the role of overseeing doctrine and practice and funding the synod's ministry. The four areas of ministry are: Home Missions, World Missions, Ministerial Education, and Parish Services.

Home Missions was authorized to begin 50 new missions during the next biennium and the Division of World Missions reported many opportunities to reach souls in places like Russia and India.

Plans are being made for the celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ and the 150th anniversary of the synod's founding. A special offering is being planned in observance of the anniversary and consideration is being given to the construction of a synod archives building, a chapel at MLC, and an energetic outreach program for the future. Specific plans will be presented to the 1999 synod convention. The Rev. Karl Gurgel was reelected as president of the synod and the Rev. Richard Lauersdorf as first vice president which now becomes a full-time position.

Your synodical president attended the convention and brought greetings on behalf of our ELS. President Gaylin Schmeling, chairman of our synod's Doctrine Committee, was also in attendance.

The Doctrine Committee of the ELS met with the Commission on Inter-Church Relations of the WELS on May 1st to share information.

We thank the Lord for the blessed fellowship that we continue to enjoy with our sister synod. As sister synods we are able to call pastors and teachers across synodical lines which is of great benefit to both church bodies. May the Lord continue to strengthen the ties that bind us together and preserve our unity in doctrine and our confessional witness to the world.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL FORUM

The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum is the official organization which brings together representatives of the ELS and the WELS every other year. It has been in existence for 30 years. There are five divisions namely: the Administration Division, the Doctrine Division, the Parish Service Division, the Education Division, the Worship Division, and the Mission Division. The WELS will act as hosts for the next meeting which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 12-13, 1998.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL CHURCH (SWEDEN AND NORWAY)

The Lord continues to bless the voice of confessional Lutheranism through the Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway). The biennial convention of the church body will be held this year July 16-19, 1998, in Stenmestaden which is on the west coast of Norway near Haugesand. It was a pleasure to have as our guests in March the Rev. and Mrs. Egil Edvardsen. Pastor Edvardsen is chairman of the Doctrine Committee of the LBK and was here as a member of the Theological Commission of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. We are happy to report that progress is being made in the work of the church body. The congregation in Ljungby, Sweden, the Rev. Alvar Swenson, pastor, has its own new church building in the center of town. A fire station was purchased from the city and beautifully remodeled to make an attractive house of worship. The congregation in Stavanger has likewise purchased and remodeled a building so that they now also have their own house of worship. The members of LBK have therefore shown their determination to go forward with the work of spreading the pure Gospel.

Plans are to continue talks with the ELBK, the group that left LBK in 1987. We pray that they may once again be reunited with their former brethren.

Let us continue to remember our brothers and sisters in the faith asking the Lord to give them strength and courage as they endeavor to spread the Gospel and use the pure Word and Sacraments in their ministry in Scandinavia.

AN OPPORTUNITY IN SCANDINAVIA

We are all aware of our precious fellowship with the Lutheran Confessional Church in Sweden and Norway. This small church body has been receiving help for many years from our sister synod, the WELS. The WELS is planning to send a man to work in Sweden alongside of the pastors there. At the present time our Evangelical Lutheran Synod has a request from the Lutheran congregation in Avaldsnes, Norway, to send a man to be of assistance to them. Pastor Egil Edvardsen serves a widespread flock along the west coast of Norway. He has a congregation in Stavanger which also has members in Kristiansand. In addition to this he serves the Lutheran congregation at Avaldsnes which also has members in Bergen. In addition to this he also works in a secular job. The congregation in Avaldsnes has asked if it would be possible for it to call a man from our synod to care for the northern half of the parish, namely, the Avaldsnes church and those in Bergen. The congregation there has pledged to contribute \$15,000 per year towards the salary as well as providing a house and automobile. Our Board for Foreign Missions has indicated its willingness to provide another \$10,000 for this purpose. This is almost enough to provide for the full support of

a pastor. Such a project will need to be coordinated with the Church Board of the LBK. In conjunction with our Board for Foreign Missions we are therefore proposing the establishment of a "Scandinavia Fund."

The Board passed the following resolution: "Resolved, that we recommend to the synod that we establish a Scandinavia Fund to help our brethren in LBK." This would be a fund in the hands of our synod treasurer to which members who wish to support the work there could contribute. It is very likely that there are many in our synod who have a special love for the land of our forefathers who would be glad to make contributions to the "Scandinavia Fund" which would go towards the support of a pastor there and whatever else is needed. Our sister synod, the WELS, has such a Scandinavia Fund which helps the LBK. Would it not be a wonderful gesture on our part, whose roots are in Scandinavia, if we made the opportunity available for our people to make contributions for such a project. Our participation in such an endeavor would, in a way, be as though history were repeating itself. One of the founding fathers of our synod was Herman Amberg Preus. Late in 1866 he returned to Norway for a stay of several months. During this time he explained the situation amongst those who had emigrated to America. There was a desperate need for pastors to work among the Norwegian immigrants then flooding into North America. Preus pleaded for help from the mother church in Norway. He therefore delivered seven lectures in the Norwegian capitol during the spring of 1867 in which he described church conditions amongst the immigrants in America. Preus's lectures are published in a book entitled *Vivacious Daughter*. The book was edited and translated by Professor Todd W. Nichol and was published by the Norwegian American Historical Association of Northfield, Minnesota. This was not the first appeal on the part of the immigrants for help from the mother church. In earlier years the Norwegian Synod repeatedly sent appeals to the church of Norway for pastors to work among the burgeoning immigrant population in the United States. "One such request was, for example, issued in 1860 over the signatures of all the clergy of the synod. In desperation, the tiny church resolved in the same year to send one of its pastors, Laur Larsen, to make their appeal in person." It would seem, therefore, to be quite appropriate if our synod would be able to offer some help, to return the favor and help to spread the pure Word of God in the land of our forefathers. Such a connection with the work in Scandinavia might also serve as a reminder to us of what we owe to our forefathers and make us more aware of our roots and the heritage which we have received.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH (GERMANY)

It was a special joy for our synod to have Pres. Gerhard Wilde of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church as a guest at our 1996 convention. In March of this year we were pleased to have Dr. Gottfried Hermann at our seminary for a week while he was attending the Doctrinal Commission meeting of the CELC. We are thus having opportunities to become better acquainted with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church. The work of this church body is not easy because they were behind the Iron Curtain for 40 years where their activity was greatly limited. They also, on the basis of God's Word, found it necessary to break fellowship with the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) from whom they received much support. They have, however, carried on their mission with determination and fortitude. We are sorry to report that Pres. Wilde endured several weeks of hospitalization, surgery and rest on account of a back problem. We are pleased that he has now recovered and is able to carry on his work. The ELFK and our church in the Czech Republic and Ukraine are able to practice fellowship on various occasions.

The 82nd convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church took place June 5-7, 1998, at Schönfeld, near Annaberg, in the Ore-mountains. We received a most cordial invitation to attend the convention but found it impossible to do

so this year. Written greetings were sent. One of our pastors from Plzen attended and represented our ELS.

President Wilde writes "May God strengthen the bonds between our churches in the CELC and give fruits to our endeavors to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ in our countries."

May the Lord's blessing rest upon the fellowship which we enjoy with our sister church in Germany.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA

It is a pleasure for our seminary to have two students from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia enrolled as students. A visit was recently made to Australia by our Mission Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, and by Mr. Marlin Goebel, a member of the Board for Foreign Missions. They held discussions with the congregations that make up the ELSA concerning conditions in that church body. Our Board for Foreign Missions provides some financial support for ELSA.

THE CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

We continue to see the blessings from the establishment of the CELC. It has drawn the 15 church body members much closer together and helped to strengthen the cause of confessional Lutheranism throughout the world. The Doctrine Commission of the CELC consists of President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen, Prof. Lyle Lange, Pastor Egil Edvardsen, Prof. Salimo Hachibamba, and Dr. Gottfried Hermann. It is their task to draw up documents which summarize each meeting of the CELC and set forth in summary form the substance of the doctrinal essays presented. Chairman Wilbert Gawrisch is an advisory member of the Commission. The last meeting was held at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary March 3-5, 1998. It was a pleasure to have these representatives from church bodies around the world as our guests. Several had an opportunity to preach at the college chapel worship service and thus give the students an opportunity to hear from our foreign guests. Work on the doctrinal statement covering the papers of the first convention in regard to the Doctrine of Holy Scripture will soon be ready for distribution.

The Planning Committee of the CELC is making preparations for the third triennial meeting of the conference. It will be held April 20-22, 1999, at Winter Haven, Florida. The theme of the first convention held in Oberursel, Germany, was God's Word is Our Great Heritage and had to do with the inspiration and authority of God's Word. The second triennial convention was held in Puerto Rico and devoted its study to the Doctrine of Justification by Faith. The third convention to be held in 1999 in Florida will center about the work of the Holy Spirit.

One of the persons who worked diligently for the upbuilding of the CELC was the Rev. Duane Tomhave who was the Foreign Mission Administrator for the WELS. Pastor Tomhave was called home to the Lord on February 17, 1998, and Christian burial services were conducted on February 21st at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waukesha, Wisconsin. He will be long remembered for his faithful service in the WELS and to the CELC.

SYNODICAL AFFAIRS

CIRCUIT VISITORS' WORKSHOP

The 1997 Circuit Visitors' Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was held on August 26-27, 1997, at the Holiday Inn, Burnsville, Minnesota. All of the circuit visitors were present for a very profitable two-day conference.

The following papers were presented: How can Visitors Help Promote Doctrinal Unity Within the Synod? led by Pastor Erwin Ekhoft; How Can Visitors

Help Parish Pastors Appreciate the Joys and Blessings of the Ministry? led by Pastor Frederick Theiste. The papers and the discussion were very helpful for the work of our circuit visitors.

The visitors also discussed questions of casuistry concerning the affairs of the synod. Presidents Meyer and Schmeling from the Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary were present to give reports on the work of these two institutions.

There was extensive discussion of the guidelines for handling the state requirements concerning sexual exploitation. The visitors approved of a procedure whereby records may be kept in the files for each pastor and teacher. This applies especially for pastors and teachers in the state of Minnesota and is required by Minnesota state law.

After the 1996 conference the visitors embarked upon a program whereby each visitor would hold a private meeting with each pastor in his circuit. The visitor would inquire about the pastor's ministry, health, home life, children, economy, relation to the congregation and relationship to the synod. This has been carried out rather completely during the past year and has met with much satisfaction on the part of the pastors and the circuit visitors. The purpose of such meetings is to encourage the pastors in their work and to help them with any areas where they might desire consultation.

As our synod grows it becomes more and more necessary for the circuit visitors to play an active role in counseling and guiding our pastors and congregations. Their work is much appreciated and the synod is benefited greatly thereby. Expenses for the conference were greatly helped by a generous grant from Lutheran Brotherhood. Your president wishes to express sincere appreciation to each one of the visitors for their assistance.

PASTORAL CONFERENCES

Pastoral Conferences are a real blessing to the pastors of our synod. It is an opportunity for professional advancement through the study of the Scriptures, the Confessions and other current matters which confront the church. It is also an opportunity to strengthen one another through the fellowship that is possible when the men come together. Pastors today face innumerable problems and challenges in their ministries. They are faced with situations which require much wisdom in dealing with such matters. The counsel and advice which they receive from fellow pastors is surely helpful. Pastors receive great encouragement from one another and especially from their worshipping and communing together. Congregations should therefore urge their pastors to attend area, circuit and synodical pastoral conferences. The discussion and study will have a valuable effect upon the parishes when they come home. The Lord Jesus often took his disciples apart for awhile so that they could gather with him, learn and be refreshed. For this reason the bylaws of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod call for the regular conduct of pastoral conferences. It was my privilege during the past year to attend the Lake Michigan Area Pastoral Conference on September 9-10; the California/Arizona Pastoral Conference on September 16-17; the General Pastoral Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota, January 6-8 where all of our pastors are expected to attend; the Circuit 8 Pastoral Conference which was held May 21-22 at Norseland, Minnesota; and the Northern Iowa/Southern Minnesota Circuit Meeting held at Zion Lutheran Church, Thompson, Iowa, on April 25. Other conferences in the Pacific Northwest District and the Florida District were also held.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

The Women's Missionary Societies of our synod have been meeting regularly and making generous contributions to the work of home and foreign missions. They also help to spread enthusiasm for carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord to preach the Gospel to every creature. At the present time our Mission

Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, is working with the mission societies in an effort to create one unified organization. It could hold a convention once each year similar to the Bethany Women's Auxiliary. It could adopt projects to which all the societies would be working together to carry out. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of the Women's Missionary Societies in our synod for their diligent efforts in supporting the work of missions. We ask the Lord to continue to bless them and fill them with zeal as they go forward in their individual and cooperative efforts.

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Our seminary continues its important mission of training pastors for the work of the ministry in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This year the enrollment has been higher than usual which will be of great help to our synod in providing pastors for our congregations.

The seminary has been enjoying its new facility very much. It is very conducive to good teaching, study and organization. The seminary has come a long way since it was first organized in 1946 and met in one classroom in Old Main.

President Gaylin Schmeling has now completed his first year at our seminary and is doing excellent administrative work in addition to his teaching. Our professors are totally committed to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and their teaching adheres faithfully to sound Lutheran doctrine. The seminary students are given much opportunity for preaching and thus can begin to refine their skills for the work that they will undertake in the parish.

ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

The Assignment Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod met on Tuesday, May 5th, and assigned three candidates to parishes which had submitted calls. They are as follows:

Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, WI — Candidate of Theology Jesse Jacobson

Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI — Candidate of Theology Paul Sullivan

Gig Harbor, WA (new mission) — Candidate of Theology Aaron Hamilton

A call will soon be assigned to Candidate of Theology Timothy Zenda

The vicars were assigned as follows:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, WI — Vicar Bernt Tweit

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN — Vicar Paul Fries

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI — Vicar Cory Hahnke

King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, MN — Vicar Phillip Lepak

Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, OH — Vicar Steven Brockdorf (January 1, 1999)

We thank the Lord of the harvest for providing these laborers to go forth and preach the Gospel and to win souls for Christ.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

The 1995 annual convention of the synod authorized a special offering for the building of the new seminary building. The offering entitled Messengers of Peace began on January 28, 1996, with a goal of \$400,000 over a two-year period. The offering was concluded this year in January and we are pleased to report that the total received for the Messengers of Peace offering was \$502,350.32. Our people responded well to this special offering with the result that our seminary-synod office building is now completely paid for. We continue to praise and thank the Lord for the wonderful blessings that he has bestowed upon our synod. We also wish to thank the Chairman, Richard Wiechmann; Secretary, Craig Ferkenstad; and Treasurer, Wilbur Lieske, for their diligent work in carrying out this special offering.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

These are very busy and exciting days for the administration and faculty of our college. A tremendous step forward was taken when the synod, at the recommendation of the Administration and the Board of Regents, approved of the plan to proceed with making our Bethany a four-year institution. The faculty committees deserve to be commended for the tremendous amount of work that they have put forth in preparing the curriculum which will be offered as the college prepares to offer baccalaureate degrees. In these times when a Christian education is so vital for our young people, for our church and for society, it will be a great blessing to have Bethany become a four-year college. We wish to commend President Meyer and the members of his administration for their leadership, and the faculty for its total commitment to the task of transforming Bethany into a four-year institution.

Outwardly the campus continues to be developed. On Sunday, June 21st, the new Memorial Library was dedicated. The new facility is one of the finest of any of the smaller colleges in the midwest. Also on the road to completion is the new men's residence facility which will be ready for dedication sometime this fall.

Let us pray for our school that it may ever remain faithful to its founding principles and to its motto One Thing is Needful. Let us urge our youth to attend Bethany and thereby obtain an education which does not tear down and destroy the Christian faith which they learned from childhood.

HOME MISSIONS

The work of establishing new congregations continues to move forward. At the present time the board is in the process of opening several new missions. These are located in North Mankato, Minnesota, where the Rev. Robert Otto has accepted the call to be pastor. The Rev. Nathan Krause has accepted the call to Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. Candidate of Theology has been assigned to the new mission at Gig Harbor, Washington. It is a great blessing to the work of Home Missions that the position of Home Mission Counselor was established. The Rev. Steven Petersen was installed into that position in January and is able to provide advice and counsel to the new congregations as well as to give the board leadership and direction. The whole task of site selection, building projects, help and training for new missionaries, etc., is a great responsibility. In addition to Home Missions, Rev. Petersen is also working with the Board for Foreign Missions. He has visited the fields in Australia, Chile and Peru in order to get a first-hand look at the work that is being done there.

Our synod needs to reach out with the Gospel to the growing areas of our country as there are many in our secular society who do not know their Savior.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

This is a year of celebration as we observe the 30th anniversary of our work in Peru. The theme of our convention Let There Be Light, the devotions, the reports from the missionaries, the mission banquet, etc., all center around the theme of letting the light of the Gospel shine out in this darkened world. Mission work in Peru and Chile continue at a steady pace. In Peru we have three missionaries and six national pastors who serve mission stations in various places in the country including the high Andes, the coastal region and particularly in the area around Lima. Missionaries Timothy Erickson, David Haeuser and Terry Schultz are dedicated servants of the Lord in the land of Peru. In Chile we now have two American missionaries. They are the Rev. Oto Rodriguez and the Rev. Karl Kuenzel. Missionary Rodriguez came to us from the Lutheran church of Mexico and Missionary Kuenzel from the WELS. He served for a number of years in Africa. Missionary Timothy Bartels and family have returned home from Chile and so the board will be calling a replacement for him.

We thank the Lord for the way He has blessed and guided our work in South America. For 30 years He has enabled us to proclaim His saving Gospel to many

souls. Surely this is a time at this convention to praise our gracious God for giving us the opportunity, the manpower and the funds to carry on the work in Peru and Chile.

The missions in Eastern Europe which are under the direction of our church-related organization, Thoughts of Faith, are likewise moving forward. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church with the Rev. John Shep serving as bishop is finding the Ukraine to be a fertile field for the harvest of souls. Pastors Roger Kovaciny, Joel Rakos, and Konstantin Mamberger work on the field in Ukraine. The Rev. David J. Webber, the rector of St. Sophia Lutheran Seminary in Ternopil, spends part of the year in Ternopil and part of the year in the USA. His responsibility is the operation of the seminary and the training of national pastors in that part of the former Communist world.

The work in the Czech Republic continues under the leadership of Pastors Matthew Luttmann, Mark Grubbs, and James Krueger. St. Paul Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School continue to preach and teach the Gospel. The school enrolls well over 100 students each year. In the past year Missionary Steven Sparley and family returned to the United States. Pastor Sparley accepted a call to the Clearwater Parish in Minnesota. He was replaced by the Rev. James Krueger. We wish to express our appreciation to Pastor Sparley for his years of service in Plzen and his faithful work with the Czech people. We pray that God will continue to bless the work of all of our men in the Plzen Mission.

A new mission society has also been founded for the work in the Czech Republic. This is known as Four Corners Missions, Inc., P. O. Box 1695, Brewster, Massachusetts 02631. It was established by Pastor James Krikava who formerly served in Plzen under the auspices of the Thoughts of Faith Mission Society. Pastor Krikava is pastor of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Prague, where he conducts services in both Czech and English, as well as being director of the Martin Luther Foundation in the Czech Republic. We have urged the Four Corners Missions, Inc. to apply for church-related status with our synod and to come under the guidelines established by the synod for church-related organizations. A financial accounting of funds received and disbursed by Four Corners Missions, Inc. is regularly sent to my office. Mr. Paul Chamberlin of Brewster, Massachusetts, is the treasurer of Four Corners Missions, Inc.

We are very pleased that our ELS has fourteen American missionaries supported either by the synod or by special funds and also six national pastors. This makes a total of twenty pastors preaching and teaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in foreign lands under the auspices of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

NEW PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

This year we are very pleased to welcome into our clergy eight new pastors and three new congregations. Five of the pastors come to us by colloquy from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are recommended for membership. Two come by transfer from our sister synod, WELS and one from our seminary. In addition to the pastors we are also pleased to report that three congregations have also applied for membership. They are Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of West Jordan, Utah, the Rev. Gregory Sahlstrom, pastor; St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamsburg, Iowa, the Rev. Karl Heck, pastor; and Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hadlock, Washington, which at present is served by ELS pastors in the area. Our Evangelical Lutheran Synod is recognized by many as being a confessional and orthodox Lutheran church body which has remained faithful to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Every year we receive a number of inquiries from pastors who are interested in learning more about our church body.

STEWARDSHIP

We are happy to report that contributions by congregations for the work of our synod improved greatly over the year 1996. The amount received for operating programs in 1996 was \$749,500. In 1997 total contributions were \$790,234.03. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of our people to increase their giving in 1997. If we look at the whole picture, however, we can see that over the last ten years our giving for the Lord's work has not increased very much or kept up with inflation. In 1987 we received a total of \$725,861 and in 1997 a total of \$790,234.03. We should, however, remember that during the past two years we also gathered an offering of \$502,000 for the 50th anniversary celebration of our seminary.

The Treasurer's Report also indicates that our general fund operating deficit of \$127,000 at the end of 1996 has now been eliminated. We had a balance of \$177,606 in this fund as of December 31, 1997.

In order to help encourage our congregations in the area of giving for the Lord's work our Stewardship Chairman, the Rev. Paul Schneider, has prepared a very fine presentation for use in all of our congregations. He is visiting the pastoral conferences and making the presentation and distributing the material to each pastor. We hope that every pastor will use the material in his own parish and thereby provide encouragement and instruction in the important matter of Christian stewardship.

We would like to take this opportunity, once again, to encourage each member of our synod to remember the work of the Lord that we are doing away from home. Our synod has a wonderful program of home missions, foreign missions, college and seminary training, Christian day schools, youth work, a pension program, and many other endeavors which we have agreed to do together. The word "synod" actually means "walking together." We not only do our work for the Lord in our home congregation but also together with our sister congregations through our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We would urge congregations when they adopt their annual budgets to place a designated amount in the budget for the Lord's work away from home. This amount should not be left to chance or to what is left over when all the other bills are paid but should be regarded as an important work of each congregation. When church councils and voters' assemblies sit down to plan ahead for the Lord's work we encourage each one to take into account what we are doing together in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. I wish that every member of our synod could visit a new home mission congregation, a foreign mission, and our college and seminary to see the wonderful things that the Lord is accomplishing through our church body. This is not to forget all of the consecrated effort on the part of our pastors who work with our synod-wide youth program and our Christian Day Schools, etc.

We also should remember that our contributions are matched by a generous grant from a foundation so that every dollar we give becomes two dollars for the Lord's work. The matching funds are not there to give us the impression that we can diminish in our own giving. They are rather to serve as an incentive and as an example for us to be generous stewards and generous givers to carry out the Great Commission.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

During the past year we have had the privilege of preaching or speaking at the following congregations: St. Timothy, Lombard, Illinois; Family of God, Fort Mojave, Arizona; Faith Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota; Hope Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, Utah; Christ the King, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Grace Lutheran, Madison, Wisconsin; Resurrection, Winter Haven, Florida; Peace Lutheran, Lakeland, Florida; River Heights Lutheran, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Redeemer Lutheran, Scottsdale, Arizona; King of Grace Lutheran, Golden Valley, Minnesota; Trinity Chapel, Bethany College, Mankato, Minnesota; Holy Cross Lutheran, Madison, Wisconsin; Grace Lutheran, Newton,

Iowa, (WELS); St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa; and at various other gatherings where we were privileged to bring greetings from our synod. As I travel about the synod I am impressed with the hard work, dedication and zeal of our pastors as they labor faithfully in carrying out the duties of the ministry.

I am thankful for the good health which the Lord continues to give me. The physical exams have indicated that all is well and I pray that the Lord will continue to give me health and strength. I truly appreciate all of the prayers which were offered up on my behalf and the many expressions of concern for my well being.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our sincere congratulations to all those who are celebrating anniversaries of ordination at this convention. They are as follows: The Reverend A. V. Kuster, 60 years; the Reverend Fred Schmugge, 50 years; the Reverends Norman Madson and Herbert Larson, 40 years; and the Reverends Edward Bryant, David Haeuser, Mark Marozick, Dennis Schmidt, Paul Schneider, John Shep, and the Reverend Dr. J. Kincaid Smith, 25 years. We give thanks to the Lord for all of these faithful servants who have given their lives for the cause of building the kingdom of our Savior.

EMERGENCY HELP

Many members of River Heights Lutheran Church of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, suffered in the devastating flood which took place a year ago. We are thankful that the membership of our synod responded generously with gifts to be of assistance to them. The Board for Christian Service provided more than \$50,000 which was distributed according to the various needs. Other pastors and lay people from various congregations also helped with the cleanup. The members of the congregation have written many letters to me asking that their deep appreciation be expressed to all the members of the synod who participated in the special offering to help them in this time of need.

Several families from our Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, Minnesota, suffered damage from the tornadoes which hit that area this spring. Contributions have likewise been given to assist those families. This, too, is much appreciated. There are approximately 20 households in St. Peter which are members of Norseland. Of these, one lost everything, one suffered major damage and three minor damage. There was no bodily injury. Many Bethany Lutheran College students helped with the cleanup operation. On behalf of those members we wish to express thanks to all who made contributions or who have participated in the cleanup.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE LORD'S WORK

Over the past twelve years there has been steady progress in providing much needed help for our growing church body. We consider the following to be real steps forward thus enabling our synod to carry on its work in a more organized and aggressive fashion:

- In 1986 we established the office of full-time synodical president.
- In 1996 the synodical headquarters was moved into the new building together with the seminary.
- In 1997 the position of full-time deferred giving counselor for the synod in the person of Prof. Richard Wiechmann was established.
- In 1997 the position of director of Christian education was established by Bethany Lutheran College. Prof. Silas Born was called to fill this position. He serves not only the college but also the elementary Lutheran schools of our church body thus providing much help to the Board for Education and Youth which supervises our Christian Day Schools.
- In January of 1998 the Rev. Steven Petersen was installed as mission counselor for the synod. He provides full-time assistance to our Boards for Home and

Foreign Missions in carrying out their heavy responsibilities.

- In April 1998 the position of business administrator for the synod was established in the person of Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft. He will provide great assistance to the treasurer of our synod as well as to the various boards and committees which need his help.

The creation of these new administrative positions helps us to do much better planning and carrying out of our task in every area. It also relieves the office of the president of many details which require attention.

ELS VIDEO LINK

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the ELS VIDEO LINK. This is an eight-minute video tape which will be produced for the congregations of our synod four times each year. It will show how we are linked together in carrying out the Lord's Great Commission. It will portray and emphasize the efforts of the various boards in every area of our synodical undertaking. The first copy was distributed to be shown in all of our congregations on April 26. The VIDEO LINK is under the auspices of a Video Committee at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The chairman of the committee is Pastor Steven Petersen, Vicar Paul Fries is the producer, and Prof. Adolph Harstad is the commentator.

The video will be provided to you four times each year free of charge. It is intended to be shown at the conclusion of the Sunday morning service so that it may reach a wider audience. We hope that all of our congregations will make use of it in this fashion. If it is used only for a small group meeting it will not have its maximum effect. If a congregation doesn't have a VCR it should be quite easy to borrow one from a member four times each year. In this era of visual communication we need to make use of every modern means to communicate with our membership. It would be helpful if each congregation had a video committee which would arrange to have the TV and the VCR ready to go at the conclusion of the service.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

The apostle Paul writes, When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Galatians 4,4-5)

LET THERE BE LIGHT



“Let there be Light!” By saying those words, we are asking for two things. 1) We are asking God to bring his light into the world, into our hearts, to enlighten us. 2) We are asking God to motivate us, so that we are willing to be used by God to bring this light to others. We are stating our desire that this light go forth into the world. We constantly have to ask ourselves, “How much do we want there to be light? What efforts are we willing to make for there to be light? Are we motivated for missions?” Motivation is important. Motivation has to do with our will, with what we want and what we decide to do. We human beings need to be motivated in order to act. We have to have some reason for doing the things we do. It is easy to sit back and just let things happen, to “go with the flow” and let things continue as they are. It is especially easy to have an attitude like that when we look at the chaos of the world in which we live. Life is hectic with many activities and changes, but very few people seem to be concerned about their eternal welfare. In these changing times we pray, “Let there be Light.”

I. The Changing Times in Which We Live.

We are living in changing times. It doesn't take much effort to notice that. “Our world is changing so quickly that we can barely keep track of what is happening. There is more produced (to read, watch, etc.) in one day than you could comfortably take in the rest of your life.”¹ As an example, during 1988, ten thousand books or articles on evangelism were produced in the world.² We need only to make a visit to an electronics store to buy a computer and we notice how quickly things are changing. More important than the changes that we can see are changes in the way that people think. In science there is chaos theory, in social sciences there is postmodernism, in religion and philosophy there is the new age movement. Some social scientists have concluded that “the modern era is over. In nearly every sphere, from academic fields to new social phenomena, the assumptions that shaped twentieth-century thought are being exploded. As we enter the twenty-first century, it seems clear that Western culture is entering a new phase, which scholars are calling “postmodern.”³

These changes are telling the people in our world that there is

nothing that can be taken as absolutely true. One university biology professor said, "Ten years from now the things I am going to teach you will no longer be true."⁴ We often hear the saying, "Well, that may be true for you, but it is not for me." Everything is considered relative. There is nothing that is thought to be permanent. As we think of the Christian message of forgiveness of sins through the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, we might then be tempted to keep it to ourselves. Perhaps we think that it is too difficult or too complicated, even overwhelming, to relate that message to contemporary man, who has such a variety of ways of thinking in these times. We may fall into the trap of thinking that it is not as relevant as it once was, or maybe even not as true as it once was, or maybe even only one path among many, true for some but not for others. We might think that the "old time religion" just doesn't work for people any more. We might be afraid of being called fools, of being accused of ignorance or of being anti-intellectual. We need to be motivated for missions in these times. We need to be motivated to keep on bringing light into the world.

God was motivated by his love to bring light to the original creation. He was making a world that would be the object of his love, especially regarding his chief creation, mankind. The creation was also a time of change. Just compare what existed the first day with what existed after six days. Before the creation there was no change. God was the eternal constant unchangeable being, outside of time. Then there was a beginning in which he created. The first thing that God did after he had created the elements of which this world is made was to create Light. "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw the light, that it was good" (Genesis 1:3, NIV).

The creation of physical light is not the subject of this essay, but taking a short look at this light will give us some insight into what the spiritual light is. William Overn presented a very interesting lecture concerning the creation of this physical light. He said, "Science has given us a certain amount of insight into what light is."⁵ He includes everything that is called "electromagnetic radiation" in the category of light that God created on the first day. The creation of light on the first day is "the fundamental act of creation."⁶ Electromagnetic radiation includes radio and television waves, radiant light, heat and some types of nuclear radiation. This type of radiation is what holds atoms together. The term light covers a much broader range of phenomena than that which is visible. In essence all of these types of radiation are the same. Visible light is a very small part of the spectrum of electromagnetic radiation. So we can say "that God created all known physical laws and matter as we know it when He said, 'Let there be light.'"⁷

Scientists and common sense have determined that light is necessary for this physical earth. Without it, the plants would soon die. The animals would then die. Finally man would die. God had created the light before he made the things that we call living. He knew what he wanted to do with his creation, and every step prepared the way for the next step. He created physical light in order to make possible everything else that he created afterwards.

Before the creation of physical light, "the earth was without form and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep" (Genesis 1:2, KJV). Physical light was what gave meaning and purpose and order to the physical creation. It ceased to be chaos, without form and void, and totally in darkness. We can use the creation of physical light as a parallel for the spiritual realm. Spiritual light was placed in the original man and woman in creation to give purpose and meaning and order to their lives. Without spiritual light, their lives would be chaos, without form and void and totally in spiritual darkness, without any meaning or purpose. As the creation of physical light was "the fundamental act of [the physical] creation,"⁸ spiritual light is the fundamental element in man's relationship with God.

What is the spiritual light in which Adam and Eve were created? It is called "the image of God," which, as we all know from our catechism instruction, "consists in true knowledge of God and in perfect righteousness and holiness."⁹ God was motivated to place this spiritual light in Adam and Eve at the moment of their creation, when he physically "formed man from the dust of the ground" and spiritually "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7, NIV). So, man had this light in the moment in which he was created. He was not created in darkness, having the light added later, but was originally in the light. But he did not remain in the light. Soon after his creation he fell into sin, into darkness. We will first examine this darkness in the light of scripture to determine in what it consists and to where it leads. As we consider spiritual darkness, let us remember that we Christians have been rescued from this terrible state.

II. The World's Need for Light Spiritual Darkness.

A. The Essence of Spiritual Darkness.

The basic definition of darkness in many dictionaries is the absence of light or the failure to receive, reflect, transmit or radiate light. Darkness is always defined in its relation to light. Darkness exists when and where there is no light.

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, they were enveloped in spir-

itual darkness. The light with which they were originally created was lost. They didn't have it any more. The loss of light was complete. They were in spiritual darkness, ignorant of every knowledge of and blessing of the spiritual light.

This ignorance is seen in the fact that they didn't know who God was any more. It is true that they knew that there is a God. Natural knowledge told them that much. But when this God came to them in the garden, they hid. They claimed that they were afraid. What made them afraid of God was a loss of the true knowledge concerning who God was. They lost sight of God's holiness, love and mercy, as well as losing their perfect understanding of his omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. They forgot that he was their creator, who had created them out of love and given them all the blessings of paradise. They completely lost all spiritual knowledge of their God.

Along with the loss of spiritual knowledge of God, they lost their perfect righteousness and holiness. They became sinners. Their lives, as well as the lives of all human beings, were so infected by sin that Paul could say, "All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Romans 3:12, NIV).

This loss did not just leave man in a neutral state, but also included the addition of something. It is as if monsters pop into existence when we turn off the lights in our house. In the spiritual darkness, a true monster has come into existence. This monster is called concupiscence. It is the tendency of every human being to perform evil acts. We are not free to choose between good and evil. "The evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing" (Romans 7:19, NIV).

B. The Consequences of Spiritual Darkness.

What this spiritual darkness does to mankind can be seen in the results of the fall into sin. In the state of darkness, man cannot spiritually see God. Besides not knowing God, he cannot see his spiritual destiny. He isn't certain whether heaven and hell even exist, nor can he know the roads that take him to those places. He cannot see what he is doing to himself and to others with his sin. The darkness has made him blind, compounding his problem. The experience of darkness describes the situation of every human being.

You can close your eyes and think of what happens when you are in physical darkness. Suppose you wanted to walk across a city in this state of darkness, a city like Lima, Peru, or even Mankato, Minnesota. First of all, you would immediately lift up your hands before you started walking. You would want to feel

your way. You would probably bump into many things. You might make a wrong turn and not know which street you were on. There would be doubts and anxiety. Your sense of direction would be lost. You might trip over something and not be able to continue your attempt to cross the city. This might bring sadness to your voyage. If you asked someone for help, you would not know if they were telling the truth. There would be many lies and deceptions. There would be many dangers. There is the danger that something might tempt you to forget your goal and get onto a side track. Animals would be able to attack you. Muggers and thieves would have no problem sneaking up on you and assaulting you. You would not make it to your destination. You would probably end up dead on the city streets. In a city, even one that is not too big, there are places where we don't even want to go in the daytime with sight. It is easy to imagine how terrible an experience it is at night or blindfolded.

So it is spiritually, but to an even greater extreme. We don't just want to cross a city, we want to enter heaven. We human beings, in our state of darkness, aren't even sure that there is a heaven and we don't know the way, but we want to get there. So what do we do? Our state of darkness would be like this.

We start trying out different ways to get to heaven. We can't see where it is nor can we see a road, but we put up our hands and start to feel our way. This description is in the Bible. "At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do" (Deuteronomy 28:29, NIV). "They grope in darkness with no light, and he makes them stagger like drunkards" (Job 12:25, NIV). We might try out one spiritual method for a while, and then discover that it doesn't work, so we choose another.

There are many different religions in the world that have claimed to be able to get us into heaven through human efforts. We would try them out as we feel our way, changing from one to another as we discover that they are wrong, that they have lied to us and deceived us. The lies and deceptions are deep darkness. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20, NIV). The religion of the Inca empire of Peru was one in which the sun was worshipped. They thought that this was as bright as things could get. They made sacrifices to the sun and considered it their creator.

In this state of darkness we would be convulsed with doubts, uncertainties and frustrations over the possibility of getting to heaven. We would become spiritually lost and spiritually sorrowful or saddened by our inability to find a sure path. Guilt

would plague us. We would be captive, in bondage, and the result would be disaster.

There are spiritual obstacles on the way over which we would trip. "The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble" (Proverbs 4:19, NIV). There are many temptations with which we would be faced, temptations that are trying to trip us up. In the darkness, we would not even be able to recognize these obstacles, and we would stumble. Anger and bitterness that we had no way to overcome these obstacles would begin to affect our lives.

There are many spiritual enemies, the devil, the world, and even our own flesh, that would attack us. They love the darkness. In the darkness they can have their way. They cause fear and terror as we become subject to their attacks and have to face them without help. They would try to keep us from reaching our goal. In our state of darkness, they would succeed, because we would have no weapons of light with which to combat them.

The final result of spiritual darkness is death, which Job describes as going "to the place of no return, to the land of gloom and deep shadow, to the land of deepest night, of deep shadow and disorder, where even the light is like darkness" (Job 10:21-22).

Eternal death is the ultimate darkness. Matthew talks about this eternal death as being thrown "outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30, NIV). Peter calls this place "gloomy dungeons" (2 Peter 2:4, NIV) or "chains of darkness" (KJV).

The darkness is also complete. There is no human being who is not born in darkness. There is no one who does not sin. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NIV). "Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples" (Isaiah 60:2).

C. Spiritual Darkness Today.

What is the condition of the darkness in the times in which we live? Men like to believe that they live in enlightened times, that they have given up the darkness of the past. This is surely what the promoters of new age religion, of postmodernist culture, of chaos theory in science, and of the new ways of thinking in other areas of life have in mind. They truly believe that their new ideas are enlightening ideas. But is it so? History has shown that man keeps on finding ways to remain in the darkness. In another century, man will think that what is regarded as light now, was really darkness, but he will still not have the

light. He will just have a new darkness. Any way that men propose from their own thinking and reasoning as a way out of the darkness is just another way to remain in the darkness and prolong it. Every age has its own way of remaining in darkness. The changes that are happening in the world now fill men so full of hope for the future, but those changes are also being used to find new ways to remain in the darkness. The times may change, but some things remain the same. Darkness continues to exist in this world.

The depth and strength of darkness, we even see in ourselves, in our original sin. Our old Adam loves the darkness. How many times have we done something and thought, "I hope no one ever finds out about this?" And then, when someone does find out, we are so full of shame. In our darkness, we are guilty. The darkness is still within us during our lives on this earth. The struggle against our old Adam who wants to remain in the darkness is constant. Luther uses the following words to describe the darkness: "affliction, trouble" (LW, 13, p.404); "adversities, evil, failure of all things" (LW, 18, p. 290); "misfortunes" (LW, 18; p. 182); "doubtful times" (LW, 18, p. 272); "when things turn out badly" (LW, 18, p. 90). Even Christians struggle against these things in their lives.

Another sign of the depth of the darkness is that the world doesn't even recognize light when it does appear. Darkness claims to be light, but rejects the true light. Luther says, "It really becomes pitch dark when such darkness and error is decorated with the name of truth, and the darkness becomes worse with the addition of such light. If a person knows the devil and recognizes him as such, and then makes a god out of him, that is putting darkness on top of darkness and yet claiming that it is shiny and bright" Now, Christ reasons this way: "If the opinion and teaching that you regard as light is really darkness, how great will the other darkness be, namely, the darkness that comes along when you practice this teaching and live according to it?" (LW, 21, p. 182-183). We might think of the religion of the Incas of Peru, who worshipped the sun, thinking that they were in the light. Their worship led to all kinds of atrocities, sexual perversions and bloody sacrifices.

Spiritual darkness is a terrible state in which to be. "Darkness denotes the whole range of what is harmful, or evil" in the sense of the threat to life, of what is bad for me, as well as in that of moral evil "or fatal."¹⁰ It is evil and wicked and its result is only condemnation. The state of spiritual darkness is so terrible that even our Apostle Paul, when he wrote about the sin that was in him, used these words, "What a wretched man that I am. Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (Romans

7:24, NIV). When we look at the profundity of the darkness, things seem pretty hopeless. "If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness, Where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?" (Job 17:13,15, NIV). The darkness is so deep and affects us all so that it would appear that there is no hope for anyone. We have all been lost in the darkness of sin.

But it doesn't end there. There is hope. The world obviously is in need of light. Therefore we pray in song to the one who created the world:

Thou Whose Almighty Word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the Gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

(ELH, 202, 1)

III. There is a Light for the World — our Savior Jesus Christ.

Paul, who had written those despairing words, "What a wretched man that I am. Who will rescue me from this body of death?", continued with "Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:25, NIV). Even the worst effect of the darkness has been defeated, death. Light has penetrated the darkness and defeats it and all of its results.

A. The Essence of the Light.

God himself is the essence of spiritual light. All light (even physical light) proceeds from Him. "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5, NIV). He is the one who conquers all the results of darkness. In the spiritual realm, He did this by sending His Son.

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV). It is the incarnate God, Christ, who is our light. He himself said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12, NIV). And David wrote, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1, NIV). The reason that Jesus came to this world was to do battle with the darkness and defeat it forever. He is the only one who could accomplish this task. For that reason He is the only light for all mankind. He is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:32, NIV).

If we define darkness as ignorance and lack of knowledge, light would have to be knowledge. "Everything exposed to the light becomes visible" (Ephesians 5:13, NIV). In the darkness, we don't know where we are going nor how to get there. In the light, we clearly see our goal and the way to get there. We don't have to grope or guess. We don't need to try out different paths, constantly looking for the right one. We don't have to try out different methods or works or constantly add new works to try to alleviate our uncertainty. We know the way.

The light is also the restoration of the perfect righteousness and holiness which was lost in the fall into sin. Our lives are no longer worthless. God has given us back the purity and blamelessness which was lost in the fall into sin. He has justified us through the work which Jesus does for us as the light of the world.

B. The Results of Light.

What Jesus does for us as the light is take away the results of darkness which we have mentioned. We can see this in his words, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6, NIV). Instead of our groping around to try to find the way to heaven, he tells us, "I am the way." This takes away all of our doubt and uncertainty and frustration. We no longer have to go searching for the way. Instead of lies and deception, he tells us, "I am the truth." Rather than sadness, fear and terror we have joy in knowing that truth. Jesus says, "I am the life." Rather than ending up in death eternally, there is eternal life for us. John writes, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men" (John 1:4, NIV) and says that he is "the true light that gives light to every man." (John 1:9, NIV). Every bit of spiritual life and energy that we have is due to Jesus as our spiritual light.

In the light, we cannot be deceived. The lies that are told are obvious. If someone tells us to do works in order to be saved, we know that it is a lie and we can avoid it. We don't even have to doubt. We won't be frustrated in our efforts to reach eternal salvation. The work is done for us. "It is finished" (John 19:30).

There are still obstacles, but we can avoid them. We can see them so that they won't cause us to stumble and fall back into darkness. Our Lord gives us the strength to avoid the obstacles. The temptations can be defeated, as our Lord defeated Satan's temptations, through the Word of God.

The spiritual enemies are still around. The devil, the world and our own flesh want us to fall back into the darkness, but we are watchful. We can be watchful, because their tricks are in the light. We can see that they are there and we can see the

truth concerning these enemies.

And finally, our end is life, rather than death. "In him was life, and that life was the light of men" (John 1:4, NIV). That life begins here on earth, when we first see the light, but it is also eternal life. We will be living in the eternal light of our heavenly Father and our Savior. "The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp" (Revelation 21:23, NIV).

C. The Light in the Times in which we Live.

In the times in which we live there are many errors concerning the light. We hear stories of people who claim to have died and been resurrected, that they saw a light at the end of a tunnel. People claim to have found the light through meditation or other experiences. Others accept only human reason as light. These are deceptive lights. They are lights that are created. Even the devil himself, the prince of darkness, "masquerades as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14, NIV). We must take care not to be deceived by these false lights.

The fact that God is light shows us his interest in missions. He wants to shine. He wants mankind to see his light. He sent his son to earth to shine as the light of the world, also. Jesus was sent. He is called "the apostle and high priest whom we confess" (Hebrews 3:1, NIV). Apostle means one who is sent, just like a missionary is sent.¹¹

There is light for the world. That light is Jesus. He is the uncreated light. He is the only light. He is the light for everyone. We can pray in song to him:

Thou who didst come to bring,
On thy redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind:
O now to all mankind
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

(ELH, 202, 2)

IV. The Light is Available to Us — the Means of Grace.

Some say that the light is inaccessible to human beings, that we cannot find the light in these modern times. We know that this is true of natural man. "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14, NIV). But it

is not true in an absolute sense. We do have the light available to us. It has always been accessible to mankind through the promises of God. Adam and Eve received "a bright ray of light into their hearts" (LW 22, p. 31) shortly after the fall. The words of the prophets were "bright rays and manifestations of the same light" (LW 22, p. 31). The light comes to us, not through some speculation, not through meditation, not through a special revelation, not through human reason, but through the Gospel in the Word of God and his Sacraments, the Means of Grace.

We cannot say that we have seen Jesus with our eyes. We do not see the light in that way. God uses the Means of Grace to bring the light of Jesus to us. Jesus is the light of the world, but this light only enlightens us through the Means of Grace. The Word and Sacraments illuminate us by uniting us with him who is the light. The Means of Grace are a message for us and for all mankind. That message is called the Gospel. It tells us who the light is and what he has done. In that way it enlightens us. "This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (II Timothy 1:9-10, NIV).

Without the message of the Gospel, the light does not shine. The light is not shining where the Means of Grace are not being used. Luther says, "If we do not have the Holy Scripture lighting and governing our actions, this whole life and the universal light of reason, all wisdom, and in short, all plans are darkness and confusion" (LW 6; p. 335). Paul says, "At his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me" (Titus 1:3, NIV). The Psalmist writes, "The unfolding of your words gives light" (Psalm 119:130, NIV).

The light began to shine when the word began to be preached. The light shines where the Means of Grace are used, and does not shine when the Word is silent and the Sacraments are not rightly administered. This is the way the preface to the Book of Concord spoke about the light also. It says, "It is a remarkable favor of almighty God that in these last times and in this old age of the world He has willed, according to His unspeakable love, forbearance, and mercy, that after the darkness of papistical superstitions the light of His Gospel and Word, through which alone we receive true salvation, should arise and shine clearly and purely in Germany."¹²

Our Confessions state that the distinction between Law and Gospel is a "special brilliant light."¹³ Where this distinction is maintained, the light shines forth. The Law clearly shows us

our darkness, our sin. It doesn't hide any part of our wickedness from us. The Gospel clearly shows us our salvation through our Savior. There can be no clearer spiritual light.

Peter wrote, "We have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19, NIV). God's Word is "a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). The Word of God is a light because it shows us the way, the truth and the life.

V. The Light Comes to Each One of Us — Conversion.

When we consider the light of the world and the means by which that light shines in the world, we have to talk about the way that the light becomes ours. A person could talk about a light that exists somewhere, but he doesn't know where it is. Or one could talk about a certain light, but he doesn't know how it can get to us. But we Christians know what the light is, Jesus, and we know how it gets to human beings, through the Means of Grace. When we speak about how those Means of Grace cause the light to come into our possession, so that we can say that the light is ours, we are speaking about the doctrine of conversion. The light is made available to us so that we might believe. Conversion is the way in which the light becomes ours. Illumination is one of the synonyms of conversion.

The first thing that we need to realize is that we cannot convert ourselves. Our darkness is so deep and our blindness so severe that we cannot even get a glimpse of spiritual light using our own powers. "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him"¹⁴ are words that are familiar to all of us. "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14, NIV). "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:1, NIV). A dead man can do nothing. A man without the Spirit has nothing to do with anything spiritual. We cannot convert ourselves. We are in darkness.

Conversion begins with the sinner in darkness, but he does not remain in the darkness. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV). Conversion is what happened to us when we were brought out of the

darkness and into the light. Conversion is not our work, but God's, and his alone. It is due to his grace alone. Luther continues, "but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."¹⁵ God "has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (II Timothy 1:9, NIV). "He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13).

This is "that work of the Holy Spirit by which he changes the spiritually blind, dead, and resisting unbeliever into a believing child of God. Because man is born in spiritual blindness and darkness, he cannot see the wisdom of God for what it is. Thus the work by which the Holy Spirit causes men to see things in God's way, so that the truths of salvation are no longer foolishness to him, is called 'enlightenment.' "¹⁶ For an individual, conversion changes darkness with all of its results into light with all of its results

We can clearly see why it is called conversion by comparing the results of the state of darkness and the state of light. In darkness we are ignorant, with no knowledge concerning spiritual matters. In the light, we know who our Savior is. In darkness we are groping to find the way to heaven. In light, we see clearly that the way is our Lord Jesus. In darkness we are lost. In the light Jesus has found his lost ones. In darkness there are lies and deceptions. In the light our Lord is the truth. In darkness there is fear, anxiety, worry, terror. In the light there is the joy of salvation. In darkness is death. In the Light there is life, eternal life.

Someone might ask, "How can we tell whether we are in the light?" There are several things that can be put into evidence that show us this. The first of these is our faith. One can ask himself, "Am I trusting the Lord Jesus?" If I am, then I have been converted. It doesn't matter if I have had an emotional experience or some external sign of the Holy Spirit apart from God's Word. As results of our conversion, we also look at our fellowship. John wrote, "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another" (I John 1:7). Those who are in the light seek each other out and find each other. Other evidence is our love, "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers" (I John 3:14).

Strictly speaking, conversion is that point at which we become Christians. The effect of that conversion continues throughout the life of a Christian. We are saint and sinner at the same time. We still have our old Adam, along with the new man. When God converted us into Christians, a beginning was made, but we continually struggle against the darkness that remains in us. It is a daily struggle in which we continue to repent of our sins and receive the forgiveness which God gives through his Son Jesus Christ. We need the continued operation of God's Holy Spirit in order to lighten our darkness.

"God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6). God is the one who works by His Holy Spirit. It is his light that is now shining in our hearts.

Spirit of truth and love,
Lifegiving, holy Dove,
Speed forth Thy flight;
Move on the waters' face,
Spreading the beams of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

(ELH, 202, 3)

VI. We are the Light of the World

God spoke to us in his Word. That Word worked conversion in our hearts, giving us faith in Jesus. It is natural for Christians to speak about that faith in Jesus. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV). It is the nature of light to shine. If it doesn't, how can we call it light? It is the nature of Christians to let their light shine, to talk about their Savior and show forth his glory.

We see this natural speaking of the wonders of God in the Old Testament. David wrote, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you" (Psalm 51:12-13, NIV). When we have been converted, we will naturally teach others. We see this in the example of the early Christians, even in times of persecution. "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" (Acts 8:4, NIV). They didn't wonder or doubt if they should do it. They just naturally did it. Peter and John said, "We cannot

help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20, NIV). Paul wrote, "It is written, 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore we speak" (II Corinthians 4:13, NIV). We pray with the early church, "Enable your servants to speak with boldness" (Acts 4:29).

Continuing with our example of light, Paul gives a good summary of what we are now that we have been converted and what this means for our life after conversion in Ephesians 5:

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (verses 8-14, NIV).

There is a light for the world in Jesus Christ. That light has become available to us through the Means of Grace. We have been converted from darkness to light. Therefore, God encourages us to live according to our new state. We are encouraged to do away with the darkness that remains in our lives. "Live as children of light." "The light of the righteous shines brightly" (Proverbs 13:9). God wants us to be "blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life" (Philippians 2:15-16, NIV).

Because God has converted us, we are to show forth his light that he has placed in us. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (I Peter 2:9). We have been called out of darkness, but there are many who remain in darkness. The words which the Lord spoke to Paul are also words which can be spoken to us, "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" (Acts 26:17:18, NIV). That is why he has brought us to faith and has left us in this world.

It is this that led men from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to seek out a dark place in the world where the ELS could let its light shine, where we could say, "Let there be light," and do our part under God's grace to spread the light of the Gospel of Jesus

Christ. They were following the example of Jesus who looked at this dark world and entered it in order to save it. It wasn't hard to find dark places in this world, but they were looking for the darkest place which was accessible to us considering the resources available. After due deliberation and exploration, it was decided to begin in Lima, Peru. On July 16, 1968, thirty years ago, our first missionaries arrived in Lima. They arrived at a truly dark place on the earth, a place where the pure Gospel light was not shining.

Although Christianity has been in Peru for 460 years, hardly any effort had been made to cause people to trust in Jesus or live a Christian life. Luther wrote "Under the papacy there was a great darkness that completely blacked out the light of Christian teaching" (LW 21, page 181). The people in Peru were still living in that darkness from the 16th century and many still are. The time and place have been right for Lutheran mission work in Peru. Each conversion is like a little Reformation. Since our missionaries first began preaching to the Peruvian people, the light has been shining there.

Thirty years later we can still say that the light of the ELS is shining in Peru. It has since begun to shine in several other places. But we have to constantly take a look at what we are doing, take a look at what God has done for us and through us and ask ourselves some questions. "Is the light going to keep on shining through our ELS?" "Is it possible that our light could shine even brighter?" "Is it possible that our light could be shining in new places?"

VII. Our Motivation for Mission Work.

We are often frustrated, or in other ways feel that we cannot participate in mission work. When we look at the darkness, we may feel overwhelmed, thinking that the task is too great or too difficult. It is true that there are many difficulties in mission work. A well known church historian wrote, "Christian missionary work is the most difficult thing in the world. It is surprising that it should ever have been attempted."¹⁷ While Lima isn't always an unpleasant place to be, it was once described in this way: "Chaos is omnipresent. Survival and sanity depend on one's ability to bob and weave through an unbelievable obstacle course marked by snarled intersections and bombed buildings. It quickly becomes apparent that Peru is a profoundly sick nation."¹⁸ Who would want to go to such a place? We may also feel our own inadequacies, thinking that we are not capable of shining. Or we may have become discouraged by the lack of response to the message of the Gospel. We need to be motivated.

We see our motivation in all of the things that have been discussed so far. From them we learn several reasons why we are encouraged to do mission work. These are our motivation in all times and serve as our motivation in the changing times in which we live. We are not motivated by selfish reasons, none of these things are for ourselves. The reason for that is that we don't need anything ourselves. God has given us everything in his Son Jesus. He has even given us our motivation. When we are motivated for mission work, we are motivated by our relationship with our Lord and, through him, by our relationship with other sinners.

A. Our Relationship with our Lord.

God loves us, and we love him. There are several things in this relationship with our Lord that motivate us to do mission work. We do mission work because it is what God wants us to do. He has given us his command. When we look at God's commands to us, we must not be thinking, "I will do this because I have to" or "I am forced to do this," but we serve as the light because we want to. We can thank God for telling us his will because we want to do his will, and if he doesn't tell us, we will not know what that will is. We are all familiar with the commands, the Great Commission, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV). "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).

Our attitude toward the commands show us that it is the Christian's nature to shine as a light in the world. It is his nature to take the Good News to others. Our nature as light is a motivation. We cannot ask the sun not to shine. In the same way, we cannot ask a Christian not to let his light shine. He won't do it. He will be like Peter and John, whom we quoted earlier. When they were told not to shine, commanded "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus, they responded, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20, NIV).

God has done so much for us in sending his Son to die for us. We cannot keep it a secret. "The first step toward mission action is to heighten personal awareness of sin and salvation, through the preaching of Law and Gospel."¹⁹ Because of what God did for us, gratitude is a motivation to do mission work. This is one of the reasons why we cannot keep from speaking. We are so thankful for what our Lord has done for us. He has

forgiven us. He has even forgiven us for our sin of not spreading his Gospel. He is giving us the chance to forget our errors of the past and start all over. He won't be punishing us for our sins. He punished Jesus for them.

We do mission work out of love and fear of God. What do we mean by the love and fear of God? Our catechism explanation states, "We fear God above all things when we honor and respect Him so much that we will not want to offend Him."²⁰ In the Bible we read, "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men" (II Corinthians 5:11, NIV). "We love God above all things when we desire Him more than anything else in heaven or on earth, so that we cling to Him with our whole heart and gladly do His will."²¹ His will is that we speak his Word.

We also do mission work for the glory of God, to glorify him. The glory of a person is "that which makes him impressive and demands recognition."²² Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, KJV). When we show forth the light that is in us, it isn't to glorify ourselves, but our heavenly Father, our God, who has saved us. Any proclamation of God's Word ends with glory to him.

We have a God who loves us. He loves us more than we can imagine. He has proven that love by giving us the greatest gift any lover could give, the life of his only Son. Through that Son he has given us the gift of eternal life. The Son rose again from the dead and has a mansion prepared for us with his Father in heaven. God loves us. His love for us is why we love him. We are members of his family, his household. We are citizens of his kingdom of grace. His love for us is why we give money to send missionaries. His love for us is why we pray for our mission work. His love for us is why some go to other nations. His love for us is why we witness to our neighbor. We really need no more motivation, but there is more! There are some things that motivate us that are clearly linked to the Gospel, that are results of the Gospel. We could call them subordinate motivations.

B. Our relationship with other sinners.

Our Lord hates the darkness and loves all sinners. He chose to enter his creation that had fallen into deep darkness. He did battle with that darkness and he rescued lost sinners from that darkness. He wants us to do the same. He is our motivation even in this. The motivation in this sense is one of opportunity. A Christian knows that Jesus has saved him out of love. Now,

Jesus has placed opportunities before the Christian to spread that love to others. When we see these opportunities, we want to make Jesus' love known. He is the one who has done it all. We spread the news of what he has done.

1. Warfare against the darkness.

There are two things regarding our relationship with other sinners that motivate us. First of all, we are in a battle and cannot let darkness win. We have a relationship of opposition to darkness. Letting the darkness take over unopposed would put ourselves and our loved ones in danger of being enveloped by it. We do mission work to brighten the darkness. We need to shine. We need to combat error. "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12, NIV). When the light doesn't shine the darkness takes over. We who are the light cannot let that happen. We cannot cease to proclaim the Gospel.

If we fail to fight against the darkness, our light doesn't shine. Then there is the danger that it will go out completely and we will be left once again in darkness. We need to "put on the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11, NIV). It is he who has won the war. We are at war, but we will win, because the blood of our Savior has already defeated the devil and his forces.

We need to remind ourselves of the greatness of the darkness and the wonderful blessings of the light. The message of Law and Gospel serves to motivate us all of our lives. It is easy to get cold and lose zeal. It happens to missionaries, too. The Gospel is what renews our motivation. In the frustrations of life, we might think, "Let those heathens stay in darkness," or, "Let someone else take the light to them." On occasion, our light shines more brightly. Perhaps a sermon or book or an inspiring mission festival leads us to this. "Our mission joy shines more intensely for a season, but then the flame dies down and only the pilot light is left burning."²³ Luther comments, "The question of justification is an elusive thing—not in itself, for in itself it is firm and sure, but so far as we are concerned. I myself have had considerable experience of this, for I know how I sometimes struggle in the hours of darkness. I know how often I suddenly lose sight of the rays of the Gospel and of grace, which have been obscured for me by thick, dark clouds" (LW, 26, p. 63). Paul wrote something similar. "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pres-

sure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us" (II Corinthians 1:8-10). We need to constantly remind ourselves, by remembering the Gospel, that Jesus has made us the light of the world. We do battle with the weapons that God gives us, but it is "not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God" (II Corinthians 3:5). We can never defeat the devil on our own. Christ has given us the victory in our battle with darkness.

2. Compassion for lost sinners.

Secondly, we work at missions out of compassion for those who are in darkness. There are some who will be brought out of darkness by hearing the Word of God. On the mission fields we hear some wonder why it took the Christian Church so long to get the Word to them. We might think of the Macedonian call that Paul heard. "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'" (Acts 16:9, NIV). Recently I was talking to a member of our church in Lima about how the decision was made to begin work in Lima. One response was, "It is good for us that the decision was made to work in Lima and not somewhere else." But there are many "somewhere elses" where we are not yet working. We must recognize that there is still much to do. There are still many places where we can work. We cannot yet say that we have done enough, so now we can rest. The Lord will decide when our rest comes.

As was said earlier, there are many who believe that we are living in enlightened times. Perhaps they feel that the Christian church has already done its task of shining in the whole world. However, we must not think that just because we live at the end of the twentieth century that there is no more darkness. In a book called *Joy to the World* by Philip Bickel, one chapter carries the title "A World in Need of Joy." In that chapter he describes the learning experience of a young man making an imaginary trip around the world. The man had thought that there was not much more need for mission work. If he looked at the 215 or so countries in the world, he saw that Christians were at work in 90% of them. But looked at a different way, there are almost 6 billion people in the world. About 2 billion "claim" to be Christian, although they might not practice nor believe the Christian faith. (The U.S. Center for World Missions

estimates that "approximately 200 million Christians in this world are seriously concerned about sharing Christ with others."²⁴ That leaves 4 billion "without Christ's cleansing pardon."²⁵

Another way in which he learned to look at the situation was to think of ethnic groups. The Greek word "ethneî is the word used for "nations" in the great commission. It means a group that shares "a common language, culture, philosophy, and world view." "The U.S. Center for World Mission has determined that there are 24,000 different cultural units in the world." Of these, "only about 8,000 have a strong Christian community." The remaining "are the unreached peoples of the earth, living and dying with little or no opportunity to hear the precious name of Jesus proclaimed in a manner they can understand. In India there are 3,000 major people groups, and the Christian church is still weak or nonexistent in over 2,900."²⁶ Perhaps there is a child being born in this instant. We can ask ourselves, "How many years will it be before that child will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is it possible that he may live an entire human life without hearing that Gospel?" It is still happening in our world. Roney Gonzales in Chile "has expressed one regret: that our church was not established sooner in his community."²⁷ How many more communities are there like that? There is still darkness, profound darkness, even after 2000 years of Christian witness. We might think that just because we live in the 20th century, that there is no more darkness, but that is not true.

Peru is still called a dark country. It is the least evangelized country in the Americas. There are so many people who have placed their hope in this life, which is what liberation theology, begun by a Peruvian Gustavo Gutierrez, teaches them. There are also many who are involved in pagan religions, praying to the gods of the hills, leaving sacrifices for fertility in their fields, seeking to appease the spirits in various ways. There is a veneer of Christianity over much of what they do, but they basically practice the same religion they had before the message of Jesus Christ first came to Peru 460 years ago. The light of the Gospel is shining there, but there is much still to be done. That is also true in other parts of the world. A pamphlet from a sister mission in the Czech Republic asks us to "consider a gift to spread the light of Christianity in a land once covered by the dark shadow of communism."²⁸ The light is shining there, but there is much still to be done. We can't quit shining yet.

The same thing could be said concerning large segments of the world, including our own country of the United States of America. People of northern European descent, like most of our church body, will be in the minority in California by the year

2,000.²⁹ It may not be too many more years before the same is true of the rest of our country. There is a world mission field right on our doorstep, walking among us. It is getting more and more difficult to distinguish between home and foreign missions. You can be a foreign missionary without leaving home. We don't have to go very far to find darkness in this world. We don't even have to be with people of another race, another culture or another language. God is constantly providing us with neighbors who need our love, who need to be shown the light. No matter where we live there is still darkness to be combated. There are still souls lost in spiritual darkness that are waiting to hear the message of our Lord and Savior. Our sympathy for them motivates.

As we deal with other sinners in their sinful condition, we need to remember that we are motivated by Christ's love for us. Sometimes those other sinners seem so unlovable. They are hard to love, and it is hard to put up with them. There might even be some who look to harm us. It might seem so difficult to deal with them that we feel like giving up. We need to remember the love of Christ, as well as the example of the apostle Paul, "This happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God" (II Corinthians 1:9, NIV). We can put up with the unlovable, we can overcome our fears and frustrations remembering that we love because Jesus first loved us.

3. Joy.

When our Lord entered this dark creation, he did it willingly and even joyfully. He is called "the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV). He entered the world of darkness to do battle with the darkness, and found joy in that battle, because it resulted in the salvation of sinners. Without the justification that he accomplished for us, there would be no joy, but now there is joy in the proclamation of that good news.

We do mission work for the joy that it brings. It brings joy to the angels in heaven. It brings joy to the lost sinner. And it also brings joy to us. We learn from life in a materialistic society that there isn't much joy. It isn't really enjoyable to have to "keep up with the Joneses" all the time. Life is often a struggle and rewards us with difficulties. Even Jesus knew the struggle when he was tempted, especially in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (Matthew 26:38, NIV). But in spite of such great distress, "for the joy set before him [he] endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God" (Hebrews

12:2, NIV). So, too, is there joy in the life of every Christian. We believe the message of the angel, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11, NIV). This is a joyful motivation for us and a message that brings joy to "all the people."

Our motivations for missions are not selfish. We think of the command of our Lord, of what he wants rather than what we want, and we think of sympathy for the condition of those who are in darkness, what their needs are rather than what ours are. We don't do mission work because of any reward we might expect. We already have everything we need through the grace of God. But there are rewards for us in mission work. I remember a time when I made a visit to one of our youngest congregations and I marveled at the fact that someone would pay me to do this work. I won't say that there are no frustrations, that there are no times when I felt like abandoning everything and giving up. But there are other times when mission work is so enjoyable, so full of joy. Other missionaries have expressed similar sentiments to me. The joy that we receive during our time on this earth is greater than the sacrifices that we might have to make. We see many of these rewards in the stories of our people, a joy that all members of our ELS can share.

Leopoldo Bernabé was a blind man who lived in Pacllón. He died a few years ago. A visitor from Lima had asked him what he believed, and he made this strong confession of his faith, "I believe that Jesus Christ is my only hope and my only Savior from sin." What spiritual sight to be able to confess so boldly his faith! The light was surely shining on this blind man, and it was shining through him in the confession of faith that he made.

Ambrosio Carrera was the visitor who asked Leopoldo the question. He is a very simple man, who commits many blunders in his life, and yet when Leopoldo asked if his faith was correct, Ambrosio answered, "You are right, Leopoldo. Keep on believing that."

There is another simple man, Fermín Lozano, who became a member of our congregation in Chimbote. In a service with public individual absolution, the pastor announces the forgiveness of sins to each person with the laying on of hands. When Fermín received the absolution in this way, he said in a voice strong enough for everyone to hear, "Thank you." He has since started a congregation in his home town of Coris in one of the least evangelized areas of the Andes Mountains in Peru.

Jorge Estrada and his stepdaughter, Milagros Ccahuay, have big smiles on their faces everytime the missionaries visit their

home. Jorge is so content to have come to know the Gospel and Milagros is so joyful that she can share that Gospel with the children of their neighborhood. The children jump up and down when they see the missionary's car approaching.

There is Augusto Cruz from Pocpa, who gave a strong confession of his faith when many members were tempted to join a religion that teaches salvation through the works of men. He would not go to them, even though they offered many free gifts of food and clothing. He wouldn't even go if they took away what he currently had. He was not going to give up the free salvation which Jesus gave him. He was not going to return to the darkness after having come to know the light.

There is the look of relief in the eyes of Victor Suarez as he heard the absolution of the forgiveness of sins. He knew that he was dying and that there was no hope for a cure from the cancer with which he suffered. He also knew that he would be going to heaven. In his final days, he watched from his deathbed as his baby daughter was received into the Kingdom of God through Holy Baptism and was so grateful to see this before he died.

Lidia Soplin came into contact with our mission at an especially troublesome time in her life. Many times there were tears during her periods of instruction, tears of lamentation over her sins and tears of joy over her Savior from sin. The day she was baptized was a joyful day in the congregation in Año Nuevo. Tears of joy were shed. Since then Lidia has dedicated her life to teaching the Gospel to the children. She has maintained her zeal, her love for the Lord and her love for the children.

Roberto Berrospid listened to the missionaries from another room in his house. He didn't want anyone to know that he was listening, because he was trapped in the thinking that Christianity was not for men. This machismo is common in Peru. But he listened. Gradually he came to believe what he was hearing. One day he came out from the other room and joined the group. Now he has become one of our first national pastors in Peru.

There are countless other stories that could be told. These are the rewards and joys of mission work, and you have read of these people in the *Lutheran Sentinel* and in *Mission News*, so that you could share the joy of the missionaries in the results of this work. Our missionaries in other places besides Peru tell of many more people like these. We just read in the *Lutheran Sentinel* of Roney Gonzales, the young Chilean man who "decided to get off the Road to Death and to dedicate his life to the study of God's Word. He is currently faithfully preparing himself for confirmation and he hopes to become a member of our church before the year is over."³⁰ Our congregations in the

Czech Republic, Ukraine and the U.S. could also share encouraging and rewarding results of their mission work, stories of people who have been freed by God from the spiritual darkness in which they live and have come into his marvelous light. And all of this is your work. It isn't just a few missionaries who have worked in Peru. It is the whole synod, this whole group of the people of God. We who are missionaries want you to share the joy because it is your work. A recent letter stated, "we pray that you will get a real sense of joy as you read stories about the way that the Holy Spirit is using our humble work to bring people to faith in their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."³¹

Think about what is done in our synod. Babies are born and baptized. They are often placed on a cradle roll. The congregation sees that they are cared for spiritually. They then enter Sunday School or Christian Day School. They are instructed and confirmed by their pastor. Members support this education through their offerings for local work. Many members encourage the young people in their congregations through their words and the example of their Christian life. If there is opportunity, they are sent to a Lutheran High School. The synod gives them the opportunity to attend Bethany Lutheran College. Some are able to attend Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and become pastors. Those pastors do local mission work, and some of them become foreign missionaries. Members and congregations support all of these aspects of the work through their offerings to the synod. Everyone in the synod is doing mission work. Many times this is done without our even realizing it. Who knows if that child you are teaching in Sunday School will someday be called to do foreign mission work? Your influence may be greater than you think.

Paul describes our feelings well when he looks at a group that had received his teaching. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy" (I Thessalonians 2:19-20, NIV). I have told the Peruvian members of our church that this is the way we missionaries look at them. The Peruvian believers are the glory and joy of the ELS. The Chilean, Czech and Ukrainian believers are the glory and joy of our synod. Those who have come to faith inside the United States or anywhere else in the world are also our glory and joy. They are the proof that God has blessed our work. They are one of our rewards. They are our glory. They are the result of letting our light shine and they are now lights who are shining to their fellow countrymen. "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness,

like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 2:3, NIV). We give thanks to God for those rewards, as Paul thanked God for the people who believed the Gospel through his work, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3).

These motives due to our relationship with our Lord and our relationship with other sinners are as valid today as they ever were. The world needs our testimony now more than ever. There is much darkness in the world, many still lost in sin. There is a light for the world, our Lord Jesus Christ. That light is accessible to the world through the Means of Grace. That light has come into our lives through our conversion. We are the light of the world. So we request of God, "Let there be light. Shine on our darkness, and let us shine on others." And so, dear Christians, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn" (Isaiah 60:1, 3, NIV).

Holy and blessed Three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world, far and wide,
LET THERE BE LIGHT!
(ELH, 202, 4)

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25. Barret, David B., and Johnson, Todd M. "Annual Statistical Table on Global Mission: 1998" *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. Volume 22, found in Bickel's book.
26. Bickel. The information in this section is described in Chapter 2, A World in Need of Joy, especially on pages 14 and 20.
27. Rodriguez, Oto, "The Road to Death versus the Way of Life," *Lutheran Sentinel*, Volume 81, Number 5, May 1998, page 6.
28. "Assisting in the rebirth of Christianity after the fall of communism—A special Lutheran mission in the Czech Republic," from Four Corners Mission, Inc.
29. Anderson, p. 24.
30. Rodriguez, p. 6.
31. Letter from Rev. David Meyer, administrator, Thoughts of Faith, Inc., April 17, 1998.

**SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP
ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution No. 1: Membership Application of Pastors

WHEREAS, The Colloquy Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has approved the following pastors for synodical membership, and,

WHEREAS, It has been established that in each application for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following pastors be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

- 1. The Rev. Richard MacKain, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Clara City, MN.*
- 2. The Rev. Rolf Preus, pastor of River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, MN.*
- 3. The Rev. Gregory Sahlstrom, pastor of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Jordan, Utah.*
- 4. The Rev. Mark Rogers, pastor of Pinehurst Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.*
- 5. The Rev. Karl Heck, pastor of Saint Timothy Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, IA.*

Resolution No. 2: Membership Transfers of Pastors

WHEREAS, The following pastors have been transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod by officials of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following pastors be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

- 1. The Rev. Karl Kuenzel, missionary in Chile, South, America.*
- 2. The Rev. Robert Otto, missionary at large in the Mankato, MN area.*

Resolution No. 3: Membership Application of a Pastor

WHEREAS, It has been established that in his application for synodical membership the requirements of the synodical constitution have been met, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rev. Joseph Abrahamson be admitted into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution No. 4: Membership Applications of Congregations

WHEREAS, It has been established that in each application for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met, and,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That Hope Evangelical Lutheran

Church, West Jordan, Utah be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hadlock, Washington, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution No. 5: Constitution Review

WHEREAS, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu, Arizona, has submitted its revised constitution and it has been found to be in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Our Saviour Lutheran Church and also remind other congregations that adopt new or revised constitutions to submit them for review.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: 30 years in the Foreign Mission Fields

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is celebrating its 30th year in the foreign mission fields, and,

WHEREAS, The President's message has given us the history and reminded us of the importance of this work, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank and praise the Lord for all these blessings, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we continue to pray for the Lord's blessing upon our foreign mission fields.

Resolution No. 2: President's Activities

WHEREAS, President Orvick has performed the duties of his office faithfully, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank him for his dedicated service, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod pray that the Lord will grant President Orvick continued good health and blessing in his work.

Resolution 3: Printing of the President's Message and Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President's Message and Report be printed in the 1998 Synod Report.

CREDENTIALS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Excuses of Congregations—No Delegates

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 1998 Synod Convention have been received from the following congregations: Our Savior's (Grants Pass, OR), Lakewood (Tacoma, WA), Zion (North Huntingdon, PA), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution No. 2: Excuses of Congregations—One Delegate

WHEREAS, The following congregations have requested that they be excused for having only one delegate at the 1998 Synod Convention: Gloria Dei (Saginaw, MI), Rock Dell (Belview, MN), Faith (Irvine, CA), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution No. 3: Excuses of Lay Delegates—Early Departure

WHEREAS, The following lay delegates have requested that they be excused for early departure: Joseph Rikhus, James Apolito, Bob Edwards, Terance Smith, George Lawson, Frank Kohagen, Jeff McKay, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused

Resolution No. 4: Excuses of Pastors—Non attendance

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 1998 Synod Convention have been received from pastors: Steven Reagles, El Roy Buhr, Timothy Bartels, Karl Kuenzel, Jay Webber, Mark DeGarmaux, Bruce Leonatti, Michael Smith, Daniel Metzger, Darryl Bakke, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution No. 5: Excuses for Late Arrival

WHEREAS, Excuses for late arrival at the 1998 Synod Convention have been received from: Rodger Dale, Carl Wosje, Herbert Larson, Nathan Krause, Richard Lehmann, A.V. Kuster, James Olsen, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution No. 6: Excuses for Early Departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 1998 Synod Convention have been received from pastors: Klebe Brumble, Daniel Schroeder, David Meyer, Aaron Hamilton, Richard Fyffe, Larry Vinton, Loren Zell, James Olsen, John Smith, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

In our world today we note that the word *doctrine* is often greeted with a certain condescension or even disdain, for it connotes for many an absolutism that is at odds with the relativism that generally holds sway in our society. Yet the Lord in his Holy Scriptures frequently uses the term *doctrine* and other related words that have to do with teaching. Doctrine can, of course, be of either the good variety or the bad, and then the important question is how we distinguish the two. In His Word to us the Lord on the one hand inveighs against those "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mt. 15: 9; Col. 2: 22), and on the other hand makes clear that because the Holy Scriptures have their source in God himself, they alone will prove profitable to us as a source of sound doctrine (John 7: 16; 8: 31; II Tim. 3, 16). Your Doctrine Committee therefore considers its work at the direction of the synod to be inextricably bound to the right understanding of, as well as the proper application of, those Scriptures. For such understanding and application its members continue to pray regularly, even as they beseech also your prayers on their behalf.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Doctrine Committee underwent change during the past year when the synodical president appointed Pastor Paul Zager of Lombard, IL to replace Pastor Herbert Larson for the remainder of the latter's three-year term, which expires at this convention. Pastor Larson had resigned from the committee for personal reasons after having served thereon since 1986. He is remembered by the committee especially for his large contribution to the writing of the synod's anniversary volume *Built on the Rock* and for his translation of much Norwegian theological material from the pens of our spiritual forebears, as well as for his willingness to put pen to paper for many other committee assignments. The newly appointed committee member, Pastor Zager, is a graduate of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at Mequon, WI, as well as of the former Mequon Program at Bethany Lutheran College, and entered the public ministry of the ELS by transfer from the WELS in January, 1989.

THE MINISTRY

The Doctrine Committee has continued its study of the doctrine of the Holy Ministry of the Church, to the study of which doctrine the General Pastoral Conference last January also directed some attention. The committee intends soon to distribute to the ministerium of the synod copies of a set of working theses as a basis of general discussion among us. It is the hope of the committee members that in due time it may propose such a set of theses, as well as an accompanying explanatory document, to the convention for adoption.

THE CELC

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, a federation of fifteen churches throughout the world in confessional agreement with the ELS, will hold its third triennial convention April 20-22, 1999, in Winterhaven, Florida. Representatives from our synod to this conclave are yet to be named. The ELS convention of 1990 approved the original constitution proposed to the CELC convention (Cf. SR 1990, p. 76, Res. No. 9.)

However, the 1996 convention of the CELC approved the addition of an Article XII (on amendments) and a section of bylaws to the constitution, all of which are to be ratified by the several member bodies of the federation, including the ELS at its 1998 convention. The additions follow:

ARTICLE XII

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any meeting of the Conference by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting delegates, provided that notice of such amendments shall have been sent through the Planning Committee to all member churches one year prior to the meeting of the Conference.

BYLAWS

- 1.1 *There shall be a Commission on Theology consisting of five members. The members of the commission shall be appointed by the Planning Committee, subject to ratification by the convention. The term of office shall be six years. Initially, three members shall be appointed for six years, and two members for three years. Members will be eligible for appointment for a maximum of two terms. The president of the Conference shall be an ex officio member of the commission.*
- 1.2 *The commission shall prepare a position paper on the theological topic treated at the last convention. This statement [position paper] shall be submitted to the churches for ratification.*

The present commission consists of Egil Edvardsen of the LCC (Scandinavia), Salimo Hachibamba of the LCCA-Zambia (Africa), Gottfried Herrman of the ELFC (Germany), Lyle Lange of the WELS, and Wilhelm Petersen of the ELS. Wilbert Gawrisc of the WELS is the current president of the Conference. The Commission on Theology has completed its initial task by producing a position paper on Scripture entitled: *The Eternal Word: A Lutheran Confession for the Twenty-first Century*, which it now submits to the several churches of the federation for ratification.

THE ELCF

The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum, biennially bringing representatives of the WELS and the ELS together for two days of sharing information in the various areas of their synodical life and work, will be held October 12 & 13 in Milwaukee, WI. The last session of this group on October 22, 1996, approved the following procedures for establishing fellowship with other church bodies:

It is God's will for Christians that they be united in doctrine and practice. God's Word urges believers to "agree with one another so that there will be no divisions among you" (1 Corinthians 1: 10).

When unity in faith is evident, God wants Christians to show brotherly love to each other and to maintain their unity in faith as a precious treasure. God's Word tells believers to "stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel" (Philemon 1: 27). God's Word says: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4: 3). "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Psalm 133: 1).

In the spirit of brotherly love, the following procedures will be used by the synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum when contacts are made with other church bodies. Brotherly love will lead us to inform and involve our U.S. sister synods so that we may be "of one mind" (II Corinthians 13: 11) in all fellowship decisions.

A. Discussions to determine if there is unity in doctrine and practice

When there is the possibility of establishing fellowship with another

church body, careful doctrinal discussions will be undertaken to determine if there is agreement in doctrine and practice. No procedures are prescribed for this process because it will differ depending on the circumstances.

B. Involvement of our U.S. sister synods and the CELC

1. Our U. S. sister synods will be informed immediately when such doctrinal discussions are contemplated. This information will be communicated through the synod presidents as they make regular contact with each other.

2. Whenever it is possible, members of our U.S. sister synods will participate in the doctrinal discussions (e.g., CLC discussions 1987-1990).

3. Doctrinal statements from our U.S. sister synods and the CELC will be shared. It will be made clear from the start that a wider fellowship is involved.

4. A synod will not recommend or declare fellowship until there has been a meeting between representatives of the U.S. sister synods at which the matter is discussed.

5. The establishing of church fellowship will always be officially ratified at a synod convention.

6. This new fellowship relationship will be reported to the CELC.

C. The termination of fellowship

These same procedures will be followed when the termination of fellowship is contemplated.

ELCA

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a recent amalgamation of several Lutheran church bodies, one branch of which, the ALC, traces some of its American heritage back to the same roots as does the ELS. Because of the association that once existed between our forebears and some of theirs, there is more than passing interest for many ELS members in events taking place in what was once the NLCA, then ELC, then ALC, and now ELCA. That the gulf between the two branches has widened appreciably in recent years is highlighted especially in the historic ecumenical decisions reached by the ELCA assembly of last summer in the City of Brotherly Love.

The first decision there in the realm of the doctrine of Justification paves the way for a return to the Roman Catholic Church. The sixteenth century Lutheran Reformation registered a break from the Roman Catholic Church primarily because of an irreconcilable difference in the doctrine of justification, the article by which the church of God stands or falls. But in a vote of 958-25 the assembly in Philadelphia last year declared that the strictures of the Reformation against this doctrine of Rome no longer apply. This in spite of the fact that the Roman Church has not departed from its own censure of the Lutheran position, a censure officially set forth in damning terms in the *Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. Nor does the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church* support the suggestion of change for the better when it defines justification in these terms: "Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification, and the renewal of the inner man."

Perhaps more appealing to a great many ELCA members was the approval, by a vote of 839-193, of "full communion" with three Reformed churches: the

United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA), despite the fact that these churches deny the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar and deny to the Sacraments the right and the honor of being called Means of Grace. Though the decision of full communion does not propose any sort of merger of the churches involved, and calls for further implementation, the declaration tarnishes even more seriously the right of the ELCA to be called truly Lutheran.

The fact that the same assembly rejected a motion to extend the hand of fellowship to the Episcopal Church is not to be construed as an omen of hope for stemming the tide of "ecumania." The rejection of this proposed agreement by only a narrow margin, and mostly for other than truly doctrinal reasons, should serve to remind us of the need for our renewed concern for continued faithfulness to the Word of God in both doctrine and life.

CONCLUSION

There surely remains a remnant of God's people within even unionistic and heterodox church bodies who are not pleased with—and often very troubled by—such developments as those above that eat away at the vitals of Christ's church and threaten to obscure the true gospel beyond recognition. Therefore we have additional reason to hold firmly to, and to defend with all the grace and knowledge our Lord places at our disposal, the true heritage of the Lutheran Reformation, that the remnant may be helped to see that this option is there also for them. Let us continue to appreciate the words with which Dr. Franz Pieper is reported to have frequently impressed upon his seminary students the message of their future ministry: "Machet hoch die allgemeine Rechtfertigung! (Hold high the [doctrine of] general—or objective—justification.)"

When also the members of the ELS are tempted to envy the seeming success of those churches that for one reason or another cave in to the temptations to modify Scriptural doctrine for the sake of expediency, we have need constantly to exhort one another: "Buy the truth and sell it not." (Prov. 23, 23) Only the truth can set us free, the truth that is Christ and is found in His Word. (John 8, 31) Eternal vigilance remains the price of the liberty born only of truth, and that vigilance must come from the Holy Spirit's gift to His children through the Word of Truth. Anchored securely to that Rock, we can confidently declare, even in the turbulent world in which we live.

We have a sure prophetic Word
By inspiration of the Lord;
And though assailed on ev'ry hand,
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.
Abiding steadfast, firm, and sure
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.
(ELH 234)

Gaylin Schmeling, chairman
Juul Madson, secretary

DOCTRINE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Doctrine Committee Membership

WHEREAS, Pastor Herbert Larson has resigned from the Doctrine Committee having served since 1986, and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Larson is remembered for co-authoring the synod's anniversary volume Built on the Rock, for his trans-

lations of Norwegian theological material, and for his work on many other committee assignments, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod thank the Lord of the Church for supplying such a faithful worker, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod thank Pastor Herbert Larson for his efforts at preserving the doctrinal and historical heritage of the synod.

Resolution No. 2: CELC Constitution

WHEREAS, The 1990 Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention approved the original constitution of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Forum (CELC), and ,

WHEREAS, At its 1996 convention, the CELC approved the addition of an Article XII, which states: Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any meeting of the Conference by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting delegates, provided that notice of such amendments shall have been sent through the Planning Committee to all member churches one year prior to the meeting of the Conference., and,

WHEREAS, Member bodies of the CELC have been asked to ratify this amendment to the constitution, and,

WHEREAS, The amendment is a useful and appropriate addition to the constitution, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod ratify the addition of Article XII to the constitution of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

Resolution No. 3: CELC Bylaws

WHEREAS, At its 1996 convention, the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) approved the addition of a section of bylaws to the constitution, and,

WHEREAS, member bodies of the CELC have been asked to ratify the addition of these bylaws to the constitution, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod ratify the addition of Bylaws 1.1 and 1.2 to the constitution of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

Resolution No. 4: ELCF Fellowship Procedures

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum (ELCF) in 1996 approved procedures for establishing and terminating fellowship with other church bodies, and,

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in convention has already approved these procedures, and,

WHEREAS, The purpose of these procedures is to promote unity in all fellowship decisions, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod adopt these procedures.

Resolution No. 5: Inter-Church Relations

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has been blessed by the close ties of fellowship with our brethren in faith around the world as members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod express its joy over the fellowship which it shares with the dear brethren in the faith throughout the world, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be encouraged to pray for and support the ongoing work that the brothers and sisters in Christ are doing for the Lord throughout the world.

Resolution No. 6: ELCA on Justification by Faith

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures clearly teach justification by grace alone (Eph 2:8-9, Rom. 11:6, Titus 3:5) through faith alone (Rom. 3:28, Rom. 4:3-5) in Christ alone (Col. 2:12-15, Acts 4:12), and,

WHEREAS, as Lutherans confess in Article IV of the Augsburg Confession, "Our churches also teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works but are freely justified for Christ's sake through faith when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven on account of Christ, who by his death has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in his sight, Romans 3 and 4," and,

WHEREAS, we confess in Article XX of the Augsburg Confession, "...our works cannot reconcile God or merit forgiveness of sins and grace but that we obtain forgiveness and grace only by faith when we believe that we are received into favor for Christ's sake, who alone has been ordained to be the mediator and propitiation through whom the Father is reconciled," and,

WHEREAS, At its 1997 convention, the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) declared that there is no longer an irreconcilable difference between the Lutheran church and the Roman Catholic church regarding the doctrine of justification by faith, (Cf. 1997 ELCA Convention Plenary #10, August 19, 1997, CA.97.5.25, "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification"), and,

WHEREAS, The Roman Catholic church continues to teach that a man is not justified by Christ's merits alone, but also in part by his own merits, which teaching is contrary to Scripture,

(cf. "The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent," Session IV: Canon 9: "If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to cooperate in order to obtain the grace of justification, and that it is not in any way necessary that he be prepared and disposed by the action of his own will, let him be anathema." Canon 12: "If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confi-

dence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies, let him be anathema." Canon 14: "If anyone says that man is absolved from his sins and justified because he firmly believes that he is absolved and justified, or that no one is truly justified except him who believes himself justified, and that by this faith alone absolution and justification are effected, let him be anathema."

And cf. The recently published *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph 2019: "Justification includes the remission of sins, sanctification, and the renewal of the inner man." And paragraph 2027: "No one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and others all the graces needed to attain eternal life."), and,

WHEREAS, By this declaration the ELCA has placed in jeopardy the central doctrine of the Christian faith, and,

WHEREAS, As a result of this action, many consciences in the ELCA are in danger of losing the sure foundation of free forgiveness in Christ therefore placing their eternal souls at risk, and

WHEREAS, what it means to be Lutheran is at stake, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod defend the true heritage of the Lutheran Reformation with all the grace and spiritual wisdom at its disposal, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, out of concern for souls, search out ways to inform the ELCA members about the confessional Lutheran doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith and inform them of church bodies which still hold to the scriptural heritage of the Lutheran Reformation, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod formally urge the ELCA to return to the true biblical and historical Lutheran teaching of justification by grace alone through faith.

Resolution No. 7: ELCA Declaration of Full Communion with the Reformed

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures teach that participation in the Lord's Supper is an open confession of doctrinal unity (1 Cor. 10:17) and participation in the Lord's Supper with those who do not discern the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament is forbidden (Rom. 16:17, 1 Cor. 11:29), and,

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its 1997 convention approved full communion with the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA), (Cf. 1997 ELCA Convention Plenary #6, August 18, 1997, CA.97.4.8, "Formula of Agreement"), and,

WHEREAS, These church bodies deny the real presence of

Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, deny the power of the Holy Spirit to distribute forgiveness through this sacrament, and are clearly not in agreement with Scripture on many other points of doctrine, and

WHEREAS, By this action the ELCA has jeopardized the scriptural understanding of this precious means of grace, endangered the salvation of precious souls, and encouraged fellowship with falsehood, and,

WHEREAS, By this action the ELCA has abandoned the confessional definition of what it means to be Lutheran, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Synod continue to testify to the truths of Scripture as they are expounded in the Lutheran Confessions, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, out of concern for souls, search out ways to inform the members of the ELCA that Lutheran church bodies exist which still hold firmly to the scriptural teaching of the Lord's Supper.

Resolution No. 8: Synod press releases

WHEREAS, The public media often have presented the ELCA as representative of all Lutherans, and,

WHEREAS, The positions of the ELCA do not accurately depict true scriptural, Lutheran teaching on highly publicized issues, such as abortion, homosexuality, the Word, ecumenism, etc., and,

WHEREAS, these misrepresentations of Lutheranism cause confusion among many people, and

WHEREAS, The congregations of the synod could use unified, timely, appropriate, and scriptural responses to these issues, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That in the future the Evangelical Lutheran Synod administration be encouraged to provide to the media and to the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod timely press releases and other forms of response which distance the Evangelical Lutheran Synod from such errors and which clarify to the public the doctrinal positions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND PRESIDENT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

BOARD OF REGENTS

Members of the board during the past year: The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., Audubon, MN, chairman; Mr. William Overn, vice-chairman, St. Paul, MN; Mr. Harold Theiste, secretary, Plymouth, MN; Mr. Jon Bruss, Sr., Hartland, WI; The Rev. Edward Bryant, Port Orchard, WA; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Avon, CO; Mr.

Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, MA; The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, WI; The Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith. Advisory members—The Rev. Milton Tweit, Lawler, IA; The Rev. Raymond Branstad, Elk River, MN; Dr. Donald Peterson, Madison, WI; and The Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Louis, MO.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

The following persons have served on the faculty and administrative professional staff during the 1997-98 school year.

FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF

Joseph Abrahamson, Associate Director of Library Media Services
Peter Bloedel, Theater
Silas Born, Director of Christian Education
Norma Brown, Director of Library Media Services
Kenneth Brueske, Deferred Giving Counselor
Jon Bruss, Greek, World Literature
Kris Bruss, Communication, Transfer Counselor
William Bukowski, Art
Aaron Burmeister, Music
Gregory Costello, Director of Finance and Business Affairs
Ramona Czer, Communication, English
Mark DeGarmeaux, Chaplain, Religion
Kathy Forsberg, Cataloging Librarian and Head of Technical Services
Mark Harstad, Hebrew, History
Lois Jaeger, Fine Arts Director
Steve Jaeger, Vice President for Student Advancement
Michael Jindra, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science
Calvin Johnson, Financial Aid Director
Lyle Jones, Physical Education, Soccer, Women's Basketball
Julie Kjeer, Mathematics
Thomas Kuster, The Eleanor Wilson Chair of English/Speech
Communication
Adrian Lo, Director of Instrumental Music
Linda Loge, Admissions Counselor
Patty Lussky, Health, Counseling
Todd Marzinske, Mathematics, Physics
Dennis Marzolf, Music, Choral Groups, Voice
Daniel Metzger, German, Religion
Marvin Meyer, President
Ralph Miller, Controller
Andrew Overn, Art, Graphic Design
Amy Rank, Admissions Counselor
Steve Reagles, Communication, Religion
Jay Roth, Associate Director of Admissions
Lance Schwartz, Alumni Affairs
John Sehloff, Biology, Computer Science
Dean Shoop, Accounting, Mathematics, Economics
Erling Teigen, Religion, Communication, Philosophy, Director of Paul
Ylvisaker Center
David Thompson, Dean of Student Services, Religion
Paul Tweit, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Art Westphal, Athletic Director, Men's Basketball and Baseball
Don Westphal, Admissions Counselor, Public Relations Director
Mark Wiechmann, Psychology, Career Counseling
Jean Wiechmann, Registrar, Learning Specialist, Sociology
Paul Wold, Bookstore Manager
Eric Woller, Chemistry

Derek Woodley, Student Activities Director, Physical Ed., Asst.
Baseball Coach
Ronald Younge, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Biology

Part-time

David Atwood, Mathematics
Vivian Bohmbach, Piano
Tatjana Durand, Spanish
Adolph Harstad, Religion
Susan Harstad, Theater
Esther Iverson, Costume Director
Ann Johnson, Voice
Lynette Jones, Physical Education, Volleyball and Softball Coach
Mary Kelley, Administrative Computing
Erik Lee, Communication
Sigurd Lee, Literature
Laura Matzke, Music
Tanya Norris, Mathematics
Brian Schulz, Geography
Barbara Strassberg, Art
Charles Waters, Mathematics
Nancy Wiechmann, Business

Emeriti

Louella Balcziaik
Edna Busekist
Arlene Hilding
Norman S. Holte
Rudolph Honsey
Bjarne Teigen
Cynthia Weberg

STAFF

Our staff continues to place professional development high on their priority list, as does the college. Several faculty are working on additional degrees and many others have been active in seminars and conferences in their related fields.

During a special service on January 9, the college observed the following anniversaries:

15 years	Joni Wiederhoeft	Office of Financial Aid
10 years	Margaret Lillo	Office of Registrar
10 years	Jay Roth	Associate Director of Admissions
10 years	David Thompson	Dean of Student Services
10 years	Nancy Wiechmann	Business Education

This past academic year we had several new faculty and professional personnel join our staff — Mr. Silas Born as Director of Christian Education; Mr. Kenneth Brueske as Deferred Giving Counselor; Mr. Aaron Burmeister in Music and Chapel Organist; Mrs. Ramona Czer in Communications; Dr. Michael Jindra in Sociology; Mr. Andrew Overn in Art and Graphic Design; and Ms. Amy Rank as Admissions Counselor.

As we look to the fall of 1998, we are expecting to add professors in the areas of English, Communication, Biology, Physical Education and coaching, Mathematics, and Computers.

Professor Edward Schutters was called to his eternal home after nearly a year battle with cancer. He had taught Biology since 1996. Professor Julie Kjeer will move away from full-time teaching in Mathematics and devote her time to raising their family.

The Board and administration greatly appreciate the faithful and dedicated service of the entire staff and faculty. We thank our Lord and Savior for supplying Bethany Lutheran College with such dedicated workers.

ENROLLMENT

The 1997-98 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	206	189
Sophomores	114	120
Specials*	12	20
Part-Time	27	17
	359	346
FTE	346	333

*Includes PSEOP Students

At the time of this report, it appears that our fall enrollment will be up over the 1997 figure. We are struggling to some degree in the number of applicants for the fall. However, the number of deposits are up together with several other positive indicators which gives us an optimistic feeling for the fall of 1998.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

There has never been a time in Bethany's history when the faculty and staff have exerted the energy they have throughout an academic year. The work that has been done in planning the new curriculum to support the upcoming baccalaureate degrees, in the development of our strategic plan, in working with the State of Minnesota for bachelor degree granting privilege, and in readying the institution for a North Central Association of Colleges and Universities (NCA) visit is nothing short of phenomenal. The dedication and support of the entire staff throughout this process has been greatly appreciated.

The curriculum that has been developed is much broader than we had originally planned. In the fall of 1999, we will add upper-division programs and some new lower-division courses to support those programs that will lead to majors in Liberal Arts and Communication. In addition there will be concentrations in at least a dozen areas, as well as, minors in Business Administration, Management Information Systems and Communication. With the broadening of our offerings beyond those originally planned, we hope to be an option for significantly more of our A.A. graduates.

The planning process has assisted greatly in developing the necessary material for our upcoming self-study for N.C.A. The self-study this year is more extensive than in the past because it must address the issues related to the awarding of baccalaureate degrees. The team from N.C.A. will spend three days on campus in late October to evaluate the institution for regional accreditation.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The college continues to develop the campus as it prepares for the 21st century and the new programs. Presently a new Memorial Library and residential hall are under construction.

The Memorial Library should be completed by early May with dedication planned for June 21, 1998, Synod Sunday. The greatly expanded facility will allow for significant growth in our collection of titles. The design of the building gives Bethany a greater opportunity than presently possible of assisting our students in the process of learning.

The new residential hall will be completed by late fall or early winter. The time schedule will work out well since the facility will not be needed until fall of 1999. The hall will give us 108 new beds for students, plus five one-bedroom apartments. It is the first part of a two-phase building. The other half will be constructed when needed, more than likely in 2003.

At a Board of Regents meeting in the summer of 1993, there was significant discussion on the possibility of the college owning and operating a retreat/conference center/camp for the college, synod, and others to use. Following that dialogue there continued discussions on such an acquisition. In the fall of 1995, the college began in earnest to look for a piece of land or an existing facility to develop for that purpose.

In September of 1997, a site was located and negotiations began. The negotiating lead to an agreement with the closing date set for May 1, 1998. The property is in northern Wisconsin approximately 20 miles north of Spooner. Within the 700 acres of land are two lakes—it truly is a marvelous site.

Planning has begun to develop two campuses on the site. One site to facilitate a conference/retreat center and one for a youth campus. Both sites when complete will house 120 individuals. It is our hope to have much of it up and running by fall of 1999.

GRANTS

AAL continues to assist the college through direct grants for faculty and institutional development, as well as student scholarships. The local branches of AAL also provide funds for the college in matching programs. During this academic year in excess of \$50,000 was received in these programs.

Lutheran Brotherhood remains committed to challenging its members through matching programs which direct funds into our endowments for operation. These dollars assist in planning for Bethany's future.

Many corporations are matching their employees' contributions to colleges through their foundations. Each year that number and the amount is growing. We are thankful for this added support.

The Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary is committed to the welfare of Bethany through its support and prayers. They have taken on new projects this year that total \$12,600. Many, many thanks to these wonderful ladies.

FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

The 1996-97 school year ended with a balance of \$103,195. Consequently, the cumulative deficit for our current fund was eliminated giving a fund balance of \$87,363. Unfortunately, the present academic year will not fare as well and will generate a deficit of approximately \$150,000. It is the hope and prayer of the Board of Regents and the college administration to do as much as possible to keep the deficit at a minimum.

Gifts continue to assist Bethany in her effort to deliver to the students a quality, Christian education. The president and the Board of Regents are grateful to the members of our synod, individuals, corporations, and foundations that are so willing to support the programs at Bethany.

The planning process has lead the Board of Regents and the college staff to the conclusion that a new capital campaign is necessary. One must understand that the Board of Regents has a strong desire to have the funding available to take Bethany Lutheran College to the next step. To offer a full array of baccalaureate programs and have the facilities and faculty to support those programs will require major funding over the next ten years.

The college is presently undergoing a feasibility study and hopefully by late spring will have a clear vision of the size of this program. The campaign hopefully will be underway by early summer.

The following is a summary of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997:

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$3,044,475
Government Grants	51,506
Synod Subsidy	166,500
Housing Assistance	84,000
Maintenance Assistance	21,500
Capital Improvements	21,770
Private Gifts and Grants	955,688
Endowment Income	299,127
Sales and Services of Student Activities	63,933
Other Sources	296,700
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>1,610,201</u>
	\$6,615,400

EXPENDITURES

Educational and General	\$3,993,942
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	517,651
Scholarships and Grants	939,282
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,061,330
	6,512,205
Fund Balance	103,195
Prior Year's Fund Balance	<u>(15,832)</u>
Current Fund Balance	\$87,363

CONCLUSION

It has been another interesting and challenging year as Bethany Lutheran College prepares itself for the baccalaureate programs that are to begin in the fall of 1999. It is important to maintain our spiritual and academic heritage through this process so our commitment to the Gospel and academic excellence is assured as we begin new programs and a new century. We ask one and all to keep Bethany Lutheran College in their prayers.

John A. Moldstad, Sr., Chairman
Harold Theiste, Secretary
Marvin G. Meyer, President

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND PRESIDENT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7) These words of the prophet Isaiah describe the beauty of the Gospel ministry. This ministry is beautiful because of the message which it proclaims. That message is centered in the God-Man Jesus Christ and His redemptive work for our salvation. He loved us so much that He lived a holy life in our place and gave Himself into death as the one sufficient ransom to free us from the domination of sin, death, and the devil. He took upon Himself our sin, our death, and our hell so that we could have His righteousness, life, and heaven. This wonderful treasure is offered to us in the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, and is

received by faith alone in Him as the Savior which faith is worked, strengthened, and preserved through these same means of grace.

Our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary continues to play a vital role in preparing men to go forth to proclaim the beautiful message of the Gospel, which alone can bring true peace and joy to soothe the troubled souls. Each year we continue to send forth more workers who have been trained to preach the blessed truths of God's Word. The Lord permitted us another school year where men were trained for this blessed ministry. May our gracious Lord continue to bless our seminary to the glory of His name and the welfare of precious blood-bought souls.

BOARD OF REGENTS

The nine-member Board of Regents, is responsible for the operation of the seminary. The board met quarterly during the year and the president of the seminary submitted a report to each meeting. The members of the board are: The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., Audubon, Minnesota; the Rev. Edward Bryant, Port Orchard, Washington; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin; the Rev. J. Kincaid Smith, Saginaw, Michigan; Mr. Jon Bruss, Hartland, Wisconsin; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, Chatham, Massachusetts; Mr. William Overn, Eagan, Minnesota; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Avon, Colorado; and Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, Minnesota. The Rev. Raymond Branstad of Elk River, Minnesota; Dr. Donald Peterson of Madison, Wisconsin; the Rev. M.E. Tweit of Lawler, Iowa; and the Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf serve as advisory members to the board.

FACULTY

The following taught in the seminary during the 1997-98 school year: Adolph Harstad, John Moldstad, Jr., Thomas Kuster, Wilhelm Petersen, and Gaylin Schmeling. Professor Harstad is working on a commentary series sponsored by Concordia Publishing House and Professor Moldstad has written a book on Predestination which is a part of the WELS People's Bible Teaching Series. This book was published in the fall of 1997. Professor Moldstad continues to work on his STM degree during the summers.

It also should be mentioned that Professor Wilhelm Petersen stepped down from the office of president of the seminary at the end of the 1996-97 school year. He served as president of the institution for seventeen years. We thank our Heavenly Father for giving His servant the grace and the strength to serve as president and instructor of our seminary for those years. This has been a great blessing in our midst. President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen continues to teach homiletics in our seminary.

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment at the seminary in the 1997-98 academic year was 21. It breaks down as follows: 6 juniors, 6 middlers, 6 seniors, and 3 vicars. The vicars who served their vicarages were: Aaron Hamilton, Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, Washington; Jesse Jacobsen, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota; Timothy Zenda, King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota.

We urge pastors and laity to be recruiters for the seminary by encouraging promising young men to study for the ministry. The Lord of the harvest reminds us that "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38) In addition to fervent prayer let us also do what we can in the form of encouragement and financial assistance, if possible, to make it feasible for students to study for the ministry.

ACTIVITIES

The annual senior recognition dinner was held on the evening of April 24, 1997. This is always a pleasant and relaxing evening for the students and staff, and we are grateful to Aid Association for Lutherans for sponsoring this event.

Our annual vicar workshop was held on Thursday, May 15, 1997. The main part of the workshop program was a presentation by President Emeritus Petersen on the CELC, the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, which was formed in Oberwesel, Germany, in April, 1993. Following the workshop President Orvick presented the vicar assignments.

A summer institute was held in Mankato, Minnesota, July 14-16, 1997. There were 15 pastors in attendance. President Emeritus Petersen led a homiletical study with the theme *Homiletics Revisited*.

The thirtieth annual Reformation Lectures were held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Mankato, Minnesota, on October 30-31, 1997. These lectures are sponsored jointly by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Dr. Oliver Olson, professor emeritus of Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the lecturer. His topic was *Philipp Melancthon the Second Reformer*. Dr. Olson described Melancthon's influence on the Reformation emphasizing three themes: Melancthon as Luther's lieutenant, Melancthon the educator, and Melancthon's attitude toward liturgical reform with special reference to the eucharistic prayer and the fraction in the Lord's Supper. The complete lecture was published in the March, 1998, issue of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. The reactors to the lectures were the Rev. Daniel O.S. Preus, the Director of Concordia Historical Institute (LC-MS) and President Gaylin R. Schmeling.

An invitation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was again extended to our seminary students and staff to attend the annual mission seminar February 3-5, 1998, at Mequon, Wisconsin. The invitation was gratefully accepted and appreciated by the attendees. The theme of the seminar was: *Serving God's Family*. It emphasized the Christian service in evangelism at home, at large, and abroad.

President and Mrs. Schmeling conducted a seminar on the parsonage February 13-14, 1998. The purpose of this seminar was to prepare the students and their families for life in the parsonage. This seminar also included a discussion of financial planning.

LUTHERAN SYNOD QUARTERLY

The *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* is the theological journal of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. We are happy to report that subscriptions continue to increase and we receive many favorable comments from subscribers. The staff of the Quarterly is preparing to develop a new format for the journal. The subscription price is \$8.00 per year and can be obtained by writing to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Scholarship Endowment Funds continue to be a blessing to the seminary students. Several scholarship funds have been set up in memory of individuals and the annual dividends are used to help students with their tuition costs. The students are most appreciative of this financial assistance as they pursue their theological education. There is also a General Scholarship Fund to which individuals and organizations donate during the year and which is also used to render assistance to students in need. It is our concern that no one desiring to study for the ministry be denied a theological education for lack of funds.

STUDENT HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The seminary has implemented a student housing assistance. This program is a great benefit for our students preparing for the public ministry.

SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND

We have previously reported that a Seminary Endowment Fund has been established, to be used for seminary needs. We want this fund to grow over the years and therefore we encourage our people to remember it. A bequest would certainly be an appropriate way to perpetuate the work of the seminary as it carries out its task of training pastors to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

FINANCES

The following is a summary of budget receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997.

REVENUES

Tuition and fees	\$ 66,520.00
Synod: Subsidy	64,500.00
Special Match	23,498.00
Gifts and Grants	229,378.00
Other Sources	<u>5,488.00</u>
TOTAL	\$389,384.00

EXPENDITURES

Education & General	\$282,007.00
Maintenance & Utilities	19,250.00
Video Production	<u>59,519.00</u>
TOTAL	\$360,776.00
Increase in Fund Balance	\$ 28,608.00

Gaylin Schmeling, president
John Moldstad, Sr., chairman
Harold Theiste, secretary

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College makes the following recommendations to the 81st annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College has embarked upon a course of action which will bring about the transition to a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution (Higher Education Action of the Synod, 1996 Synod Report, Resolution No. 2, pp. 91-92), and

WHEREAS, Significant funding is necessary for the development of faculty, equipment, facilities, endowments, etc. over the next ten years, and

WHEREAS, In addition to the church there are many corporations, foundations, friends, and alumni interested in supporting Bethany, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents has given assurance that their fund-raising endeavor will be compatible with any synodical mission effort in celebration of 2000 years of Christianity, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod approve a ten-year 100 million dollar program of institutional development in support of Bethany Lutheran College becoming a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution and that this endeavor be under the direction of the Board of Regents of the college.

*HIGHER EDUCATION
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

Resolution No. 1: Anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College Staff Members

WHEREAS, The following anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College Staff members have been observed:

<i>15 years</i>	<i>Joni Wiederhoeft</i>	<i>Office of Financial Aid</i>
<i>10 years</i>	<i>Margaret Lillo</i>	<i>Office of the Registrar</i>
<i>10 years</i>	<i>Jay Roth</i>	<i>Associate Director of Admissions</i>
<i>10 years</i>	<i>David Thompson</i>	<i>Dean of Student Services</i>
<i>10 years</i>	<i>Nancy Wiechmann</i>	<i>Business Education</i>

WHEREAS, The Lord has continued to provide faithful and dedicated workers, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod, thank the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon Bethany Lutheran College through these faithful servants.

Resolution No. 2: Facilities Expansion

WHEREAS, The Bethany Lutheran College Memorial Library has been completed and dedicated this year, and,

WHEREAS, Significant progress is being made on the new residential hall, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks to the Lord of the Church for these new facilities.

Resolution No. 3: Grants

WHEREAS, Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood have made significant financial grants toward the mission goals of Bethany Lutheran College, and,

WHEREAS, The Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary continues to faithfully serve the college in many significant ways, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod express its heartfelt thanks to Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood and the Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary for their continuing support.

Resolution No. 4: Program of Institutional Development

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College has embarked upon a course of action which will bring about the transition to a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution (Higher Education Action of the Synod, 1996 Synod Report, Resolution No. 2, pp. 91 & 92), and,

WHEREAS, Significant funding is necessary for the development of faculty, equipment, facilities, endowments, etc., over the next ten years, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College recommends support for the continued growth of the college, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod approve a ten-year 100 million dollar program of institutional development in support of Bethany Lutheran College becoming a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution and that this endeavor be under the direction of the Board of Regent of the college.

Resolution No. 5: Thanks for Faithful Service

WHEREAS, Professor Wilhelm Petersen stepped down from the office of president of the seminary in 1997, and,

WHEREAS, Professor Petersen served as president of the seminary for seventeen years, and,

WHEREAS, The Lord richly blessed and sustained the work of Professor Petersen during these years, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give most hearty thanks to the Lord for Professor Petersen's most fruitful and salutary service to the Church.

Resolution No. 6: Seminary Enrollment

WHEREAS, The Lord continues to answer our prayers to provide laborers for His harvest (Matthew 9:37-38), and,

WHEREAS, The pastors and laity of our synod play a fundamental role in recruitment efforts for the seminary, and,

WHEREAS, It is by individual efforts that men are encouraged to begin and supported while preparing for the Office of the Holy Ministry, therefore.

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod gives thanks to the Lord for answering our prayers for faithful workers in His kingdom, and.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod extend its appreciation to those pastors and laity who work to extend the mission of the Church by helping in pastoral candidate recruitment efforts, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod heartily recommends that all pastors and lay members continue to seek out, pray for and support qualified men to the end that many enter into preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

In the year past, the Board for Education and Youth met twice to carry on its work. We continue to reap the blessings from the His Truth for Our Youth thankoffering. The board continues to help God's people to learn more of God's saving Word. The Board for Education and Youth seeks to carry out this respon-

sibility with encouragement from and assistance to the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The officers of the board remained the same from last year with Pastor Charles Keeler serving as chairman of the board, Mr. Ron O'Neill as treasurer and Pastor Jonathan Madson as recording secretary. Mr. Ron O'Neill and Pastor Mark Bartels will no longer serve on the board. We thank them for their many years of serving the youth of our synod with their time and talent. Since the work of the Board for Education and Youth covers three areas of training our people, the board is divided into three subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH WORK

The subcommittee on youth deals specifically with the training of young people in our churches. Members of the subcommittee are the following: Pastor Donald Moldstad (chairman), Mr. Ron O'Neill, Mr. Rob Pipal, Pastor Matthew Thompson and Pastor Jonathan Madson (secretary). Pastor Thompson replaced Pastor Mark Bartels who stepped down from his position because of increased work load in his home parish. Many thanks for Pastor Bartels for his many years of serving on the BEY. Mr. Ron O'Neill has declined any further nominations. We thank him for his many years serving on this board, too.

The 1997 Youth Convention was held in Orlando, Florida, July 24-27. Approximately 300 young people and counselors attended. Devotions and Bible studies centered on the theme *Children of the Heavenly Father*. The theme centered around the First Article of the Apostles' Creed. The 1998 convention will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 16-19. The theme will be *More Than Conquerors*. The 1999 convention will be held at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato and the 2000 convention may possibly be held at the new retreat center of the Bethany Lutheran College and the synod near Spooner, Wisconsin.

In 1997 the subcommittee provided grants toward 6 area youth retreats held throughout the synod. We grant up to \$150 per retreat involving more than one ELS church. We also provided \$600 toward the Honor Choir program at Bethany Lutheran College during the 1997 Synod Convention. Camp attendance in the synod's 6 area youth camps continued with good numbers. We continue to produce our youth magazine, *Young Branches*, under the direction of Pastor Donald Moldstad. Our teen devotional booklet *Cling to the Cross* is still available through the Bethany College Bookstore. We are also continuing work on a teen song book.

Pastor Moldstad gave a presentation to the students of the seminary on the work of serving the young souls in our churches. Work is continuing on making a video for youth leaders training. Prof. David Thompson is working on a Bible study about the Christian family.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARISH EDUCATION

The subcommittee on Parish Education assists educational agencies in our synod's congregations. Mr. Glen Hansen serves as chairman. Pastor Fred Lams was appointed to the Board for Education and Youth and joins the subcommittee. Pastor Mark Wold is secretary of the subcommittee and secretary for Sunday schools.

The 1997 Advent devotions were prepared by Pastor Paul Madson and the 1998 Lenten devotions were prepared by Pastor James Braun. The subcommittee seeks pastors interested in producing future Advent and Lenten devotions. A Sunday school teachers' newsletter was sent to pastors serving congregations. It contained a list of recommended hymns for Sunday school children to memorize. No pastors requested certificates during 1997 to honor Sunday school teachers for years of service. We want congregations to know that such certificates are available.

The 1997 convention directed the subcommittee to "examine the need for devotions and Bible studies especially for seniors, begin to address the produc-

	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
<u>1998-1999 :</u>		
Base Salary	\$19,104	\$20,441
Yearly Increment	\$230	\$260
<u>1999-2000:</u>		
Base Salary	\$19,848	\$21,237
Yearly Increment	\$230	\$260
<u>2000-2001:</u>		
Base Salary	\$20,580	\$22,020
Yearly Increment	\$230	\$260

*Continued yearly salary increments may be made contingent upon the teacher obtaining additional credit hours of graduate or undergraduate work. Congregations may wish to establish a maximum range or salary cap for automatic increments, such as 25 years, etc.

To both of the above add the following:

Pension to be figured at 6% of the above.

Paid health insurance, synod plan or the equivalent.

Housing and utilities are to be furnished, either a home or cash allowance based on the average costs in the area.

Additional Recommendations:

1. Other duties assigned to a teacher, but not those expected because of regular congregational membership, such as principalship, should be adequately remunerated.
2. Congregations are encouraged to provide financial support for the teacher's continuing education, and teachers should be encouraged to take a minimum of three credit hours of graduate or undergraduate work during each three year period. Congregations may also wish to establish a salary incentive program to encourage teachers to take additional course work by providing incremental increases based on additional credits, such as after 12, 24, etc.
3. The congregation should insist that the teachers attend the annual teacher's conference, and should provide ways and means to do so.
4. The congregation should encourage all male teachers to attend the synod convention and become permanent advisory members to the synod. Congregations should assist these teachers by providing ways and means to attend.
5. A sick leave of five days shall be granted each year. These shall be accumulated to a maximum of fifty days. For any sick leave beyond the accumulated amount, the cost of substitute teaching may be deducted from the salary of the teacher who is absent.
6. Personal leaves are not to exceed five days each year. The cost of substitute teaching is to be deducted from the teacher's salary for all days over five days. In the event of a death or serious illness in the immediate family, an additional leave shall be considered, its extent to be determined by the congregational Board of Christian Education based on distance and circumstances.
7. Each substitute teacher shall be paid a minimum of \$65 per day.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL STATISTICS 1997-1998

Teachers:

Full Time Men:	15
Full Time Women:	45
Part Time Women:	<u>24</u>
Total:	84

Pupil / Teacher Ratio 17.3 to 1
(16.8 to 1, 1997)

Schools: (does not include those with Kindergarten/Pre-school/ Nursery only)

Total Number:	15
Preschools Only:	2

Enrollment by Grade:

<u>Pre-S</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
237	157	128	121	105	116	101	98	91	89
Total Enrollment:			1,243 Pre-K through 8						
			(1,147 in 1997)						
			1006 K through 8						
			(956 in 1997)						

JOINT CONCERNS

With funds continuing to roll in from the Thankoffering, all three subcommittees are seeking ways to use these gifts in a God-pleasing way for the growth of the kingdom. We are thankful for the efforts of our synod to do God's work among the adults and children in our congregations. May our gracious Lord grant us His continued mercy to bring His truth to His flock entrusted to our care.

The board also recommends the following to the synod:

WHEREAS, The youth of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod are precious souls needing instruction in God's Word and opportunity to fellowship with other young Christians in our synod, and,

WHEREAS, The synod provides certain forums to carry on this work, synod-wide and in our circuits (e.g. youth convention, camps, retreats, etc.), and,

WHEREAS, The costs of conventions, camps, retreats, etc. continue to rise despite efforts to keep the costs at a minimum, making it difficult for some to attend, and,

WHEREAS, Additional funding to keep costs down would enable more youth to attend conventions, camps, retreats, etc.

BE IT RESOLVED, That should the synod approve a synod-wide offering for the year 2000, a portion of that offering be set aside to supplement the costs for the young people of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod to attend youth conventions, camps, retreats, etc. whereby they may be instructed in the Word of God and fellowship with other young Christians in our church body.

Jonathan N. Madson, secretary

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH
ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution No. 1: Board Service

WHEREAS, The Reverend Mark Bartels and Mr. Ron O'Neill have served faithfully on the Board for Education and Youth for many years, and,

WHEREAS, They have declined renomination to the board, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them for their dedication and commitment to the task of promoting Christian Education and Youth work in the synod.

Resolution No. 2: Teachers' Salary Schedule

WHEREAS, The salary schedule recommended by the Board for Education and Youth subcommittee on Christian Day Schools is a realistic minimum salary, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, The synod adopt the recommended salary schedule for Christian Day School teachers.

Resolution No. 3: Teachers' Salary Schedule

WHEREAS, It is recommended that principals receive additional remuneration, and,

WHEREAS, Our parishes with schools look to the annual teachers' salary schedule for guidance in setting reasonable compensation packages, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That starting in 1999 the Board for Education and Youth be directed to include recommendations in regard to the amounts for various degrees of additional principal responsibility.

Resolution No. 4: Youth Convention and Work

WHEREAS, Our youth conventions and retreats have been well attended in the past, and,

WHEREAS, There is a constant need for our youth to fellowship with other youth of the same confession of faith, and,

WHEREAS, These gatherings provide an opportunity to grow in faith through the study of the Word of God, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be encouraged to consider additional ways and means to promote greater involvement of the youth of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in such fellowship and study of God's Word.

Resolution No. 5: Youth Gatherings at the Retreat Center

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Youth Association convention, scheduled for 2000 AD, is planned for the Bethany Lutheran College retreat center near Spooner, Wisconsin, and,

WHEREAS, This facility provides an excellent setting in

which bring the youth of the synod together in Christian fellowship and Bible Study, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth pursue the possibility of holding future youth conventions at this facility.

Resolution No. 6: ELS Education

WHEREAS, We have a new publication, ELS Education, to which there has been a positive response, and,

WHEREAS, The initial issues of ELS Education offered valuable and useful instruction and insights for teachers and education programs, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we strongly encourage the Board for Education and Youth to disseminate sufficient copies of these publications to all those in our congregations who are involved in Christian Education both in the home and the congregation, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the dissemination of this publication be carried out by all available means.

Resolution No. 7: Dissemination of Christian Education Materials

WHEREAS, Information technology is being increasingly available and popular among the people, and,

WHEREAS, The opportunity exists greatly to enhance the ministry of Christian Education of the synod by use of electronic means, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth play a leadership role in making electronic communications more readily available within the synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth encourage the use of compatible software and hardware for such communication, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, The Board for Education and Youth plan for and initiate a central office where such material can be generated and distributed.

Resolution No. 8: Recognition of Sunday School Teachers

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth has developed a teacher recognition proposal, and ,

WHEREAS, The Sunday School teachers and staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod continue to provide God's Word to our youth, and,

WHEREAS, These teachers and staff members do so on a voluntary basis, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage all congregations to continue to recognize in gratitude the Sunday School teachers and staffs for their faithful work in Christ.

Resolution No. 9: Evaluation of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's *Christ Light*

WHEREAS, The congregations Sunday School program plays an important role in the education of the Church's youth, and,

WHEREAS, The Sunday School program provides a foundation for catechism class, adult Bible class, and the worship service, and,

WHEREAS, The cost of Sunday School material is becoming a hardship to smaller congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and they could benefit from a reproducible Sunday School program, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth continue to study the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Christ Light curriculum and make available a detailed review of this curriculum to the synod's congregations as soon as possible, but not later than the 1999 convention.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth begin a study on the feasibility of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod produced Sunday School curriculum, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That they consider basing these materials on pericopal systems, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That they consider publishing it in a reproducible form.

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

Paul's request of the Colossians for prayer support helps us focus on the needs of our home missionaries: "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ . . ." The Board for Home Missions is privileged to pray for those who serve the Savior in our mission fields, to support them in their work and to plan for expanded efforts in the future.

In 1997, God opened doors for our Home Mission congregations. These congregations grew by 122 souls, and the missionaries touched many other lives with the Means of Grace. Evidence of God's blessing on our missions is seen also in the fact that members of our Home Missions contributed \$45,510 to our synod last year.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The board is composed of the following members: Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ*, Chairman; Mr. Robert Smith*, Vice-Chairman; Rev. Richard Wiechmann, Treasurer; Rev. Steven Reagles, Secretary; Mr. John Merseth, Chaplain; Mr. Les Just; Rev. Rod Flohr was appointed to replace Rev. Steven Petersen, former Field Secretary. Those members marked with an asterisk (*) also serve on the Trustee/Home Mission Subcommittee. Chairman Ekhoﬀ also serves on the Long Range Planning Committee.

GENERAL WORK HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to regular quarterly board meetings, special meetings at Synod Convention and Pastoral Conference, conference phone calls, visitations by board members at mission congregations for consultation, exploration of potential sites for evaluation, ongoing supervision of home mission work through monthly pastoral and financial reports, etc., the following are highlights of work and blessings in 1997:

February: The board meeting was held in conjunction with the dedication of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Winter Haven, Florida, and the bi-annual Missions Seminar to which all home missionaries were invited. At this meeting we rejoiced that our synod's mission presence was reestablished at Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ.

May: Plans were approved for outreach in the Gig Harbor, Washington area, working in conjunction with Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard. Final funding plans were approved for the construction of Peace, Lakeland, FL

July: Together with the Board for Foreign Missions, the Board made final plans for the position of "Missions Counselor" which had been approved at the Convention a month earlier. A Call was issued for Clermont, FL.

November: Preliminary approval was granted for construction funding at Grace, Hobart, IN, final approval was granted for building subsidy at Christ the King, Green Bay, WI, approval was granted for the purchase of a church and property at Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH, and final arrangements were made for the purchase of a church at Lord of Life, Holland, MI. Calls were issued for Clermont, FL and the North Mankato, MN area.

Furthermore, the board rejoiced at the success of the tutorial program and van outreach program in place at Emmaus, Chicago, IL, at the fact that Zion, Irwin, PA has reached self support status, and at the continuing work at Family of God, Fort Mojave, AZ and Peace, Kissimmee, FL, two missions which are nearing self support status.

The board continues to work with a ten year plan of funding missions which includes scheduled new starts, present and projected mission subsidies, capital interest subsidies, board expenses and sources of income.

MISSIONS COUNSELOR

Rev. Steven Petersen was installed as Missions Counselor at the 1998 General Pastoral Conference. He will serve as "staff" to both the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Foreign Missions, focusing attention on site selection, policy implementation, personnel, finances and promotion. Present goals include proposing a network of support for the various Women's Missionary Society groups of the synod and preparing a series of missions seminars for the synod in 1999.

THANK YOU

During the past year, various individuals, congregations and other organizations have contributed special gifts toward our home mission efforts. We have been the beneficiary of several generous estates. We continue to appreciate Lutheran Brotherhood's Program Subsidy Grants which fund special outreach projects among our synod. We thank Aid Association for Lutherans for funding our Home Missions Seminar. We are especially grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for matching the synod offerings.

The work we are doing is of eternal importance. To God alone be the glory!

OPERATING BUDGET

HOME MISSIONS	1997 Budget	1998 Budget	1999 Proposed Budget
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$29,000
Redeemer, Scottsdale	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$26,500
Resurrection, Winter Haven	\$32,000	\$27,500	\$20,500
Lord Of Life, Holland	\$31,000	\$26,500	\$20,500
Peace, Lakeland	\$30,500	\$26,500	\$20,000
Family of God, Fort Mohave'	\$10,000	\$4,000	
Peace, Kissimmee	\$7,500	\$2,500	
Saved by Grace, Gresham	\$5,000		

CONGREGATIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT

Zion, Irwin	\$8,800	
Emmaus, Chicago	\$18,000	\$9,000

EXPLORATORY MISSIONS

1997 New Start, Gig Harbor	\$30,000		
1997 New Start	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$40,000
1998 New Start		\$50,000	\$45,000
1998 New Start		\$50,000	\$50,000

BOARD EXPENSES

Advertising and Printing	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Board Expenses	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Missions Counselor	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
Moving Expense	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000

CAPITAL INTEREST SUBSIDIES

Resurrection, Winter Haven	\$28,800	\$27,600	\$26,400
Saved By Grace, Gresham	\$24,600	\$24,600	\$24,600
Peace, Kissimmee	\$22,300	\$22,300	\$22,300
New Life, Sebring	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Christ, Port St. Lucie	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,600
Our Savior, Lakeland	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$2,750

In 1997, the Synod allotted \$158,000 for the Home Mission program. The remainder of the money which was needed to fund the program came from special gifts, Lutheran Brotherhood, The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, estates and earned and accumulated interest.

S.P. Petersen, Missions Counselor

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

Salary Scale for 1999:

Base Salary \$21,200

Car Allowance 3,000

Increment per year of service
(up to 30 years) 250

Education Allowance 150

Housing provided

All Utilities (note change from last year)

Health Insurance provided at lowest deductible

6% Pension (which is to include base salary, car allowance and increment)

Vacation time allotted:

1-5 years 2 Sundays and 20 days

6-15 years 3 Sundays and 25 days

16 + years 4 Sundays and 30 days

HOME MISSIONS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Salary Scale for 1999

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions recommends the salary scale for 1999, and,

WHEREAS, That scale reflects a \$600.00 increase in base salary and includes all utilities,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept this recommendation.

Resolution No. 2: Salary Scale

WHEREAS, There are questions about the adequacy of the recommended base salary for home missionaries,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the board do a thorough review of the salary scale with a view towards a substantial increase.

Resolution No. 3: Home Equity Fund

WHEREAS, Some congregations provide parsonages for their pastors, and,

WHEREAS, The Home Mission salary scale makes no provision for pastors to accumulate equity for future home purchases,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions be directed to investigate and develop a plan for congregations to use, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board present its plan at the next convention.

Resolution No. 4: Thank you for Special Gifts

WHEREAS, The synod has received generous gifts from various benefactors for its home mission,

BE IT RESOLVED, The synod thank God for providing these benefactors.

Resolution No. 5: Financial Contributions from Home Missions

WHEREAS, Our home missions have contributed \$45,410.00 to our synod's work in 1997,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them for their generosity in this area of stewardship.

Resolution No. 6: Home Mission Work for 1997

WHEREAS, Family of God, Fort Mojave, AZ and Peace, Kissimmee, FL are nearing self support status, and,

WHEREAS, Zion, Irwin, PA has reached self support status, and,

WHEREAS, Our synod's mission status was re-established at Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ, and

WHEREAS, Outreach was approved in Gig Harbor, WA area,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod acknowledge the outstanding work of the home missionaries and congregations in evangelism, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the Board for Home Missions to continue aggressively reaching out to the people of the United States with the Gospel.

Resolution No. 7: Urban Reach-Out

WHEREAS, Emmaus, Chicago, IL has initiated special tutorial and van outreach programs,

WHEREAS, These projects have met with success,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage them to continue in these endeavors.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

"Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'" (John 8:31-32). As Christians who know the truth about God, about the Bible, about Jesus, and about the gospel of the forgiveness of sins, we are continually about the work of holding to and proclaiming the teaching of Jesus Christ. We are convinced there is no other truth that can save, and there is no other truth which will do so much to help those in this world who are in need, both spiritually and physically. We thank God that we have had the opportunity for thirty years to bring this truth to the poor of Latin America. We celebrate this year that thirtieth anniversary, praising God for his mercy in preserving us and holding us to that truth in all that we do. May he continue to preserve us, so that truth characterizes everything about us as Christians, and especially the wonderful truth that Jesus has given himself into death for us and the whole world, to free us from sin, death, and the power of Satan.

BOARD PERSONNEL

The Board for Foreign Missions is composed of four pastors and three laymen. They are the Rev. Paul Anderson, chairman; Mr. Marlin Goebel, vice chairman; the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, secretary; Mr. Robert Soule, treasurer; the Rev. David Lillegard, field secretary; the Rev. Kurt Smith, information officer; and Mr. Larry Otto, financial consultant and coordinator. The board holds two-day meetings in January, April, July, and October. We are now meeting at the Synod/Seminary building in Mankato, and are very thankful for these excellent facilities. The president of the synod attends our meetings faithfully.

FIELD PERSONNEL

There are three missionaries serving in Peru. They are the Rev. Timothy Erickson, the Rev. David Haeuser, and the Rev. Terry Schultz. There are at present two missionaries serving in Chile. They are the Rev. Oto Rodriguez and the Rev. Karl Kuenzel. Missionary Kuenzel was commissioned during the annual communion service of the General Pastoral Conference on January 7, 1998. The service was held at Heritage Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota. Missionary Kuenzel comes to us from the WELS, where he served as a missionary in Africa. In recent years he had been working in the secular field and was a member of our synod congregation, St. Paul's in Escondido, California. We welcome Missionary Kuenzel into our synod and into our foreign field.

The Rev. Timothy Bartels resigned from the mission field and from the active ministry for personal reasons on February 15, and returned to the U.S. with his wife and three children. They are presently living in Livonia, Michigan. We thank the Bartels for their four years of service in the Chile Mission, and wish them the Lord's blessings in their chosen field of work.

Plans are being made at the time of this writing (March 1998) to call another man into the Chile field. It is the principle of the Board for Foreign Missions that there should be a minimum of three called missionary-pastors in any field. This is necessary both for the good of the work itself, and for the health and well-being of the missionaries. Your prayers are solicited for the sending of a new missionary into the ripe harvest fields of Chile.

VISITS TO THE MISSION FIELD

It is the responsibility of the board to make visits to the foreign field during the course of the year, in order to communicate and coordinate and study with the teams and make plans for furthering the work. During February 1998 a three-week trip was made to Australia by board member Marlin Goebel, and our new mission counselor, the Rev. Steven Peterson. The congregations of our sister

synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia, were visited and meetings were held with the pastors, the Rev. Mark Tuffin, a graduate of our Bethany Seminary, and the Rev. Peter Prange, a WELS pastor. In April a trip was made to Chile and Peru by field secretary David Lillegard and mission counselor Steven Peterson. Meetings were held with the missionaries and some of the congregations, and various sites were visited where mission work is being carried on.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

This year, as already noted in our synod publications and in the materials for this convention, we are celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the beginning of our independent work in the foreign mission field. In earlier years our synod cooperated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Synodical Conference in working in various places. But in the fall of 1968 we began to bring the gospel to the poor of Lima, Peru, working in the shanty towns surrounding the capital city. From 1973 until August of 1979 work was also carried on in Central America, especially in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Then in 1993 our synod began to work in Santiago, Chile. The Lord has blessed these endeavors, so that many have heard and believed the gospel and in turn bring others. Our principle in doing the work has been to emphasize what we call "indigenous" mission work, in which the people themselves are encouraged and expected to be responsible for carrying on the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. This has been carried out systematically so that at present there are six ordained national pastors in Peru, with more being instructed in the seminary program there and also now in Santiago, Chile. We thank God for having preserved us during these many years, and helped us in our sinful weakness, so that many wonderful fruits can today be seen in the places where the work has been done.

MISSIONS COUNSELOR

In fulfillment of the synod directive of last year to call a Missions Counselor, together with the Board for Home Missions, the Rev. Steven Petersen was called to this position, accepted the call, and has been serving in that capacity since last summer. Since Rev. Petersen was already the field secretary for the Board for Home Missions, it was logical that he should take over most, if not all, of that work. However, the foreign board has been unable to follow the same procedure. There is much that must be learned about the work of foreign missions and how the board operates. Rev. Petersen therefore during the last year has been acquainting himself with the foreign field, and the procedures and business of the foreign board. It is hoped that he will be able to take over more of the work as time goes on. Also, the foreign board expects that the new position of Business Administrator for the synod will be of help especially in the financial dealings of the board.

WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The foreign board is planning for a World Missionary Conference in Plzen, in the Czech Republic, for September 14-21. It is expected that about 70 will participate from around the world. There should be representatives of churches from Peru and Chile, from Australia, from Eastern Europe, and from the U.S. (board members and wives will be attending). The last conference in Lima in 1995 was very worthwhile. Funding is provided by a special grant of about \$75,000.

CAPITAL SPENDING

The board is recommending to the synod that homes be purchased for the missionaries in Peru and Chile. One home is presently owned in Chile. This reverses a policy adopted early in the life of the mission. However, political stability in both countries makes purchasing possible. Also, costs for renting are

rising quickly. When an opportunity arises to purchase at a reasonable cost, the board should be ready to do so. There are funds available for such capital purchases, in the form of various bequests given our foreign mission. At the same time, it is difficult to meet the yearly budget expenses. Purchase of homes would help lower the yearly budget costs, and in the long run could be more economical.

The board has purchased a car for use of missionaries home on furlough. Six months per year is given to the missionaries for furloughs in the states (one month per year for each missionary). Board policy is to rent cars for missionary use. It was decided it would be more economical to purchase a car to be available year-round. The car is being kept at Bethany as part of its fleet. It is a 1997 Mercury Sable station wagon bought for \$11,200.

SALARY SCALE

The board has decided, in line with recommendations from the synod and the field, to raise the salaries for its missionaries, to 15% over the scale used by the Board for Home Missions.

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY

Our thanks to Marlin and Jean Goebel, who have been the ones primarily responsible for publishing *Mission News* during the last 26 years. This publication, with its articles about the work being done in the foreign fields of Peru, Chile, Australia, and eastern Europe, and in our home mission fields, provides valuable information and insight into our mission ventures. The society also serves as the conduit for special gifts to the mission field. During 1997 \$64,490 was given through the FMS. The total receipts from June of 1972 until the end of 1997 totaled about \$577,000. We owe a double debt of gratitude to the Goebels, and to all those who have contributed to the work of our missions through the FMS.

HELPING HANDS

This organization supports two of our foreign missionaries, the Rev. David Haeuser of Peru and (until this year) the Rev. Tim Bartels of Chile. Helping Hands has an endowment fund of about \$704,000, which provided over \$42,000 in interest income in 1997. There were also gifts from other supporters during 1997 totaling about \$78,000. This makes a total of about \$120,000 contributed to the support of the missionaries in the last year. We thank all those who have contributed to our Helping Hands organization in the last year. We also wish to thank Schwan Enterprises for their generous gifts, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Soule of Princeton, Minnesota for their many hours of volunteer work in taking care of the Helping Hands financial matters.

REVISED BUDGET FOR 1998 (March 1998)

	Tim Erickson (20 yrs)	David Haeuser (25 yrs)	Terry Schultz (2 yrs)
Base Salary (8% increase)	\$23,690.00	\$23,690.00	\$23,690.00
Increment	5,000.00	6250.00	500.00
Rent	8,800.00	12000.00	13,200.00
Children's Schooling	15,960.00	7980.00	0.00
Pension	<u>1,901.40</u>	<u>1976.40</u>	<u>1631.40</u>
Totals	\$55,351.40	\$51,896.40	\$39,021.40

	Oto Rodriguez (8 yrs)	Tim Bartels (13 yrs)	Karl Kuenzel (17 yrs)
Base Salary (8% increase)	23,690.00	8,240.00	23,690.00
Increment	2,000.00	1,218.75	4,250.00
Rent	0.00	6,787.50	12,000.00
Children's Schooling	10,500.00	5,016.67	0.00

	Oto Rodriguez (8 yrs)	Tim Bartels (13 yrs)	Karl Kuenzel (17 yrs)
Pension	<u>1,721.40</u>	<u>635.02</u>	<u>1,856.40</u>
Totals	37,911.40	21,897.94	41,796.40

The pension is figured at 6% of Base, Increment, and Car allowance.

Total salaries are: \$247,874.94.

OTHER EXPENSES

	Peru (3 men)	Chile (3 men)
Health Insurance	19,584	19,584
Missionaries' Utilities	10,800	10,800
Car allowance	9,000	9,000
Vehicle Replacement	8,000	8,000
Furloughs	12,000	12,000
Office Supplies	5,000	5,000
Printing & Literature	3,000	3,000
Furnishings Replacement	1,000	1,000
Utilities & Insurance	10,200	12,000
Language Study	2,000	5,000
Field Travel	3,000	3,000
Visa Expense	1,500	1,500
Personnel Change	10,000	40,000
Accountant (Lawyer)	2,000	2,000
Synod Term Insurance	500	500
College Student Airfare	6,000	
Secretary	3,000	
Board Expenses	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Totals	\$111,084	\$136,884

BRIEF SUMMARY OF EXPECTED EXPENSES

Total Salaries	\$247,874.94
Mission Counselor	10,000.00
Anniversary	10,000.00
Peru "Other Expenses"	111,084.00
Chile "Other Expenses"	136,884.00
Peru Seminary	50,000.00
Chile Seminary	10,000.00
Peru National Pastors	50,000.00
Peru Congregation Support	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total	637,842.95

BRIEF SUMMARY OF EXPECTED INCOME

Synod Budget	140,000.00
Schwan Match	250,000.00
Peru Sem Endowment	70,000.00
Chile Sem Grant	65,000.00
H.H. Interest	40,000.00
H.H. Donations	35,000.00
H.H. Schwan Gift	30,000.00
WOW Fund Interest	7,000.00
Miscellaneous Gifts	<u>842.95</u>
Total	\$637,842.95

THOUGHTS OF FAITH

This is a "Church Related Organization" which is to operate in consultation with an appropriate board assigned by the synod, which in this case is the Board for Foreign Missions. According to the guidelines adopted by the synod in 1988, the synodical board shall receive complete financial statements and

reports of operation from the organization for review at least semi-annually, and shall report to the regular conventions of the synod regarding the finances and operation of the organization. A Church Related Organization may seek financial support directly or indirectly from the membership of the synod, but all fund raising appeals are to be reviewed by the synod's Board for Stewardship. Thoughts of Faith has its own board of directors and its own source of funding. It does not receive any funding directly from the synod.

During the course of 1997 regular reports were not received from TOF, and communication with TOF was not adequate. However, the Board for Foreign Missions has now been invited to send a representative to the meetings of Thoughts of Faith. The new mission counselor is also invited. The Board is pleased with this prospect of improved communication and consultation in the future.

The following report has been submitted by the Rev. David Meyer, the Administrator of Thoughts of Faith.

Czech Republic

The missionaries and teachers of Thoughts of Faith, Inc., continue in their calling to proclaim the Word of God to the people of Czech Republic. Our efforts are concentrated in the city of Plzen where St. Paul Lutheran Church and Martin Luther School are located. This year's enrollment in the school reached 140 students in grades K-9. Classes at the school are taught in English except as required by the Czech Education Department e.g., Czech language and history. Most importantly the classes are taught from a Christian perspective. Each day these little children hear the message of sin and grace, condemnation and forgiveness, God's Law and Gospel. The love of God as displayed by Christ's perfect life and innocent suffering and death is the most important lesson these students will ever learn. Our staff rejoices at the opportunity the Lord has given them to share this life-giving message with these precious little souls. The teachers for the 1997-1998 school year are: Robert Hill, principal; Jeanette Ewart; Kim Festerling; Mary Grubbs; Jennifer Harper; Marlene Hill; Paul Kelm; Heidi Lemke; Emily Luttman; Nancy Luttman; Tim Treder.

The director of our mission in Czech Republic is Rev. Matthew Luttman who has served in Czech Republic for five years. Matt oversees and coordinates the work of the church and school and reports to the Board of Directors. This year he was joined by two new missionaries. Rev. Mark Grubbs and his family moved to the Czech Republic in July. He was installed as the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church on October 12, 1997. Mark is teaching religion classes in the school, confirmation class, Bible Class, conducting the Sunday Worship services and studying the Czech language. Rev. Jim Krueger was commissioned as a missionary to Czech Republic on December 14, 1997 at a service held in Eau Claire, WI. The Krueger family arrived in Plzen during January of 1998. Jim is studying the Czech language and also helps out with school religion classes, Sunday services and Chapel services.

Although the main mission work is concentrated on the congregation and school, additional plans are being made for the future. The mission has started advertising its services in local and regional newspapers. These ads have served to find interested people in Plzen as well as to locate areas for possible future outreach activities. Everyone who responds to these ads is sent a Czech translation of Luther's Small Catechism free of charge.

Consideration is also being given to starting a Christian Reading Room or Pro Life Counseling Center. We already have a building available that is located on one of the city's main tram lines and we are trying to determine how best to use it to spread God's Word.

The beginning of a radio ministry has also been considered. Although it was determined that this would be a good way to further the spread of the Gospel, the funding is not currently available for such an expansion. Nevertheless we

will continue to work diligently to share the Good News of the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus trusting that the Lord is in charge of all things, guiding and blessing these efforts according to His will.

Ukraine:

1997 saw the continuance of the preaching of the Gospel message in Ukraine as well. The rapid growth of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church has been truly awe-inspiring, another testimony to the grace and power of our heavenly Father. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church is led by Bishop (President) John Shep who also serves as the program director for Thoughts of Faith, Inc. Membership in the Ukrainian Lutheran Church has grown to nearly 450, with an average Sunday attendance of over 1,000.

The Church's seven congregations are located in Kyiv, Ternopil, Kremenetz, Zaporizhia, Sevastopol, Mykolaev and Ivanivka. Additional preaching stations are located in Simferopol, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lazarivka, the left bank of Kyiv and Kharkiv.

The first class from the Ukrainian Lutheran Theological Seminary of St. Sophia will graduate during 1998 and these four men will be assigned to serve these congregations. The Seminary is directed by Rector Jay Webber. Rev. Webber determines the course work and schedules the professors who will teach these classes. The professors are ELS and WELS pastors and professors who come to Ukraine to teach intensive classes for a two or three week period. The enrollment in the Seminary is 15, 11 in the Graduate department and 4 in the Pre-Seminary department. The majority of the instruction in the Pre-Seminary department is conducted by Pastor Roger Kovaciny.

During 1997 several important events occurred for the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. In February Rev. Joel Rakos arrived to serve as pastor of the congregation in Ternopil. September saw the official recognition of the Seminary by the government of Ukraine. On October 5, 1997, Konstantin Mamberger was ordained as the first native Ukrainian Lutheran pastor serving in the ULC. Rev. Mamberger is a graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato, MN. It was also during October that two churches located in Mykolaev and Ivanivka were accepted as congregations of the ULC. These churches and their pastor had left another church body for theological reasons and were very happy to find a confessional home in the ULC.

The humanitarian work of Thoughts of Faith, Inc., Medical Clinics on Wheels, continues to operate in Ukraine. During 1997 the clinics celebrated their 5th anniversary serving the medical and dental needs of the people of Ukraine. In the past five years more than 40,000 patients have been seen by the doctors and nurses of the clinics. In addition to treating the people of the Ternopil region the clinics visited the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol this past year. Each child that visits the clinics is given a brochure that tells them about their Savior, Jesus Christ, and directs them to the nearest congregation of the ULC. Three Ukrainian Lutherans for Life pro-life counseling centers continue to operate and there are plans to open a fourth center in 1998. As a result of the work of these centers many mothers have been convinced not to abort their babies. Several of the mothers and babies are now members of the congregations of the ULC. These mothers and their children are often helped by the humanitarian aid that is collected in the States to be distributed in Ukraine. Needy members of the congregations and society at large have also benefited from these generous gifts given by their Christian brothers and sisters in the U.S.

Latvia

The work conducted in the Baltic country of Latvia also continued during 1997. The Augsburg Institute, which receives a majority of its funding through Thoughts of Faith, Inc., publishes the Latvian Lutheran newspaper, as well as a quarterly theological journal. The Institute also sponsors classes in Lutheran

theology and the biblical languages. The Book of Concord has been translated into Latvian and is awaiting publication. Under the direction of Rev. Gundars Bakulis, a graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Institute continues to strive to exert a confessional influence on the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Although small in numbers, the members of the Augsburg Institute remain very committed to spreading Confessional Lutheranism to the people of Latvia. We pray that the Lord will bless their efforts as they struggle to reform the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. St. Paul encouraged the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Thoughts of Faith, Inc., has every reason to heed those words and we do "rejoice in the Lord." He has given us the blessed Gospel message to share with the people of Eastern Europe. He blesses our efforts as we proclaim this Good News to the people of Czech Republic, Ukraine and Latvia. And we pray that He will allow us to continue in this work so that each day more and more people will be added to the Holy Christian Church where they will, "Rejoice in the Lord always."

FINANCIAL REPORT (Thoughts of Faith)

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Endowment	Total
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash				
Petty Cash - Firstar	282.10	---	---	282.10
Cash - Checking Firstar	21,475.14	---	---	21,475.14
Cash - Payroll Firstar	2,245.23	---	---	2,245.23
Cash - MCOM	23,428.93	---	---	23,428.93
Cash - Gift of Life	(2,656.51)	---	---	(2,656.51)
Cash - WELS/Lutherans for Life	103,205.64	---	---	103,205.64
Cash - ULC	30,431.46	---	---	30,431.46
Cash - Czech-Plzen	36,571.96	---	---	36,571.96
Cash - Martin Luther Foundatn	27,000.00	---	---	27,000.00
Cash - Agriculture	(262.11)	---	---	(262.11)
Due from Corporate	585,989.14	---	100,000.00	685,989.14
Total Cash	827,710.98	---	100,000.00	927,710.98
Prepaid Expenses				
Prepaid Expenses	14,660.00	---	---	14,660.00
Total Prepaid Expenses	14,660.00	---	---	14,660.00
Investments				
Accounts Receivable	6,611.67	---	---	6,611.67
Firstar Revocable Trust	338,910.61	---	1,262,262.25	1,601,172.86
Total Investments	345,522.28	---	1,262,262.25	1,607,784.53
Notes Receivable				
Note Receivable - Makinen	6,172.94	---	---	6,172.94
Note Receivable - Meyer	16,050.00	---	---	16,050.00
Note Receivable - Tkach	3,300.00	---	---	3,300.00
Note Receivable - Polozov	15,000.00	---	---	15,000.00
Note Receivable - Pavlovna	1,000.00	---	---	1,000.00
Total Notes Receivable	41,522.94	---	---	41,522.94
Total Current Assets	1,229,416.20	---	1,362,262.25	2,591,678.45

Fixed Assets				
Construction Deposit	4,000.00	---	---	4,000.00
Acquisition Cost	4,671,741.39	---	---	4,671,741.39
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,568,652.37)	---	---	(1,568,652.37)
Total Fixed Assets	3,107,089.02	---	---	3,107,089.02
Total Assets	4,336,505.22	---	1,362,262.25	5,698,767.47
Liabilities and Fund Balances				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	135,123.25	---	---	135,123.25
Federal Taxes Payable	1,901.87	---	---	1,901.87
State Taxes Payable	(920.90)	---	---	(920.90)
Due to Endowment and Programs	599,253.14	86,736.00	---	685,989.14
Deferred Contributions	624,992.00	---	---	624,992.00
Total Current Liabilities	1,360,349.36	86,736.00	---	1,447,085.36
Total Liabilities	1,360,349.36	86,736.00	---	1,447,085.36
Fund Balances				
Beginning Fund Balances	3,462,375.65	(86,736.00)	1,119,334.88	4,494,974.53
Current Net Revenue Over Expenditures	(486,219.79)	---	242,927.37	(243,292.42)
Total Fund Balances	2,976,155.86	(86,736.00)	1,362,262.25	4,251,682.11
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,336,505.22	---	1,362,262.25	5,698,767.47

David Lillegard, Field Secretary

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Board for Foreign Missions would recommend the following to the synod:
A Scandinavian Fund be established to help our brethren in the LBK.

RESOLVED, That a committee which may be appointed to consider a special millenium offering be directed in whole or in major part for the opening of a new foreign mission field.

FOREIGN MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Thirtieth Anniversary

WHEREAS, Our convention this year is marking the thirtieth anniversary of doing mission work in South America, and

WHEREAS, The Lord has richly blessed the efforts of spreading the Good News of salvation in Christ and has brought many to faith through the preaching and teaching of our missionaries and the national pastors, and

WHEREAS, Through the grace of God there are now 27 preaching stations in Peru and 4 in Chile which minister to a combined total of over 800 baptized souls, and

WHEREAS, Through God's grace there are now six ordained

national pastors in Peru and other men enrolled in our seminary in Lima, and

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the synod's efforts in Peru and Chile through Helping Hands and Faith Mission Society,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks to God for having opened up this field "white unto harvest" through the work of his Holy Spirit and for preserving the preaching of His Word in its truth and purity among our many South American brothers and sisters in Christ.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod ask the Lord to continue showering his blessings and guidance upon the synod's future mission efforts in Peru, Chile and other countries around the world.

Resolution No. 2: Bartels Family

WHEREAS, Missionary Timothy Bartels and family have returned to the United States following his service as an ELS missionary in Chile,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to Pastor Bartels and his family for the years of faithful service in Chile.

Resolution No. 3: Sparley Family

WHEREAS, Missionary Steven Sparley and family have returned to the United States following his service as a missionary for Thoughts of Faith, a church-related organization, in Plzen, Czech Republic,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to Pastor Sparley and his family for the years of faithful service in Plzen.

Resolution No. 4: Scandinavian Fund

WHEREAS, God richly blessed the Norwegian Synod in its early history, sending faithful pastors from Norway to minister to the immigrant families and future generations who passed on the true faith to us, and

WHEREAS, Our sister congregation in Avaldsnes, Norway has asked for financial assistance from our synod in providing a pastor to help attend to the parish needs of the widespread flock of the congregation along the coast of Norway, and

WHEREAS, Our Board for Foreign Missions has indicated its willingness to provide a financial sum of \$10,000 for this purpose, and

WHEREAS, The board has passed the following resolution: "Resolved, that we recommend to the synod that we establish a Scandinavian Fund to help our brethren in the Lutheran Confessional Church of Sweden and Norway (LBK)," and

WHEREAS, The offering at our convention's Wednesday

evening Communion service already has been designated for the work of foreign missions,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod establish a "Scandinavian Fund" to help our brethren in the Lutheran Confessional Church (Norway and Sweden), and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That this convention's Wednesday evening Communion Service offering, which has been designated for foreign missions, be used to initiate such a fund, and

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we prayerfully encourage awareness throughout the synod for the work of the Lord being done throughout the Scandinavian field.

Resolution No. 5: Capital Spending

WHEREAS, The political climate in the South American mission fields has grown more stable, and

WHEREAS, It is now more economically feasible to purchase homes in Peru and Chile, and

WHEREAS, The Board for Foreign Missions is recommending to the synod that homes be purchased for missionaries in Peru and Chile,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod authorize the Board for Foreign Missions to purchase homes for the missionaries in Peru and Chile, upon the approval of the Board of Trustees, whenever it is economically feasible.

Resolution No. 6: Marlin and Jean Goebel

WHEREAS, The publication of Mission News has been a great help in promoting our synod's foreign mission work,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank Marlin and Jean Goebel for their dedication and faithfulness in publishing Mission News during the past 26 years.

Resolution No. 7: Missions Counselor

WHEREAS, The Rev. Steven Petersen accepted the call to serve as our synod's Missions Counselor, and

WHEREAS, During the past year he has been acquainting himself with the work of foreign missions and the way in which the Board for Foreign Missions operates,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage Rev. Petersen in his new calling and pray that the Lord will use him to assist our Board for Foreign Missions in its efforts to shine the light of the Gospel on souls still living in spiritual darkness.

Resolution No. 8: Thoughts of Faith

WHEREAS, The Board for Foreign Missions is pleased to report that a representative of the board and the new missions counselor have been invited to be present at future meetings of Thoughts of Faith, a church-related organization, and

WHEREAS, The board is now receiving regular reports from Thoughts of Faith,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage communication and consultation between the Board for Foreign Missions and Thoughts of Faith.

Resolution No. 9: Four Corners Mission Society

WHEREAS a new mission society, Four Corners Missions, Inc. has been formed for work in the Czech Republic, and

WHEREAS the mission society has solicited donations from the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and

WHEREAS the official status of this society is unclear,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Four Corners Mission Society be strong encouraged to apply for church-related status with the ELS and to come under the guidelines established by the synod for church-related organizations while it continues to seek support from the synod.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

"Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?..." Romans 10:13,14 (NKJV)

We, as a synod, as the Board for Evangelism, and as individuals can be thankful for another year of God's grace. During this year, we've all been hearing the Gospel, which is the power of God to keep our faith in Christ alive and save us. We have often been able to call on the name of Jesus in prayer and praise. Many others that we know have not yet called on the name of the Lord. They still need to hear the Gospel of Christ that He lived, died and rose from death to give them eternal life as a gift.

BOARD MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Sharing this good news with others is a special concern of the Board for Evangelism. To this end the board met three times this past year (Oct., 1997, Feb., 1998, and Apr., 1998) The board has five members: Pastors - Michael Smith (chairman), Kenneth Mellon, and Nathan Krause; Laymen - Bruce Peterson and Mike Mahnke. Bruce Peterson has served on the board for the past 5 1/2 years and has decided not to continue on the board after his term expires at this convention. We thank him for his service to his Lord and the synod!

EVANGELISM WORKSHOPS

This past year the board presented more evangelism workshops in several circuits of the synod: Circuit 8 held at King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN, October, 1997; Circuit 4, held at Holy Cross, Madison, WI, November, 1997; Circuit 10, held at Pomona, CA, April, 1998; Circuit 3, held at Holy Scripture, Midland, MI, May, 1998. We had originally planned to have two workshops a year. But, due to the grant by Aid Association of Lutherans (AAL) and due to the manpower available we have presented a total of seven workshops in the past two years.

More workshops will be scheduled for the remainder of 1998 and 1999. A video of the workshop was taped and is available to congregations through Mike Smith.

TRACTS

The series of fifteen tracts entitled, "We're Glad You Asked About..." are being used in our ELS congregations. The demand for many of the tracts has been so high that several tracts were reprinted. Several thousand copies were made of the three most popular ones: Jesus, The Bible, Close Communion. This past year these fifteen tracts were translated into Spanish and are available as masters. Contact the board secretary for either series of tracts. New tracts are being developed with brief law and gospel presentations.

EVANGELISM SUNDAY RESOURCE BOOKS

More evangelism Bible studies have been distributed to pastors. These complement the series of evangelism sermons which were distributed previously. Evangelism Sunday publicity material is also included. New pastors receive a complete updated book.

EVANGELISM NEWSLETTER

The board has a goal to publish a newsletter twice a year. It's called *Evangelism Notes*. The new editor is Rev. Nathan Krause. The first revised newsletter came out this spring. Through the newsletter the board hopes to have a balance of theological studies regarding evangelism and practical help for pastors and lay people.

SEMINARY WORKSHOP

On April 20, 1998 for the first time the board held a seminary workshop. It offered the students a view of "real world" situations for evangelism and how to anticipate and address them from a pastoral perspective. The focus remained on the biblical truths which must be upheld for evangelism and how those truths can be presented to people by the pastor and congregation scheduling time for evangelism calls and other outreach.

FUTURE PLANS

Future plans of the board include a workshop for the students at Bethany Lutheran College, with emphasis on evangelism in vocational situations. The board also hopes to serve as consultants for more individual ELS congregations who are planning specific types of evangelism outreach.

The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine,
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
(*Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* # 171 v. 2)

Kenneth E. Mellon, Secretary

EVANGELISM ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Work of the Board

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism in its report reminded us that we should be thankful for another year of God's grace, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the Board for

Evangelism to continue its efforts in developing materials to help pastors and congregations bring the saving gospel to more people.

Resolution No. 2: Thank You

WHEREAS, Mr. Bruce Peterson is stepping down from the Board for Evangelism after 5 and 1/2 years of service, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank Mr. Bruce Peterson for his faithful service.

Resolution No. 3: Evangelism Workshops

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has presented four evangelism workshops in various circuits of the synod this past year, and,

WHEREAS, These were well produced, and were an excellent teaching tool, and motivated people to witness the Gospel, and,

WHEREAS, The Board has videotaped this workshop and made it available to congregations through the Rev. Michael Smith, and,

WHEREAS, This excellent workshop should be readily accessible to the circuits of our synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Board for Evangelism for this work and encourage them to present the workshop in the remaining circuits, and,

B. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the synod thank AAL for a generous grant which helps defray the costs of these workshops, and,

C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board make copies of the video of the workshop for every Circuit Visitor who shall circulate them to the congregations in his area.

Resolution No. 4: Tracts

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has produced a series of fifteen tracts on a variety of topics; entitled: We're Glad You Asked About..., and,

WHEREAS, New tracts are being developed with brief law and gospel presentations, and,

WHEREAS, The need has been expressed for tracts that would explain what it means to be a confessional Lutheran and the difference between the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee of the ELS has produced such a brochure entitled, What's Going on Among Lutherans Today?, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Board for Evangelism for producing this series and encourage congregations to make use of them, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board be encouraged to produce more tracts, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board give top priority afore mentioned to publishing tracts on confessional Lutheranism, and, consider using the Doctrine Committee's brochure as a basis, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That this be our answer to the memorial from Christ Lutheran Church, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Resolution No. 5: Memorial

BE IT RESOLVED, That an appropriate theme and essay for the 1999 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be left to the discretion of the president of the synod.

Resolution No. 6: Memorial

BE IT RESOLVED, That floor committee No. 5, Public Press and Convention Sentinel, handle any press release on the actions of this convention.

Resolution # 7: Evangelism Publications

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism continues to publish semi-annually a newsletter about evangelism entitled, Evangelism Notes, and,

WHEREAS, The board has published an Evangelism Sunday Resource Book, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the board for these publications and encourage their use in each congregation.

Resolution # 8: Seminary Workshop

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism for the first time held a workshop for seminary students, and,

WHEREAS, This workshop offered the students an increased view of "real world" situations for evangelism and how to anticipate and address them from a pastoral perspective, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend the board for presenting this workshop, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board continue its efforts to broaden the understanding of our seminary students in the area of evangelism.

Resolution # 9: Future Plans

WHEREAS, The future plans of the Board for Evangelism include a workshop for the students at Bethany Lutheran College, and,

WHEREAS, This workshop will emphasize evangelism in vocational situations, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the board to hold this evangelism workshop adapted to the needs of the students of Bethany Lutheran College.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

Members of the board serving this past year were: Chairman Robert Deering, Rev. Walther Gullixson, Rev. Bradley Homan, Lance Schwartz, Rev. Roger Holtz and Howard Siewert.

The highest priority on the board's agenda is always the publishing of the "Sentinel." It is the objective of the board to get a copy of the "Sentinel" into every member home within the synod. With this in mind, we encourage every congregation to take a blanket subscription for all of their members.

Rev. Theodore Gullixson is doing an excellent job in his second year as the "Sentinel" editor. The publication continues to have a good balance of scriptural and synod news articles. Editor Gullixson develops a monthly theme and determines article content for an entire year in advance. Those who note such things have seen a dramatic improvement in the design of the "Sentinel" over the past six months. Editor Gullixson had enlisted the services of a talented graphic designer. The cost of these services is offset by an equivalent cost savings at the printer.

Rev. Gullixson is ably assisted by Business Manager, Leighton Humphrey; Managing Editor, Rev. Wayne Halvorson and Assistant Editor, Rev. Michael Smith.

During this past year, the board approved the reprinting of "Luther's Small Catechism," the "Catechism Workbook," the "Three Creeds" of the "I Believe" series and the synodical brochure.

The board approved and assisted in the printing of a directory of synod churches and pastors. This appeared in the April 1998 issue of the "Sentinel" and is intended to be removed and kept as a reference to be used when traveling. Also a synod pictorial directory is in the works and should be completed by convention time.

The Board for Publications oversees the publication of the Synod Report, which for the second year, will be compiled by synod secretary, Rev. Craig Ferkenstad. Much of this is now being compiled on a computer, which will reduce the cost of printing in 1998.

Board member, Rev. Bradley Homan, solicits copy from other boards for the publication and distribution of approximately twelve bulletin inserts. These are now all printed and sent out at one time, at the beginning of the year, greatly reducing the cost of distribution.

The "Sentinel" generated income of \$37,285.00 but cost \$55,646.00. The board had other expenses, in excess of income, totaling \$20,492.00 for total net expense of \$38,853.00. The board requests that their allotted annual budget be increased from \$32,000 to \$35,000.

Howard L. Siewert, Secretary

PUBLICATIONS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Blanket Subscription for the *Lutheran Sentinel*

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Sentinel is a fine, edifying and informative publication which is based squarely upon the Word of God and serves to promote interest in our synodical activities, and,

WHEREAS, the appearance and format of the Lutheran Sentinel is now more attractive and easy to read, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that each pastor and delegate to this convention work to promote adoption of a blanket subscription for their congregation.

Resolution No. 2: Book Publications

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications is reprinting The Small Catechism, the Catechism Workbook and the Three Creeds of the I Believe series and the synodical brochure, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the pastors and congregations of our synod continue to make use of these fine publications.

Resolution No. 3: Pictorial Directory

WHEREAS: In 1997 the synod asked the Board for Publications to look into the feasibility of producing a new pictorial directory, and,

WHEREAS: This directory has been produced and distributed at this year's convention, therefore,

A: BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the board for their quick action and,

B: BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the use of this helpful tool.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

One regular meeting in Mankato and one Conference Call meeting have been held since our last report to the synod.

The Board for Christian Service was organized by re-electing Mr. Don Heiliger as Chairman. Rev. John E. Smith was re-elected Secretary. Mr. Stanley Reinholtz was re-elected Insurance and Pension Manager. Rev. David Hoyord was elected Communication coordinator. Mr. Herb Berg was elected Widow and Retired Workers Special Needs Coordinator.

The following actions were taken by the board during the past year.

1. Re: Pastor and Christian Day School Teachers' term life insurance
We encourage each congregation to pay this premium for its called workers:

\$144.00 per year for all workers up to age 65 for \$50,000 coverage

\$93.60 per year for all workers age 65-69 for \$32,500 coverage

\$56.16 per year for all active Pastors or Teachers over 70 years for \$19,500 coverage.

2. Re: World Needs Fund

The Board for Christian Service would like to thank everyone who contributed to the World Needs Fund. A good share of your gifts were distributed as follows:

\$60,000+ for flood relief

1,000 T.B. Fund, Peru Mission

1,000 Chile Mission account to help repair a missionary's home

1,500 Fire victims

6,500 Help pastors, pastor's widows and a seminary student

3. Re: WELS Care-Line for all members of the ELS

The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (WELS) maintains a Care-Line for all members of their synod and ours. They will refer the caller to a Christian counselor in their area. The toll-free number is 1-800-422-7341. We thank the WELS for this service and encourage our synod members to use this service.

4. Re: Widow's Subsidies

As of January 1998 subsidies for widows of pastors raised \$10.00 per month.

5. Re: Pastor and Teacher retirement

The Board for Christian Service continues to encourage all congregations to provide adequate retirement funds for their called workers

6. Re: Proposed budget for 1997 payments

Subsidy payments \$23,322.80

Group life insurance 5,000.00

Retirement payments 4,146.36

Board expenses 1,000.00

\$33,479.16

7. Re: ELS Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) Contribution Plan

It was resolved at the 1997 ELS Convention "that the Board for Christian Service present a specific pension plan (for Pastors and Christian Day School Teachers) to the Board of Trustees by the end of the calendar year 1997" (SR 1997, page 115).

It should be possible for congregations both large and small to assist their pastors and teachers by beginning a retirement program for called workers, if the congregation has not already done so. The following plan is intended to assist the pastors and teachers of the ELS with their retirement planning. It is a small token of our love toward those who have served us so faithfully.

We encourage our pastors and teachers to get investment advice from AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, or from their own personal advisor. They should consider investing with a national firm so that an agent will always be available in the various states to which our ELS workers are called. (Note: A TSA is a Tax Sheltered Annuity commonly used for those who are employed by a non-profit corporation.)

The Board for Christian Service recommends the synod adopt the following plan:

ELS TSA CONTRIBUTION PLAN GUIDELINES

I. Eligibility

- A. This plan is also intended to encourage the local congregation to provide for the future retirement of its workers. ELS TSA contributions will be remitted only to those ELS congregations that have already placed money into the TSA plans of their workers during the previous six months. Congregational contributions must be at least similar (\$250) and preferably larger than the amount contributed by the synod.
- B. To be eligible, workers must be employed at least half-time. No part-time workers or volunteers will be covered under this plan.
- C. For a worker to receive a pension payment during any given year, he/she must have been employed on or before November 1 of the pension plan's fiscal year and must have worked at least six months by April 30. Workers who change locations and begin work in an ELS congregation after November 1 will be covered providing their previous position was also in the ELS.
- D. Pastors and teachers of independent congregations affiliated with the ELS are not eligible for pension payments unless the pastor or teacher is himself/herself a member of the ELS.
- E. Since workers at Bethany College and Seminary, at Thoughts of Faith and at the various administrative and mission posts (foreign and home missionaries) of the ELS are already provided with a pension plan through their calls, these workers are not eligible for the *ELS TSA Contribution Plan*.
- F. This plan is not intended to cover substitute teachers or vacancy pastors.

II. Procedure

- A. On April 1 of each year the synod's Business Administrator will mail forms to each congregation to determine eligibility.
- B. The forms require two signatures: that of the church worker and that of the congregational treasurer.
- C. Forms must be completed and returned to the synod's Business Administrator by April 30 for payment.
- D. Contributions will be made by the ELS each year on or about May 20.
- E. Since both pastors and teachers (called and/or contracted) are covered, we will use a Fiscal Year of July 1 - June 30 for the Contribution Plan. This will make it easier for us to do our calculations regarding eligibility.

John E. Smith, Secretary

CHRISTIAN SERVICE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Pastors' and Christian Day School Teachers' Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, many of our congregations are unaware that the synod provides \$50,000 for term life insurance at a cost of \$144.00 per year, per called worker up to age 65; \$32,500 of life insurance at a cost of \$93.60 per year for all workers age 65-69;

\$19,500 of life insurance at a cost of \$56.16 per year for active pastors or teachers over 70 years of age, and pays the premium if the congregation does not pay it, and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of each congregation to provide for the needs of the called workers, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Board for Christian Service to send a letter to each congregation president, to be read before a voters' assembly of the congregation, that explains the term life insurance and encourages each congregation to pay the premium.

Resolution No. 2: World Needs Fund

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service sent over \$60,000 for flood relief, \$1,000 to a TB fund for the Peru mission, \$1,000 to the Chilean mission to repair a missionary's home, \$1,500 for fire victims, \$6,500 for various help for pastors, pastors' widows, and a seminary student, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank God for giving us the ability to assist people in such physical needs, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service continue to encourage congregations to contribute to this fund as God gives the opportunity.

Resolution No. 3: WELS Care-line

WHEREAS, The synod encourages its people to go primarily to their pastor for any spiritual need to receive God's grace in absolution, and,

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod maintains a Christian counseling program called WELS Care-line (1-800-422-7341), available for laypeople, pastors, and teachers of the WELS and ELS, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod and its members continue to thank WELS for this service, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That by publicizing the purpose and telephone number of the Care-line to synod members, we encourage our members confidently to make appropriate use of this Care-line in any matter that does not infringe on the call of their pastor(s).

Resolution No. 4: Widows' subsidies

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has done a most commendable job of watching out for possible financial needs of the widows of our pastors and teachers, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend the Board for Christian Service for the individual care given to the widows of these church workers.

Resolution No. 5: Pastor/Teacher Retirement

WHEREAS, Last year's synod convention resolved to ask the Board for Christian Service for a specific pension plan (1997 Synod Report, page 115), and,

WHEREAS, The Board has presented ELS TSA Contribution Plan Guidelines, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the guidelines.

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Following the publication of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* in 1996 and pursuant to directives of the 1997 convention, the Worship Committee is now occupied with the preparation of supplementary books to complement the use of ELH. The bulk of the year's work has focused upon the initial gathering of information for a Handbook to ELH that will include historical information on the poets, composers and arrangers of the hymns as well as information pertaining to liturgical practice in the Lutheran tradition, and specifically in the ELS. It is our hope to have a document ready for the publisher by the fall of 1999, pending financial support from the synod.

After the exhausting work leading to the publication of a worship book, the committee has re-examined the 1975 constitutional guidelines for its work, and proposes the following goals for its future work.

1. To encourage congregations of the synod (and especially new and mission congregations) to adopt ELH as the congregational worship book.

2. To provide assistance to congregations desiring worship workshops supporting the practice of Evangelical Lutheran worship.

3. To encourage pastors, choirs, organists and teachers to lead the congregations of the synod in worship practices that respect the integrity of the worship forms that we have inherited from our forebears, not just as a witness to our "ethnic background" but as a significant public manifestation of our living confession of Christ.

4. To encourage the production of new worship resources (translations, paraphrases, new poetry and music of a worthy and cultivated nature) for the use of the congregations and schools of the synod.

5. To provide a worship curriculum for use in Sunday Schools and Christian Day Schools of the synod, reflecting the traditions and confession of the synod, to the end that young men and women are supported and nurtured in the way of Evangelical Lutheran worship.

6. To encourage the cultivation of church musicians and liturgically informed pastors and teachers via the programs of studies in religion, music and church music at Bethany Lutheran College.

7. To encourage the curriculum committee of the seminary to discuss the development of the present worship course into a series of courses that enlarge upon the preparation that future pastors could have in order to be conversant with liturgical matters, with the possible goal of at least three course offerings in systematic and practical liturgy, including courses in 1. The Theology and History of the Liturgy; 2. The Theology and Development of Christian Hymnody; 3. Liturgical Planning and Practice, as well as elective courses supportive of the liturgy, including private music lessons, a seminary chorus (or a seminary mixed chorus for students and wives), and a course in the musical traditions of the Lutheran Church.

8. To explore the possibility of the reintroduction of the synodical “choral union,” perhaps as a district or conference activity to the end that church choirs could join to perform some of the great music of the Lutheran tradition, which they might not otherwise be able to perform due to limitations of size or financial resources.

The Worship Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:
H. Bartels, Secretary
Dennis Marzolf, Chairman
Mark DeGarmeaux

WORSHIP ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Handbook to the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary

WHEREAS, The synod has published the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, and,

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee has begun compiling materials for the publication of a handbook to the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee be commended in this work, and continue to pursue the publication of such a book.

Resolution No. 2: Goals for future work

WHEREAS, Recent trends in Lutheran worship have seen the casual abandonment of the Lutheran heritage in Christian worship, and,

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee of the synod has been directed:

“to develop and deepen and understanding and love for the Lutheran heritage in Christian worship throughout the Synod.”

“[to] keep abreast of trends, movements, and new materials in all aspects of worship,” and

“[to] seek to inform and lead the Synod’s members in their worship life,” and,

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee has proposed eight goals for its future work, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod direct the Worship Committee to pursue these goals in its future work.

Resolution No. 3: Large print edition of the ELH

WHEREAS, A number of our members would benefit from having a large print edition of the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary,, especially older members and those who suffer from afflictions of the eye, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee explore the possibility of publishing a large-print edition of the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary.

REPORT OF THE SELF STUDY COMMITTEE

The members of the Self Study Committee are: Robert Brown; J. B. Madson, chairman; Alf Merseth, secretary; Milton Tweit and Norman Werner. President George Orvick is an advisory member of the committee.

The committee has met four times since it last reported to the synod: April 11, October 27-28, November 21, 1997 and February 10, 1998.

CONVENTION PROCEDURE REGARDING SPECIAL PROPOSALS

This portion of the Self Study Committee's report to the 1997 convention was referred back to the committee for further study. (cf. 1997 Synod Report, page 144, Res.2)

After further deliberation the committee presents the following for the synod's consideration and adoption.

WHEREAS, The constitution of the synod states, Chapter II: "The synod consists of those congregations and individuals who subscribe to the constitution and have been accepted into membership." and,

WHEREAS, The constitution of the synod states, Chapter III: "The synod exists to carry out the command of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16,15; Matthew 28,19-20), to contend for the faith (Jude 3), and to promote the development of Christian life (Galatians 5,22-25) within its membership." and,

WHEREAS, The constitution of the synod states, Chapter IV: "In accordance with apostolic example in Acts 15, the affairs of the synod are to be organized and directed by conventions called for that purpose." and,

WHEREAS, The constitution of the synod states, Chapter V, paragraph 3: "Other areas of the synod's work shall be assigned to the various boards and committees and shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations established by the synod." and,

WHEREAS, The By-Laws of the synod state, Chapter V, paragraph 1,a: "The synodical conventions shall work to attain the purposes outlined in Chapter III of the Constitution and to that end shall:

- a) review the activities of the synod as conducted by its officers, boards and committees during the previous year:
- b) by careful planning and proper resolutions arrange for the future work of the synod." and,

WHEREAS, It has been the synod's policy: (changes are italicized):

- A. That proposals for new work ordinarily be made by standing boards, each in its own area of responsibility, and,
- B. That floor committees review the reports and recommendations assigned to them by the convention and bring recommendations thereon for the convention's consideration, and,
- C. That any proposal brought to the floor of the convention which is not proposed by a standing board or committee *ordinarily* be referred to a standing board or committee for review and recommendation to the next convention.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod in convention continue to follow its policy as stated above.

PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATION OF SPECIAL GIFTS AND REQUESTS

This portion of the Self Study Committee's report to the 1997 convention was referred back to the committee for further study and elaboration. (cf. 1997 Synod Report, page 144, Res.3)

The Self Study Committee would present the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self Study Committee remind the synod that any board which is in need of additional funds between conventions shall, by resolution, make request for such funds to the Board of Trustees. (cf. 1985 Synod Report, page 146-149, Res.2.)

Regarding the responsibility for the allocation of special gifts and bequests the committee presents the following for the synod's consideration and adoption:

WHEREAS, The Planning and Coordinating Committee has been charged with the responsibility of preparing and presenting the annual budget to the synod convention, and,

WHEREAS, In recent years it has been necessary to supplement the operating budget with monies from the matching funds,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Planning and Coordinating Committee, in preparing the proposed budget for the ensuing year, shall get the approval of the Board of Trustees for the use of any matching funds to support the budget.

APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD TREASURER

The recommendation to the 1997 convention by the Board of Trustees that the synod treasurer, rather than being elected, be appointed by the Board of Trustees, was referred to the Self Study Committee for study.

At this time the committee would report and request as follows:

Once a business manager has been engaged by the synod, the Self Study Committee asks that another year be allowed for study of the relationship of this new office to the office of treasurer before any report is made.

ELS HANDBOOK

The committee continues its work on the re-editing of the ELS HANDBOOK and will submit its suggested recommendations to the synod for approval.

BY LAWS OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

1.1 QUALIFICATIONS

The members of the foundation shall consist of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

1.2 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this foundation shall not be assignable and will terminate when a person is no longer a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

2.1 TRUSTEES

The affairs of the foundation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Trustees. Members of the Board of Trustees shall be the members of the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as they shall, from time to time, be elected by the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

2.2 AUTHORITY OF TRUSTEES

All the corporate powers, except as are otherwise provided for in these By-Laws and in the laws of the State of Minnesota, shall be and are hereby vested in and shall be exercised by the Board of Trustees.

2.3 OFFICERS

The officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod shall also be the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

2.4 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

a) President: The president shall preside at all meetings of the foundation and its Board of Trustees. He shall have and exercise general charge and supervision of the affairs of the foundation and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him.

b) Vice President: In the absence of the president the vice president shall serve.

c) Secretary: The secretary shall have charge of such books, documents and papers as the Board of Trustees may determine and shall attend and keep the minutes of all meetings of the foundation and its Board of Trustees. The secretary shall attend to the serving of notices of meetings, shall attend to such correspondence as may be assigned to him and shall perform all duties incidental to his office. In case of his inability to serve, the members shall be authorized to select a replacement.

d) Treasurer: The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the foundation and shall deposit or invest the same in the name of the foundation as the trustees may determine. The treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept a complete and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, resources and liabilities of the foundation and shall render to the chairman or to the Board of Trustees, whenever they shall require it, correct statements showing the financial condition of the foundation.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

3.1 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

3.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation may be held in conjunction with special meetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

ARTICLE IV: FOUNDATION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation Investment Committee shall consist of 4 members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation. Not more than three (3) and not less than two (2) shall be members of the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

The Board of Trustees shall elect the members of the Foundation Investment Committee. In the initial election it shall elect 2 for 2 years and 2 for 1 year. These positions shall be filled as their terms expire.

The committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary from within its own membership. The president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod shall be an ex officio member of the committee.

4.2 DUTIES

The committee shall be responsible for managing the assets and

investments of the foundation. It shall perform any other assignments given to it by the Board of Trustees and shall report its actions to the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees for review.

It shall meet as often as necessary.

ARTICLE V: DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

The trustees shall annually distribute and/or re-invest all the net income of the foundation for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and shall report such action to the synod.

ARTICLE VI: SEAL

The foundation shall have no seal.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or altered by the vote of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation at its annual meeting, provided that notice of such proposed amendment was given in the notice of such meeting.

Alf Merseth, secretary

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE SELF-STUDY COMMITTEE

The Self-Study Committee submits the following alignment of circuits for the synod's consideration and adoption.

Circuit Divisions in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Circuit No. 1

Florida	Kissimmee	Peace
	Lakeland	Our Savior
	Lakeland	Peace
	Naples	Our Savior
	Port St. Lucie	Christ
	Sebastian	Trinity
	Sebring	New Life
	Vero Beach	Grace
	Winter Haven	Resurrection
Georgia	Cartersville	Lamb of God
	Kennesaw	Resurrection

Circuit No. 2

Massachusetts	Brewster	Trinity
	Burlington	Pinewood

Circuit No. 3

Indiana	Brownsburg	Good Shepherd
Michigan	Alpena	Faith
	Detroit	St. Matthew
	East Jordan	Faith
	Hillman	Faith
	Holland	Lord of Life
	Holton	Holton
	Midland	Holy Scripture
	Rogers City	Trinity
	Saginaw	Gloria Dei

Ohio	Suttons Bay Bowling Green Deshler Weston	First Abiding Word Peace Grace Zion
Pennsylvania	North Huntingdon	
Circuit No. 4		
Illinois	Chicago Chicago Litchfield Lombard	Emmaus St. Mark's Faith St. Timothy
Indiana	Lake Station	Grace
Wisconsin	Cottage Grove Madison Madison Madison Okauchee Oregon Portage West Bend Wisconsin Dells	Western Koshkonong Grace Holy Cross Our Saviour's Holy Trinity Faith St. Paul's Trinity Newport
Circuit No. 5		
Wisconsin	Amherst Junction Bloomer Clintonville Eau Claire Eau Claire Eau Claire Elderon Green Bay Iola Marinette Omro Shawano	Our Savior's Good Shepherd St. Paul Ascension Concordia Pinehurst Our Savior's Christ the King Redeemer First Trinity Messiah St. Martin
Circuit No. 6		
Iowa	Ames Calmar Forest City Hampton Lake Mills Lake Mills Lawler New Hampton New Hampton Northwood Northwood Parkersburg Riceville Scarville Scarville Thompson Thornton Waterloo Waterville Waukon Williamsburg	Bethany Trinity Forest Bethany Lake Mills Lime Creek Saude Jerico Redeemer First Shell Rock Somber Faith Immanuel Center Scarville Zion Richland Pilgrim East Paint Creek West Paint Creek St. Timothy

Minnesota	Albert Lea Hartland Manchester	Our Savior's Hartland Manchester
Circuit No. 7		
Minnesota	Audubon Bagley Crookston East Grand Forks Fertile Grygla Hawley Lengby Oklee Trail Trail Ulen Mayville	Immanuel Our Savior's Grace River Heights First Evanger St. Petri Our Savior's St. Paul Oak Park Mt. Olive Nazareth Calvary First American
North Dakota		
Circuit No. 8		
Minnesota	Apple Valley Belview Belview Clara City Cold Spring Cottonwood Gaylord Golden Valley Jasper Luverne Mankato Princeton Princeton St. Peter Tracy	Heritage Our Savior's Rock Dell Faith Gloria Dei English Norwegian Grove King of Grace Rose Dell Trinity Bethany Mt. Olive Bethany Our Savior's Norseland Zion
Circuit No. 9		
Missouri	Cape Girardeau Jefferson City Piedmont	Scriptural Peace Grace
Texas:	Richardson San Antonio	Good Shepherd Faith
Circuit No. 10		
Arizona	Fort Mojave Lake Havasu City Scottsdale	Family of God Our Saviour Redeemer
California	Bell Gardens Bishop Cedar Ridge Escondido Fillmore Irvine Windsor	Christ the King Our Savior Shepherd of the Hills St. Paul Wayfarers' Chapel Faith Christ
Circuit No. 11		
Oregon	Grants Pass Gresham	Our Savior Saved by Grace

	Hillsboro	Reformation
	Hood River	Concordia
	Klamath Falls	Christ
	Myrtle Creek	St. Matthew
	Sutherlin	Christ
	The Dalles	Bethany
Utah	West Jordan	Hope
Washington	Mt. Vernon	St. Luke
	Port Orchard	Bethany
	Port Hadlock	Hope
	Tacoma	Lakewood
	Tacoma	Parkland
	Yelm	Our Redeemer

Alf Merseth, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

The Board for Stewardship accomplished its main business by conducting two meetings: September 25, 1997, and January 28, 1998. All other goals were achieved by individual members through personal assignment and telephone conversation.

The members of the board are the Rev. Paul Schneider, chairman; Mr. Howard Hougan, vice chairman; Mr. Timothy Peterson, secretary; the Rev Bruce Leonatti; Mr. Allen Wollenzien. The Rev. M.E. Tweit continues to serve the board as a resource-consultant.

In an attempt to carry out the Synod Handbook guidelines to promote good, Biblical stewardship throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and especially in an attempt to carry out the Lord's will to extend His Kingdom, the following has been done by the board since the last convention:

(1) Letters have been sent to all pastors, board members and Synod Convention delegates providing stewardship encouragement and information, bulletin inserts and a monthly listing of synodical contributions from all the congregations. A listing of congregational contributions to the synodical budget for the past eleven years has also been provided as well as parochial statistics from 1970 until 1996.

(2) Future planning continues on how to promote biblical stewardship within the congregations throughout the synod.

(3) Bulletin inserts were published in cooperation with the Board for Publications. Two *Sentinel* articles have also been written.

(4) A special offering was conducted on the first Sunday in December to help reduce the budget deficit which resulted in December gifts of \$136,786.03, which were \$30,116.91 more than what was received in December of 1996. 1997 was a good year for the budget, receiving a total of \$790,234.03, leaving a deficit of only \$9,765.97. In 1997, 56 congregations gave less than in 1996 and 70 gave more, with 10 giving "0". (See statistical sheet for comparison.)

(5) The board is suggesting that a special offering be taken to celebrate *2,000 Years of Grace*. The Board of Trustees are taking care of the matter.

(6) The board continues to be concerned about all members of the synod keeping informed on the work of the synod as well as on the message of stewardship.

Church Councils & Voters' Assemblies should keep the work of our synod on their agenda.

(7) The board continues to try to oversee the fund drive appeals within the synod, as directed by the Synod Handbook.

(8) Advent & Lenten offering envelopes were provided for all congregations to be used to gather an extra offering for the synod during those special seasons.

(9) The board is working together with the Planning & Coordinating Committee outlining the various challenges and opportunities for doing the Lord's work within the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

(10) A stewardship program, *Stewardship* is being made available for pastors to use in teaching God's principles of stewardship within the congregations. This material is being presented personally by the chairman to all the pastors attending the various Pastoral Conferences of the synod during the spring and fall of 1998.

(11) What blessings continue to be received by our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, especially with the entire synodical budgetary income being matched by a generous donor. In 1997 a total of \$1,531,968 was received in matching funds.

Thanks and praise go to almighty God for blessing the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. May the gracious Lord continue to bless this board with faithfulness to His holy and inspired Word. The board continues to study Biblical stewardship and how it might assist the pastors and congregations of the ELS in teaching these principles. Only the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace creates and strengthens the faith which moves cheerful givers to be generous with offerings for the Lord's Work. May his will always be done! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Paul Schneider, Chairman

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—1997

	1997 Budget	1997 Non-Budget	1997 Total
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH	\$6,039.00	\$285.00	\$6,324.00
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	2,223.41	0.00	2,223.41
Bethany, Ames, IA	500.00	250.00	750.00
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	1,400.00	85.00	1,485.00
Bethany, Hampton, IA	1,940.28	130.75	2,071.03
Bethany, Luverne, MN	11,762.50	655.00	12,417.50
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	1,166.50	730.50	1,897.00
Bethany, Princeton, MN	10,788.50	1,309.00	12,097.50
Calvary, Ulen, MN	2,807.81	352.00	3,159.81
Center, Scarville, IA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	2,272.25	605.00	2,877.25
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	2,257.87	702.00	2,959.87
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	1,970.43	507.17	2,477.60
Christ, Windsor, CA	4,490.14	0.00	4,490.14
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	0.00	101.00	101.00
Christ the King, Green Bay, WI	2,700.00	73.25	2,773.25
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	2,222.00	800.00	3,022.00
Concordia, Hood River, OR	574.88	150.00	724.88
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	5,537.00	477.00	6,014.00
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	0.00	52.00	52.00

	1997 Budget	1997 Non-Budget	1997 Total
English, Cottonwood, MN	12,955.78	218.00	13,173.78
Faith, Alpena, MI	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, Clara City, MN	3,995.00	565.00	4,560.00
Faith, East Jordan, MI	815.00	0.00	815.00
Faith, Hillman, MI	290.00	0.00	290.00
Faith, Litchfield, IL	4,580.82	210.00	4,790.82
Faith, Orange County, CA	3,200.00	531.00	3,731.00
Faith, Oregon, WI	4,200.00	400.00	4,600.00
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	264.60	183.60	448.20
Faith, San Antonio, TX	3,065.58	0.00	3,065.58
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	2,850.00	122.00	2,972.00
First, Suttons Bay, MI	820.00	105.00	925.00
First American, Mayville, ND	225.00	0.00	225.00
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,844.50	534.00	2,378.50
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	7,891.00	100.00	7,991.00
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	6,609.75	673.00	7,282.75
Forest, Forest City, IA	285.00	270.00	555.00
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN	1,765.00	504.00	2,269.00
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	15,667.76	7,166.00	22,833.76
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	2,656.00	286.00	2,942.00
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	6,184.18	125.00	6,309.18
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	162.50	1,335.87	1,498.37
Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
Grace, Crookston, MN	0.00	685.00	685.00
Grace, Hobart, IN	3,053.62	0.00	3,053.62
Grace, Madison, WI	7,412.00	1,965.00	9,377.00
Grace, Piedmont, MO	639.00	715.00	1,354.00
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	28,304.00	2,095.00	30,399.00
Grace, Weston, OH	3,501.50	220.00	3,721.50
Hartland, Hartland, MN	2,892.61	270.00	3,162.61
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	9,819.67	945.15	10,764.82
Holton, Holton, MI	4,032.00	560.00	4,592.00
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	42,576.65	4,038.00	46,614.65
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	24,015.96	450.00	24,465.96
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	37,200.00	0.00	37,200.00
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	9,519.35	3,217.86	12,737.21
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	195.00	120.00	315.00
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	13,972.95	528.00	14,500.95
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	47,497.46	1,095.00	48,592.46
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	1,235.95	85.00	1,320.95
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	300.00	45.00	345.00
Lamb of God, Cartersville, GA	87.00	1,035.02	1,122.02
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	2,199.00	135.00	2,334.00
Lord of Life, Holland, MI	2,460.38	1,047.06	3,507.44
Manchester, Manchester, MN	843.00	0.00	843.00
Messiah, Omro, WI	9,690.81	217.00	9,907.81
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	37,148.00	3,130.00	40,278.00
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	134.00	1,075.00	1,209.00
Nazareth, Trail, MN	1,269.00	1,055.00	2,324.00
New Life, Sebring, FL	2,275.22	155.00	2,430.22
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	1,666.00	212.00	1,878.00
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	16,267.18	1,045.00	17,312.18
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	9,564.69	491.00	10,055.69
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	2,477.00	1,789.00	4,266.00
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	740.00	470.00	1,210.00

	1997 Budget	1997 Non-Budget	1997 Total
Our Saviors, Albert Lea, MN	12,711.00	890.00	13,601.00
Our Savior, Amherst Junction, WI	853.00	480.00	1,333.00
Our Saviors, Bagley, MN	2,730.00	155.00	2,885.00
Our Savior, Belview, MN	2,177.50	214.00	2,391.50
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	0.00	320.00	320.00
Our Saviors, Elderon, WI	1,600.00	65.00	1,665.00
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	600.00	0.00	600.00
Our Saviors, Hawley, MN	436.00	145.00	581.00
Our Saviours, Lake Havasu City, AZ	14,413.06	1,410.25	15,823.31
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	6,842.34	0.00	6,842.34
Our Saviours, Madison, WI	2,400.00	25.00	2,425.00
Our Savior, Naples, FL	20,354.40	817.00	21,171.40
Our Saviors, Princeton, MN	14,825.56	1,417.00	16,242.56
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	7,462.50	1,696.00	9,158.50
Peace, Deshler, OH	3,589.25	4,436.90	8,026.15
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	176.12	80.00	256.12
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	13,903.00	255.00	14,158.00
Peace, Lakeland, FL	4,762.56	100.00	4,862.56
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	1,477.50	235.00	1,712.50
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	2,924.75	177.00	3,101.75
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	6,000.00	450.00	6,450.00
Redeemer, Iola, WI	861.00	241.00	1,102.00
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	625.80	367.00	992.80
Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ	4,048.36	0.00	4,048.36
Reformation, Hillsboro, OR	12,000.00	1,340.37	13,340.37
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	0.00	93.00	93.00
Resurrection, Winter Haven, FL	10,607.47	886.00	11,493.47
Richland, Thornton, IA	8,944.40	404.00	9,348.40
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	9,773.40	0.00	9,773.40
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	4,123.00	295.00	4,418.00
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	825.85	25.00	850.85
Saude, Lawler, IA	12,380.10	541.00	12,921.10
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	5,000.00	205.14	5,205.14
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	520.00	0.00	520.00
Shepherd of the Hills, Grass Valley, CA	1,666.40	1,755.00	3,421.40
Somber, Northwood, IA	641.00	160.00	801.00
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Marks, Chicago, IL	1,967.45	0.00	1,967.45
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	22,403.45	101.00	22,504.45
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	422.00	0.00	422.00
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	3,330.00	705.00	4,035.00
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	6,953.22	135.00	7,088.22
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	5,441.00	956.13	6,397.13
St. Paul, Lengby, MN	2,816.00	1,085.75	3,901.75
St. Pauls, Portage, WI	500.00	100.00	600.00
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	125.00	5.75	130.75
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	15,445.00	1,400.00	16,845.00
Synod, Scarville, IA	7,672.31	440.00	8,112.31
Trinity, Brewster, MA	2,375.00	643.00	3,018.00
Trinity, Calmar, IA	973.00	211.00	1,184.00
Trinity, Rogers City, MI	437.35	177.00	614.35
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	4,762.00	714.00	5,476.00
Trinity, West Bend, WI	20,537.33	300.00	20,837.33

	1997 Budget	1997 Non-Budget	1997 Total
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	0.00	900.00	900.00
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,612.50	540.00	2,152.50
Zion, North Huntingdon, PA	840.00	225.00	1,065.00
Zion, Thompson, IA	1,423.26	331.00	1,754.26
Zion, Tracy, MN	7,308.80	1,370.00	8,678.80
Miscellaneous:			
Aid Association for Lutherans	0.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
Messengers of Peace Offering	0.00	209,100.00	209,100.00
Helping Hands	0.00	26,351.00	26,351.00
Lutheran Brotherhood	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Matching funds	0.00	1,441,095.00	1,441,095.00
Other	<u>19,165.00</u>	<u>1,199,106.17</u>	<u>1,218,271.17</u>
	<u>\$790,234.03</u>	<u>\$3,012,655.69</u>	<u>\$3,802,889.72</u>

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	1,030	207	397	1,557	2,689	2,341	2,223
Bethany, Ames, IA	420	665	365	700	840	800	500
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	—	—	293	—	1,600	1,000	1,400
Bethany, Hampton, IA	—	—	—	—	—	680	1,940
Bethany, Luverne, MN	15,191	8,884	10,638	14,978	10,848	6,125	11,763
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	10,170	10,120	10,000	17,917	23,114	7,000	1,167
Bethany, Princeton, MN	11,024	11,703	10,971	11,020	9,626	9,785	10,789
Calvary, Ulen, MN	3,640	3,021	3,231	3,854	1,801	2,246	2,808
Center, Scarville, IA	3,191	2,482	1,649	2,392	2,342	1,996	0
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	2,007	1,185	2,766	2,819	3,405	3,536	2,272
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	1,739	1,090	1,210	2,173	2,653	2,290	2,258
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	1,951	2,173	1,191	1,540	2,203	1,722	1,970
Christ, Windsor, CA	5,667	9,550	8,000	9,720	4,948	10,608	4,490
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	4,911	4,134	—	—	—	—	—
Christ the King, Green Bay, WI	—	—	—	—	2,700	3,015	2,700
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	775	1,435	2,035	2,037	2,285	2,006	2,222
Concordia, Hood River, OR	135	—	—	—	422	424	575
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	4,948	4,110	4,309	4,774	6,239	3,447	5,537
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	2,526	1,881	1,257	738	1,080	333	—
English, Cottonwood, MN	14,124	11,442	11,161	12,187	13,302	12,385	12,956
Faith, Alpena, MI	718	—	820	200	—	—	—
Faith, Clara City, MN	—	—	—	—	3,511	2,825	3,995
Faith, East Jordan, MI	1,000	—	850	—	1,168	750	815
Faith, Hillman, MI	1,247	378	523	—	91	254	290
Faith, Litchfield, IL	411	2,022	2,477	3,821	5,131	4,514	4,581
Faith, Orange County, CA	3,235	2,800	1,355	1,200	1,705	1,800	3,200
Faith, Oregon, WI	4,333	3,908	4,105	3,889	5,868	4,104	4,200
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	1,435	1,100	1,197	800	1,000	1,000	265

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated—continued

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Faith, San Antonio, TX	3,021	3,327	4,391	4,425	6,093	3,344	3,066
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	2,584	1,660	3,431	2,666	330	2,214	2,850
First, Suttons Bay, MI	2,373	2,152	1,981	2,771	830	501	820
First American, Mayville, ND	3,113	1,763	1,565	1,200	303	377	225
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,614	1,365	1,373	1,801	2,265	1,826	1,845
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	4,990	4,046	6,422	7,730	5,807	4,577	7,891
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	8,029	5,912	—	—	5,968	6,972	6,610
Forest, Forest City, IA	1,718	1,140	549	1,407	161	744	285
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,76
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	3,059	9,319	5,367	5,935	3,764	16,626	15,668
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	1,982	2,003	1,860	2,950	2,775	2,389	2,656
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	6,333	4,525	6,703	5,607	6,647	7,074	6,184
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	167	1,099	312	510	206	1,360	163
Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA	6,615	2,756	—	—	3,200	4,000	7,500
Grace, Crookston, MN	—	—	200	201	591	—	—
Grace, Hobart, IN	—	—	—	2,129	1,216	3,398	3,054
Grace, Madison, WI	15,975	12,840	6,665	6,600	7,100	5,088	7,412
Grace, Piedmont, MO	821	34	—	142	—	120	639
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	24,503	27,226	34,962	31,543	36,330	32,249	28,304
Grace, Weston, OH	3,642	3,125	3,239	3,946	4,188	3,104	3,502
Hartland, Hartland, MN	3,784	2,969	2,960	3,153	3,027	3,775	2,893
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	8,292	9,141	6,949	11,073	8,285	9,376	9,820
Holton, Holton, MI	2,475	3,043	3,635	5,002	3,822	2,770	4,032
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	36,923	31,514	42,652	46,887	41,392	41,567	42,577
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	20,090	23,118	23,523	34,073	21,684	23,851	24,016
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	32,693	24,308	26,565	29,541	45,984	39,000	37,200
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	7,736	7,418	8,076	8,409	9,760	9,756	9,519
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	1,461	833	1,097	2,961	687	1,215	195

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated—continued

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	22,786	18,039	17,435	14,318	15,369	15,492	13,973
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	55,250	40,780	55,520	53,260	51,003	50,920	47,497
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	3,202	1,388	2,329	1,735	1,322	762	1,236
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	1,727	865	973	771	763	700	300
Lamb of God, Cartersville, GA	—	—	—	—	—	1,427	87
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	2,422	2,243	2,262	2,884	2,389	2,924	2,199
Lord of Life, Holland, MI	—	—	—	2,002	2,869	1,899	2,460
Manchester, Manchester, MN	1,112	912	146	421	2,334	1,000	843
Messiah, Omro, WI	—	—	—	—	—	4,000	9,691
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	27,500	29,306	30,683	30,829	34,011	34,423	37,148
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	1,353	1,286	1,032	1,008	1,002	575	134
Nazareth, Trail, MN	1,742	2,072	955	1,402	1,334	932	1,269
New Life, Sebring, FL	5,101	1,172	2,275	4,217	4,020	2,835	2,275
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	1,704	1,500	1,503	1,535	1,477	1,672	1,666
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	17,266	10,481	21,828	20,859	10,868	14,791	16,267
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	7,276	6,131	6,172	8,491	8,258	5,474	9,565
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	3,165	3,000	3,150	2,750	449	1,286	2,477
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	874	1,143	375	535	385	45	740
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	25,218	19,335	15,233	19,590	15,620	19,305	12,711
Our Savior's, Amherst Jct., WI	1,703	1,057	1,234	839	1,654	1,491	853
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	2,200	4,587	2,000	5,169	3,193	3,891	2,730
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	4,401	2,914	2,205	3,860	2,787	3,472	2,178
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	2,799	340	—	—	—	—	—
Our Savior's Elderon, WI	1,830	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,775	1,900	1,600
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	1,545	1,000	550	575	310	600	600
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	1,071	977	500	260	52	—	436
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	11,927	12,067	11,914	12,750	10,371	13,389	14,413
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	5,271	6,174	6,415	7,260	4,866	6,575	6,842
Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	1,230	1,652	1,565	2,305	2,840	3,280	2,400

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated—continued

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Our Savior, Naples, FL	5,300	5,531	6,000	14,332	13,694	8,561	20,354
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	18,365	17,283	13,474	16,218	17,570	12,399	14,426
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	6,042	8,971	3,247	5,103	7,958	6,445	7,463
Peace, Deshler, OH	10,966	9,594	1,433	5,180	3,910	925	3,589
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	403	436	410	513	683	449	176
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	4,926	6,096	6,847	9,480	8,576	11,420	13,903
Peace, Lakeland, FL	—	—	2,439	2,776	2,886	3,563	4,763
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	800	1,350	2,149	1,994	2,100	2,950	1,478
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	1,290	100	3,044	2,543	4,703	2,831	2,925
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	4,500	5,193	5,100	5,888	5,6596	6,200	6,000
Redeemer, Iola, WI	790	550	440	1,208	1,013	854	861
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,853	2,514	2,650	1,480	1,088	1,093	626
Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,048
Reformation, Hillsboro, OR	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,000
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resurrection, WinterHaven, FL	—	—	—	893	3,685	4,120	10,607
Richland, Thornton, IA	14,175	15,662	8,620	7,652	5,433	6,403	8,944
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	20,156	43,768	12,083	10,755	9,389	8,432	9,773
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	6,032	5,348	3,765	6,742	5,538	4,448	4,123
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	1,066	1,307	1,418	1,113	693	928	826
Saude, Lawler, IA	15,698	15,336	12,116	18,420	14,597	14,689	12,380
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	4,139	4,675	6,169	6,500	7,500	7,500	5,000
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	1,263	952	265	49	—	130	520
Shepherd of the Hills, Grass Valley, CA	856	837	1,516	1,238	1,448	1,494	1,666
Somber, Northwood, IA	2,718	2,211	2,059	2,293	2,029	1,653	641
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	72	112	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	1,633	2,018	2,061	1,324	1,163	1,874	1,967

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated—continued

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	18,957	11,383	13,696	15,463	15,702	16,550	22,403
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	745	295	303	379	500	1,330	422
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	3,704	2,551	2,675	2,400	2,820	3,047	3,330
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	6,862	4,310	6,424	8,080	12,354	9,636	6,953
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	1,340	1,471	120	7,418	2,129	4,933	5,441
St. Paul's, Lengby, MN	2,396	2,883	2,405	2,444	2,817	3,538	2,816
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	50	87	—	137	100	200	500
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	405	—	385	215	176	285	125
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	14,839	15,643	17,056	16,640	18,706	16,423	15,445
Synod, Scarville, IA	12,057	9,463	9,641	8,355	7,709	6,649	7,672
Trinity, Brewster, MA	5,361	3,920	2,985	2,677	3,072	2,183	2,375
Trinity, Calmar, IA	842	715	630	1,289	1,147	956	973
Trinity, Rogers City, MI	—	—	—	—	81	223	437
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	5,392	4,604	5,657	6,372	5,201	4,137	4,762
Trinity, West Bend, WI	18,872	21,140	17,329	32,215	27,468	19,773	20,537
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	2,425	1,700	1,200	923	150	100	—
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	3,040	5,030	3,290	6,775	5,172	5,361	—
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	2,927	1,077	783	1,604	810	3,777	1,613
Zion, North Huntingdon, PA	—	—	—	—	490	840	840
Zion, Thompson, IA	2	1,140	1,443	1,449	1,196	2,412	1,423
Zion, Tracy, MN	<u>3,571</u>	<u>13,662</u>	<u>5,728</u>	<u>8,868</u>	<u>4,746</u>	<u>7,035</u>	<u>7,309</u>
Budget Totals for Year	\$762,962	\$712,868	\$672,319	\$795,441	\$791,325	\$749,500	\$790,234

Parochial Stats ELS History

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Congregations	95	98	99	106	108	108	110	109	108	110	111	112
Pastors	71	74	83	87	93	96	101	99	103	107	113	123
Baptized	17,321	17,804	18,355	19,571	19,634	19,705	20,044	19,885	19,795	20,025	20,556	20,246
Confirmed	12,525	13,097	13,489	14,504	14,652	14,833	15,081	14,968	14,909	15,165	15,576	15,396
Av. Sunday	7,934	8,209	8,227	9,452	9,099	9,108	8,922	9,296	9,133	8,997	8,592	9,076
Bible Class	832	853	1,114	1,132	1,183	1,382	1,361	1,597	1,641	1,697	1,489	2,343
Sun School	3,377	3,298	3,295	3,407	3,280	3,491	2,987	3,031	2,239	2,991	2,863	3,039
Day School	484	499	527	640	712	689	697	763	879	863	800	872
Home Cont.	1,296,326	1,519,749	1,739,255	2,114,998	2,290,697	2,629,719	2,750,703	3,154,804	3,461,387	3,767,977	3,842,625	4,647,714
All Other	330,052	411,732	438,875	521,018	546,899	783,543	833,611	828,819	801,071	804,822	838,788	931,677
Synod Budget	300,308	313,156	349,322	424,689	424,265	484,167	534,515	601,309	659,126	710,689	692,012	718,222
TOTAL SYNOD	415,748	393,498	527,679	648,313	602,059	804,819	839,538	851,308	770,229	826,759	770,460	1,051,201

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Congregations	116	120	123	123	125	128	126	126	125	128	135	134
Pastors	127	130	130	139	140	149	154	151	156	159	162	166
Baptized	19,850	19,942	21,454	21,378	21,544	21,630	21,347	21,535	21,493	25,379	22,371	22,046
Confirmed	15,012	15,083	15,892	15,518	15,740	16,181	16,004	15,929	15,780	15,960	16,543	16,511
Av. Sunday	8,769	8,975	9,220	9,341	10,348	9,402	9,340	9,575	9,063	9,595	10,049	9,602
Bible Class	1,949	1,914	1,874	1,875	1,908	2,001	1,935	1,909	1,913	2,059	2,156	2,365
Sun School	2,916	2,932	3,098	3,290	3,191	3,233	3,168	3,210	2,967	3,055	3,248	2,993
Day School	752	882	930	1,060	977	1,010	1,047	1,173	1,090	1,175	1,203	1,137
Home Cont	4,725,783	4,996,111	5,298,882	5,713,773	6,186,648	6,527,076	6,657,338	6,944,522	6,759,222	7,288,521	13,112,485	8,136,195
All Other	791,586	1,050,715	1,082,198	1,043,612	1,342,321	1,193,789	1,030,445	1,271,058	1,100,660	1,195,698	1,084,136	1,104,996
Synod Budget	719,357	722,656	725,861	740,809	741,918	721,535	762,962	712,868	672,394	795,441	791,325	749,500
TOTAL SYNOD	1,233,445	1,167,666	1,355,481	2,488,835	1,791,897	1,751,037	2,936,977	2,801,268	1,925,541	2,813,480	3,119,511	3,300,398

THE LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

As chairman of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee it is my privilege and responsibility to contact the congregations of our Synod for funds to carry on the work of this committee for the annual convention of the Synod. The convention will be held at Mankato, MN in June. It is a must that your congregation respond with a check to the fund so that our committee may render the best possible service to the laymen delegates. The purpose of the fund is to defray transportation costs of the delegates.

We are submitting a statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the 1997 convention period.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 2/11/97		\$ 6,507.20
Receipts:		
Church Assessments	\$ 23,727.00	
Interest Income	<u>\$ 172.24</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 23,899.24</u>
Total		\$ 30,406.44
Disbursements:		
Delegates:		
Air Fares and Mileage	\$22, 140.35	
Printing and Postage	<u>\$ 37.92</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 22,178.27</u>
Balance on Hand 3/16/98		<u>\$ 8,228.17</u>

1. Mileage payments will be at the rate of \$.20 per mile (round trip) to a layman delegate who drives his own car (Home to convention site) and \$.25 per mile if accompanied by a second delegate or a pastor.
2. Air travel and bus fares are also accepted. These will be reimbursed in full if funds permit. Otherwise a pro ration of available funds will be made. Only mileage to or from an airport will be reimbursed. Car rental costs will not be reimbursed.
3. Only those delegates whose congregations remit to this fund will receive equalization from it.
4. Delegates must register at the convention showing name, congregation, round trip mileage, and/or travel expenses in order to receive reimbursement.
5. Delegates are encouraged to ride together, whenever possible. This stewardship of money will enable the Equalization Fund to cover more of the Expenses.
6. The Chairman will receive \$.20 per mile or actual expenses, whichever is less, out of the fund to cover his costs of attending the convention. (Note: if chairman is delegate he shall be reimbursed according to rules for delegates set forth.)

Greg Costello, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod met on September 19, 1997 and January 29, 1998.

The committee is composed of the officers of the Synod and the chairman (or their representatives) of the following Boards: Board of Regents, Board for Education and Youth, Board for Home Missions, Board for Foreign Missions, Board for Evangelism, Board for Christian Service, Board for Publications, Stewardship Board, Doctrine Committee, Board of Trustees.

1999 BUDGET:

At both meetings, the committee heard reports from the representatives of each board explaining their work along with budget requests. A budget of \$810,000 for the fiscal year 1999, allocated as follows is recommended:

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE:			
Operations		\$176,000	
Maintenance on college		21,000	
Interest		4,000	
Maintenance on residences		4,000	
Faculty Housing Allowance			
(\$84,000 less \$16,000 interest applied)	68,000		\$273,000
BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY:			
Operations		62,500	
Maintenance on residences		2,000	64,500
CHRISTIAN SERVICE			33,500
EDUCATION AND YOUTH			41,000
EVANGELISM			16,500
FOREIGN MISSIONS:			
Operations			166,000
Administration			32,000
HOME MISSIONS:			
Operations			171,000
Administration			32,000
PUBLICATIONS			35,000
SYNOD FUND:			
Interest		9,000	
Boards, committees, etc.		70,000	
Administration		182,000	
House payment		16,000	277,000
TOTAL			<u>1,141,500</u>
Apply matching funds allocation			<u>(331,500)</u>
TOTAL PROPOSED 1999 SYNODICAL BUDGET			\$810,000

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The committee has identified long-range goals and objectives for each of the boards and committees as follows:

Doctrine Committee

Committee Duties: To study theological matters and seek to keep abreast of doctrinal trends and issues in order to inform the members of the Synod, advise the president of the Synod in matters of doctrine and in the maintenance of fraternal relations with church bodies with whom the ELS is in fellowship.

Prepare appropriate materials for the 2000th Anniversary of the Savior's birth.

Prepare a new dogmatics text that will supplement our present text.

Board of Regents

BOARD DUTIES: To establish policies for the corporation and for the administration and operation of the institutions of higher learning of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE:

Increase enrollment.

Recruit additional qualified faculty to support the four-year college program.

Develop curriculum to support the four-year program.

Build adequate endowment funding for the four-year program.

Elevate the faculty degree requirements.

Expand the library collection as necessary for the upper division work.

Develop the retreat facility.

Plan the science/mathematics building.

In 2003, construct phase two of the residential facility that began in 1997.

Continue the planning process for the four-year institution.

Develop additional academic and residential facilities over the next ten years.

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:

Study the curriculum and recruitment needs, including additional practical training.

Introduce a program for low-cost student housing and financial aid to make training more affordable for married and second-career students.

Increase the endowments threefold.

Enhance the extension program.

Expand the library collections.

Board for Education and Youth

BOARD DUTIES: To assist congregations in their programs of elementary and secondary education, provide leadership education for teachers and other workers in the parish, and to promote youth work.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS:

Work with Bethany College to develop the position of Director of Christian Education.

Develop written guidelines for the evaluation and budgeting of funding requests.

Establish guidelines for, and promote within our schools, an "in-house" program of school visitation.

Establish the synod-wide distribution of a Christian Day School newsletter.

Establish a joint conference for all the principals of ELS Christian Day Schools.

Work toward greater cooperation between Bethany Lutheran College, Wisconsin Lutheran College and Dr. Martin Luther College with the goal of providing trained and state certifiable staff for our schools.

Through meetings with the WELS Board of Parish Education, work to enhance mutual understandings and cooperation in educational endeavors.

Review the effectiveness of the Bethany Lutheran College position of the Director of Christian Education to see how well it meets the needs of the BEY and how it might overlap or eliminate the need for a paid position for a "Secretary of Schools."

Promote the establishment of a four-year teaching CDS track at Bethany College.

PARISH EDUCATION:

Develop a synod-wide Sunday School institute.

Develop a data base of Bible study materials produced by pastors of the ELS.

Promote the publication of synod-wide Bible studies on eschatology (for the year 2000), death and mourning, marriage and divorce.
Publish a new translation of Laache's *Book of Family Prayer*.

YOUTH WORK:

Plan and hold an international youth convention.
Expand the Youth Bible study program.
Increase subsidy for Lutheran Youth Association conventions.
Implement many facets of a Family Ministry Program.
Develop a youth mission program in which ELS youth assist missionaries.
Publish a family devotional book.
Offer larger grants for joint area ELS retreats.
Develop a youth evangelism program.
Subsidize area Lutheran High School attendance.
Expand the involvement of college-age youth in the Lutheran Youth Association's conventions.

Board for Home Missions

BOARD DUTIES: To administer the mission outreach of the Synod within the geographical boundaries of the United States.

Work with the new Mission Counselor, establishing the office and directing the work.

Select other mission sites and plan to open a new mission each year.

Work with the Board of Trustees to make the best use of the Business Administrator.

Make the work of home missions more visible through the *Sentinel* and Mission News articles, and by informing the pastoral conferences and Synod conventions of the need for pastors.

Conduct sessions with seminary students on the importance of mission work.

Through the seminary president, work to increase recruitment of pastoral candidates.

Call vicars to work in home mission areas.

Promote the financing of home missions through the contacts of the Deferred Giving Counselor.

Computerize information.

Maintain the Board's ten-year plan for supporting existing missions, establishing new missions and providing financial assistance for on-going mission work in established congregations, and continue to adjust the plan on a quarterly basis.

Reexamine the Board's relationship with the Office of Missions Counselor.

Board for Evangelism

BOARD DUTIES: To aid pastors and congregations in the task of training and equipping all members to bear witness to the gospel, to recommend helpful literature and to conduct evangelism workshops.

Continue to present the evangelism workshop.

Develop and implement an evangelism workshop for Bethany Lutheran College.

Provide a consultation resource for a lay leadership institute.

Develop and implement new evangelism workshops, a workshop specifically for pastors, etc.

Publish information pertinent to evangelism such as large print tracts, a catalog of evangelism resources, etc.

Solicit additional evangelism sermons and Bible studies from the clergy for the resource book.

Board for Foreign Missions

BOARD DUTIES: To administer the mission outreach of the Synod outside of the geographical boundaries of the United States.

Prepare a missionary conference in the Czech Republic.

Cooperate with Thoughts of Faith in producing a joint Synod Foreign Mission handbook.

Establish a seminary training program in Chile.

Encourage the national church in Peru to assume a greater role in leadership and financial management.

Assist in the establishment of Christian schools in Peru and Chile.

Explore the possibility of part time professors teaching in Peru and Chile seminaries.

Examine the possibility of joint mission work in Australia with ELSA.

Sponsor a synod-wide workshop on foreign missions.

Broaden the scope of our seminary training to study writings of US pastors.

Utilize vicars in Peru and Chile, if feasible.

Reach out to other nations.

Explore the possibility of the national church of Peru and Chile taking over full management of funds and the training of pastors.

Work toward enabling the South American churches to become self-supporting.

Explore the possibility of purchasing homes for the missionaries.

Subsidize the ministry of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Norway and Sweden (LBK)

Board for Christian Service

BOARDS DUTIES: To administer the support fund for retired workers, the World Needs Fund, the Pension Fund, the Term Insurance Plan, and encourage congregations to be active in charitable work.

Assist and encourage pastors and teachers to secure for themselves future financial security through a personal retirement program.

Encourage every congregation to pay for the Synod's term life insurance for pastors and teachers.

Provide assistance to those who have suffered loss due to some disaster.

Encourage pastors, teachers and lay people to use the WELS Care Line for counseling.

Board for Publications

BOARD DUTIES: to supervise the publications of the regular synodical periodicals as well as the production and promotion of other Christian literature.

Produce a pictorial directory of pastors, teachers and professors.

Publish a brochure telling about the ELS.

Reprint *Faith of Our Fathers*.

Board for Stewardship

BOARD DUTIES: To promote Christian stewardship within the Synod.

Provide sermons and/or Bible studies about stewardship supplied to synod pastors.

Undertake more seminars about stewardship for pastors and lay people.

Encourage the idea that a future synod convention be devoted to the study of Christian stewardship.

Produce more materials to be used in the parish for stewardship education.

Board of Trustees

BOARD DUTIES: To have general management and control of all secular, business and temporal affairs of the synod.

Craig A. Ferkenstad, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has met since the last Convention for regular quarterly meetings on August 8, November 11, February 13-14. The board met via conference telephone calls on September 11 and December 3. The board also will meet in May 1998.

Organization of the Board

The president of the synod, the Rev. George Orvick, and the secretary of the synod, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, also serve as the chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees-Regents subcommittee and the Building Committee were combined into one committee during the past year. Serving on this subcommittee are: Mr. Albin Levorson, Mr. Wilbur Lieske, the Rev. Alf Merseth, and the Rev. George Orvick.

Trustees appointed to the Trustees-Home Missions Subcommittee are: the Rev. Martin Doepel, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, and the Rev. Glenn Obenberger.

Trustees appointed to the Trustees-Foreign Missions Subcommittee are: Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Gregg Griffin, Mr. Leroy Meyer.

Trustees appointed to the Trustees-Publications Subcommittee are: the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, Mr. Leroy Meyer, and the Rev. George Orvick.

Archives Report

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Committee of Archives and History met three times this past year. The members of the committee are: Professor Sigurd Lee, chairman; Professor J.B. Madson, secretary; The Reverend W.C. Gullixson; Dr. Gerhardt Lee; Mr. Gerhardt Solli and President Emeritus N.S. Holte, Archivist. The members of the committee are elected annually by the Board of Trustees of the synod. Rev. Gullixson and Norman Holte share the responsibility of keeping the archives operating. They generally work from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and frequently come in on other days. During the past year a part of their time has been spent in organizing the material after moving into the new synod office building and, in the process, "discovering" boxes of records and artifacts that they didn't know existed.

The archives belong to the synod and contain a wealth of historical material. There are boxes for each of the officers and for each board and committee containing minutes, reports and correspondence. There are files for each congregation with congregational histories, bulletins for special occasions, photos of buildings and of special events; and files for each pastor with biographical material. There are many boxes of material from Bethany: its early history, Dr. Ylvisaker's papers, records and reports from the various departments, programs, *The Fidelis* and the *Bethany Scroll*; likewise regarding the Theological Seminary. There are bound volumes of *The Lutheran Sentinel* and the *Synod Reports* as well as publications of the "old" Norwegian Synod.

We urge all boards, committees and officers of the synod to turn over their "dead" files to the archives. All pastors are requested to send the archives church bulletins of special occasions: ordinations, installations, dedications, and anniversaries. Always welcome are church histories and pastor's personal histories. Photos of people, events and buildings related to the work of the synod will in the future be some of our most prized possessions, so send them also. Please identify the people, events and buildings and give the date of the photo.

We encourage congregations to microfilm or microfiche their records of births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. The archives is happy to serve as a repository for an extra copy of these. There are churches that have lost these valuable records due to fire or other disaster.

A very considerable amount of material has been received this past year. The committee wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to all who have made such con-

tributions. With continued cooperation of synod members and with the organization of the E.L.S. Historical Society the synodical archives will be able to improve its services to the synod and to all who are interested in their Christian cultural heritage.

Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary Properties

The Board of Trustees has worked with the Board of Regents in the construction of the college library and the residence facility.

The board authorized the repair and replacement of the roof on the S.C.Ylvisaker Fine Arts Building at a cost of \$133,000 and replacement of one fuel oil boiler at the college at a cost of \$48,000.

The board authorized needed repairs on the house at 114 Echo Street.

The Synod/Seminary Building was dedicated during last year's convention. The total cost of the building was \$2,390,285.25.

Synod Properties

The board regularly receives reports from the twenty-four congregations where loans currently are extended or where the synod is a co-signer. In addition, in conjunction with the Board for Home Missions, loans have been granted to the following congregations for the construction or purchase of church buildings:

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin (\$200,000),

Grace Lutheran Church, Hobart, Indiana (\$250,000)

Abiding Word Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, Ohio (\$130,000),

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan (\$180,000).

The synod also is obtaining a building loan in the amount of \$186,203 for Hope Lutheran Church, West Jordan, Utah from The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

Staff

The Rev. Richard Wiechmann has been called as full-time Deferred Giving Counselor for the synod. His office is located in the Synod/Seminary building.

As reported last year, the board has now engaged Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft as a business administrator to assist with the large amount of business activities of the synod. His duties began April 1. His duties primarily will include assistance to the treasurer and secretary in addition to dealing with legal matters.

General

As Christians we follow our Lord's will to be subject to the governing authorities. In conformity with Minnesota state law (Minnesota Statute §148A, Action of Sexual Exploitation: Psychotherapists) policy information concerning sexual exploitation has been distributed to pastors and congregations. The policy also is being reviewed by the Doctrine Committee.

The board has reviewed the ELS TSA Contribution Plan proposed by the Board for Christian Service. We recommend adoption of the plan and report that \$50,000 of funding is available from the matching funds should the synod choose to proceed at this time.

The synod received grants in 1997 from:

Lutheran Brotherhood:	\$13,200 for mission projects
	<u>\$26,800</u> for evangelism projects
Total:	\$40,000
AAL: Total of \$17,500 for mission projects	

Deficit

The budget deficit of the synod on January 1, 1997 was \$127,044.06. Matching funds from 1996 were applied to eliminate the deficit.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Income and Expenditures and Changes in General Fund Balance (Deficit)

Year ended December 31, 1997

Budget contributions \$790,234.03

Operating expenditures \$2,167,825.12

Less:

Income from publications	\$49,445.72	
Matching funds applied to budget	5,910.00	
Foreign missions Helping Hands funds for operating expenditures	124,117.03	
Foreign missions Seminary funds for operating expenditures	71,678.08	
Foreign missions excess expenditures funded from reserves	423,257.68	
"Truth for Youth" income used for expenditures	12,324.00	
Home missions special contributions for operating expenditures	13,200.00	
Home missions excess expenditures funded from reserves	<u>339,551.87</u>	<u>1,039,484.38</u>
Net expenditures before interest income		1,128,340.74

Interest income 166,502.40

Net expenditures 961,838.34

Net operating income (deficit) (171,604.31)

Other changes in General Fund Balance:

Increases:

Estates appropriated for debt reduction	76,521.92
Special contribution for debt reduction	1,101.65
Market value gains	38.58
Matching funds for debt reduction	415,065.00

Decreases:

Payments on mortgages and loans	<u>(16,472.50)</u>	
Net increase-other changes		<u>476,254.65</u>

Net increase for year 304,650.34

General Fund (deficit)-December 31, 1996 (127,044.06)

General Fund Balance-December 31, 1997 \$177,606.28

Wills

The following estates were settled and the synod received:

Phoebe Bartleson estate: \$6,473.00

Lila M. Kloster estate: \$340,302.65

Lenore Peckat estate: \$250,000.00

Ralph Sorenson estate: \$39,000.00

Notification also has been received of the George Feil estate.

Craig Ferkenstad, secretary

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MATCHING FUNDS FOR 1999:

The Board of Trustees recommends that the matching funds for 1998 be allocated as follows:

New home missions	\$ 300,000
Foreign missions	200,000
CDS match (3%)	30,000
TSA Contribution	50,000
Budget supplement	331,500
Board of Trustees	88,500
Total	\$1,000,000

SPECIAL OFFERING:

We are standing at the threshold of a significant event in world history. If the Lord so wills, we will be privileged to see the start of a new millennium. In commemoration of this momentous event, the Board of Trustees recommends that a special offering be gathered by the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to mark the millennium; and that a committee be appointed to bring specific recommendations to the 1999 synod convention.

REPORT OF THE MESSENGERS OF PEACE ANNIVERSARY THANKOFFERING COMMITTEE

In thanksgiving to our gracious Lord, upon the 50th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, our synod resolved to show its gratitude to God by conducting a two-year offering of praise. The offering was entitled "Messengers of Peace" echoing the words of the prophet: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7).

The offering began on January 28, 1996 with the purpose of constructing a new Seminary/Synod building. A total of \$250,506 was pledged toward this offering. As the offering has drawn to a conclusion, we are pleased to report a total offering of \$502,350.00. In some form, 117 congregations participated in the offering. The average gift per communicant member of the synod was \$31.77.

Matching gifts were provided for this offering which, together with the sale of the old seminary building to the college, provided full funding for the entire construction project. Surplus funds are being placed in an endowment fund to reduce future expenses.

The Messengers of Peace Thankoffering Committee extends its thanks to all congregations and individuals who supported the Thankoffering. Additional thanks is given to Mr. Wilbur Lieske who served as the Thankoffering treasurer.

Committee members have been:

The Rev. Richard Wiechmann, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary
The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr.

The Rev. George Orvick
The Rev. Wilhelm Petersen
The Rev. Paul Schneider

Craig Ferkenstad, secretary

REPORT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation meets concurrently with the quarterly meetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board of Trustees.

At its annual meeting on August 8, 1997, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation elected the following officers: the Rev. George Orvick, president; the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary; Mr. Leroy Meyer, treasurer. These officers serve one-year terms.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee is made up of four members elected to two-year terms. Mr. Leroy Meyer and the Rev. Richard Wiechmann were elected in 1996. Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. Wilbur Lieske were elected in 1997. Mr. Robert Brown was elected as chairman of the committee. The committee meets on the evening before each quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees and considers and makes recommendations to the Foundation regarding the investment of its assets and use of the income from those investments.

An accounting is found in the "Financial Statements and Accountant's Review Report."

Robert Brown, chairman

FINANCES

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: The report of the Board for Stewardship

WHEREAS, The Board for Stewardship has carried out its work with a thoroughly scriptural approach regarding stewardship, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the report of the Board for Stewardship.

Resolution No. 2: The Stewardship Pamphlet: \$teward\$hip

WHEREAS, The Board for Stewardship has produced scriptural materials regarding stewardship, and,

WHEREAS, We can always grow in our stewardship of all God has entrusted to us, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage congregations to make use of the pamphlet: \$teward\$hip: A Biblical Study of Money.

Resolution No. 3: Allocation of 1999 Matching Funds

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the Board of Trustee's recommended allocation which is as follows:

<i>New Home missions</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
<i>Foreign missions</i>	<i>200,000</i>

CDS match (3%)	30,000
TSA Contribution	50,000
Budget supplement	331,500
Board of Trustees	<u>88,500</u>
Total	\$1,000,000

Resolution No. 4: 2001 Budget

WHEREAS, 1997 Synod Report states "that the 1999 proposed budget reflect total anticipated income and expenses if possible, [emphasis added]," (1997 Synod Report, Resolution No. 3, page 142), and,

WHEREAS, Some progress toward this end has been attained, and,

WHEREAS, This end has not yet been reached, and,

WHEREAS, The synod now employs a full-time business administrator, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod direct the Planning and Coordinating Committee to strive for full implementation of a more comprehensive budget by the year 2001 in the spirit of the 1997 Resolution.

Resolution No. 5: 1999 Budget

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed 1999 budget, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the following budget for 1999,

Bethany Lutheran College:

Operations	\$176,000	
Maintenance on College	21,000	
Interest	4,000	
Maintenance on residences	4,000	
Faculty Housing Allowance		
(\$84,000 less \$16,000 interest applied)	68,000	\$273,000

BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Operations	62,500	
Maintenance and residences	2,000	64,500
CHRISTIAN SERVICE		33,500
EDUCATION AND YOUTH		41,000
EVANGELISM		16,500
FOREIGN MISSIONS		

Operations	166,000
Administration	32,000

HOME MISSIONS

Operations	171,000
Administration	32,000

PUBLICATIONS	35,000
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SYNOD FUND:

<i>Interest</i>	<i>9,000</i>	
<i>Boards, committees, etc.</i>	<i>70,000</i>	
<i>Administration</i>	<i>182,000</i>	
<i>House Expenses</i>	<i>16,000</i>	<i>277,000</i>
TOTAL		<u>1,141,500</u>
<i>Apply matching funds allocation</i>		<i><u>(331,500)</u></i>
TOTAL 1999 SYNODICAL BUDGET		810,000

Resolution No. 6: Report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

Resolution No. 7: Report of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Laymen's Delegate Equalization Fund Committee.

Resolution No. 8: Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the Treasurer's Report.

Resolution No. 9: Report of the Board of Trustees

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks and praise to God that our budget deficit has been eliminated, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Board of Trustees.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Special Anniversary Offering

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the Messengers of Peace Offering by opening the hearts of the members of the ELS to bring gifts totaling \$502,350.32, thus exceeding the goal of \$400,000, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank and praise our God of grace for His bountiful mercy, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we excuse the committee with thanks.

Resolution No. 2: Celebration of the Next Millennium

WHEREAS, Our gracious God has richly blessed our New Testament Church with the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the Savior during the past 2000 years, and,

WHEREAS, The entrance into this new millennium is an

excellent time and opportunity to reflect upon past blessings and to rededicate ourselves to greater future service in the Kingdom of God, and,

WHEREAS, Additional funds would assist in accomplishing this mission of using the Means of Grace to create and strengthen faith, spreading the Light of the Gospel into all the world, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That a special offering be gathered to celebrate 2000 years of Grace, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That a special committee of six be appointed by the president of the synod to bring plans for the celebration and offering for 2000 years of grace to the 1999 convention.

Resolution No. 3: Procedures for allocation of special gifts and bequests

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self Study Committee remind the synod that any board which is in need of additional funds between conventions shall, by resolution, make request for such funds to the Board of Trustees. (cf. 1985 Synod Report, page 146-149, Res. 2.)

Resolution No. 4: Procedures for allocation of special gifts and bequests

WHEREAS, The planning and Coordinating Committee has been charged with the responsibility of preparing and presenting the annual budget to the synod convention, and,

WHEREAS, In recent years it has been necessary to supplement the operating budget with moneys from the matching funds, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Planning and Coordinating Committee, in preparing the proposed budget for the ensuing year, shall get the approval of the Board of Trustees for the use of any matching funds to support the budget.

Resolution No. 5: By-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the by-laws as presented by the Self-Study Committee.

Resolution No. 6: Circuit divisions of the ELS

BE IT RESOLVED that the synod adopt the alignment of circuits as submitted by the Self-Study Committee.

Resolution No. 7: Date of 1999 Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod convene on June 20-24, 1999, at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, MN.

Resolution No. 8: Date of the 2000 Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the timing of the 2000 synod convention be given to the Board of Trustees with the intent of having Synod Sunday on the second Sunday in June.

MINUTES

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Sunday session, June 21, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 2: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Monday morning session, June 22, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 3: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Monday afternoon session, June 22, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 4: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Tuesday morning session, June 23, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 5: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Tuesday afternoon session, June 23, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 6: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Wednesday morning session, June 24, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 7: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Wednesday afternoon session, June 24, 1998, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the minutes as read.

Resolution No. 8: Secretary's Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President and Vice President of the synod be instructed to read and approve the Secretary's minutes for Thursday, June 25, 1998.

**PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution No. 1: Pastoral Conference Records

WHEREAS, The minutes of pastoral conference submitted indicate that brotherly encouragement in systematic, historical, exegetical and practical theology including sermon delivery has been shared in most areas of our synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That synod encourage all the pastors of our synod to make consistent use of this practice.

BALANCE SHEET

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT J

ASSETS	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Cash - checking account	\$189,698.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$189,698.49
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	901,247.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	901,247.41
Inventory of publications	83,948.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83,948.94
Prepaid expenses	6,023.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,023.04
Investments:							
Investment management accounts	651,814.74	651,760.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,174,109.28	8,477,684.24
Savings accounts and CD's	1,873.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,873.63
Money market funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	544,840.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,367,724.11	2,912,564.69
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	273,151.45	273,151.45
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)	0.00	0.00	20,823,226.00	2,390,285.25	311,843.71	186,114.21	23,711,469.17
	1,834,606.25	1,196,600.80	20,823,226.00	2,390,285.25	311,843.71	10,001,099.05	36,557,661.06
Due from (to) other funds	41,872.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	(0.00)	(41,872.65)	(0.00)
Total assets	\$1,876,478.90	\$1,196,600.80	\$20,823,226.00	\$2,390,285.25	\$311,843.71	\$9,959,226.40	\$36,557,661.06
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES							
Liabilities:							
Notes payable: (Note D)							
Working capital	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Investment program	0.00	514,957.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	514,957.62
Life Loan Plan	47,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,500.00
Accounts payable	21,520.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,520.83
Accrued interest payable	5,110.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,110.47
Unexpended restricted income (Note E)	1,424,741.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,424,741.32
Mortgages payable	0.00	289,774.03	0.00	0.00	68,151.45	640,280.84	998,206.32
Total liabilities	1,698,872.62	804,731.65	0.00	0.00	68,151.45	640,280.84	3,212,036.56
Fund balances (deficit):							
Unrestricted:							
Designated for investment	0.00	391,869.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	970,690.07	1,362,559.22
Undesignated	177,606.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177,606.28
	177,606.28	391,869.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	970,690.07	1,540,165.50
Restricted (Note F)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,348,255.49	8,348,255.49
Net investment in real estate and buildings	0.00	0.00	20,823,226.00	2,390,285.25	243,692.26	0.00	23,457,203.51
Total fund balances							
(deficit)	177,606.28	391,869.15	20,823,226.00	2,390,285.25	243,692.26	9,318,945.56	33,345,624.50
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$1,876,478.90	\$1,196,600.80	\$20,823,226.00	\$2,390,285.25	\$311,843.71	\$9,959,226.40	\$36,557,661.06

Year ended December 31, 1997

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

TREASURER'S REPORT
Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
Year ended December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT II

	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
BALANCES (Deficit) - December 31, 1996	<u>(\$127,044.06)</u>	<u>\$391,231.31</u>	<u>\$18,257,556.00</u>	<u>\$2,365,605.93</u>	<u>\$239,175.55</u>	<u>\$8,463,931.52</u>	<u>\$29,590,456.25</u>
ADD:							
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
Contributions received - net	1,101.65	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	567,284.09	568,460.74
Matching funds for debt reduction	415,065.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	415,065.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,679.32	0.00	122,310.43	146,989.75
Portion of unrestricted estates appropriated for General Fund debt reduction and to ELS Foundation	76,521.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,260.96	114,782.88
Market value gains(losses)	38.58	562.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,426.01	11,027.43
Principal payments on President's house charged to budget	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,516.71	0.00	4,516.71
Residences incorporated into BLC campus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments on liabilities by General Fund	(16,472.50)	0.00	16,472.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethany Lutheran College net value adjustment at June 30, 1997(Note B)	0.00	0.00	2,549,197.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,549,197.50
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>476,254.65</u>	<u>637.84</u>	<u>2,565,670.00</u>	<u>24,679.32</u>	<u>4,516.71</u>	<u>938,281.49</u>	<u>4,010,040.01</u>
	<u>349,210.59</u>	<u>391,869.15</u>	<u>20,823,226.00</u>	<u>2,390,285.25</u>	<u>243,692.26</u>	<u>9,402,213.01</u>	<u>33,600,496.26</u>
DEDUCT:							
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income for the period	171,604.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	171,604.31
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,592.01	5,592.01
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77,675.44	77,675.44
	<u>171,604.31</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>83,267.45</u>	<u>254,871.76</u>
BALANCES (Deficit) - December 31, 1997	<u>\$177,606.28</u>	<u>\$391,869.15</u>	<u>\$20,823,226.00</u>	<u>\$2,390,285.25</u>	<u>\$243,692.26</u>	<u>\$9,318,945.56</u>	<u>\$33,345,624.50</u>

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT III

(Page 1 of 3)

INCOME

Contributions:

Budgetary:

Restricted	\$26,064.01	
Unrestricted	764,170.02	\$790,234.03

Estate and trust income:

Restricted		502,365.56
Unrestricted		114,782.88

For special purposes:

Bethany Lutheran College special	1,730.00	
Bethany Lutheran Seminary special	3,338.82	
Bethesda Lutheran Home	181.00	
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	17,284.09	
Faith Mission Society	210.00	
Foreign missions special	490,865.35	
Home missions special	27,750.00	
Lutheran Brotherhood:		
Evangelism	26,800.00	
Home mission program subsidy(lump-sum)	13,200.00	
Aid Association for Lutherans:		
Education seminar on missions	7,500.00	
Missiology seminars	10,000.00	

"World Needs"	77,705.72	
"Helping Hands"	54,985.72	
"Thoughts of Faith"	2,463.67	
"Messengers of Peace"(net of \$127,652 unpaid pledges at 12/31/96)	85,908.00	
Matching funds	1,543,355.00	
Miscellaneous	793.30	
Youth work	20,574.21	
WELS Lutherans for Life	630.00	
	0.00	2,385,274.88

Total contributions - carried forward		3,792,657.35
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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT III

(Page 2 of 3)

Total contributions - brought forward		\$3,792,657.35
Investment income:		
Restricted:		
Merle R. Aasen Estate	\$703.76	
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund	422.89	
President's Office Endowment Fund	48,916.38	
"Helping Hands"	42,220.31	
"Partners in the Gospel"	167,751.35	
W-O-W Fund	7,071.43	
Foreign Mission Seminary Fund	71,678.08	
General Foreign Mission Fund	4,980.07	
Home missions reserves	124,959.06	
Home Missions SS Endowment Fund	116.13	
Challenge Fund	522.02	
"Truth for Our Youth"	26,518.28	
Unrestricted:		
Loans receivable	18,478.23	
NOW checking account	12,716.26	
Other - unrestricted endowment	86,391.53	
Total investment income		613,445.78
Total income from all sources		4,406,103.13
Less income for special purposes		3,334,583.82
Total income available for current purposes - carried forward		1,071,519.31
EXPENDITURES		
Bethany Lutheran College	176,000.04	
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	68,000.04	
Home missions	482,815.87	
Foreign missions	617,459.79	
Education and youth	58,748.74	
Evangelism	10,214.54	
Christian service	21,694.34	
Publications	89,015.13	
Synod fund	473,947.63	
Capital budget	0.00	
"World Needs"	84,425.00	
Evangelism grant	26,800.00	
Missiology seminars	8,883.65	
Seminary construction	0.00	
Home mission seminar	4,396.99	
Family life commission	0.00	
Evangelism seminars	3,528.39	
Total expenditures - carried forward	2,125,930.15	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT IV

(Page 2 of 3)

- (C) Residences and real estate have been stated at cost or acquisition in 1966 and subsequent years. Acquisitions prior to 1966 are recorded at appraisal values. The values may be summarized as follows:

VALUATION METHOD	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Cost	4	\$282,543.71
Appraisal - internal	1	29,300.00
Totals	5	\$311,843.71

- (D) Notes Payable:

The working capital note is an 6% demand loan from a congregation.

Investment program notes are amounts loaned by individuals, congregations and organizations for varying periods at interest rates ranging principally from zero to 6%.

Life Loan Plan notes are amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from zero to 6%.

- (E) Unexpended Restricted Income:

Partners in the Gospel Fund income	\$120,410.37
Estates for home missions programs	65,586.40
Other home missions unexpended restricted income	4,395.19
Estates for foreign missions programs	241,144.26
Other foreign missions unexpended restricted income	524,254.88
Grants	32,701.59
Truth for Youth Fund income	53,701.59
"Messengers of Peace" funds	115,906.23
Matching funds	230,874.22
Other	35,766.59
	\$1,424,741.32

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1997

EXHIBIT IV

(Page 3 of 3)

(F) Fund Balances - Restricted - Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation:

Merle R. Aasen Estate (to be invested permanently with income used for missions)	\$11,747.83
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund (to be invested permanently with income for scholarships)	7,059.34
President's Office Endowment Fund	769,066.57
Marvin and Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	704,791.16
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	1,866,914.32
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment Fund	118,044.62
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment Fund	1,196,534.58
General Foreign Mission Fund	83,133.03
Charitable Gift Annuity Fund	160,196.50
Home Mission Reserve Fund	172,259.12
Home Mission Expansion Fund	2,807,598.21
75th Anniversary Fund - "His Truth for Our Youth"	442,673.98
Challenge Fund	8,236.23
	<hr/>
	<u>\$8,348,255.49</u>

- (G) The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is contingently liable as co-signor on mortgage loans for Bethany (Port Orchard, Washington), Our Savior (Lakeland, Florida) and Christ (Windsor, California).

LOANS RECEIVABLE

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1997

SCHEDULE A**Church Extension and Loan Fund**

	TOTAL LOANS	BALANCE 12-31-96	NEW LOANS 1997	PAID 1997	TOTAL PAID	BALANCE 12-31-97
CONGREGATION						
Bethany - Ames, Iowa	\$2,162.21	\$1,062.21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,062.21
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:						
Church	155,500.62	109,668.81	0.00	2,157.96	47,989.77	107,510.85
Parsonage	65,143.02	39,044.06	0.00	4,437.84	30,536.80	34,606.22
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas	384,977.59	132,019.65	0.00	670.37	253,628.31	131,349.28
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota	63,946.76	40,468.88	0.00	1,616.81	25,094.69	38,852.07
Hope - West Jordan, Utah	186,203.42	0.00	186,203.42	0.00	0.00	186,203.42
Lakewood - Tacoma, Washington	15,500.00	2,330.63	0.00	756.45	13,925.82	1,574.18
Our Redeemer - Yelm, Washington	15,000.00	14,193.36	0.00	4,129.17	4,935.81	10,064.19
Trinity - Rogers City, Michigan	49,000.00	45,000.95	0.00	11,382.79	15,381.84	33,618.16
	<u>\$937,433.62</u>	<u>\$383,788.55</u>	<u>\$186,203.42</u>	<u>\$25,151.39</u>	<u>\$392,593.04</u>	<u>\$544,840.58</u>

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation**Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund**

Christ - Port St. Lucie, Florida	\$60,986.63	\$18,796.01	\$0.00	\$6,043.05	\$48,233.67	\$12,752.96
Family of God - Riviera, Arizona	127,800.00	107,560.77	0.00	9,601.74	29,840.97	97,959.03
Good Shepherd - Brownsburg, Indiana	74,500.00	46,261.44	0.00	4,225.10	32,463.66	42,036.34
King of Grace - Golden Valley, Minnesota	585,497.20	585,497.20	0.00	585,497.20	585,497.20	0.00
Peace - Kissimmee, Florida	414,408.72	381,668.78	0.00	39,299.79	72,039.73	342,368.99
Redeemer - Scottsdale, Arizona	308,062.44	302,876.00	0.00	9,024.52	14,210.96	293,851.48
Resurrection - Winter Haven, Florida	479,322.97	463,905.00	4,323.37	90,091.25	101,185.85	378,137.12
Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	326,953.69	290,881.04	0.00	14,330.60	50,403.25	276,550.44
	<u>\$2,377,531.65</u>	<u>\$2,197,446.24</u>	<u>\$4,323.37</u>	<u>\$758,113.25</u>	<u>\$933,875.29</u>	<u>\$1,443,656.36</u>

Home Mission Reserve Fund

Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	\$97,500.00	\$71,826.96	\$0.00	\$2,798.01	\$28,471.05	\$69,028.95
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Home Mission Expansion Fund

Abiding Word - Bowling Green, Ohio	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00
Christ the King, Green Bay, Wisconsin	200,000.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Lord of Life, Holland, Michigan	180,000.00	0.00	180,000.00	1,570.94	1,570.94	178,429.06
Peace - Lakeland, Florida	351,109.74	198,398.91	149,510.83	1,300.00	4,500.00	346,609.74
	<u>\$861,109.74</u>	<u>\$198,398.91</u>	<u>\$659,510.83</u>	<u>\$2,870.94</u>	<u>\$6,070.94</u>	<u>\$855,038.80</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1997

SCHEDULE B
Page 1 of 3

	MERLE R. AASEN ESTATE(07)	MERLE R. AASEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND(08)	PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENDOWMENT FUND(09)	MARVIN AND DELORES SCHWAN FOREIGN MISSION TRUST FUND(10)	PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL HOME MISSIONS FUND(11)	WHIPPLE - OLSON - WILSON ENDOWMENT FUND(12)
ASSETS						
Investments:						
Investment management accounts	\$11,747.83	\$7,059.34	\$700,915.12	\$704,791.16	\$801,241.43	\$118,044.62
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,443,656.36	0.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	68,151.45	0.00	184,000.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78,297.37	0.00
	11,747.83	7,059.34	769,066.57	704,791.16	2,507,195.16	118,044.62
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,747.83	\$7,059.34	\$769,066.57	\$704,791.16	\$2,507,195.16	\$118,044.62
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640,280.84	\$0.00
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1996	11,729.35	7,048.11	767,957.27	703,671.88	1,865,123.27	117,857.14
Add:						
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	967.83	0.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estates appropriated by Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Market value gains(losses)	18.48	11.23	1,109.30	1,119.28	823.22	187.48
	18.48	11.23	1,109.30	1,119.28	1,791.05	187.48
Balances - December 31, 1997	11,747.83	7,059.34	769,066.57	704,791.16	1,866,914.32	118,044.62
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$11,747.83	\$7,059.34	\$769,066.57	\$704,791.16	\$2,507,195.16	\$118,044.62

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1997

SCHEDULE B
Page 2 of 3

	RESTRICTED					
	FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND(13)	GENERAL FOREIGN MISSION FUND(14)	CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY FUND(15)	HOME MISSION RESERVE FUND(16)	HOME MISSION EXPANSION FUND(18)	75TH ANNIVERSARY FUND(20)
ASSETS						
Investments:						
Investment management accounts	\$1,196,534.58	\$83,133.03	\$191,069.15	\$103,230.17	\$1,844,742.57	\$442,673.98
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,028.95	855,038.80	0.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	107,816.84	0.00
	<u>1,196,534.58</u>	<u>83,133.03</u>	<u>202,069.15</u>	<u>172,259.12</u>	<u>2,807,598.21</u>	<u>442,673.98</u>
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	(41,872.65)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,196,534.58	\$83,133.03	\$160,196.50	\$172,259.12	\$2,807,598.21	\$442,673.98
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1996	1,194,634.72	83,001.17	149,472.25	160,950.60	2,019,880.23	441,971.26
Add:						
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	16,316.26	0.00	550,000.00	0.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,224.60	110,563.81	0.00
Estates appropriated by						
Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	(5,592.01)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(75,675.44)	0.00
Market value gains(losses)	1,899.86	131.86	0.00	83.92	2,829.61	702.72
	<u>1,899.86</u>	<u>131.86</u>	<u>10,724.25</u>	<u>11,308.52</u>	<u>787,717.98</u>	<u>702.72</u>
Balances - December 31, 1997	<u>1,196,534.58</u>	<u>83,133.03</u>	<u>160,196.50</u>	<u>172,259.12</u>	<u>2,807,598.21</u>	<u>442,673.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$1,196,534.58	\$83,133.03	\$160,196.50	\$172,259.12	\$2,807,598.21	\$442,673.98

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1997

SCHEDULE B
Page 3 of 3

ASSETS	CHALLENGE FUND(21)	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED		TOTAL	TOTAL - ALL FUNDS
			BOARD OF DONATED(30)	TRUSTEES DESIGNATED(35)		
Investments:						
Investment management accounts	\$8,236.23	\$6,213,419.21	\$774,355.70	\$186,334.37	\$960,690.07	\$7,174,109.28
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	2,367,724.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,367,724.11
Notes receivable	0.00	263,151.45	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	273,151.45
Land	0.00	186,114.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	186,114.21
	8,236.23	9,030,408.98	784,355.70	186,334.37	970,690.07	10,001,099.05
Due from (to) other funds	(0.00)	(41,872.65)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(41,872.65)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,236.23	\$8,988,536.33	\$784,355.70	\$186,334.37	\$970,690.07	\$9,959,226.40
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$640,280.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640,280.84
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1996	9,700.35	7,532,997.60	783,126.05	147,807.87	930,933.92	8,463,931.52
Add:						
Bequests	0.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00
Contributions - net	0.00	567,284.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	567,284.09
Income	522.02	122,310.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	122,310.43
Estates appropriated by						
Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,260.96	38,260.96	38,260.96
Annuity amortization	0.00	(5,592.01)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(5,592.01)
Distributions	(2,000.00)	(77,675.44)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(77,675.44)
Market value gains(losses)	13.86	8,930.82	1,229.65	265.54	1,495.19	10,426.01
	(1,464.12)	815,257.89	1,229.65	38,526.50	39,756.15	855,014.04
Balances - December 31, 1997	8,236.23	8,348,255.49	784,355.70	186,334.37	970,690.07	9,318,945.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$8,236.23	\$8,988,536.33	\$784,355.70	\$186,334.37	\$970,690.07	\$9,959,226.40

SYNOD FUND

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1997

SCHEDULE C

Bethany College:		
Maintenance - college	\$21,500.00	
Maintenance - residences	913.88	
Interest	5,748.88	
Faculty housing allowance	<u>84,000.00</u>	\$112,162.76
Bethany Seminary - maintenance - residences		1,505.33
Administration:		
Officers' expenses	32,573.53	
Salaries and stipends	83,345.73	
Retirement, social security & insurance benefits	15,873.00	
Housing expenses	15,319.61	
Seminary office expenses	<u>3,713.78</u>	150,825.65
Boards, committees, etc.:		
Archives committee	5,732.00	
Colloquy committee	2,660.76	
CELC	6,000.00	
ELS convention	3,729.92	
Doctrine committee	5,903.88	
Insurance	4,426.00	
ELS/WELS Forum	0.00	
Nominations committee	1,797.14	
Planning and coordinating committee	4,346.81	
Professional services	11,119.09	
Pastors' equalization fund	9,042.00	
Self-study committee	1,573.50	
Stewardship committee	4,465.33	
Board of Trustees	13,091.29	
Video production	3,738.90	
Visitors' expenses	16,654.67	
Other	<u>492.98</u>	94,774.27
Deferred giving counselor		58,725.11
Missions counselor		21,338.93
Interest:		
Working capital loan	12,000.00	
Life loan plan	1,920.00	
Investment program	15,857.19	
Church property mortgages	<u>4,838.39</u>	34,615.58
TOTAL - Synod Fund expenses		<u>\$473,947.63</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 1997

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Wolf & Company LLP
Certified Public Accountants

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ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

Board of Trustees
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Mankato, Minnesota

We have reviewed the accompanying statements of financial position of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD (a nonprofit corporation) as of December 31, 1997 and 1996, and the related statements of changes in net assets, activities and cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

A review consists principally of inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Wolf & Company LLP

Oak Brook, Illinois
May 13, 1998

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

A S S E T S

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Cash:		
Checking	\$ 189,698	\$ 38,168
Savings	1,874	1,818
Accounts receivable	901,247	647,935
Inventory of publications	83,949	107,655
Prepaid expenses	6,023	-
Loans receivable (Notes 3 and 7)	2,912,565	2,851,461
Investments:		
Money market funds	-	1,313
Investment management funds (Note 4)	8,477,684	6,582,611
Notes receivable	273,152	277,668
Real estate and buildings (Note 5)	<u>23,711,469</u>	<u>20,935,006</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 36,557,661</u>	 <u>\$ 31,443,635</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 21,521	\$ 138,240
Accrued interest	5,110	4,168
Notes payable (Note 6):		
Working capital	200,000	200,000
Investment program	514,958	244,415
Life Loan Plan	47,500	47,500
Mortgages payable (Note 7)	<u>998,206</u>	<u>657,515</u>
 Total liabilities	 <u>1,787,295</u>	 <u>1,291,838</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	363,941	20,764
Temporarily restricted (Note 8)	6,096,391	4,418,155
Permanently restricted (Note 8)	<u>28,310,034</u>	<u>25,712,878</u>
 Total net assets	 <u>34,770,366</u>	 <u>30,151,797</u>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 <u>\$ 36,557,661</u>	 <u>\$ 31,443,635</u>

See accompanying notes and accountants' review report.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Years Ended December 31, 1997 and 1996

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance, December 31, 1995	\$ (43,834)	\$ 5,009,970	\$ 15,569,361	\$ 20,535,497
Excess of revenues, gains and other support over expenses for 1996	64,598	(591,815)	2,044,153	1,516,936
Additions and improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College, funded by gifts and grants to College, net of depreciation and disposals (Note 5)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,099,364</u>	<u>8,099,364</u>
Balance, December 31, 1996	20,764	4,418,155	25,712,878	30,151,797
Excess of revenues, gains and other support over expenses for 1997	343,177	1,678,236	47,958	2,069,371
Additions and improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College, funded by gifts and grants to College, net of depreciation (Note 5)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,549,198</u>	<u>2,549,198</u>
Balance, December 31, 1997	<u>\$ 363,941</u>	<u>\$ 6,096,391</u>	<u>\$ 28,310,034</u>	<u>\$ 34,770,366</u>

See accompanying notes and accountants' review report.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	For the Year Ended December 31,				1996
	1997			Total	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
Revenues, gains and other support:					
Contributions:					
Budgetary	\$ 764,170	\$ 26,064	\$ -	\$ 790,234	\$ 749,500
Estate and trust	114,783	502,366	-	617,149	29,807
Special purpose:					
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	-	89,247	-	89,247	374,265
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	-	-	968	968	3,893
Foreign missions	-	460,865	-	460,865	281,377
Aid Association for Lutherans	-	17,500	-	17,500	25,000
Lutheran Brotherhood	-	40,000	-	40,000	40,000
Helping Hands	-	54,986	-	54,986	59,039
Matching funds	415,065	1,128,290	-	1,543,355	1,224,643
Others	1,102	161,954	75	163,131	39,305
Investment income	117,586	441,538	-	559,124	431,623
Investment income - President's Office					
Endowment	48,916	-	-	48,916	47,629
Publications income	49,446	843	-	50,289	48,874
Realized and unrealized gains on long-term investments	304	4,959	5,764	11,027	231,835
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,250,376	(1,250,376)	-	-	-
	<u>2,761,748</u>	<u>1,678,236</u>	<u>6,807</u>	<u>4,446,791</u>	<u>3,586,790</u>
Expenses:					
Bethany Lutheran College	344,219	-	-	344,219	157,000
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	91,498	-	-	91,498	61,000
Home missions	510,752	-	-	510,752	422,029
Foreign missions	759,053	-	-	759,053	669,501
Publications	89,015	-	-	89,015	79,186
Evangelism	10,215	-	-	10,215	8,010
Christian service	21,694	-	-	21,694	23,186
Education and youth	59,149	-	-	59,149	54,167
Synod Fund	473,948	-	-	473,948	445,779
Other programs and costs	143,746	-	-	143,746	149,996
College/seminary additions	(101,190)	-	(24,679)	(125,869)	-
Debt paid from unrestricted funds	16,472	-	(16,472)	-	-
	<u>2,418,571</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(41,151)</u>	<u>2,377,420</u>	<u>2,069,854</u>
Excess of revenues, gains and other support over expenses	<u>\$ 343,177</u>	<u>\$ 1,678,236</u>	<u>\$ 47,958</u>	<u>\$ 2,069,371</u>	<u>\$ 1,516,936</u>

See accompanying notes and accountants' review report.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Year Ended December 31,	
	1997	1996
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Excess of revenues, gains and other support over expenses	\$ 2,069,371	\$ 1,516,936
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Market value gains	(11,027)	(231,835)
Increase in accounts receivable	(253,312)	(95,288)
(Increase) decrease in inventory of publications	23,706	(94,632)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(6,023)	2,000
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(116,719)	88,419
Increase in accrued liabilities	942	956
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,706,938</u>	<u>1,186,556</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Net sale (purchase) of investments	(1,884,046)	437,952
Loans to congregations	(850,038)	(971,988)
Repayment of loans	788,934	123,647
Land purchases	(186,114)	-
Seminary additions	(24,679)	(1,905,119)
Reduction of notes receivable	<u>4,516</u>	<u>4,088</u>
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(2,151,427)</u>	<u>(2,311,420)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from mortgages	400,000	-
Proceeds of investment plan notes - net of reductions	270,543	5,822
Debt paid	<u>(75,781)</u>	<u>(49,493)</u>
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	<u>594,762</u>	<u>(43,671)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	150,273	(1,168,535)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>41,299</u>	<u>1,209,834</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 191,572</u>	<u>\$ 41,299</u>
Consisting of the following:		
Checking	\$ 189,698	\$ 38,168
Savings	1,874	1,818
Money market funds	<u>-</u>	<u>1,313</u>
	<u>\$ 191,572</u>	<u>\$ 41,299</u>
Supplemental cash flow information:		
Cash paid for interest	<u>\$ 117,639</u>	<u>\$ 105,874</u>

See accompanying notes and accountants' review report.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(See Accountants' Review Report)

1. Organization and Operations

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (the "Synod") is a national organization of Lutheran congregations. The Synod's purpose is to provide programs and support for various church purposes such as evangelism, missions, education, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Seminary. The Synod holds title to the property used by both Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, for which nominal rent is received.

The Synod is a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Statement Presentation

The Synod reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. Support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in unrestricted net assets if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the support is recognized. All other donor-restricted support is reported as an increase in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets, depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Synod considers all unrestricted highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less, excluding investment management accounts, to be cash equivalents.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont.)
 (See Accountants' Review Report)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont.)

Inventory

Inventory consists of publications held for sale and are reported at lower of cost or market.

Investments

Investments in managed accounts are reported at current market value.

3. Loans Receivable

Loans receivable consist of various secured and unsecured loans to member congregations. Interest is at various rates. The loans are primarily made to finance construction or similar projects. Activity during 1997 and 1996 was as follows:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Outstanding loans, beginning	\$ 2,851,461	\$ 2,003,120
Loans made	850,038	971,988
Loans collected	<u>(788,934)</u>	<u>(123,647)</u>
Outstanding loans, ending	<u>\$ 2,912,565</u>	<u>\$ 2,851,461</u>

4. Investments

Investments consist of various investment management accounts. The accounts include securities and various funds, including U.S. Treasuries, corporate bonds, domestic and foreign equities, cash funds, and futures contracts.

Investments at December 31 are comprised of the following:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
U.S. Treasury instruments and Treasury funds	\$ 755,043	\$ 1,791,367
Corporate bonds and bond funds	1,554,408	605,939
Domestic equities and equity funds	3,763,313	2,953,312
Foreign equity funds	184,017	375,243
Short-term money funds and other	<u>2,220,903</u>	<u>856,750</u>
	<u>\$ 8,477,684</u>	<u>\$ 6,582,611</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont.)
 (See Accountants' Review Report)

4. Investments (Cont.)

As of December 31 investments were allocated as follows:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Unrestricted	\$ 838,149	\$ 147,808
Temporarily restricted	3,426,946	3,375,063
Permanently restricted (endowments)	<u>4,212,589</u>	<u>3,059,740</u>
	<u>\$ 8,477,684</u>	<u>\$ 6,582,611</u>

5. Real Estate and Buildings

The Synod owns real estate, equipment and buildings leased to Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Seminary, related tax exempt organizations. Amounts shown for the College are from its audited balance sheets at June 30, 1997 and 1996. Additions and improvements to College facilities totaled \$3,328,348 and \$8,766,671 during the College's 1997 and 1996 fiscal years, and were primarily paid from private gifts and grants received by the College. The Synod also owns five residences occupied by Synod, College and Seminary officials. A summary of real estate included in the balance sheet at December 31, 1997 and 1996 is as follows:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
College property, plant and equipment, at cost	\$ 27,253,238	\$ 23,924,890
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,308,783)	(5,192,911)
Less obligations of the College, secured by real estate	<u>(121,229)</u>	<u>(474,423)</u>
	20,823,226	18,257,556
Seminary real estate, at cost	2,390,285	2,365,606
Residence, primarily at cost	<u>311,844</u>	<u>311,844</u>
	23,525,355	20,935,006
Land for missions	<u>186,114</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 23,711,469</u>	<u>\$ 20,935,006</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont.)
 (See Accountants' Review Report)

6. Notes Payable

The working capital note is a 6% unsecured demand loan from a congregation.

Investment program notes are unsecured amounts loaned by individuals, congregations and organizations for varying periods at interest rates ranging principally from zero to 6%.

Life Loan Plan notes are unsecured amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from zero to 6%.

7. Mortgages Payable

Mortgages payable at December 31 consist of the following:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Payable to Aid Association for Lutherans, due in monthly payments of \$2,723 including interest at 8%. Secured by loan to congregation.	\$ 289,774	\$ 298,516
Unsecured mortgage payable to a congregation due in various annual installments plus interest. Final payments made during 1997.	-	11,100
Payable to Marvin M. Schwin Charitable Foundation, dated May, 1997, in the amount of \$400,000, due in monthly installments of \$3,823, including interest at 8%. Secured by loan to congregation.	391,745	-
Payable to Aid Association for Lutherans, dated May, 1995 in the amount of \$285,000. Due in monthly payments of \$2,384 including interest at 8%. Secured by loan to congregation.	248,536	275,231
Mortgage payable, secured by residence, payable in monthly installments of \$965 including interest at 10%.	<u>68,151</u>	<u>72,668</u>
	<u>\$ 998,206</u>	<u>\$ 657,515</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont.)
 (See Accountants' Review Report)

7. Mortgages Payable (Cont.)

Future maturities of mortgages payable at December 31, 1997 are as follows:

1998	\$ 38,598
1999	41,923
2000	45,536
2001	49,463
2002	53,730
Thereafter	<u>768,956</u>
	<u>\$ 998,206</u>

8. Nature of Fund Restrictions

Temporarily restricted funds at December 31 consist of the following programs:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Partners in the Gospel unexpended income	\$ 120,410	\$ 184,578
Matching funds for Seminary construction	115,906	(282,792)
General Foreign Mission Fund	83,133	83,001
Other Foreign Mission unexpended funds	765,399	314,445
Charitable Gift Annuity Fund	160,197	149,472
Home Mission Reserve Fund	172,259	160,951
Home Mission Expansion Fund	2,807,598	2,019,880
Challenge Fund	8,236	9,700
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment Fund	1,196,535	1,194,635
His Truth for Our Youth unexpended income	53,702	39,507
Others	138,450	65,160
Residences	243,692	239,176
Matching funds	<u>230,874</u>	<u>240,442</u>
	<u>\$ 6,096,391</u>	<u>\$ 4,418,155</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cont.)
(See Accountants' Review Report)

8. Nature of Fund Restrictions (Cont.)

Permanently restricted funds at December 31 consist of the following programs:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
Church Extension and Loan Fund	\$ 391,869	\$ 391,232
Marvin and Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	704,791	703,672
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	1,866,914	1,865,123
His Truth for Our Youth	442,674	441,971
Merle R. Aasen Estate - Missions	11,748	11,730
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund	7,059	7,048
President's Office Endowment Fund	769,067	767,957
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment Fund	118,045	117,857
Board of Trustees - Donated Funds	784,356	783,126
Bethany College property	20,823,226	18,257,556
Bethany Seminary property	<u>2,390,285</u>	<u>2,365,606</u>
	<u>\$ 28,310,034</u>	<u>\$ 25,712,878</u>

9. Contingencies

The Synod is contingently liable as a guarantor on mortgage loans for Bethany (Port Orchard, Washington), Our Savior (Lakeland, Florida) and Christ (Windsor, California) congregations.

10. Concentrations of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Synod to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash, mutual funds, bonds and marketable securities. The Synod places substantially all of its cash and liquid investments with high-quality financial institutions and limits the amount of credit exposure to any one financial institution; however, cash balances may periodically exceed federally insured limits. There were no un-insured cash balances at December 31, 1997 and 1996. Marketable securities and other investments, consisting of both debt and equity instruments, are placed in a variety of managed funds administered by different investment managers in order to limit credit risk. As of December 31, 1997 and 1996, management considers the Synod to have no significant concentration of credit risk.

MEMORIAL

SUBJECT: EVANGELISM

- WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 1997 "Church-wide Assembly" continued its denial of even the most basic Scriptural doctrines and practices; among other things deciding by a 70% to 30% margin to continue to allow its medical benefits plan to pay for abortions performed on church workers during the first and second trimesters (ELCA News Service, August 20, 1997) and voting to join in altar and pulpit fellowship with the churches of the Reformed tradition who specifically deny the real presence of our Lord Jesus' true body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, thereby violating the clear Scriptural and Lutheran doctrine of altar and pulpit fellowship, and,
- WHEREAS, This departure from Scriptural doctrine and practice is clearly in evidence in other places; for example: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Lutheran Campus Ministry hosted a conference entitled: "The Gifts We Offer, The Burdens We Bear: The Vocation and Ministry of Gay and Lesbian Persons in Church and Society," at the University of Michigan in March of 1997, the purpose of which was "to provide an opportunity in which the gifts of gay and lesbian people among us could be celebrated, could be made visible," (ELCA News Service, March 17, 1997), and,
- WHEREAS, This subversion of orthodoxy has reached even the church's young people, to wit: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Lutheran Youth Association is investigating the possibility of "planning and developing a pre-gathering conference for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth" prior to its next youth gathering in St. Louis in the year 2000 (ELCA News Service, August 4, 1997), and,
- WHEREAS, These actions have caused a great lack of understanding among members of Lutheran Churches, non-churched people, and members of other confessions regarding the nature, doctrines and practices of orthodox Lutheranism, and,
- WHEREAS, The congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are often in close proximity and even share their history prior to the merger of 1917, and,
- WHEREAS, with the abundance of "press" related to the recent ELCA Church-wide Assembly, there is now a unique opportunity to make our communities aware of the differences that exist between that church body, other liberal church bodies and our own, and,
- WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon us that we publicly do all that we can to make certain that there be no confusion regarding what orthodox Lutheran doctrines and practices are as based upon Holy Scripture, and that the blessed truth of the Gospel which the Lutheran (Scriptural) teachings proclaim be upheld, therefore,
- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Evangelism solicit from our congregations, pastors and individuals ideas for programs, advertising, community-wide events, etc. and then disseminate these collected ideas to all ELS congregations before the end of the calendar year 1998, so that the Gospel might be proclaimed in our communities through the daily vocations of the people at the local level and by using all the appropriate media available, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Evangelism, in concert with the synod's Doctrine Committee, develop an information course or booklet that can be used to instruct inter-

ested members of the ELCA (or other liberal church bodies) who contact our congregations so that they can be informed of the differences between our two church bodies (perhaps a "condensed version" of Pastor J. K. Smith's "What's Going On Among Lutherans"), and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the President of the synod that he select a theme and a paper(s) topic for the 1999 ELS Synod Convention that are in line with the actions taken by this Convention.

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in convention issue a press release for general distribution by the end of the convention that describes its actions regarding these matters.

Submitted by
Christ Lutheran Church Council,
Klamath Falls, Oregon

MEMORIAL SUBJECT: SPECIAL OFFERING

WHEREAS, The arrival of the year 2000 presents a remarkable opportunity to inform our communities, our young people, and the world regarding the nature of our God and of the salvation earned for and offered to the world through Jesus Christ by the Gospel in Word and Sacraments, and,

WHEREAS, It is important that we as a synod do all we can to foster a "mission-minded" attitude in our home congregations by awakening ourselves to the mission possibilities all around us in our communities so that they can learn of the work done for them beginning 2000 years ago, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College continues to serve to strengthen our congregations and synod by training our young people - and young people outside of our fellowship - in an atmosphere which reveals the true Source of comfort and truth in a world continually driven to chase after false prophets (especially as the next millennium approaches); and that such work deserves the support of ALL the members of our Synod, and,

WHEREAS, On this Thirtieth Anniversary of our synod's mission work in Peru we are again reminded of God's mercy in bringing the blessings of His Gospel to the world, by His own power fulfilling His Great Commission to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That in recognition of the beginning of the Third Millennium since the incarnation and birth of our Lord Jesus, a three-year special offering be collected commencing on Christmas Eve 1999 with the express purpose of benefiting these three specific areas of our work together as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

1. Educational - Bethany Lutheran College as it continues to establish its four year baccalaureate programs;
2. World Outreach - South American Missions to help ensure continued operational funds through a restricted fund;
3. Home Outreach - Evangelism Challenge and Support for all self supporting ELS congregations.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the monetary goal of the offering would be \$1.5 million. With a possible match, that would bring the total to \$3 mil-

lion; one million dollars being applied equally to the three designated areas.

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That a special offering committee be set up to make appropriate plans for the implementation of this offering and to report their progress to next year's convention.

Submitted by
Christ Lutheran Church,
Klamath Falls, Oregon

RESOLUTIONS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following communications be approved:

Letters of greeting have been sent to the following in the name of the assembled convention:

The Lutheran Confessional Church of Norway and Sweden
Evangelisch-Lutherische Freikirche in Germany
Missionary Terry Schultz
Missionaries Oto Rodriguez and Karl Kuenzel
Rev. Timothy Bartels
Pastor-Emeritus Martin Galstad
Missionary James Krikava
The Rev. Donald McElwain

Letters of condolence have been sent to the following:

Mrs. Robert Waldschmidt
The Rev. Milton Tweit
Family of Ruth Lee
Family of Ed Schutters

Letters of recognition of years of service have been sent to the following:

Rev. A. V. Kuster
Rev. Herbert Larson
Rev. Norman Madson
Rev. Edward Bryant
Missionary David Haeuser
Rev. Mark Marozick
Rev. Dennis Schmidt
Rev. Paul Schneider
Rev. John Shep
Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith

A letter of appreciation has been sent to the Rev. Glenn Obenberger.

Informe Estadístico 1997			Sínodo Evangélico Luterano del Perú						
No.	Congregación	Pastor	Miembros Bautizados	Miembros Confirmados	Miembros Volantes	Bautismos		Confirmaciones	
						de niños	de adultos	de niños	de adultos
	Cono Sur de Lima								
1	San Gabriel Norte-Dios es Mi Rey	A. Robles (p)	34	19	3	1		1	298
2	San Gabriel Sur	S. Melendez (e)	27	18	9				191
		G. Orosopoma (e)							
3	Villa Solidaridad	A. Robles (p)	16	7	2	2			73
4	Villa El Salvador	S. Melendez (e)	6	1	1				
	Otros	G. Orosopoma (e)	33	16					
	Cono Norte de Lima								
5	Año Nuevo - Jesús Redentor	A. Rosario (p)	68	41	2	1			628
6	Tahuantinsuyo	A. Rosario (p)	24	16	3			2	111
	Otros		6	6		1		2	25
	Callao								
7	Reynoso	R. Berrospid (p)	87	63	8	2		3	1378
	Otros		27	17					
	Lima								
8	Santa Beatriz	Misioneros	22	17	4	1			456
9	Santa Anita	Misioneros	9	5	2				61
	Otros		25	11	2	1			
	Panamericana Norte								
10	Ancon	B. Capulán (v)	20	13	3				72
11	Puente Piedra	A. Rosario (p)	25	12	3	2			198
12	Zapallal	J. Estrada (l)	8	5					
13	Angamos, Ventanilla	R. Berrospid (p)	2	2					
	Provincias de Lima								
14	Barranca	Misioneros	14	7	3	1			
15	Huacho	O. Fernandez (p)	26	12	2	8			108
16	Cafete	A. Robles (p)	19	9	1				124
17	Chancay-Huacal	O. Fernandez (p)	10	3	1				48
	Otros								
	Bolognesi de Ancash								
18	Chiquitán	F. Convecio (p)	21	12	3			1	161
19	Llamec	F. Convecio (p)	47	39	10	2		3	156
20	Pacilón	F. Convecio (p)	110	73	20	6		5	436
21	Pocpa	F. Convecio (p)	22	12	4	13		5	84
	Otros		32	8	1				
	Ancash								
22	Chimbo-Cristo Vive	S. Gutierrez (p)	47	22	7	3			408
23	Huarez	F. Convecio (p)	7	3	1			1	12
24	Vista Alegre, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	23	15		3			71
25	Marque, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	17	6					31
	Otros		1	1					
	Otros Departamentos del Perú								
26	Calamarca	S. Gutierrez (p)	20	16	2				144
	Otros								
Total del Sínodo Evangélico Luterano del Perú			855	507	97	47	0	23	5272
	(a) alumno-student								
	(l) laico-layman								
	(v) vicario-vicar								
	(p) pastor								

(a) - alumno (student), (v) = vicar, (p) = pastor, (l) = laico (layman)

	Cultos Especiales	Promedio Asistencia	Cultos Regulares	Promedio Asistencia	Escuela Dominical	Estudio Bíblico	No. de Profesores	Esc. Bíblica Vac.	Colegio Secundario	Patrimonio
	2	37	49	19	15	13	1			
			49	23	12	9	4	30		\$ 5,000.00
			49	9		4			3	
			49	7		6			2	
			12	10	10	8				
1	2	38	49	29	22	10	2	42	10	\$ 25,000.00
			49	18	15	5	2	15	7	
			120	6	14	16				
	1	62	49	52	25	12	2	35	5	\$ 15,000.00
	3	183	49	17		20			6	\$ 60,000.00
			45	10		6				
			49	15	35		2		3	\$ 1,600.00
	3	43	49	15	19	12	1	16	6	\$ 8,000.00
			12	21	30	4	1	35	3	
					13		1			\$ 100.00
			48	14		14				
			20	12		10				
			49	9	12	10				
			12	5						
	2	10	52	13	15	27	1			\$ 4,000.00
			52	27				12		\$ 2,500.00
	2	38	52	31	20	56	4	21		\$ 4,000.00
			31	23		34				
1			52	33	17	24	2	17	2	\$ 9,500.00
			22	4	3	18				
			33	14		29	2			\$ 2,000.00
			30	17		21				
			24	24		24				
						12				
2	15	66	1156	477	277	404	25	223	47	\$ 136,700.00

Foreign Missions: 1997

No.	CONGREGATION				MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS				
	Country	Location	Congregation	Pastor	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed
1	Chile	Santiago	La Cisterna	O. Rodriguez	74	40	14	2	1	2	10	856
2			Las Vertientes	K. Kuenzel	101	37	19	4	2			820
3			San Bernardo	T. Bartels	28	14	4					287
4			Linares		15	4		2	4		4	35
5	Peru	#	#	T. Erickson D. Haeuser	855	507	97	47		23	4	5272
6	Czech Republic	Pizen	St. Paul's	M. Grubbs J. Krueger M. Luttman	99	50		4			2	810
7	Czech Republic	Prague	St. Michael's *	J. Krikava								
8	Ukraine	Kyiv	Kyiv Lutheran Congregation	K. Mamberge J. Shep	187	155		11	10	12	33	840
9	Ukraine	Vulytsya Rus'ka	Lutheran Church of Ternopi	R. Kovachyn J. Rakos D. Webber	200	30		5	3			380
												2
* Current statistics not provided # For detailed information see Sinodo Evangelico Lutheran del Peru on previous												

MISSION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD IN PERU (Peru, South America)

Seminary Building:

Enrique Barron 964
Santa Beatriz
Lima 1, Peru, SA
Tel: 011-51-14-33-126
Fax: 011-51-14-133-126
e-mail: postmas@mselp.org.pe

Mailing Address:

Skyway USA
Name of Missionary
2886 N.W. 79th Ave., Box 136
Miami, FL 33122

Missionaries:

The Rev. Timothy Erickson
The Rev. David Haeuser
The Rev. Terry Schultz

National Pastors:

The Rev. Roberto Berrospid
The Rev. Fidel Covercio
The Rev. Oswaldo Fernandez
The Rev. Segundo Gutierrez
The Rev. Andres Robles
The Rev. Abraham Rosario

SERVICES				EDUCATION								FINANCES		
Sunday Services	Average Attendance	Special Services	Average Attendance	CDS Enrollment	CDS Teachers	Sun Sch Enrollment	Sun Sch Teachers	Bible Class	VBS	Camp	Synodical Institutions	Public H.S. & College	For Home Purposes	Value of Property
52	32	6	43					90						
52	28	9	26					10					1,234	
41	11	2	14			7	2	8						
9	9	2	44										58	
1156	477	15	66			277	25	404	233	26		47		136,700
52	197	2	215			64	4	40		78	2	33		
						100	6	25	380	75	4			

**IGLESIA CRISTIANA DE LA REFORMA
LUTHERANA
(Chile, South America)**

Mailing Address:

Name of Missionary
Exp #1131
P.O. Box 025285
Miami, FL 33102-5285

Missionaries:

The Rev. Karl Kuenzel
The Rev. Ralph Martens
The Rev. Othoniel Rodriguez

THOUGHTS OF FAITH

(a church related organization of the ELS)

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 14502
Madison, WI 53714-0502
Tel: 608-243-3227
Fax: 608-243-3284

Administrator:

The Rev. David Meyer

UKRAINE:

Mailing Addresses:

Kiev:
Pushkinska 21/31
Kiev 252004
Ukraine
Tel: 011-380-44-228-7257

Ternopil:
Russka 4/27
Ternopil 282001
Ukraine
Tel/Fax: 011-380-35-222-2534

Pastors:

The Rev. Roger Kovaciny
The Rev. Konstantin
Mamberger
The Rev. Joel Rakos
The Rev. John Shep
The Rev. David Jay Webber

Teacher:

Priscilla Ehrick

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Mailing Address:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
and The School of Martin
Luther
Skolni namesti 1
31805 Plzen
Czech Republic
Tel: 011-420-19-28-0754

Pastors:

The Rev. Mark Grubbs
The Rev. James Krueger
The Rev. Matthew Luttman

Teachers:

Paul Kelm
Tel: 011-420-19-52-3943
Jennifer Harper
Tel: 011-420-19-28-1097

Limited term teachers:

Kimberly Festerling
Michelle Grubbs
Paul Grubbs

FOUR CORNERS MISSION SOCIETY

(church related status pending)

Mailing Address:

Ke skale 378
252 62 Horomerice
Czech Republic
Tel/Fax: 011-420-2-2097-0397

Pastor:

The Rev. James Krikava

PRESCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

1998-1999

Bethany Lutheran Elementary School

151 Tremont West
Port Orchard, WA 98366-3737
360-876-1300, Fax 360-876-5098
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Concordia Preschool

3715 London Road
Eau Claire, WI 43701-7813
715-834-0921, Fax 715-834-0921
(Preschool Only)

Heritage Lutheran Preschool

13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
612-431-6225
(Preschool Only)

Holton Lutheran School

6655 Marvin Road
Holton, MI 49425
616-821-0032
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Holy Cross Lutheran School

2670 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53704
608-249-0601, Fax 608-249-3101
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

P.O. Box 44
35181 Wisconsin Ave.
Okauchee, WI 53069
414-567-0669, Fax 414-567-0669
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

King of Grace Lutheran School

6000 Duluth Street
Golden Valley, MN. 55422
612-546-3131, Fax 612-540-0028
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Lakewood Lutheran School

10202 112th Street SW
Tacoma, WA 98498
253-584-6024, Fax 253-584-4615
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Mt. Olive Lutheran School

1123 Marsh Street
Mankato, MN 56001
507-345-7927
(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

Our Redeemer Lutheran School

805 Yelm Ave. E.
Yelm, WA 98597
360-458-7310
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Our Savior Preschool

10,000 Airport Road
Naples, FL 34109
941-597-6009, Fax 941-597-8846
(Preschool Only)

Our Savior's Lutheran School

3163 Maricopa Dr.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406
520-855-8811
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Parkland Lutheran School

12309 Pacific Avenue
P.O. Box 44006
Tacoma, WA 98444
253-537-1901, Fax 253-537-0172
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Princeton Lutheran School

7401 Alpha Road
Princeton, MN 55371-6054
612-389-0704
(First through Eighth Grade)

Scarville Lutheran School

Box 28
Scarville, IA 50473
515-568-3372
(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

St. Timothy Lutheran Preschool

547 N. Main
Lombard, IL 60148
630-627-6790
(Preschool Only)

Trinity Lutheran School

1268 Pleasant Valley Road
West Bend, WI 53095
414-675-6627
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

Western Koshkonong Lutheran School

2632 Church Street
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608-873-6011
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

CHURCH LOCATIONS AND TIME OF SERVICES

CIRCUIT NO. 1

FLORIDA

Kissimmee-Peace

10:00
J.N. Madson
3249 Windmill Point Blvd.
Mail: PO Box 451697; 34745

Lakeland-Our Savior

9:30
D. Raetz
6920 Socrum Loop Rd. N; 33809

Lakeland-Peace

10:30
J. Willitz
5970 Lakeland Highlands
Rd.; 33813

Naples-Our Savior

9:00
R. Dale
10,000 Airport Rd. N.; 34109

Port St. Lucie-Christ

10:00
C. Keeler
1592 S.E. Floresta Dr.; 34983

Sebastian-Trinity

10:00
D. Lillegard
611 Schumann Dr.; 32958

Sebring-New Life

8:30 & 10:45 (S 8:30)
R. Fyffe
3725 Hammock Rd; 33872

Vero Beach-Grace

10:00
J. Petersen
1150 41st Ave.; 32960

Winter Haven-Resurrection

8:00 & 10:30 (S 10:30)
M. Thompson
4620 Cypress Gardens Rd.; 33884

GEORGIA

Cartersville-Lamb of God

9:00
D. Schroeder
13 Public Square; 30120

Kennesaw-Resurrection

10:45
D. Schroeder
909 Acworth Due West Road; 30152

CIRCUIT NO. 2

MASSACHUSETTS

Brewster-Trinity

9:30
M. Langlais
1883 Main St.; 02631

Burlington-Pinewood

10:45 (S 10:00)
T. Fox
24 Wilmington Rd.; 01803

CIRCUIT NO. 3

INDIANA

Brownsburg-Good Shepherd

10:15
H. Bartels
204 E. Main St.
Mail: 5835 Apple Blossom Dr.;
46112

MICHIGAN

Alpena-Faith

9:00
H. Gieschen
233 Cavanaugh; 49707

Detroit-St. Matthew

10:30 (S 9:30)
L. Vinton
4430 St. James; 48210

East Jordan-Faith

10:45
Vacant
02148 S. Wilson Rd.; 49727

Hillman-Faith

11:00
H. Gieschen
24640 Veterans Memorial Hwy;
49746

Holland-Lord of Life

9:00
M. Smith
290 E. 18th St.; 49423

Holton-Holton

10:00 (S 9:00)
M. Krentz
6655 Marvin Rd.; 49425

Midland-Holy Scripture

9:00
P. Schneider
4525 West Main St.; 48640

Rogers City-Trinity

10:00
T. Smuda
6134 US 23 North
Mail: 737 Patricia St.; 49779

Saginaw-Gloria Dei

8:00 & 10:45 (S 9:00)
J.K. Smith
5250 Mackinaw
Mail: 7876 Bonny Dr.; 48609

Suttons Bay-First

10:00
R. Pederson
321 St. Marys Ave.
Mail: PO Box 189; 49682

OHIO

Bowling Green-Abiding Word

10:00
K. Mellon
17202 N. Mercer Rd.
Mail: 826 Jefferson Dr.; 43402

Deshler-Peace

9:30
D. Basel
5-039 Road G; 43516

Weston-Grace

10:30
P. Lehmann
20425 Taylor St. Mail: PO Box 304;
43569

PENNSYLVANIA

North Huntingdon-Zion

10:30
B. Leonatti
351 Robbins-Station Rd.; 15642

CIRCUIT NO. 4

ILLINOIS

Chicago-Emmaus

10:45
S. Schmidt
5440 W. Gladys Ave; 60644

Chicago-St. Marks

9:30
H. Behrens
3101 Parkside Ave.
Mail: 2005 Royal Blvd., Elgin;
60123

Litchfield-Faith

9:00
W. Frick
718 N. State
Mail: 717 N. Monroe; 62056

Lombard-St. Timothy

10:15 (S 9:00)
P. Zager
547 N. Main St.; 60148

INDIANA

Lake Station-Grace

8:00
F. Lams
3930 Central Ave.
Mail: 1031 Hickey St., Hobart;
46342

WISCONSIN

Cottage Grove-Western

Koshkonong

10:00 (S 9:30)
M. Marozick
2642 Church St; 53527

Madison-Grace

10:00 (S 9:30)
J. Jacobsen
1 South Rosa Rd.; 53705

Madison-Holy Cross

8:15 & 10:30 (S 8:15 & 10:00)
M. Bartels
2670 Milwaukee St.; 53704

Madison-Our Saviour's

8:00, 10:15, Sat. 5:30
(S 9:00, Sat. 5:30)
B. Homan
1201 Droster Rd.; 53716

Okauchee-Holy Trinity

7:45 & 10:15
(S 7:45 & 9:30)
K. Smith
35181 Wisconsin Ave.
Mail: PO Box 66; 53069

Oregon-Faith

9:00 & Thurs. 7:00
R. Lehmann
143 Washington St.; 53575

Portage-St. Paul's

9:00
M. Doepel
W11355 Hwy. 127 (6 miles NW)
Mail: 212 Volk St.; 53901

West Bend-Trinity

8:00, 10:00, Mon. 7:15
K. Schmidt
1268 Pleasant Valley Rd.; 53095

Wisconsin Dells-Newport

10:30
M. Doepel
N8794 Peterson Rd., (4 miles E)
Mail: 212 Volk, Portage; 53901

CIRCUIT NO. 5

WISCONSIN

Amherst Junction-Our Savior's

9:30
W. Mack
Hwy. 161 & Co. "T" Rd.
Mail: N6916 TU Lakes Rd.,
Scandinavia; 54977

Bloomer-Good Shepherd

10:30 (S 10:00)
R. Holtz
1504 Vine St.
Mail: 1402 Martin Rd.; 54724

Clintonville-St. Paul

10:30 (S 10:00)
E. Gernander
31 N. Park St.; 54929

Eau Claire-Ascension

9:00
P. Sullivan
1500 Peterson Ave.; 54703

Eau Claire-Concordia

8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:00 & Mon. 7:00)
F. Theiste
3715 London Rd.; 54701

Eau Claire-Pinehurst

9:00 & Sat. 6:30
(S 9:00 & Mon. 6:30)
M. Rogers
3304 Fern Ct.; 54703

Elderon-Our Savior's

9:00
T. Skaaland
Hwy. 49 N. 54429

Green Bay-Christ the King

9:00
L. Buelow
1700 Cardinal Lane
Mail: P.O. Box 11473; 54307

Iola-Redeemer

9:00
H. Vetter
125 North St.
Mail: 295 E. State St.; 54945

Marinette-First Trinity

8:00 & 10:00 (S 9:00)
F. Stubenvoll
920 Wells St.; 54143

Omro-Messiah

9:00
W. Mack
Meeting at H.B. Patch Elementary
Sch.
607 Tyler Ave.
Mail: P.O. Box 214; 54963

Shawano-St. Martin

9:00 (S 8:30)
E. Gernander
W8302 Belle Plaine Ave.; 54166

Ames-Bethany

Sat. 7:30
M. Hoesch
3209 Diamond St; 50010

CIRCUIT NO. 6

IOWA

Calmar-Trinity

8:30 or 10:30 (S 8:00 or 10:00)
H. Abrahamson
306 Clark St.
Mail: 611 W. Court St.,
New Hampton; 50659

Forest City-Forest

9:00
R. Newgard
546 West M. St.

Mail: PO Box 42, Glenville, MN;
56036

Hampton-Bethany

10:00
M. Hoesch
Mail: 1643 Dorell Dr.; 50441

Albert Lea-Our Savior's

8:00 & 10:45 (S 9:00)
W. Halvorson
320 W. College St.; 56007

Lake Mills-Lake Mills

8:30
A. Merseth
1st Ave. N. & Grant St.
Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood;
50459

Lake Mills-Lime Creek

9:45
A. Merseth
4 miles N. 1 mile W.
Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood;
50459

Lawler-Saude *

K. Dethlefsen
10 miles N. 1 mile W.
Mail: 2940 Stevens Trail; 52154

New Hampton-Jerico *

K. Dethlefsen
9 miles N. 3 miles E.
Mail: 2940 Stevens Tr., Lawler;
52154

New Hampton-Redeemer

8:30 or 10:30 (S 8:00 or 10:00)
H. Abrahamson
611 West Court St.; 50659

Northwood-First Shell Rock

10:30
A. Merseth
Central & 15th
Mail: 106 13th St. S.; 50459

Northwood-Somber

9:45
A. Merseth
10 miles W. 1 mile S.
Mail: 106 13th St. S.; 50459

Parkersburg-Faith

10:15 (S 9:30)
D. Larson
608 Sixth St.; 50665

Riceville-Immanuel

8:30
A. Merseth
Main St.
Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood;
50459

Scarville-Center *

T. Rank
5 miles S.
Mail: PO Box 56; 50473

Scarville-Scarville Synod *

T. Rank
411 Logan St.
Mail: PO Box 56; 50473

Thompson-Zion

10:45
R. Newgard
226 Monroe St.
Mail: PO Box 42, Glenville, MN;
56036

Thornton-Richland

10:30 (S 9:30)
J. Gernander
300 Elm St.
Mail: PO Box 86; 50479

Waterloo-Pilgrim

9:30 (S 9:00)
G. Haugen
3815 Ansborough Ave.; 50701

Waterville-East Paint Creek

10:00 (S 9:30)
P. Madson
1751 Gronna Dr.
Mail: 1176 Waterville Rd.; 52170

Waukon-West Paint Creek

10:00 (S 9:30)
P. Madson
Elan Dr.
Mail: 1176 Waterville Rd.,
Waterville; 52170

Williamsburg-St. Timothy

9:00
K. Heck
Amana Welfare Clubhouse,
Homestead
Mail: 209 Valley Rd.,
Williamsburg 52361

MINNESOTA**Albert Lea-Our Savior's**

8:00 & 10:45 (S 9:00)
W. Halvorson
320 W. College St.; 56007

Hartland-Hartland

10:45 (S 9:00)
D. Schmidt
605 Lincoln
Mail: PO Box 188; 56042

Manchester-Manchester

9:30 (S 10:30)
D. Schmidt
Mail: PO Box 188, Hartland; 56042

CIRCUIT NO. 7
MINNESOTA

Audubon-Immanuel

9:30
J. Moldstad, Sr.
US Hwy 10
Mail: Box 187; 56511

Bagley-Our Savior's

9:00
M. Wold
5 miles W. on Hwy 2
Mail: PO Box 26, Lengby; 56651

Crookston-Grace

10:45
E. Geistfeld
Mail: Box 316; 56716

East Grand Forks-River Heights

10:15 (S 9:00)
R. Preus
2214 10th Ave. NW; 56721

Fertile-First Evanger

9:00
E. Geistfeld
Washington & Elm Sts.
Mail: Box 477; 56540

Grygla-St. Petri *

S. Sparley
3 miles W, 1 mile N
Mail: Rt. 1 Box 141, Oklee 56742

Hawley-Our Savior's *

S. Urberg
6th & Joseph
Mail: Box 326, Ulen; 56585

Lengby-St. Paul

10:30
M. Wold
Mail: PO Box 26; 56651

Oklee-Oak Park *

S. Sparley
8 miles N. 4 miles E
Mail: Rt. 1 Box 141; 56742

Trail-Mt. Olive *

S. Sparley
Mail: Rt.1 Box 141, Oklee 56742

Trail-Nazareth *

S. Sparley
9 miles N. 2 miles E
Mail: Rt.1 Box 141, Oklee 56742

Ulen-Calvary *

S. Urberg
207 First Street NW
Mail: PO Box 326; 56585

NORTH DAKOTA

Mayville-First American *

Vacant
213 3rd Ave. NE; 58257

CIRCUIT NO. 8

MINNESOTA

Apple Valley-Heritage

10:30 (S 9:30)
D. Hoyord
13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.;
55124

Belview-Our Savior's

8:30 or 11:00 (S 8:30 or 10:00)
D. Faugstad
306 Main St.
Mail: P.O. Box 187; 56214

Belview-Rock Dell

8:30 or 11:00 (S 8:30 or 10:00)
D. Faugstad
4 miles NE
Mail: P.O. Box 187; 56214

Clara City-Faith

9:00
R. MacKain
4015 SE 115th Ave.
PO Box 796; 56222

Cold Spring-Gloria Dei

10:00 (S 9:00)

R. Flohr

601 Red River Ave. S; 56320

Cottonwood-English

9:00

J. Smith

110 East Main St.

Mail: PO Box 37; 56229

Gaylord-Norwegian Grove

9:00 or 10:30

C. Ferkenstad

6 miles South

Mail: RR 3, Box 40, St. Peter; 56082

Golden Valley-King of Grace

8:15 & 10:45 (S 8:15 & 10:00)

E. Ekhoﬀ

6000 Duluth St; 55422

Jasper-Rose Dell Trinity

8:30

G. Lilienthal

4th & Poorbough Ave.

Mail: PO Box 506, Luverne; 56156

Luverne-Bethany

10:15

G. Lilienthal

720 N. Kniss

Mail: PO Box 506; 56156

Mankato-Mt. Olive

8:30 & 10:45 (S 8:30 & 10:00)

D. Moldstad

1123 Marsh St.; 56001

Princeton-Bethany

8:15 & 10:45 (S 9:00)

R. Lawson

801 South Sixth St.; 55371

Princeton-Our Savior's

9:45 (S 9:15)

T. Zenda

18977 17th St.; 55371

St. Peter-Norseland

9:00 or 10:30

C. Ferkenstad

10 miles NW

Mail: RR. 3 Box 40; 56082

Tracy-Zion

10:15 (S 10:00)

N. Madson

2nd & Emory; 56175

CIRCUIT NO. 9**MISSOURI****Cape Girardeau-Scriptural**

10:00

Vacant

3587 County Rd. 635; 63701

Jefferson City-Peace

8:30

M. Ernst

7808 New Church Rd.; 65101

Piedmont-Grace

10:30

Vacant

114 E. Green St.; 63957

TEXAS**Richardson-Good Shepherd**

10:30

L. Zell

650 W. Campbell Rd.; 75080

San Antonio-Faith

10:15

R. Nepsund

14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd.;
78232

CIRCUIT NO. 10

ARIZONA

Fort Mojave-Family of God

10:15
C. Wosje
1863 Pandaro Rd.
Mail: PO Box 10510; 86427

Lake Havasu City-Our Saviour

8:30 & 11:00 (S 8:30)
H. Huhnerkoch
3163 Maricopa Ave.; 86406

Scottsdale-Redeemer

9:00
K. Brumble
7670 E. Jomax Rd.; 85255

CALIFORNIA

Bell Gardens-Christ the King

2:00
Vacant
6541 Eastern Ave.; 90201

Bishop-Our Savior

9:30
B. Schwark
162 Sneden St.; 93514

Cedar Ridge-Shepherd of the Hills

10:00
Vacant
12833 Hwy. 174
Mail: 20427 Star Light Lane

Escondido-St. Paul

10:00
T. Gullixson
1418 Bear Valley Pkwy.; 92027

Fillmore-Wayfarers'

9:30
J. Schmidt
461 3rd St.; 93015

Irvine-Faith

9:30
Vacant
13955 Yale Ave.; 92653

Windsor-Christ

10:30
K. Anderson
125 Shiloh Rd.; 95492

CIRCUIT NO. 11

OREGON

Grants Pass-Our Savior

9:30
J. Ruppel
230 Buysman Way; 97526

Gresham-Saved By Grace

9:30
Vacant
2010 NE Division St.; 97030

Hillsboro-Reformation

10:00
W. Anderson
4435 SE Tualatin Valley Hwy;
97123

Hood River-Concordia

9:00
Vacant
1107 Pine St.; 97031

Klamath Falls-Christ

9:30
J. Braun
127 N. Spring St.; 97601

Myrtle Creek-St. Matthew

11:00
F. Fiedler III
436 N. Old Pacific Hwy.; 97457

Sutherlin-Christ

8:30
F. Fiedler III
161 2nd St.
Mail: PO Box R; 97479

The Dalles-Bethany

11:00
Vacant
2323 East 12th St.; 97058

UTAH

West Jordan-Hope

8:00 & 10:30
G. Sahlstrom
2930 W. 9000 S.; 84088

WASHINGTON

Gig Harbor

9:00
A. Hamilton
Rosedale Community Center

Mt. Vernon-St. Luke

10:30 (S 9:30)
J. Dalke
1524 E. Blackburn Rd.; 98274

Port Hadlock-Hope

Vacant

Port Orchard-Bethany

8:15 & 11:00, M 7:00
E. Bryant, A. Pittenger
151 Tremont W.; 98366

Tacoma-Lakewood

11:00 (S 10:00)
H. Mosley, Jr.
10202 112th St. SW; 98498

Tacoma-Parkland

8:30 & 11:00
G. Obenberger, A. Ring
12309 Pacific Ave.
Mail: PO Box 44006; 98444

Yelm-Our Redeemer

10:30 (S 8:00 & Thurs. 7:00)
V. Settje
805 Yelm Ave. E; 98597

* Consult Pastor for service time.

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THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

"The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION is established for the purpose of soliciting gifts, other than for current operating funds, for the Synod, its agencies, and as requested, for its congregations and for the theological seminary, college, and other institutions related to the Synod. The FOUNDATION is to encourage the making of wills, gift annuity agreements, trust agreements, insurance contracts, etc., under which the Synod or any of its parts or agencies may become an actual or contingent beneficiary."—(Adopted by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 1969.)

IS GOD'S WILL INCLUDED IN YOUR WILL?

The FOUNDATION is ready to serve those who are concerned about their responsibility to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as those who are concerned about the needs of our church. It stands ready to serve as no other agency can.

A. GIFTS AND DONATIONS OF MONEY

The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of money designated for the general work of our church or any specific phase of its activities. Such gifts may be designated for any purpose the donor may desire, and they may be divided in any way.

In keeping with the donor's wishes, the principal may be used for the purpose designated, or the principal may be held intact while the income alone is used for the work of the church.

B. GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY

The FOUNDATION is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of real estate, securities, or other property designated for the general work of our church or for any specific phase of its activities (including local congregations). If desired the FOUNDATION is ready to make arrangements whereby the donor will receive a gift annuity agreement income for life or a life income agreement income.

C. BEQUESTS THROUGH WILLS

In a very real sense your will is a continuation of your own life and influence. It is an expression of your wishes, a document that acts as your representative in distributing the material things you leave behind. Only you know how you wish them distributed. Only you have the power and the right to make your own will. If you don't have a will, the state makes a will for you through the laws that apply when a person leaves no will.

The E.L.S. FOUNDATION urgently appeals to you: Make a will, and make your will a "Christian" will by remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in it.

Gift Annuity Agreements, Life Income Gift Agreements, Life Insurance Gifts, Gifts Through Trusts, and Memorial Gifts, may be used; and the FOUNDATION is ready to serve you or counsel with you.

LEGAL FORM GIFTS TO THE SYNOD FOUNDATIONTHROUGH WILL (check with your attorney.)

I give, devise and bequeath to the EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION (a Minnesota Corpora-
tion)

*(insert sum of money or description of property which sum, or
property, or proceeds thereof)*

to be used as directed by the donor or, if no direction as to use is
stated, as its Board of Directors may determine.

Send inquiries to:

DEFERRED GIVING COUNSELOR
6 Browns Court
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Parochial Report for the year 1997:																																	
	CONGREGATION					MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS					SERVICES			EDUCATION											FINANCES					
	State	Location	Circuit	Congregation	Pastor	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance	Special Services	Average Attendance	CDS Enrollment	CDS Teachers	Sun Sch Enrollment	Sun Sch Teachers	Bible Class	VBS	Summer Camp	Synodical Institutions	Public H.S. & College	For Home Purposes	For All Other Purposes	Value of Property	Debt on Property	Legacies
1	AZ	Fort Mojave	10	Family of God	C.Wosje	95	49	15	1				262			52	34	7	20			23	7	7	22			1	30,525	2,722	144,000	90,885	
2	AZ	Lake Havasu City	10	Our Saviour	H.Huhnerkoch	253	209	72	5		4	3	1789			74	158	13	121	29	2	32	5	36	78	2	2	10	132,941	19,669	740,194	87,335	
3	AZ	Scottsdale	10	Redeemer	K. Brumble	40	38	16					492			48	35	11	35			6	3	24					50,433	4,623	400,000	294,000	
4	CA	Bell Gardens	10	Christ the King	Vacant	34	20	7								17	12	11				11	3	6					26,000		180,000		
5	CA	Bishop	10	Our Savior	B. Schwark	28	25	8			1		220	1	2	52	18	10	13				1	7	10			3	35,761	1,293			
6	CA	Escondido	10	St. Paul	T. Gullixson	151	91	35			1	1	520	3	6	52	58	13	25			10	4	7	19	2	2	5	30,295	6,755	250,000		1,215
7	CA	Cedar Ridge	10	Shepherd of the Hills	Vacant	26	22	7					144	2	12	15	12	12									7	15,206	4,185	N/A	N/A		
8	CA	Fillmore	10	Wayfarers' Chapel	J. Schmidt	45	39	9					336	1	3	52	30	3	20			8	4	23	22		1		39,022	1,200	180,000		
9	CA	Irvine	10	Faith	Vacant	89	77	21	1			1	612	1	3	52	60	9	30			12	4	25			1	11	104,803	4,600			
10	CA	Windsor	10	Christ	Vacant	31	28	5	1				166			52	20	10	14			2	1	14	13			2	38,849	4,680	500,000	199,045	103,751
11	FL	Kissimmee	1	Peace	J.N. Madson	133	106	33	6	1	2	5	1,602			52	88	12	57			7	3	23		1		8	64,295	14,875	460,000	346,835	
12	FL	Lakeland	1	Our Savior	D. Raetz	118	107	30	1			2	798		1	53	70	15	47			8	3	20	12				81,912	6,360	335,000	56,000	
13	FL	Lakeland	1	Peace	J. Willitz	68	46	12				2	356	1	1	52	44	10	26					10		3		3	40,987	4,813	450,000	400,000	
14	FL	Naples	1	Our Savior	R. Dale	212	167	32	7	2	2		2,084	3	3	52	126	17	68	25	3	34	6	20			2	2	181,000	12,669	1,054,000	18,000	
15	FL	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	C. Keeler	211	172	15	5		1	5			3	52	103	13	75			38	4	30		2			95,209	20,946	450,000	160,000	
16	FL	Sabastian	1	Trinity	D. Lillegard	116	97	22	1			3	1,488		3	52	71	19	35			11	3	35	13				58,872	6,172	190,000		
17	FL	Sebring	1	New Life	R. Fyffe	73	66	25	2				1,176	1		51	44	19	49								1		71,233	4,037	350,000	173,000	
18	FL	Vero Beach	1	Grace	J. Petersen	253	218	37	3	1	3		2,518	1	8	53	139	13	103			21	7	40	35			15	128,586	45,781	932,067		
19	FL	Winter Haven	1	Resurrection	M. Thompson	106	95	23		1	2	10	1,621		1	53	88	16	65			8	1	60	13			11	65,179	9,832	425,000		
20	GA	Cartersville	#	Lamb of God*	D. Schroeder	24	13	7	1				45			6	23	3	21			10	3	9				1	1,873	137			
21	GA	Kennesaw	1	Resurrection *	D. Schroeder	48	29	12	4	1			600	2		52	29	11				14	4	7				5	17,660		1,500,000	30,000	
22	IL	Chicago	4	Emmaus	S. Schmidt	96	63	7	6				356		1	53	58	15	37			40	4	12	60			4	41,405	200			15,000
23	IL	Chicago	4	St. Mark's	H. Behrens	19	19	6					175	1		52	17	2	12										11,941	2,230			10,000
24	IL	Litchfield	4	Faith	W. Frick	133	94	20	2		2		1,162			52	71	15	52			36	6	20	33		12	60,100	5,362	50,000			
25	IL	Lombard	4	St. Timothy	P. Zager	191	133	18	5		2	5	1,095	1	3	62	75	16	39	14	1	24	9	16	43		3	12	102,402	22,702	869,000	127,264	110,000
26	N	Lake Station	4	Grace	F. Lams	104	84	21	6	3	1	3	1,772	1		52	85	14	64			24	6	57	39			13	95,810	4,907	80,000		
27	N	Brownsburg	3	Good Shepherd	H. Bartels	89	67	13			3		1,428	1		52	65	14	37			21	6	29	20		1	22	67,338	10,665	173,000	42,398	
28	IA	Ames	6	Bethany	Vacant	46	38	10					334			52	20	9	10			2	2	6				3	21,027	6,061	355,000	61,121	
29	IA	Calmar	6	Trinity	H. Abrahamson	59	38	12	2				334	2	2	51	27	11	25			5	2	10									

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