

1999



Our Blessed Fellowship

82nd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**Bethany Lutheran College
Bethany Lutheran Theological
Seminary
Mankato, Minnesota
June 20-24, 1999**



**82ND REGULAR CONVENTION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

**and the
43RD ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
CORPORATION**

Convention Theme:
“Our Blessed Fellowship”

Essayist:
Rev. Klebe Brumble

Compiled by
Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, Secretary

Held at
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
and
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mankato, Minnesota
June 20-24 1999

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THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

SYNOD SUNDAY, June 20 -

The 82nd Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation began with a Festival Synod Sunday Service in Trinity Chapel beginning at 2:30 pm. The Rev. E.Bryant (Mankato, Minnesota) served as liturgist. The Rev. G.Obenberger (Tacoma, Washington) was the speaker.

In a sermon based on the Epistle for the third Sunday after Trinity from 1 Peter 5:6-11, Pastor Obenberger led a consideration of our blessed fellowship of suffering for Christ's name. It is to be expected since Jesus foretold that we would suffer with Him. We should never seek to run from suffering and thereby deny our Lord, nor should we wallow in it. Rather we should humble ourselves under God's almighty hand and trust in His compassionate grace and eternal strength to overcome our enemies. We gather together in convention, in part, to recount that our brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering and to observe God's power through the Gospel at work.



Gullixson Hall

The Service concluded with the Rite of Dedication of Gullixson Hall, conducted by President Marvin Meyer and the Rev. J.Kincaid Smith (Saginaw, Michigan).

At 7:00 pm the assembly gathered again in Trinity Chapel for the Graduation Service for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Six students were graduated. President Emeritus W.Petersen based his sermon on Isaiah 40:1-5 where he reminded the graduates of the message that they are to proclaim, namely a message of comfort, a message of truth, and a message of triumphant glory. He also reminded them of the attitude of the messenger in bringing this message to penitent sinners. Referring to Isaiah 66:2 he pointed out that the kind of messenger the Lord is looking for is one whom the Lord describes as "poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word." Proclaiming this message in that spirit will glorify God and bring blessing to many souls.

A reception, in honor of the graduates, followed the Service.



Bethany Lutheran Seminary Graduates

MONDAY, June 21 -

The first working day of the 82nd Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation was opened with a devotion based upon 2 Corinthians 13:14 conducted in Trinity Chapel by the Convention Chaplain, the Rev. Nathan Krause (Cottage Grove, Wisconsin) under the theme "Our blessed fellowship with God." St. Paul teaches that our fellowship with God begins with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. His redeeming work has made us children of God. The love of God has brought us into a true unity through the work of the Holy Spirit. We can truly appreciate and continue to be blessed in our fellowship with one another when we focus on our Lord and the great love He has shown in making us children of God.

President Orvick welcomed the delegates, pastors, and visitors to the 82nd Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Secretary Ferkenstad called the roll. Seventy-five permanent voting members and Thirty-three permanent advisory members either responded to the roll call or were present at the end of the first working day.

The Credentials Committee reported, represented by J. Ruppel, and recommended the seating of 127 men who had been certified by their congregations as representatives to this convention.

President Orvick declared the 82nd Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 43rd 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 stating this was the final convention of the second millennium after the birth of Christ centering his comments under the theme: *In what spirit shall we enter the new millennium?* We are to do so

I. in a spirit of thanksgiving, and

II. aware of the challenges and opportunities we face in the years to come.

Greetings were brought to the convention from our sister-synod the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, by President Karl Gurgel. The WELS will begin the observance of its 150th anniversary beginning this summer under the theme: *"Forward in Christ."*

Written greetings were read from: WELS President Emeritus Karl Mischke, Missionary Tim Erickson, CELC President Armin Panning, Missionary Roger Falk (Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church [Japan]), Rev. Martin Andersson

(Lutheran Confessional Church [Sweden & Norway]), The Rev. Matthew Luttmann (Plzen, Czech Republic)

Welcomes were extended to various visitors in attendance; and greetings were brought by Pastor Gundars Bakulis (Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia), Pastor J.Krikiva (Czech Republic), and Rev. D.Weber (Thoughts of Faith).

President Orvick drew the attention of the assembly to the Handbook and to his printed Report and asked that some additions be made.

The afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. G.Haugen (Waterloo, Iowa). The assembly sang the hymn: "Oh, bless the Lord, my soul." Pastor Haugen read 1 John 1:3-7, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the benediction.

A greeting was read from the Iglesia Christiana de la Reforma (Chile). The convention elected its working committees, committee work was assigned and the assembly recessed so the convention committees could meet to prepare resolutions for consideration.

TUESDAY, June 22 -

The Tuesday morning devotion was led by the Rev. J.Braun (Klamath Falls, Oregon). The assembly also sang the hymn "Do not despair, O little flock.." The sermon was based on Ephesians 2:19-22. The world knows what an "Ugly American" is, yet by God we are called to be "Ugly Christians" - ugly Christians because we are not called to live as the world lives, to do things its way, to conform to its style, and its culture. The world doesn't want us to walk about worshipping the crucified Christ. Yet we do act as foreigners to this place because we are citizens of another place—heaven itself. We are called to be "ugly" Christians which leaves us in a strange land without identification, passport or money. St. Paul, though, comes with our new "papers" so to speak when he says in our lesson: You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints."

A greeting was read from President Wilde (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany)

Following the normal preliminaries, the convention considered the report of the its Synodical membership Committee. Nine pastors and three congregations were received into membership. New members were welcomed on stage by President Orvick.

The morning session concluded with a presentation by Thoughts of Faith, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and the Lutheran Home Association; and also with reports from the convention committees on Evangelism and Home Missions. The Home Mission report include a "significant increase" in salary for pastors serving home mission congregations of the synod.

The Tuesday afternoon devotion was conducted by the Convention Chaplain, Rev. N.Krause. The assembly sang the hymn "May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill." The chaplain read Ephesians 4:1-13, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the benediction.

A presentation was made on behalf of the Board for Home Missions. Rev. E.Ekhhoff, board chairman, made comments about the synod's work. A presentation about Redeemer Lutheran Church (Scottsdale, Arizona).

The Higher Education presentation was made with President G.Schmeling reporting on behalf of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and President M.Meyer reporting on behalf of Bethany Lutheran College. A video presentation also was made highlighting the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center.

The convention then continued with the work of the Convention Committees on Higher Education, a presentation concerning the special 2000 year offering, and the reading of the report of the Miscellaneous Committee which authorized the gathering of a special offering beginning in November 2000 under the theme: "Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever—Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace."

WEDNESDAY, June 23 -

The Wednesday morning devotion was led by the Rev. Leonard Buelow (Green Bay, Wisconsin) based upon Hebrews 10:23-25 and with the singing of the hymn "The saints on earth and those above."

We are living in a world of constant change. The greatest changes which we see are in technology, and in the computer world and in communications. The suddenness and the rapidity of change are mind-boggling in the way we do business, in the way we communicate, in the way we deal with one another. Repeatedly, we are told that if we are not willing to change and to conform to the times in which we are living, we simply will be left out in the cold. In this changing society we need to encourage one another to hold fast to our Christianity with its unchanging message of sin and grace.

After the usual preliminaries, President Orvick introduced the essayist, the Rev. Klebe Brumble (Scottsdale, Arizona) who read the first part of the essay "Fellowship Divine."

After recess the convention considered the report of the Doctrine Committee.

The afternoon session began with the singing of the hymn "Thro' the night of doubt and sorrow."

The early afternoon session included presentations by the Foreign Mission Board and the Board for Evangelism Reports of the Foreign Mission Committee and the Finance Committee were considered.

The Anniversary Service was conducted by the Rev. Steven Sparley (Oklee, Minnesota). The assembly sang four verses of the hymn "O Lord, who in Thy Love Divine." The sermon was based upon 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. Following prayer, the assembly then sang the final two verses of the hymn.

Following recess the 2000 Nominating Committee was elected and the convention completed its consideration of the report of the Finance Committee.

The Communion Service was conducted in Trinity Chapel at 7:30 with the Rev. D. Moldstad (Mankato, Minnesota) serving as Liturgist and the Rev. F. Lams (Hobart, Indiana) delivering the Sermon, "Our blessed fellowship in the Lord's Supper" which was based upon Matthew 17:1-9.

THURSDAY, June 24 -

The Thursday morning devotion was led by the Rev. Mark Wold (Lengby, Minnesota). He based the sermon upon Acts 11:19-26 under the theme: "Why should they call us Christians?" The sermon examined the speaking of Christians who fled the martyrdom of Stephen, the preaching of Barnabas to a new mission and the preaching of St. Paul as a seminary instructor. The question is "what can we do as believers in Christ for the spread of the Gospel?"

After the normal preliminaries, the essay was continued by the Rev. Klebe Brumble (Scottsdale, Arizona) who read the essay, "Fellowship Divine," beginning with Thesis VII and continuing to the end. Thanks was extended to the Essayists.

Before the noon recess the convention considered the report of the Miscellaneous Committee which included the approval of revised guidelines for many of the board of the synod; and also the report of the Elementary Education Committee.

The Thursday afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. W. Mack (Oshkosh, Wisconsin). The assembly sang the hymn "Saints of God, the dawn is brightening" which was followed by the reading of Acts 18:18-28 and prayer.

The convention then continued its consideration of the report of the Elementary Education Committee. It also considered the reports of the committees on Youth & Parish Education, Christian Service, Worship, and Publications. An expression of thanks was then extended by the synod president to the editor of *The Lutheran Sentinel* as well as to the editors of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, *Convention Echo* and the *Synod Report*.

The convention concluded with the reports of the Pastoral Conference Records

Committee. Following the completion of the President's Message & Report Committee, the assembly expressed its appreciation to the synod president with applause.

After hearing the reports of the committees on Resolutions and Excuses, the convention adjourn at 2:55 pm.

Parting comments were made by President Orvick about the love for our synod and expressing the prayer that nothing may hinder our the work of our synod or our fellowship with our sister-bodies especially the WELS and the CELC.

The Chaplain concluded the convention with the assembly singing the hymn "Savior, again to Thy dear Name," the reading of Matthew 28:20, devotional comments prayer and the Aaronic Benediction.

ROLL CALL

PERMANENT MEMBERS

(Pastors serving members congregations, eligible to vote):

Present: H.Abrahamson, K.Anderson, W.Anderson, H.Bartels, M.Bartels, T.Bartels, J.Braun, K.Brumble, L.Buelow, R.Dale, J.Dalke, K.Dethlefsen, M.Doepel, E.Ekhoff, M.Ernst, D.Faugstad, C.Ferkenstad, F.Fiedler, W.Frick, R.Fyffe, E.Geistfeld, J.Gernander, H.Gieschen, T.Gullixson, W.Halvorson, G.Haugen, K.Heck, M.Hoesch, R.Holtz, B.Homan, D.Hoyord, H.Huhnerkoch, C.Keeler, M.Krentz, F.Lams, D.Larson, R.Lawson, P.Lehmann, R.Lehmann, G.Lilienthal, D.Lillegard, W.Mach, R.MacKain, J.N.Madson, N.Madson, P.Madson, M.Marozick, K.Mellon, A.Merseth, D.Moldstad, J.Moldstad Sr., R.Newgard, G.Obenberger, R.Pederson, A.Pittenger, R.Preus, T.Rank, A.Ring, M.Rogers, J.Ruppel, G.Sahlstrom, D.Schmidt, J.Schmidt, K.Schmist, S.Schmidt, Pschneider, B.Schwark, V.Settje, T.Skaaland, J.K.Smith, J.E.Smith, K.Smith, M.Smith, T.Smuda, S.Sparley, F.Theiste, M.Thompason, S.Urberg, H.Vetter, L.Vinton, J.Willitz, M.Wold, C.Wosje, P.Zager.

Absent: D.Bakke, T. Fox, E.Geistfeld, M.Langlais, B.Leonetti, H.Mosley, J.Petersen, D.Raetz, J.Schmidt, F.Stubenvoll

PERMANENT MEMBERS ACCEPTED AT THIS CONVENTION:

Present: A.Hamilton, J.Jacobson, W.Stehr, P. Sullivan, R.Waters, T.Zenda

Absent: M.Raitz

PERMANENT ADVISORY MEMBERS

(Not eligible to vote):

1. PASTORS SERVING NON-MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OR GROUPS:

Present: D.Basel, R.Flohr, N.Krause, J.Krikava, D.Meyer, R.Otto.

Absent: T.Erickson, M.Grubbs, D.Hauser, K.Kuenzel, M.Luttman, R.Martens, N.Merseth, J.Rakso, O.Rodriguez, T.Schultz, J.Shep.

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

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

3. PASTORS NOT SERVING CONGREGATIONS AT THIS TIME:

Absent: T.Aaberg, R.Becker, R.Carter, J.Krueger, J.Larson, D.Nelson, R.Nepsund, W.Neumann, D.Schlict, C.Sieloff, L.Zell.

4. PASTORS AND PROFESSORS EMERIT:

Present: P.Anderson, W.Gullixson, A.Kuster, S.Lee, P.Lehenbauer, J.B.Madson, W.McMurdie, P.Peteren, F.Schmugge, O.Trebelhorn, M.Tweit

Absent: B.Anderson, H.Behrend, E.Buhr, L.Gerbhardt, N.Holte, R.Honsey, H.Larson, D.McElwain, J.Olsen, C.Rusch, A>Schmitt, E.Stubenvoll, B.Teigen.

5. PROFESSORS:

Present: J.Abrhamson, S.Born, E.Bryant, A.Harstad M.Meyer, J.Moldstad Jr., W.Petersen, G.Schmeling, E.Teign, D.Thompson, D.Webber.

Absent: R.Kovaciny, T.Kuster, D.Marzolf, D.Metzger, S.Reagles.

6. TEACHERS:

Present: C.Manthy, L.Rude, J.Schneck

Absent: S.Beilke, D.Doelger, L.Engel, D.Hahnke, D.Madson, T.Pietsch, M.Ross.

PERMANET ADVISORY MEMBERS

(accepted at this convention)

1. PASTOR SERVING NON-MEMBER CONGREGATION OR GROUP:

Absent: R.Martens

2. PASTORS NOT SERVING CONGREGATIONS AT THIS TIME:

Present: R.Benson, Y.Kim.

3. PROFESSOR:

Present: J.Bruss.

CONGREGATIONS ADMITTED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Faith Lutheran Church, Carthage, Missouri

Grace Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Linden, Michigan

1999 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegate
H. Abrahamson	Calmar, IA	Trinity	
K. Anderson	New Hampton, IA	Redeemer	
W. Anderson	Windsor, CA	Christ	Herbert Fischer
	Hillsboro, OR	Reformation	Colin Kohlmeier
			Matthew Paine
H. Bartels	Brownsburg, IN	Good Shepherd	
M. Bartels	Madison, WI	Holy Cross	Norm Armson
			Norman Marozick
T. Bartels	Gresham, OR	Saved By Grace	Sidney Toll
R. Benson	Mayville, ND	First American	
J. Braun	Klamath Falls, OR	Christ	Dale Hauck
K. Brumble	Scottsdale, AZ	Redeemer	Harmon Anderson
			James Reith
L. Buelow	Green Bay, WI	Christ the King	Charles Hartwig
			Michael Ruge
R. Dale	Naples, FL	Our Savior	Pat Leon
			Jack McNeil
J. Dalke	Mt. Vernon, WA	St. Luke	Jonathan Dalke
K. Dethlefsen	Jerico, IA	Jerico	Jim Costello
			John Costello
M. Doepel	Saude, IA	Saude	Stanley Holt
	Portage, WI	St. Paul's	Tom Duddy
	Wisconsin Dells	Newport	Albert Gabris
E. Ekhoﬀ	Golden Valley, MN	King of Grace	Channing Handberg
			Norman Werner
M. Ernst	Jefferson City, MO	Peace	Paul Junkans
			Nathanael Ernst
	Piedmont, MO	Grace	Andy Palmquist
D. Faugstad	Belview, MN	Our Savior's	Andrew Anderson
			Dale Breitzkreutz
	Belview, MN	Rock Dell	Jerry Abrahamson
C. Ferkenstad	St. Peter, MN	Norseland	Warren Rodning
			Lydell Struck
		Norwegian Grove	Richard Eischen
			Gary Wills
F. Fiedler III	Myrtle Creek, OR	St. Matthew	Harvey Ringen
			George Wyckhuysen
	Sutherlin, OR	Christ	Dale Pospisil
			Jake Young
T. Fox	Burlington, MA	Pinewood	
W. Frick	Litchfield, IL	Faith	Leslie Brakenhoff
R. Fyffe	Sebring, FL	New Life	
E. Geistfeld	Crookston, MN	Grace	
	Fertile, MN	First Evanger	Truman Opheim
E. Gernander	Clintonville, WI	St. Paul	Harold Routhieux
	Shawano, WI	St. Martin	
J. Gernander	Thornton, IA	Richland	
H. Gieschen	Cape Girardeau, MO	Scriptural	
T. Gullixson	Escondido, CA	St. Paul	

W. Halvorson	Albert Lea, MN	Our Savior's	Ben Anderson
G. Haugen	Waterloo, IA	Pilgrim	Leonard Hage
			Howard Hanson
K. Heck	Williamsburg, IA	St. Timothy	Art Klein
M. Hoesch	Ames, IA	Bethany	Matthew Vanderkolk
			Ralph Keller
			Robert Schlesselman
			Keith Lukens
			Robert McMullen
	Hampton, IA	Bethany	
	Newton, IA	Grace	
R. Holtz	Bloomer, WI	Good Shepherd	Gary Bergstrom
B. Homan	Madison, WI	Our Saviour's	Eugene Lueck
D. Hoyord	Apple Valley, MN	Heritage	Donald Heiliger
H. Huhnerkoch	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Our Saviour	Dale Ziege
J. Jacobsen	Madison, WI	Grace	William Overn
			Robert Smith
C. Keeler	Port St. Lucie, FL	Christ	Roger Duberowski
M. Krentz	Holton, MI	Holton	Richard Grant
			Roland Reinholtz
F. Lams	Hobart, IN	Grace	Stanley Reinholtz
M. Langlais	Brewster, MA	Trinity	Bill Sigurdson
			Timothy Hansen
			David Schottey
			Lloyd Ahlbrand
			Paul Chamberlin
			Wayne Wollerman
D. Larson	Parkersburg, IA	Faith	
R. Lawson	Princeton, MN	Bethany	Glen Hansen
			Richard Vogts
P. Lehmann	Weston, OH	Grace	
R. Lehmann	Oregon, WI	Faith	Dennis Behr
B. Leonetti	N. Huntingdon, PA	Zion	
G. Lilienthal	Jasper, MN	Rose Dell Trinity	Otto Houg
	Luverne, MN	Bethany	Lavern Kafka
D. Lillegard	Sebastian, FL	Trinity	
W. Mack	Amherst Jct., WI	Our Savior's	
	Omro, WI	Messiah	Clarence Lee
R. MacKain	Clara City, MN	Faith	Albert Munsterman
			Wayne Spieker
J. Madson	Kissimmee, FL	Peace	Herb Berg
N. Madson	Tracy, MN	Zion	Merlyn Hayes
			David Mix
P. Madson	Waterville, IA	East Paint Creek	
	Waukon, IA	West Paint Creek	Herman Willger
M. Marozick	Cottage Grove, WI	Western	Jeff Knickmeier
		Koshkonong	Al Wollenzien
K. Mellon	Bowling Green, OH	Abiding Word	
A. Merseth	Lake Mills, IA	Lake Mills	Leighton Humphrey
			Robert Okland
	Lake Mills, IA	Lime Creek	Paul Dahle
			Lars Petersen
	Northwood, IA	First Shell Rock	David Abrahams
			Gary Hartwig
	Northwood, IA	Somber	Harold Halvorson
			Albin Levorson

	Riceville, IA	Immanuel	
D. Moldstad	Mankato, MN	Mt. Olive	Sigurd Lee Jay Roth
J. Moldstad, Sr.	Audubon, MN	Immanuel	Leslie Just Paul Miller
H. Mosley R. Newgard	Tacoma, WA Forest City, IA	Lakewood Forest	Eldon Indvik Norman Myre Gene Erickson Norman Skogen
	Thompson, IA	Zion	Tom Langseth Jim Sannes
G. Obenberger	Tacoma, WA	Parkland	
R. Pederson J. Petersen	Suttons Bay, MI Vero Beach, FL	Faith Grace	Norbert Stege Robert Ude
A. Pittenger	Port Orchard, WA	Bethany	Robert Delaney Curtis Mantey
R. Preus	East Grand Forks, MN	River Heights	David Flitter Albert Holman
D. Raetz M. Raetz T. Rank	Lakeland, FL Linden, MI Scarville, IA Scarville, IA	Our Savior Good Shepherd Center Scarville Synod	Erling Brudvig Conrad Faugstad Paul Anderson
M. Rogers J. Ruppel G. Sahlstrom	Eau Claire, WI Grants Pass, OR West Jordan, UT	Pinehurst Our Savior Hope	Frank Kohagen Charles Larson Daryl Bendewald Ed Hendrickson
D. Schmidt	Hartland, MN	Hartland	
J. Schmidt K. Schmidt	Manchester, MN Fillmore, CA West Bend, WI	Manchester Wayfarers' Trinity	Elsworth Butt Ralph Seidensticker George Lawson
S. Schmidt	Chicago, IL Chicago, IL	Emmaus St. Marks	
P. Schneider	Midland, MI	Holy Scripture	Charles Beeck Gary Gotham Robert Rurup John Anderson Paul Nielsen
B. Schwark V. Settje	Bishop, CA Yelm, WA	Our Savior Our Redeemer	
T. Skaaland J. K. Smith J. E. Smith K. Smith	Elderon, WI Saginaw, MI Cottonwood, MN Okauchee, WI	Our Savior's Gloria Dei English Holy Trinity	William Bauer Dwayne Boerner Timothy Luetzow Charles Wrucke
M. Smith T. Smuda S. Sparley	Holland, MI Rogers City, MI Oklee, MN Trail, MN Trail, MN	Lord of Life Trinity Oak Park Mt. Olive Nazareth	Timothy Schurig
W. Stehr	Irvine, CA	Faith	Rodney Arends Robert Schneider
E. Stubenvoll, Jr.	Marinette, WI	First Trinity	

P. Sullivan	Eau Claire, WI	Ascension	Leo Sommer
F. Theiste	Eau Claire, WI	Concordia	Gary Kochan
			Clifford Raether
M. Thompson	Winter Haven, FL	Resurrection	William Dumke
			Hurschel Snider
S. Urberg	Hawley, MN	Our Savior's	Lyle Manthe
	Ulen, MN	Calvary	Clinton Klemetson
H. Vetter	Iola, WI	Redeemer	Robert Noffke
L. Vinton	Detroit, MI	St. Matthew	William Andrae
			Leo Ward
R. Waters	Carthage, MO	Faith	Lawrence Haubein
			Dale Hasselbring
J. Willitz	Lakeland, FL	Peace	
M. Wold	Bagley, MN	Our Savior's	
	Lengby, MN	St. Paul	Luverne Lomen
C. Wosje	Fort Mojave, AZ	Family of God	David Fisk
			David McDaniel
P. Zager	Lombard, IL	St. Timothy	Leroy Meyer
			Paul Rawlings
T. Zenda	Princeton, MN	Our Savior's	Lambert Bechers
			Robert Soule
Vacancies:			
	Bell Gardens, CA	Christ the King	
	Kennesaw, GA	Resurrection	
	Alpena, MI	Faith	
	Hillman, MI	Faith	
	Cold Spring, MN	Gloria Dei	Paul Johnson
			Maynard Pick
	Hood River, OR	Concordia	
	The Dalles, OR	Bethany	
	Richardson, TX	Good Shepherd	Charles Fiedler
			Peter Walter
	San Antonio, TX	Faith	

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. President's

Message and Report:

Rev. R. Fyffe
Rev. K. Mellon
Mr. Keith Duin
Mr. Herb Fischer

2. Nominating

Committee (elected at the 1998 convention)

Rev. M. Bartels
Rev. E. Bryant
Rev. E. Geistfeld*
Rev. J. Moldstad
Mr. A. Borlaug
Mr. G. Lawson
Mr. W. Lieske
Mr. H. Ringen

3. Credentials:

Albert Munsterman
Rev. J. Ruppel*
Rev. T. Rank

4. Program:

Rev. G. Haugen
Rev. M. Wold

5. Public Press and Convention Sentinel:

Rev. J. Gernander
Rev. M. Smith

6. Doctrine:

Rev. R. Dale
Rev. M. Doepel
Rev. E. Ekhoft
Rev. D. Lillegard
Rev. P. Madson
Rev. K. Mellon
Rev. J. Moldstad Sr.
Rev. A. Ring
Rev. P. Schneider
Rev. M. Tweit
Harmon Anderson
Tom Duddy
Colin Kohlmeyer
Paul Nielsen
Lars Petersen
Michael Ruge
Robert Schlesselman
Norbert Stege
Chuck Wrucke

7. Finances:

Rev. W. Anderson
Rev. M. Bartels
Rev. L. Buelow
Rev. F. Fiedler
Rev. B. Homan
Rev. D. Larson
Rev. R. Lehmann
Rev. D. Moldstad
Rev. K. Schmidt
Rev. M. Smith
William Dumke
Conrad Faugstad
Charles Fielder
Gary Gathan
Charles Hartwig
Merlyn Hayes
Paul Johnson
Tom Langseth
Matthew Paine
William Sigurdson
Donald Storby
Robert Ude
Norman Werner
Dale Ziege

8. Higher Education:

Rev. W. Frick
Rev. D. Hoyord
Rev. J. Krikava
Rev. W. McMurdie
Rev. D. Meyer
Rev. R. Newgard
Rev. T. Smuda
Rev. W. Stehr
Rev. M. Thompson
Rev. S. Urberg
Ben Anderson
Gene Erickson
Chan Handberg
Albin Leverson
Timothy Luetzow
James Reith
Robert Smith
David Schotter
Wayne Wollerman

9. Home Missions:

Rev. M. Ernst
Rev. R. Fyffe
Rev. M. Krentz
Rev. G. Obenberger
Rev. S. Sparley

Rev. G. Sahlstrom

Rev. J. K. Smith
Rev. P. Zager
Rod Arends
Charles Beeck
Herb Berg
Leslie Brakenhoff
John Costello
Keith Duin
Frank Kohagen
Clarence Lee
Pat Leon
Eugene Lueck
David McDaniel
Truman Opheim
Maynard Pick
Warren Rodning
Ralph Seidensticker
Leo Ward
Peter Walters

10. Foreign Missions:

Rev. T. Bartels
Rev. D. Faugstad
Rev. A. Hamilton
Rev. N. Krause
Rev. P. Lehenbauer
Rev. N. Madson
Rev. A. Merseth
Rev. J. Olsen
Rev. F. Theiste
Rev. R. Waters
William Andrae
Graham Armson
William Bauer
Ellsworth Butt
Robert DeLancy
David Flitter
Albert Gabris
Gary Hartwig
Clinton Klementsund
Gary Kochan
Luerne Lomen
David Mix
Robert Schneider
Timothy Schurig

11. Evangelism:

Rev. K. Anderson
Rev. R. Benson
Rev. J. Dalke
Rev. K. Dethlefsen
Rev. J. Jacobsen

Rev. F. Lams
 Rev. R. Otto
 Rev. B. Schwark
 Daryl Bendewald
 Art Klein
 Charles Larson
 Lyle Manthe
 Robert Noffke
 Dale Pospisil
 Leo Sommers
 Sidney Toll

12. Elementary Education:

Rev. E. Bryant
 Rev. T. Gullixson
 Rev. H. Huhnerkoch
 Rev. R. Pederson
 Lambert Becker
 David Fisk
 Marlin Goebel
 Harold Halvorson
 Tim Hansen
 Ed Hendrickson
 Curtis Mantey
 Robert McMullen
 Leroy Meyer
 Fred Pahmeier
 Roland Reinholtz
 Victor Settje
 Hurschel Snider
 Lydell Struck
 George Wyckhuyse

13. Youth & Parish

Rev. J. Abrahamson
 Rev. H. Bartels
 Rev. D. Basel
 Rev. K. Brumble
 Rev. G. Haugen
 Rev. R. Lawson
 Rev. J. Madson
 Rev. A. Pittenger
 Rev. T. Rank
 Rev. M. Rogers
 Rev. K. Smith
 Rev. D. Thompson
 Rev. T. Zenda
 David Albrecht
 Richard Grant
 Clifford Raether
 Jay Roth
 Matt Vanderkolk
 Gary Wills
 Al Wollenzien

14. Publications:

Rev. E. Gernander
 Rev. K. Heck
 Rev. P. Lehmann
 Rev. J. Ruppel
 Rev. S. Schmidt
 Rev. V. Settje
 Rev. P. Sullivan
 Rev. E. Teigen
 Rev. H. Vetter
 J. Abrahamson
 LaVern Kafke
 Jack McNiel
 Paul Rawlings
 Harvey Ringen
 S. Reinholtz
 Jacob Young

15. Christian Service

Rev. P. Anderson
 Rev. M. Hoesch
 Rev. A. Kuster
 Rev. D. Schmidt
 Rev. T. Skaaland
 Rev. L. Vinton
 Rev. M. Wold
 Rev. C. Wosje
 David Abrahams
 Richard Eischen
 Nathanael Ernst
 Leonard Hage
 Stanley Holt
 Glen Hansen
 Robert Rurup
 Jim Sannes

16. Worship:

Rev. J. Braun
 Rev. R. Branstad
 Rev. J. Gernander
 Gary Bergstrom
 Paul Chamerlain
 Ralph Keller
 Keith Lukens
 Paul Miller
 William Overn
 A. Palmquist
 D. Vagts
 Dick Vagts

17. Synodical Membership:

Rev. R. Holtz
 Rev. W. Petersen
 Duane Boerner
 Paul Dahle
 Roger Duberowski
 Herb Fischer

Al Holman
 Norman Skogen

18. Miscellaneous:

Rev. R. Flohr
 Rev. W. Hlavorsen
 Rev. G. Lilienthal
 Rev. R. MacKain
 Rev. J. N. Madson
 Rev. M. Marozick
 Rev. J. Moldstad Jr
 Rev. J. E. Smith
 Erling Brudvig
 Dale Hauck
 Leslie Just
 Sigurd Lee
 Norman Marozick
 Harold Routhieaux
 Larry Rude

19. Minutes

Rev. B. Schwark
 Rev. V. Settje
 Glen Hansen

20. Pastoral Conference Records:

Rev. W. Gullixson
 Rev. P. Petersen

21. Resolutions:

Rev. A. Merseth
 Rev. S. Schmugge
 Rev. O. Trebelhorn

22. Tellers:

Candidates:
 Steven Brockdorf
 Arlen. Dethlefsen
 Paul Fries
 Cory Hahnke
 Phillip Lepak
 Bernt Tweit

23. Chaplain:

Rev. N. Krause

24. Head Ushers:

Rev. M. Ernst
 Rev. R. Holtz

25. Parliamentarian:

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

26. Organists:

Mr. Silas Born
 Mr. Mark Davidson
 Mrs. Victoria Lehenbauer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the 82nd Annual Convention of
The Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Esteemed Brethren in the ministry, official delegates from the congregations and honored guests: Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We have come to the end of a century and to the end of a millennium. This will be the last synod convention held in the 20th century and the last of the second millennium after the birth of Christ. It is a once in a lifetime experience. This is, therefore, a propitious point in time to lift up our eyes and look around in order to see the marvelous blessings which the Lord has bestowed upon us. It is also a time to look to the future to see what challenges and opportunities He has placed before us. Let us therefore center our thoughts under this theme:

IN WHAT SPIRIT SHALL WE ENTER THE NEW MILLENNIUM?

I. Let me first of all emphasize that we ought to celebrate in a spirit of thanksgiving.

As we look back over the century that is now almost past we cannot but offer up our praise and thanksgiving to our gracious Lord for the goodness and mercy He has bestowed upon our ELS. This applies especially to those sad days right after 1917. Gone were the hundreds of congregations that made up the synod. Gone were the colleges and seminary where pastors were trained. Gone were the old friends and classmates. It was as though a hurricane had swept them all away into the large Norwegian merger. Now the little handful of 13 congregations and 10 pastors were like orphans in a strange land. But our gracious God did not abandon them. He endowed them with courage and with the determination to go forward with the work of the kingdom. Above all He had preserved in their midst the pure Word and Sacraments. They had not abandoned the blessed teaching of salvation by grace alone through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They had not yielded to the false doctrine that man could contribute something to his conversion. For this we thank and praise almighty God that He preserved them in the truth. This is the first and foremost reason for our thanksgiving today. For this we say with the psalmist, "Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord." Ps. 113,1.

We praise and thank the Lord today for the way He helped the synod to grow and become established. One of the greatest outward blessings was that He enabled the synod to undertake the purchase of Bethany Lutheran College in 1927. At first it seemed that it was impossible for such a small group to operate such a large facility. But again the Lord provided for their needs and gave men determination and ability so that the school could function and grow. The story of the early days of Bethany College makes one marvel at God's grace that He would bring this about. However, no sooner had the synod taken over the school than the Great Depression struck. Now they had to make the most of every dollar to continue to exist. The Paint and Varnish Club from Minneapolis joined in the struggle to make the building more attractive. Truckloads of potatoes and other foods were donated by farmers in Minnesota and North Dakota. Dr. Sigurd Ylvisaker led the way and pleaded with the members of the synod for support. Looking round about the campus today one would not recognize it as the same place. What can we say but to repeat the words of David, "I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and full of compassion." Ps. III, 1-4.

Not only was the synod suffering during the Depression, but the congregations also. One pastor wrote in his church paper, "Some of us have not worked for three weeks; some for three years. Some of us have not been able to pay large

hospital bills; others have had sickness in the home. Some of us have not been able to buy our new licenses; others have put their cars away altogether. Some of us are losing our homes; others have not been able to pay their rent. Together we all tell the same story. But if I give only ten dollars a year to the church our church building will soon be sold at a sheriff's sale."

But the Lord provided. Not only did the individuals survive those hard times, but the churches did also. The congregation about which the pastor wrote that their church building would soon have to be sold is now a large congregation.

The Lord also blessed the synod with outward growth. It began with 13 congregations and now has 140. It began with 10 pastors and now has about 170. At first it had no foreign missions that were truly its own. Now it has 26 pastors working in the foreign fields of Peru, Chile, Ukraine and the Czech Republic. Of these, 14 are Americans and 12 are nationals. Two seminaries, one in Peru and one in Ukraine, now train national pastors for the work in their own countries.

Thus for all the temporal and spiritual blessings which our synod has enjoyed from our gracious God we come to the close of this century with the words of the hymnwriter on our lips:

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

ELH 63

II. In the second place let us consider briefly what kind of challenges and opportunities we face in the years to come.

We cannot sit idly by and be indifferent to the great spiritual needs of children and young people today as well as to countless souls at home and abroad who do not know their Savior. Christian education, outreach, assistance to pastors and congregations, and mission work at home and abroad are at the top of the list.

HIGHER EDUCATION AT BETHANY

One of the greatest undertakings and challenges, already in progress, is the transformation of Bethany Lutheran College into a four-year baccalaureate institution. Our college administration and faculty, with the help of the Board of Regents, has gotten off to a good start. It has won the approval of the North Central Accrediting agency and is ready to begin the third year of classes this fall. Enrollment looks promising. It will be a real blessing to confessional Lutheranism and to our synod to have a four-year college which holds steadfastly to the doctrinal foundation upon which Bethany was founded. This is the only way that Bethany can have a reason for existence. If it lost this unique character it would be no different than any other four-year school of which there are many. When the sciences are taught on the upper level there is always pressure to conform, even in some small way, to the theory of evolution. As soon as this is done the gates have been opened to the higher critical interpretation of Scripture and our position as a school which holds to the verbal inspiration and the innerancy of the Bible is lost. Let us earnestly pray for our school that the Lord would uphold the leadership so that Bethany remains true to its founding principles. What a wonderful future the school can have for Lutheranism as a four-year college which has not given in to the modern day rejection of the Bible.

THE NEED FOR MORE CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

When we see the plight of modern public schools we sympathize with the teachers and the administrators who are doing their very best to give our youth a

good education. They are faced with many obstacles. Pressure to be "politically correct," gangs, school violence, violence and pornography on television, indifferent or absent parents are just some of the obstacles they face. The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* for June 2, 1999, reports that a biology teacher in Fairbault, Minnesota, was removed from his position because of his belief in creation instead of evolution. We should pray for our public schools and teachers. At the same time we need to do our best to establish schools where the Word of God is taught daily to the pupils and where subjects are taught from a Christian perspective.

We have opportunities now to establish more Christian day schools. One of the proposals of our Special Millennium Offering Committee is that we open two new Christian day schools in Lima, Peru. What a wonderful opportunity to bring Christian teaching to the children in that impoverished land. The children are the victims of our society. We can all weep when we see the suffering of the little ones depicted on TV. Jesus loves children and wants them to be cared for with love and tenderness. But we certainly need to continue our efforts to start more Christian day schools here at home. Money is now made available also in our budget and by special projects which may be proposed to the Foundation. Congregations ought to analyze their potential to see if it is possible to open such schools. The Board for Education and Youth stands ready to help. Children need Christian education! The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Pr. 22,16.

MORE INTENSIVE OUTREACH AT HOME

From many of our congregations we hear the cry "I wish we could gain more new members. If our congregation doesn't grow I wonder how long it will last. What can we do?" We can surely sympathize with this concern. In many instances a congregation may not be able to grow because of outward circumstances. People move away. Farm communities are losing their population. Competition from larger churches with liberal theology, churches that "offer more programs" or that have more staff are hard to compete with. We should, however, not be too quick to look for excuses. We recently heard of one of our churches in a small town where the pastor canvassed every home in the village. Such diligent calling may turn up souls which are unchurched and can be won for the Lord.

What can the synod do to help churches which would like to have a better outreach program? Our special offering for the new millennium has just such situations in mind. Our Evangelism Committee stands ready to help. A sum of \$100,000 will be set aside to assist congregations in setting up outreach programs. The Evangelism Committee will help the congregation in organizing the effort. It will provide material, guidance and the know-how to reach into the community to seek lost souls and invite them to come to the church where they can receive the means of grace. This is not some Church Growth program which depends upon gimmicks to entice people into the church. No, this is the good old-fashioned way of seeking the lost as we see in the story of the Good Shepherd going after the lost sheep until He finds it. It is the same spirit as that shown by the king in the parable of the great supper who said to his servants, "Go out into the highways and the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14,23. A pastor who does not make it a high priority in his ministry to seek the lost and bring people into the kingdom should not be in the ministry. The fact that we are opposed to the church growth movement should not stand in the way of outreach. And the pastor can't do it alone. The congregation needs to become involved. The people need to see soul winning as one of their highest goals. It will not do to simply say "Well, that's the pastor's job." It is all too easy for the members of the congregation to blame the pastor if the church doesn't grow. What may really be needed is the development of a missionary spirit where everyone reaches out to

mission prospects in an organized effort. One of our congregations hired a full-time worker for the summer to head up the outreach program.

If our millennium offering is a success the synod will be able to help many of our churches with their outreach program. Let's discuss the offering in our congregations.

A CROSS CULTURAL MISSION ENDEAVOR

Our synod has not done a great deal in the way of reaching out to another culture here in the United States. We have tried in Bell Gardens, California, to reach out to Hispanics, but we have not had much success. Now we are pleased to report that we will again have a full-time worker in that area. But another opportunity presents itself. The Lord has provided a dedicated man of Korean descent to labor in the vineyard. Young Ha Kim, who came to the USA from Korea and became a pastor in the Reformed church, is now ready to join our synod. After completing two years of additional study in our seminary and being approved by our colloquy committee, he is now ready to go to work amongst the Koreans in our country. Our Board for Home Missions has undertaken his support and will locate an area with potential and soon work will begin. Young Ha Kim is a determined evangelist who wants to do nothing else than to bring his countrymen to their Savior. Millions of people of Korean descent have immigrated to the USA. We need to reach out to them with the pure Gospel. This will be another exciting new challenge for our synod!

THE CHALLENGE OF STEWARDSHIP

All Christians are stewards, that is, managers of the time, talents and treasures that the Lord has given to each one of us. In today's busy society the management of our time has become an increasingly difficult task. Years ago when the book "Future Shock" was published it pointed out that time would become an even more important commodity than money. In spite of all the new labor saving devices we seem to be busier than ever. A person therefore needs to plan. We need to set aside definite amounts of time for our daily devotions, for our family, for our work, for our church activities, for recreation, etc. Without such management we can so easily leave out important matters. Our spiritual life can be neglected, our family life can suffer, and our marriages can be endangered. Stewardship is absolutely necessary!

Likewise the stewardship of our treasures is important. We need to be good managers of our earthly possessions. Each person needs to make a plan for what he will give to carry on the work of the congregation and the work of the synod. It is a responsibility that the Lord has laid upon us. Likewise a congregation should have a budget so that all needs are met. Each congregation has an obligation to support the synod. At the beginning of a fiscal year the congregation should plan its budget and include a definite percentage or amount for the Lord's work away from home. This is what a synod is for, namely that we can do work together. Together we can send out missionaries. Together we can operate a college and seminary. Together we can help our Christian day schools and support youth work. For the last ten years giving to the synod has shown no increase. With the inflation and the growth we are having it would seem that the offerings for synodical work would also grow. We ask each delegate here at this convention to examine his own congregation's record and to go home and discuss it in council and voters' meetings when the next year's budget is proposed. Place an amount in the budget as you would any other expense. Have the treasurer send that to the synod just as he pays the pastor's salary or the heat and light bill. This is good management and careful stewardship. Let's see what we can do together for the Lord. This is what it means to belong to a synod, namely, that we walk together with others and unite with them in carrying out work that we could not do by ourselves.

THE CHALLENGE OF MAINTAINING DOCTRINAL PURITY AND UNITY

We should never forget to set forth as one of the main challenges facing the church today the necessity of maintaining doctrinal purity and synodical unity. One of the blessings for which we thank our forefathers is that they insisted upon holding fast to God's Word. We need to have the same concern for pure doctrine as they had. We confess in one of our hymns:

And ever is there something new
Devised to change Thy doctrines true;
Lord Jesus! As Thou still dost reign,
Those vain presumptuous minds restrain.

ELH 511,v.6

It is easy to point the finger at church bodies today which call themselves Lutheran while denying the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture, denying various miracles in the Bible, some even questioning such central articles as the physical resurrection of Christ from the grave. We need to be aware of such total departures from the historic Christian faith. We need to be careful to practice church fellowship only with those who are in doctrinal agreement with us.

A greater challenge is that of maintaining doctrinal unity amongst ourselves. We come from many different backgrounds, have graduated from different seminaries, and have not all been educated under one system. This has some advantages. We can bring different insights into our theological observations and perhaps add a freshness to our discussions. It also presents a challenge, namely that we all speak with one voice as we confess the doctrines of God's Word. We appreciate our diversity of backgrounds and experience, but we must not have diversity in doctrine. Our synod's constitution makes this clear when it says, "An individual wishing to join the Synod shall make application to the president. This application shall be accompanied by a declaration of unconditional subscription to the Synod's confessions and teachings, and to its constitution and by-laws." Chapter II, Par. 2.

We should, in deep humility, confess that we are weak and frail. We could easily destroy ourselves. We should take this danger very seriously. Developing a party spirit could jeopardize our precious unity and we could lose what our forefathers struggled so hard to preserve. The apostle instructs us saying that we should "endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" Eph. 4,3, and again Paul writes to the Galatians, "If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Gal. 5,15. History shows us how easily this can happen. Therefore we sing with Kingo:

"How fair the church of Christ shall stand,
A beacon light in all the land,
When love and faith all hearts inspire
And all unite in one desire
To be a fam'ly and agree
To live in peace and unity."

THE CHALLENGE OF FINDING MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

Some larger synods are facing very serious shortages of pastors. Many congregations go vacant for years before a pastor accepts a call. Seminary classes just aren't large enough to meet the needs. We have been blessed in our synod by fairly adequate classes graduating from our seminary and also by the fact that a number of pastors have come to us by colloquy. We are thankful for them. We welcome the new pastors into our synod. We are especially pleased when congregations also join us. We need, however, to recruit qualified young men to prepare for the ministry. Each pastor should bear this in mind and encourage and speak with boys and young men, and older men, to enter into the holy calling of being an ambassador for Christ. I remember with great fondness how Pastors Ranzau and Weyland encouraged me in my high school and college years. I will

forever be grateful to them. And, of course, they appreciated the packages of pork and beef which came from our locker.

What more noble calling is there than to be an ambassador for Christ. If we were asked to undertake some high government position we would be greatly honored. How much more should we be honored when the Lord Jesus Himself invites us, "Come and I will make you fishers of men." And in order to encourage men to enter the ministry our congregations need to provide for them adequately so that they are able to care for their families and their earthly needs. Do we drive men out of the ministry by undue expectations and unwarranted criticism? Our pastors need love and approval and encouragement. Let us continue to pray for and support our pastors.

WITH JOY WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We hope that new pastors and congregations will feel at home in our midst. Many continue to look upon the ELS as a place where they can find the Word of God taught in its truth and purity.

As a result of this we find that our synod can no longer be called the "Norwegian Synod." Oh yes, we still like to talk about our Norwegian forefathers and our Scandinavian roots, and we by no means want to forget the precious heritage that they handed down to us, but the facts are that we have more members of German descent and more pastors of German origin than those who trace their roots back to the mountains and fjords of Norway. We therefore want to be careful not to overemphasize our ethnic background lest others feel that they really don't fit in. Such is not the case. The truth is that we are an American synod, a melting pot of people of every land and nation. And all are more than welcome. When we get to heaven we will see what John saw, namely, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev. 7, 9-17.

And so may we in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod of every background and nationality, joyfully sing:

O happy day when we shall stand
Amid the heavenly throng,
And sing with hosts from every land
The new celestial song.

God, may Thy bounteous grace inspire
Our hearts so that we may
All join the heavenly, white-robed choir
Upon that glorious day.

Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria

George M. Orvick

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1999

INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS

Candidate of Theology Paul Sullivan was ordained and installed as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on June 28, 1998. President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen preached the sermon and the Rev. Otto Trebellhorn was liturgist. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Frederick Theiste, performed the rites of ordination and installation. The Reverends Paul Anderson, James Olsen, and Mark Rogers were lectors.

Candidate of Theology Aaron Hamilton was ordained at Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, Washington, on Saturday, July 11, 1998. The Rev. Edward Bryant was the preacher, the Rev. Tony Pittenger the liturgist, and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, performed the rite of ordination. On Sunday, July 12th, he was commissioned as Exploratory Missionary at Harbor Trinity Mission, Gig Harbor, Washington. The Rev. Glenn Obenberger preached and performed the rite of commissioning and the Rev. Tony Pittenger conducted the service.

Candidate of Theology Timothy Zenda was ordained and installed as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minnesota, on July 12, 1998. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoft, preached the sermon and performed the rites of ordination and installation. The Rev. Robert Lawson was the liturgist. Other area pastors also participated.

The Rev. Karl Anderson was installed as pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Windsor, California, on July 19, 1998. ELS Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, preached the sermon and also performed the rite of installation. ELS and WELS pastors from the area also participated in the installation.

The Rev. Karl Heck was installed as pastor of St. Timothy's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa, on July 26, 1998. The Rev. Kent Dethlefsen preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology Jesse Jacobsen was ordained and installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, on August 2, 1998. The Rev. Tom Heyn (WELS) preached the sermon and President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen performed the rites of ordination and installation. Other area pastors also participated in the service.

Mr. Fred Pahmeier was installed as principal and upper grades teacher of Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Okauchee, Wisconsin, on August 30, 1998.

Linda Mickelson was installed as pre-school teacher at Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Okauchee, Wisconsin, on August 30, 1998.

The Rev. Nathan Krause was commissioned to be missionary at large in the Cottage Grove Wisconsin, area on August 30, 1998. The service was held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin. He was also installed as Outreach Pastor for Holy Cross for a period of one year. Pastor Mark Bartels preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation and Vicar Bernt Tveit served as liturgist. Other pastors participating in the service included Paul Petersen, David Meyer, and Harold Wicke (WELS).

Ms. Kathy Stein was installed as principal and lower grades teacher at Princeton Lutheran School, Princeton, Minnesota, on September 2, 1998.

Mr. James Schneck was installed as principal/teacher of Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, at an afternoon service on September 13, 1998. The Rev. William Kessel (WELS) preached the sermon, the Rev. Carl Wosje was liturgist, Prof. John Moldstad, Jr. was lector, and Pastor Herbert Huhnerkoch performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Stephen Schmidt was installed as pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois, on September 20, 1998. The Rev. Paul Zager preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Frederic Lams served as liturgist.

The Rev. Robert Otto was commissioned to be exploratory missionary in the North Mankato area during the Sunday morning service at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota, on October 4, 1998. The Rev. Ralph Martens was commissioned to be missionary to Chile during the same service. The worship service was conducted by Mt. Olive pastor, the Rev. Donald Moldstad. The rite of commissioning was performed by ELS Vice-President, Prof. John A. Moldstad, Jr. The Rev. Rev. Richard Wiechmann and the Rev. Paul Anderson participated in the commissioning on behalf of the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Foreign Missions, respectively. ELS Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven P. Petersen, preached the sermon.

The Rev. Timothy Bartels was installed as pastor of Saved By Grace Lutheran Church, Gresham, Oregon, on October 11, 1998. The Rev. Homer Mosley preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Aaron Hamilton served as lector.

The Rev. William Stehr was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Irvine, California, at a special 5 p.m. service on October 25, 1998. The Rev. Herbert Huhnertkoch preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Klebe Brumble, performed the rite of installation and also served as liturgist and lector.

The Rev. Henry Gieschen was installed as pastor of Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on November 8, 1998. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Micah Ernst, preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

Mr. Ryan J. Rathje was installed as teacher of grades 3 - 5 at Bethany Lutheran School, Port Orchard, Washington, on January 3, 1999, replacing Caley Ellenberger who resigned to stay at home with her family. Pastor Edward Bryant performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Rodney Flohr was installed as pastor of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Portage, Indiana, on March 20, 1999. Synod President George Orvick preached the sermon; Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation; the Rev. Frederic Lams was liturgist; and the Reverends Kurt Smith, Michael Smith, and J. Kincaid Smith were lectors.

The Rev. Søren Urberg has accepted a call to Avaldsnes, Norway. He will serve the Lutheran Congregation of Avaldsnes assisting the Rev. Egil Edvardsen who serves the Stavanger Congregation. Rev. Urberg hopes to move to Norway this fall.

DEDICATIONS

The new Bethany Lutheran College Memorial Library was dedicated following the annual Synod Sunday service on June 21, 1998. After the service the worshippers gathered outside the new building for the dedication. The Rev. Edward Bryant, member of the Board of Regents, served as liturgist and College President Marvin Meyer read the rite of dedication.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, dedicated its newly-expanded fellowship hall at the afternoon service on September 13, 1998. ELS Vice President, Prof. John Moldstad, Jr., performed the rite of dedication.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Okauchee, Wisconsin, celebrated the dedication of its new building expansion on Sunday, December 6, 1998. This included an addition to the school and also a fellowship hall to the church building. Synod President, the Reverend George Orvick, preached the sermon and performed the rite of dedication. Pastor Kurt Smith was liturgist. The Reverends Paul Petersen, Nathan Krause and David Meyer read the lessons.

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, dedicated its newly-constructed educational unit on February 7, 1999. Your Synod President George Orvick, was guest preacher and local pastor, the Rev. Frederick Theiste performed the rite of dedication.

ANNIVERSARIES

Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois, celebrated its 110th anniversary in April 1998. The celebration was held in June 1998.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, celebrated the 10th anniversary of its new sanctuary on September 13, 1998. Prof. John Moldstad, Jr., former pastor of the congregation, was guest speaker. The current pastor, the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, was the liturgist.

Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the dedication of its present church building on September 20, 1998. The Rev. Daniel Larson, a son of the congregation, was guest preacher.

The ELS Women's Mission Society—Pacific Northwest Region, celebrated 20 years of its existence at its annual meeting held September 26, 1998, at Concordia Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon. It was hosted by the ladies of both The Dalles and Hood River congregations.

Western Koshkonong Lutheran School celebrated 75 years of God's grace with a service of praise and thanksgiving at Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on October 18, 1998. Former pastor, the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., was guest speaker for this festival occasion.

In October 1998, Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, Washington celebrated the Curtis Mantey's 25th year in the teaching ministry. He has served as a teacher and principal of Bethany Lutheran Elementary School since 1991.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillman, Michigan, celebrated its 30th anniversary as a congregation on November 8, 1998. At a joint service Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alpena, Michigan, celebrated its 27th anniversary as a congregation. The Rev. Daniel Basel, a son of the Hillman congregation, was guest preacher for the occasion.

Holton Evangelical Lutheran School, Holton, Michigan, celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 6, 1999.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Brownsburg, Indiana, celebrated its 10th anniversary on March 7, 1999. The Rev. Paul Schneider preached for the occasion and the Rev. Harry Bartels, pastor of the congregation, was liturgist.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

The Rev. El Roy E. Buhr, 50 years; the Rev. Wilfrid Frick, 50 years; Prof. Mark Harstad, 25 years; Missionary Karl Kuenzel, 25 years; and the Rev. Philipp Lehmann, 25 years.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Rev. Paul Schneider, pastor of Holy Scripture Lutheran Church, Midland, Michigan, was honored on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination on September 27, 1998. Pres. George Orvick preached for the



morning service and Prof. Wilhelm Petersen spoke for the afternoon anniversary service.

GROUNDBREAKING

Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington, had a ceremonial groundbreaking for its new building addition on Palm Sunday, March 28, 1999.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hobart, Indiana held a ceremonial groundbreaking on April 11, 1999 for a new House of Worship.

MORTGAGE BURNING

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, had a mortgage burning ceremony in August of 1998 as the debt on their present building was retired. Ground-breaking for the new educational unit was also held in August.

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

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

The Rev. Jon Bruss, professor at Bethany Lutheran College

The Rev. Ralph Martens by transfer from the WELS

The Rev. William Stehr by colloquy on August 24, 1998

The Rev. Timothy Zenda, pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minnesota

The Rev. Jesse Jacobsen, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin

The Rev. Paul Sullivan, pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The Rev. Aaron Hamilton, pastor of Harbor Trinity Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, Washington

The Rev. Mark Raitz, by colloquy on March 26, 1999

The Rev. Richard Waters, by colloquy on May 4, 1999

The Rev. Robert Benson by colloquy on February 5, 1999

The Rev. Young Ha Kim by colloquy on May 8, 1999. He attended Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary for 2 years.



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

Grace Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa – Circuit #6

Faith Lutheran Church, Carthage, Missouri – Circuit # 9

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland, Michigan – Circuit # 3



Rev. Robert Benson



Rev. Aaron Hamilton



Rev. Jesse Jacobsen



Rev. William Stehr



Rev. Paul Sullivan



Rev. Richard Waters



Rev. Young Ha Kim



Rev. Timothy Zenda

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Rev. Matthew Thompson was appointed to a one-year term on the Board for Education and Youth.

The Rev. Howard T. Behrens resigned as pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois, in August of 1998, due to ill health.

The Rev. Daniel Schroeder has resigned from Lamb of God, Cartersville, Georgia; Resurrection, Kennesaw, Georgia; and from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for personal reasons effective October 25, 1998.

The Rev. James Krueger was transferred to the WELS due to his acceptance of a call into the WELS effective December 1998.

The Rev. Edward Bryant has submitted his resignation from the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary upon the acceptance of his call to the Office of Development at Bethany Lutheran College. The Rev. Mark Bartels has been appointed to take his place.

The Rev. Loren Zell has resigned as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Richardson, Texas, effective March 1999.

The following have been appointed to serve on the synod's newly-organized Anniversary Offering Committee (2,000 Years of Grace): The Reverends Erwin Ekhoﬀ, David Lillegard, Michael Smith, Adolph Harstad, Prof. Silas Born, and Mr. Herbert Berg.

The Rev. Randy Nepsund resigned as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas, as of May 31, 1999.

The Rev. Charles Keeler resigned as Circuit Visitor of Circuit # 1 due to his acceptance of a call to Port Orchard, Washington.

CONGREGATIONS DISBAND

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Congregation, Grass Valley, California, voted to disband on August 31, 1998, due to declining membership and lack of pastoral care.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Cartersville, Georgia, worshipped together for the final time on March 21, 1999. The members have been invited to join the WELS congregation, Beautiful Savior, in Marietta, Georgia.

DEATHS

Dr. Donald Peterson, long-time member of the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, died suddenly of a heart attack on Saturday, August 8, 1998. Funeral services were held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, on August 12, 1998, with the Rev. Wilhelm Petersen officiating. Interment was at Roselawn Memorial Park, Monona, Wisconsin.

Mr. Donald Larson, former member of the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, passed away on May 1, 1999. Funeral services were held at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on May 4th, with the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ officiating. Interment was at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens, Crystal, Minnesota.

The Rev. Martin Galstad passed away on June 1, 1999. Funeral Services were held on June 5 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida with the Rev. Matthew Thompson conducting the Service.

Mr. Harvey Bell passed away on June 11. Funeral Services were at Hartland, Minnesota with the Rev. Dinnis Schlicht officiating.

Mr. Holger Ausen of Jasper, Minnesota passed away recently and the Funeral Service was held on June 15.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

The 55th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod will be held at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, July 26-30, 1999. Your president and Doctrine Committee members will attend the convention.

During the course of the past year there have been numerous contacts with the WELS. Your president attended a number of meetings of the Planning Committee of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. He was invited to be the guest speaker for the Reformation Rally held at Martin Luther College in October. In addition to this he addressed the WELS Conference of Presidents on May 12. Last October representatives from our two synods met together at the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum. Prof. Arnold Koelpin was the guest lecturer at our annual Reformation Lectures in October. Grace Lutheran Church of Newton, Iowa, has applied for membership in the ELS this year transferring from the WELS. It had been served by an ELS pastor for a number of years. Pastor Micah Ernst, our ELS pastor at Jefferson City, Missouri, also serves a WELS congregation in Columbia, Missouri. There also are several instances where joint pastoral conferences between the ELS and the WELS take place on a regular basis. We are thankful to the Lord for these opportunities for fellowship with our sister synod.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL FORUM

Our fellowship with the WELS was again demonstrated by the meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum. This is the official organization which brings together representatives of the ELS and the WELS every other year and has been in existence for over thirty years. The 1998 meeting was held on October 12-13 at the WELS headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Forum essay was presented by ELS Professor Mark DeGarmeaux. It was entitled *Sacramental Worship, Sacramental Preaching: Treasures of our Lutheran Church*. At each meeting essays which have been presented in the respective synods in the two previous years are reviewed by members of the Forum. There are four divisions from each synod which constitute the Forum. They are: The Divisions of Administration, Doctrine, Missions, and Education. The divisions meet and discuss their various concerns and challenges and report to each other as to their work in the past two years. Representing the ELS at the meeting were Pastors Paul Anderson, Mark DeGarmeaux, Erwin Ekhoft, Juul Madson, John Moldstad, Jr., George Orvick, Wilhelm Petersen, and Gaylin Schmeling. Mr. Silas Born and Mr. James Schneck represented our Board for Christian Education.

Prof. John Moldstad was elected to serve as the chairman for a four-year term. Rev. Bruce Becker of the WELS was elected to serve as secretary. The next meeting of the Forum will be held October 9-10, 2000. The ELS will serve as the host.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL CHURCH (SWEDEN AND NORWAY)

The biennial convention of the Lutheran Confessional Church met July 16-19, 1998, in Stenestaden, Norway. The Rev. Jesse Jacobsen, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, who happened to be traveling in Norway at the time, brought greetings to the convention on behalf of our ELS. Doctrinal discussions are being held with the ELBK, the group that left the LBK in 1987. A pastor from the ELBK, the Rev. Ingvar Adriansson, attended the CELC meeting in Florida in April. It would greatly strengthen the cause of confessional Lutheranism in Scandinavia if these two sides could be brought together again.

The WELS has provided a "friendly counselor" to work amongst the churches of the LBK in Sweden. He is Pastor John Vogt. The Rev. Søren Urberg of our ELS has accepted a call to the Lutheran congregation at Avaldsnes in

Norway to serve as their pastor for one year. He plans to move to Norway in the early fall. Contributions to our "Scandinavia Fund" which was established by our synod at last year's convention will be used to help support Pastor Urberg while he labors in Norway. So far about \$4,000 has been given to this fund. Our synod's Board for Foreign Missions has also set aside \$11,000 to be used for this purpose. We hope that the members of our synod will contribute towards this cause. A student from the LBK will attend our seminary in the coming school year. He is Mr. Tor Jakob Welde.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH (GERMANY)

We are pleased to report that Pastor Gerhard Wilde is again in good health and that he, together with Prof. Gottfried Herrmann, was able to attend the convention of the CELC which met in Winter Haven, Florida, in April. One of our seminary students, Timothy Schmeling, attended the seminary of the Free Church for a semester last fall. A student from their seminary in Leipzig, Andreas Drechsler, will also attend our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. We also have two students from Australia in our seminary.

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

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA

It is with great sorrow that I report that a division has arisen between two of the congregations in Australia. The church body has suspended the congregation in Kallangur together with its pastor, the Rev. Mark Tuffin. Because of the great distance and also because of the complexity of the situation our synod has not become involved in the dispute. Our offer to help has not been accepted. This is a real setback for the cause of confessional Lutheranism in Australia.

THE CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

The third triennial meeting of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) convened at the Admiral's Inn in Winter Haven, Florida, USA with an opening worship service at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 1999. Prof. David Valleskey delivered the opening sermon. The theme of the conference was *Come, Holy Spirit, God and Lord*. Seven essays were delivered concerning the Holy Spirit, His person and work. The essays were as follows: 1. *The Holy Spirit is God* by Pastor Walter Westphal, WELS. 2. *The Holy Spirit is the Giver of Faith* by Dr. Gottfried Herrmann, ELFK. 3. *The Holy Spirit Uses Word and Sacrament to Carry Out His Work* by Pastor Frackson Chinyama of Malawi. 4. *The Holy Spirit Comforts His Church* by Pastor Stefan Hedkvist, LBK, Sweden. 5. *The Holy Spirit Sanctifies and Preserves the Church on Earth* by Pastor Samuel Kawiliza of Zambia. 6. *The Holy Spirit Gives Spiritual Gifts to His Church* by Prof. David Haeuser, ELS Seminary in Peru. 7. *Come Holy Spirit God and Lord Preserve Our Unity of Faith* delivered by Pastor William Meier of the WELS, Phoenix, Arizona.

The Theological Commission presented a document entitled *The Eternal Word: A Lutheran Confession for the Twenty-first Century, Article I, Holy Scripture*. The statement represents the teaching of all the bodies of the CELC on the subject of Holy Scripture. It was a very necessary statement because it defines what orthodox Lutheranism teaches concerning the Holy Scriptures in contradistinction to the liberal views of God's Word held by many in Lutheranism today.

A new church body known as the Bulgarian Lutheran Church was accepted into membership.

The newly-elected officers of the Conference are president, Prof. Armin Panning; vice-president, Prof. Adolph Harstad; secretary, Prof. John Moldstad,

Jr. Elected to the Planning Committee were the Rev. Daniel Koelpin and the Rev. Walter Westphal.

It was truly wonderful to see representatives from church bodies around the world gather together to confess their common faith. It was a strengthening experience for everyone who attended and particularly for the newer and smaller church bodies which have only recently come into existence.

The closing service was held at Resurrection Lutheran Church (ELS) which is located near the convention site. The Rev. Steven Petersen delivered the closing sermon and the Rev. Matthew Thompson, pastor of the church, served as liturgist.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. (Ps. 133, 1)

SYNODICAL AFFAIRS

CIRCUIT VISITORS' WORKSHOP

The 1998 Circuit Visitors' Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was held on August 27-28 at the Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Minnesota. All eleven visitors of our synod's eleven circuits were present. The program for the discussion consisted of a discussion of selected chapters from the book *Overcoming Pastoral Pitfalls* by Kurt Brink. The discussion was led by Prof. John Moldstad. Also on the program was *A Study of the Doctrine of the Public Ministry*. A working document of the Doctrine Committee was presented by Prof. G. Schmeling. A presentation by Missions Counselor, Steven Petersen, was given in which he urged congregations to show the ELS Video Link and to attend the Mission Seminars planned for 1999. He also explained the organization of the women's societies which is called Cross-stitch. Pres. Meyer reported concerning Bethany Lutheran College and explained how the college is continuing the transition to a four-year institution. He also described the newly-acquired retreat/conference center near Spooner, Wisconsin. Pres. Schmeling gave a report on Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Another paper for discussion was entitled *Financial Management for Pastors* and was delivered by Pastor Paul Schneider. A long list of casuistry questions was also presented and was discussed by the Visitors. The Visitors also reported on special events taking place in their circuit.

PASTORAL CONFERENCES

The General Pastoral Conference which includes all pastors and professors of the synod was held January 5-7 at the Thunderbird Motel in Bloomington, Minnesota. The Great Lakes Pastoral Conference was held at Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 31 - September 2. It was hosted by Christ the King Lutheran Church in Green Bay. Various other local and area conferences were held on a regular basis throughout the synod. Congregations ought to urge their pastors to attend such conferences and should pay their expenses. It is of great value that our pastors are able to consult with one another concerning the difficult trends which the church faces in today's liberal society.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

The Women's Missionary Societies of our synod support our home and foreign mission programs with prayer and generous contributions. The societies meet regularly throughout the year to learn of mission progress, to enjoy fellowship and to participate in fund-raising activities.

Cross-stitch is the network connecting and coordinating the various societies across the Synod. During the past year, the societies, together with Ladies Aids, Women's Circles, Bible study groups, Christian Day Schools, congregations and individuals contributed over \$35,000 for extra-budget projects

in South American missions. These funds were used to construct two churches in Peru, renovate church property in Chile, provide theological libraries for Peruvian seminarians and cell phones for missionaries. This year the group plans to support further capital improvements in Chile, new outreach efforts in the Amazona region of Peru, mission work in inner-city areas of the US and a radio project which could benefit the mission outreach of all synod churches in the new millennium.

We extend our thanks to the women of the ELS for their continuing commitment to our Synod's mission programs.

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Our seminary continues its important mission of training pastors for work of the ministry in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This year the Assignment Committee was able to place six new graduates into the field. Candidates were assigned as follows:

Arlen Dethlefsen — The Hillman/Alpena, Michigan, Parish
Paul Fries — The Forest City/Thompson, Iowa, Parish
Cory Hahnke — The Dalles/Hood River, Oregon, Parish
Phillip Lepak — Port St. Lucie, Florida, Congregation
Bernt Tweit — Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin
Steven Brockdorf — Assigned to the Board for Home Missions for the purpose of opening a new home mission

The vicars were assigned as follows:

Matthew Brooks — Bell Gardens, California
Matthew Crick — Port Hadlock, Washington
Charles Howley — Green Bay, Wisconsin
Bradley Kerkow — Golden Valley, Minnesota
Shawn Stafford — Hillsboro, Oregon

We give thanks unto the Lord for hearing our prayers and providing laborers to go forth into the harvest. Our seminary plays a valuable role in preparing men to become pastors in our synod's congregations. Pres. Schmeling and the staff of the seminary have again done a wonderful job in the training of workers for our church body.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

The past year has been one of intensive planning and labor on the part of our Bethany administration and faculty. The college is now prepared to begin offering baccalaureate degrees to students who complete the four-year program. This fall Bethany will for the first time offer the third year on its way to becoming a four-year institution. The enrollment in the third-year program looks very encouraging. Majors will be offered in the liberal arts and the field of communication. We commend our faculty and administration for the tremendous effort which they have undertaken in making the transition to a four-year institution.

Bethany will serve a vital function in the area of Lutheran higher education. It becomes one of the few Lutheran institutions which still adheres to the conservative, orthodox position of confessional Lutheranism. Graduates with four-year degrees in liberal arts and communications are much in demand. To produce workers for our society who are honest, competent and committed to their work is a wonderful goal for our school. Let us continue to pray for our school that it may ever remain faithful to its principles. We also need to encourage the youth of our synod and young people everywhere to consider Bethany when they plan their future educational program.

HOME MISSIONS

The decision of the synod to add a full-time Missions Counselor has proven to be very wise. Not only does Rev. Petersen help the new missions with the many details that are involved in locating a site, gathering a nucleus and laying the groundwork for the new congregations, but he has also conducted numerous mission seminars to create interest in the important work of spreading the Gospel throughout the synod. He has helped the Women's Missionary Societies to become focused to the point where they can provide direct aid for various projects in Home and Foreign Missions.

Our home mission program continues to move forward with the establishment of three home mission endeavors. They are located in North Mankato, Minnesota; Gig Harbor, Washington; and Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. In all of these places exploratory work is underway and the groups are moving towards becoming established congregations.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Board for Foreign Missions has been blessed with the addition of a third Missionary, the Rev. Ralph Martens, in Chile. He joins Missionaries Oto Rodriguez and Karl Kuenzel. Together they serve three congregations in the Santiago area and a preaching station in Linares. Our Chilean missionaries are presently working on plans for beginning a seminary in which national pastors can be trained.

In Peru, Missionaries Timothy Erickson, David Haeuser and Terry Schultz continue to conduct Gospel outreach and to teach seminary students preparing for public ministry. At present, the missionaries and seven national pastors serve 25 congregations or preaching stations. We pray God's blessing on future developments. The Board has authorized exploration of work in the Amazona region of Peru; the 2000 Offering Committee has presented an opportunity for opening two Christian Day Schools in conjunction with Peruvian congregations; Missionary Erickson will begin a one-year sabbatical this summer.

The Missions Advancement Project is being created in order that the ELS might serve as a funding channel for the Schwan Charitable Foundation to Thoughts of Faith. Thoughts of Faith (TOF) supports the Ukrainian Lutheran Church and St. Sophia Seminary at Ternopil, Ukraine. Bishop John Shep and Pastors David Jay Webber, Roger Kovaciny and Joel Rakos serve in Ukraine. TOF also conducts mission work in the Czech Republic, where Pastors Matthew Luttmann and Mark Grubbs supervise the outreach effort centered at Martin Luther School in Plzen. Work in Latvia is also conducted by TOF. The Rev. David Meyer serves Thoughts of Faith as Executive Director.

Four Corners Missions in Prague, Czech Republic, is served by the Rev. James Krikava, who conducts worship services in both English and Czech. We have urged Four Corners Missions to apply for church-related status with our synod and to come under the guidelines established by the synod for church-related organizations.

In September of 1998, the Board hosted the World Missionary Conference in Plzen, Czech Republic, at which missionaries/pastors from Australia, Chile, Peru, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Germany, Bulgaria (WELS) and the US were present.

We pray that God would continue to bless our missionaries, keep them safe and bring many to Christ through their work!

A NEW CROSS-CULTURAL ENDEAVOR

A vast immigration from the Far East has brought hundreds of thousands of people of Korean descent to our United States. This presents a real challenge to the Christian church to reach out to a different culture. Our Board for Home Missions has decided to embark upon a cross-cultural mission outreach

program with the goal of establishing a Korean congregation in one of the areas of large concentration. The Lord has made this possible by providing a Korean worker for our synod. The Rev. Young Ha Kim is a native of Korea who had been serving as a pastor in a Reformed Church in Chicago. He decided to investigate the Lutheran faith and has embraced Lutheranism together with his wife and three children. He has now completed two years of instruction in our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and was found to be in doctrinal agreement with our synod by the Colloquy Committee. He is now ready to work with our Home Mission Board in the establishment of a cross-cultural mission amongst the Koreans.

This is a special opportunity for our synod to reach across cultural lines and bring the Gospel to people of a different background. We thank the Lord for providing us with a worker like Young Ha Kim who has real dedication towards reaching out to people of Korean background with the Gospel of our Savior.

NEW PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

We are always happy to welcome new members into our synod. This year eleven new pastors are applying for membership. Four of them come by colloquy from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. They are pastors: William Stehr, Mark Raitz, Richard Waters, and Robert Benson. Five are graduates of our Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. One comes by transfer from the WELS, and one by colloquy after spending two years in our seminary. It really helped our clergy shortage to receive these men into our midst.

We are also pleased to receive three new congregations. Grace Lutheran Church of Newton, Iowa, comes by transfer from the WELS. They have been served by an ELS pastor for quite a few years and are presently served by Pastor Martin Hoesch from Ames, Iowa. Faith Lutheran Church of Carthage, Missouri, resigned from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is applying for membership in our ELS. Its pastor is the Rev. Richard Waters. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Hartland, Michigan, is a new bi-vocational mission with the Rev. Mark Raitz as pastor and is also applying for membership at this year's convention.

Many congregations and pastors are beginning to look for a synod which still holds firmly to the doctrine of Confessional Lutheranism.

SPECIAL GIFTS AND GRANTS

On April 26, 1999, we received notification from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation that the funding procedures for the ELS will be changing for the year 2000.

The Schwan Foundation was using a "matching fund experiment" with the ELS hoping to raise the stewardship level of our congregations and their members in supporting the synod. It did not accomplish this goal as contributions to the synod held level during the years of the experiment.

The Schwan Foundation has decided to use a project-based mode, as it does with all other beneficiary organizations, for future funding of our synod. Instead of matching quarterly receipts, the Schwan Foundation will be establishing a maximum dollar amount allowed, under the trust, for the upcoming year.

As in the past, the Synod Convention will continue to determine program/project priorities for up to \$1,000,000. These priorities will be the core of the Trustees' request for consideration by the Foundation. (See Matching Funds for 2000, p. 49 of BORAM) Requests for monies over and above the \$1,000,000 approved by the Schwan Foundation and ratified at the Convention, and up to the maximum, will be in the form of project requests from the various boards within the synod. The projects will need to be submitted/presented to the

Board of Trustees. The projects will be reviewed by the Board, ranked and then submitted to the Schwan Foundation for further review, approval or elimination.

The Schwan Charitable Foundation intends to continue its support of our synod, and it is the intent of the Foundation that individuals will be more apt to increase their support for more defined projects rather than in general support as has been the case in the past.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

During the past year we have had the privilege of privilege of preaching or speaking at the following congregations: Midland, Michigan; Hillsboro, Oregon; Reformation Lecture Rally, New Ulm, Minnesota; Long Prairie, Minnesota; Portage, Indiana; Okauchee, Wisconsin; Carthage, Missouri; Sebastian, Florida; Eau Claire, Wisconsin; installation at Portage, Indiana; CELC, Winter Haven, Florida.

It has been particularly enjoyable to speak about our Evangelical Lutheran Synod to many congregations that are concerned about doctrinal laxity in their present body. The surgery which I had in July has caused me to slow down a little bit but I am thankful to the Lord that he gives me health and strength for each days' activities. I appreciate very much the prayers and expressions of kindness on the part of many pastors, congregations, and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our sincere congratulations to all who are celebrating anniversaries of ordination at this convention. Our synod has many faithful servants who have continued to proclaim the blessed Gospel year after year. May the Lord bless all of our pastors and give them good health so that they can carry on the wonderful mission of bringing the blessed Gospel to blood-bought souls.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

While it is reported that many are approaching the new millennium with fear and trepidation we, of course, know that it is our same gracious Lord who will rule in the new millennium as he has since the foundation of the world. We are simply to do the best we can day by day in whatever area of labor the Lord has placed us. We should be especially concerned about the upbuilding of His kingdom through the use of the Means of Grace.

In accordance with the resolution of the synod, a committee was appointed to propose a plan for a special offering in which we give thanks to the Lord for 2000 years of Grace. The committee has met several times and makes a proposal to this convention which would surely honor our Lord and would further His work. It is our prayer that the convention will look favorably on this proposal and will go forward with the special offering which has been proposed. How wonderful it would be if we could start two Christian Day Schools in South America, assist our congregations in outreach programs, and open several new home missions. It may also be possible to establish a fund for our seminary to assist ministerial students with the cost of their education. These goals are very important because they deal with what the church is all about, namely, using the Means of Grace to create, strengthen and preserve God's people in their Christian faith. May the Lord richly bless our endeavor as a church body as we enter into the new millennium.

FUTURE GIFTS FOR THE LORD

Richard Wiechmann has served as our Deferred Gifts Counselor for a number of years. He travels to all parts of the country and encourages our members to place the Lord into their estate plans. In many cases, good estate planning can save thousands of dollars from estate taxes.

Pastor Wiechmann would like to come to your congregation and hold an estate-planning seminar in the near future. Invite him. You will learn a great deal and some of your congregation members will be motivated to remember the Lord with a "tax-wise" gift.

Our records indicate that at least eleven ELS congregations received legacies in 1997 (the latest statistics we have at this writing). Many times these special gifts allow a congregation to undertake projects which would otherwise not be affordable.

Bethany College has received a number of legacies during the last years, one of which was large enough to fund an endowed chair for the Communications Department. Our seminary is very appreciative of the bequests it has received for student aid. Finally, our synod itself has received a number of sizable bequests recently, most of which were designated for mission work. In 1996, for example, the ELS received \$415,000; in 1997, we received \$630,000; in 1998, \$185,000. This money has allowed us to purchase land and to erect chapels for some of our mission congregations.

You are in the Lord's will. Scripture states, "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." It is God's will that you be saved. It is important for us to respond to His grace and to place the Lord into our wills as well.

Do whatever you can to promote deferred giving in your parish. Have Pastor Wiechmann help you establish an Endowment Fund for your congregation. During the next twenty years, trillions of dollars will be passed down from the older generation. A combination of love for the Lord and tax-wise estate planning can be a great blessing for our synod and for its congregations.

CONCLUSION

We have thus set before you a brief overview of the activities, the challenges, and the needs of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod as we come to another convention. Once again the Lord has bestowed His rich and undeserved blessing upon us. We are but poor sinful human beings who have in no way deserved His goodness. But still He has a great love for us! In spite of our many failings and shortcomings He lifts us up and makes us His people. He pardons all of our sins and washes away all of our iniquities in the blood of His own Son. He has given to our synod many faithful pastors, teachers and workers who have humbly and unselfishly labored again in this past year to do His work. He has heard the prayers of His people. He has blessed their offerings and their labors. He has caused His Word and Sacraments to strengthen their faith and uphold them as they have labored to build His Kingdom. As we come to the end of the second millennium since our Savior's birth let us go forward with renewed confidence that *they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* (Is. 40, 31)

Soli Deo Gloria

George M. Orvick, president

Fellowship Divine

The tasks of this essay are two: (1) to edify the saints of God in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as to the doctrine of fellowship and (2) to highlight and extol the wonderful fellowship that we enjoy with God and with one another. It is

important that we do this, for we live in a time where the entire concept of biblical fellowship is fading from the minds and hearts of many. Today, diversity, as opposed to almost any kind of reasonable unity, is a social construct that is being wildly celebrated, promoted and even legislated in our modern culture. Distinctiveness and alternativism are the patterns of the modern mind. Unity, consistency, certainty, uniformity and fellowship are the gravest "sins" of the modern age. This modern ethos stands in absolute antithesis to every conceivable form of biblical fellowship.



Fellowship is a far more intimate thing than cooperation. Cooperation is a combined support in prosecution of a business plan; but fellowship is a life together. Cooperation is a limited association for definite ends; but fellowship is an unlimited association in spiritual life. Fellowship throws open all doors, unlocks all strong boxes, and bids the other one abide in our soul and heart. (Schmauk 904)

The sheer intimacy of true biblical fellowship is clearly reflected in William How's text of the hymn *For All the Saints - O blest communion, fellowship divine, We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine* (TLH #463)(How). Fellowship Divine, that is the topic upon which we intend now to embark. We wish to reflect on Divine fellowship, that fellowship which begins and centers and ends in Jesus Christ. We wish to reflect on the blessings such fellowship has and brings to us who feebly struggle yet here in the church militant. We wish to focus on the Divine intimacy of biblical fellowship that stands in absolute opposition to the savage law of diversity which is currently ravaging the souls of modern Americans. We wish to draw attention to the Fellowship Divine, that fellowship given and sustained by God alone in Christ the Redeemer.

The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes says that there is nothing new under the sun. This is certainly true with regard to things doctrinal. Therefore nothing in this essay is new. It is,

rather, a representation of many theologians that take us on a journey through biblical fellowship. And if we are on this journey together, we need a road map of the route upon which we will travel. The road map that I have chosen for the bulk of our journey is a paper written by Professor Kurt Marquart, professor of systematic theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Through extensive use of his paper, we will be laying foundations, defining terms; it will be "basic training". The second, and much shorter part of the paper, will focus on the practical, everyday blessings that we derive from the blessed fellowship we enjoy with one another and others who confess the Word of God as being inspired and inerrant. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address you on the topic of fellowship. May the Lord bless our journey together for His glory and our edification. Let the journey begin!

Church Fellowship: Nature, Basis and Limits

I can still recall a hot, humid August morning stepping off a bus at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas to begin basic training. There was an affable fellow there to meet us and he was our drill sergeant. I call him affable, friendly, because he was very forthright, not being afraid to tell us that we were the lousiest excuses for humanity upon which his eyes had ever been cast. But we were not to worry about this reality, for his job was to give us basic training. His sole purpose, calling, and joy, was to reduce us to the lowest possible form of humanity, and then retrain us his way, which was by his own definition, the right way. Basic training was, for the next several weeks, a fairly painful experience which, I can see from many of you, is an experience that you have shared. Yet basic training, as boring and painful as it might have been, did its job. It laid a foundation upon which one could build. And so, for the next several minutes, I ask you to enter into basic training with me once again. I trust it will not be painful, but edifying. If this journey is to be salutary, then we must have a common understanding and language.

Thesis I - Since "the church is not merely an association of external things and rites, like other polities, but is chiefly an association of faith and of the Holy Spirit in the hearts", the church's unity or fellowship is chiefly internal, but also external.(Marquart, p. 1)

It is necessary to define what we shall discuss, namely, church fellowship. It is of fundamental importance that we put the horse before the cart. That is to say that we acknowledge

that while the concept of church fellowship includes external ties, the main feature of true fellowship is a spiritual one.¹ The words "an association of faith" does not carry with it the meaning of "just any faith", but it has the meaning of "the faith", a very particular faith. The faith meant here is the faith given by God the Holy Ghost through the Means of Grace. It means the one true faith that saves, a faith whose object is Christ alone, that faith which the world cannot give, that faith which is Divinely wrought. (Concord, Apology, Art. VII)

(1 John 1:1-7 NKJV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; {2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us; {3} that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. {4} And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. {5} This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. {6} If we say that we

1 (John 18:36 NKJV) Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

(Eph 2:19-22 NKJV) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, {20} having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, {21} in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, {22} in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

(Eph 4:3-6 NKJV) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. {4} There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; {5} one Lord, one faith, one baptism; {6} one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

(1 John 1:1-7 NKJV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; {2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us; {3} that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. {4} And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. {5} This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. {6} If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. {7} But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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As Christians we stand united by an internal relationship of faith. We are bound together through a common new birth and through a common faith in Christ. This unity or fellowship or brotherhood exists with no regard to space, color, age or sex. (Jahn, p. 159.) Thus fellowship in its most fundamental level is one of Divine intimacy having one God as our Father. We are unified by our adoption into the Holy Trinity through grace by faith.

Thesis II - Against the Romanizing tendency to confuse and identify internal and external unity or fellowship, it is necessary to stress that real internal unity or fellowship with Christ and His whole church is granted in and with saving faith itself (faith alone - sola fide), and does not depend on organizational ties to hierarchies, popes, or other administrative structures. (Marquart, p. 1)

The Holy Christian Church in its essence is invisible to human sight and mere reason. Because it is an association and fellowship of faith, and because faith itself cannot be seen, the Church is invisible. (Luke 17:20-21 NKJV) *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; {21} "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."* No human being can say with absolute certainty "these people constitute the church" for even Elias did not know the 7,000 men in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:8-18; Romans 11:2-4).

Our Lutheran Confessions state: *The Christian Church consist not alone in fellowship of outward signs, but it consists especially in inward communion of eternal blessings in the heart, as of the Holy Ghost, of faith, of fear and love of God; which fellowship, nevertheless, has outward marks so that it can be recognized, namely, the pure doctrine of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments in accordance with the Gospel of Christ.* (Concord, Apology., Art. VII, VII, 5, Triglot, p. 227.)

It is dangerous whenever human laws are made the basis of fellowship, for in so doing true inner unity is destroyed. True unity exists among those who have one and the same doctrine

and religion. Efforts to maintain a form of unity through outward laws or obedience to a visible head or some other church-government are merely cosmetic in nature and are a vain attempt, almost always, to cover over those who are internally divided. This is not to say that outward church laws and regulations cannot or should not exist. Yes, a congregation and a synod must have a constitution; we are to be constitutional but not constitutionistic. The history of the Lutheran church shows that this is always a danger. Often times today in some elements of Lutheranism an admonition that "you are acting and teaching contrary to Holy Scripture" produces little or no reaction. But if one says "you are acting contrary to your constitution" then they are startled and disturbed for then humanly constructed unity is threatened. We as a synod have a constitution for the sake of good order, and we observe it not by divine right but by human right. We can all give thanks to God that in the history of our synod our self-regulatory efforts have at their heart and basis the Word of God. This is one of the great blessings we enjoy that our synod and its sister synods have long clung to the phrase "We must keep to the Word of God alone."

We should also keep in mind that with regard to external organizational ties we have in the church on earth a mixed bag. We read in the Confessions : *If the church, which is truly the kingdom of Christ, is distinguished from the kingdom of the devil, it necessarily follows that since the wicked belong to the kingdom of the devil, they are not the church. In this life, nevertheless, because the kingdom of Christ has not been revealed, they are mingled with the church and hold office in the church . . .* (Concord, Apology, Art. 7) Simply put, we acknowledge that within the visible church there are hypocrites having the "form of godliness" (2 Tim 3:5) and as such it is impossible to distinguish the tares from the wheat. (Koehler, p. 245.) Because of this, organizational or administrative structures do not create or sustain true fellowship. We call this a "Romanizing" tendency because Rome above almost all others demands organizational allegiance as a prerequisite to fellowship. The entire system of the Papacy confuses and distorts true Biblical fellowship which is created and sustained by grace through faith alone.

Thesis III - Against the spiritualizing tendency to separate internal and external unity or fellowship, it is necessary to stress that external unity or fellowship in the Gospel (Word and Sacraments) is not a mere outward token, reminder, or accompaniment of inner fellowship,

but is itself also the powerful basis, fount and source of that inner fellowship, inasmuch as the Gospel is not an empty sign or pointer, but a powerful, faith-creating Means of Grace.(Marquart, p. 3)

The church is also defined by many Lutheran theologians as being not only invisible, but also visible. The essence of the church always remains invisible, there can be no "visible side to an invisible thing", yet there are outward marks by which we may know that the Church exists in a given place. These marks are the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments according to the command of Christ. In this thesis we speak of a "spiritualizing" tendency as is often found in Reformed theology and teaching. The Reformed often hold that the Sacraments especially are merely visible reminders of an inner unity of faith that comes into being and exists apart from the Sacraments, and in some cases apart from the Gospel itself. This we call a spiritualizing tendency. Such a view "de-objectivizes" faith and subjectivizes it in the extreme.

Karl Rieker put it this way:

For the Reformed, the visible church is not so much salvatory institution as sanctifying institution. This is connected with the central position occupied in the Old Reformed world-view and view of life by the dogma of predestination. If God has from eternity by an absolute decree determined some men to salvation and others to damnation . . . then the church cannot properly have the task of being an institution for the proffering of the salvation obtained for mankind in Christ. Salvation or damnation does not depend on whether man accepts the proffered salvation in faith or scorns it in unbelief, but solely on the eternal pre-destination of God. A calling and gathering activity cannot therefore be assigned in the first instance to the visible church: she is after all the *corpus electorum* (body of the elect), the totality of those whom God by His absolute decree ordained to salvation. . . The task of the church is rather the sanctification of her members.(Rieker)

Modern day Protestantism sees sanctification or Christian living as the goal of theology. (Scaer, p. 166) For the Reformed, the church is not so much a place of salvation as it is a place of training for Christian living. Because this is so, the Word and the Sacraments especially are given short shrift. The entire focus of the church is not on delivering forgiveness of sin through Christ, but rather training members in holiness of living. There takes place an extreme internalizing or spiritualizing which

works to exclude the means of grace as the very source of faith and therefore true inner fellowship. The Sacraments and even at times the Gospel are seen as merely tokens or reminders of that inner unity which exists prior to and apart from the means of grace. This stands in opposition to the Romanizing extreme of externalizing church structures and hierarchies as the basis for faith and the fount of fellowship.

We are reminded that the inner fellowship of faith is that Divine intimacy given by grace through faith, and is created and sustained alone by the external Word and Sacraments. There is an objective element to faith, and that objective element is the Christ who outside of us. Inner fellowship of faith comes from the externals of Word and Sacrament.² We reject, therefore, any spiritualizing tendency which would reject or assign to a lower place the external, objective Word and Sacraments.

Thesis IV - The true, God-given link between the church's internal and external unity or fellowship, therefore, is the life-giving Gospel itself, the Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments), by which alone God creates, sustains, builds up, and extends His church. (Marquart, p. 4)

The church has, and is to have, both an inner fellowship or unity and an external fellowship or unity. That which links the two together is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as delivered to us in the objective Means of Grace (Word and Sacraments).³

2 (John 6:63 NKJV) "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (Rom 1:16 NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

3 (1 Cor 10:17 NKJV) For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.; (1 John 1:1-3 NKJV) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; {2} the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us; {3} that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.; (John 15:1-7 NKJV) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. {2} "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. {3} "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. {4} "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. {5} "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. {6} "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are

The Augsburg Confession, Article VII states:

For this is enough for the true unity of the Christian Church, that the Gospel be preached there unanimously according to its pure understanding, and that the Sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. And it is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that uniform ceremonies, instituted by men, be observed everywhere, as Paul says to the Ephesians, ch. 4: "One Body, one Spirit, as you are called to one and the same hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

There seems to be a tendency in the Christian church these days to equate "spirituality" only with the internal fellowship of faith, as if the external fellowship of the Gospel and Sacraments were not spiritual. This is patently false. We often hear this expressed in the popular phrase "It doesn't much matter what you believe as long as you believe in Jesus." For example, under such thinking it is OK to pass on Holy Baptism, Holy Communion and Absolution, because these are mere externals and have nothing to do with faith and thus internal unity or fellowship. Such a view has given rise in modern times to such organizations as Promise Keepers and other ecumenical associations. Yet our Lutheran Confessions hold that the "external Word and Sacraments" are so powerful and efficacious that even if the minister be wicked and unbelieving, the Gospel does its marvelous work.⁴

The members of the Holy Christian Church are united inwardly by faith in Christ Jesus. Yet this very faith is engendered and sustain through external means, Word and Sacraments. Fellowship, internal and external, have as their common source the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone.

Thesis V - External unity or church-fellowship therefore must be defined not in terms of all sorts of private, personal, social or civic activities and relationships, but in terms of the church as church, and of her own distinctive public, official acts, functions and ministry -

burned. {7} "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

⁴ "Gold remains no less gold if a harlot wears it in sin and shame." (Large Catechism, Baptism)

hence essentially as pulpit and altar fellowship. (Marquart, p. 6)

As stated before, the Church has and must have both internal unity or fellowship and external unity or fellowship. When we now speak of external fellowship we do so in terms of church fellowship, that is the visible manifestation of the inner fellowship (true faith) generated and sustained by the Gospel. We are speaking of mutual fraternal acknowledgement of fellow Christians. Such external fellowship may be defined both as a status and an activity. (Jahn, p.401) We make this distinction because there surely are those people who with us enjoy the status of being in fellowship in the Holy Christian Church (Una Sancta - internal fellowship of true faith) - yet with whom we do not have Biblical authority to practice active church fellowship (external fellowship).

Since all Christians are brothers in Christ by grace through faith, the fundamental way in which this internal fellowship is expressed on earth centers in joint, public, external, visible participation in the Gospel.⁵ Our Confessions list as the church's external marks the Gospel and the Sacraments. (Concord, Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, X,10.) External fellowship has to do with churchly, brotherly relationships and has nothing to do with civic, social, or emotional ties. Kurt Marquart has put it well:

There is a disastrous tendency to see the Sacraments in terms of "servicing" the private "needs" (read - demands) of so-and-so many individuals, taken atomistically, apart from any serious church-connections. The strident secularism of our time confounds and compounds the trouble, so that finally a refusal of admission to the Altar comes to be perceived as a discourtesy to a customer (or a "paid-up" member) or as a violations of one's civil rights and entitlements. . . What must be clearly seen is that altar fellowship is not a private individual matter but is the most solemn and official expression of church fellowship. (Marquart, p. 7)

5 (Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

(Acts 20:7 NKJV) Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

(Gal 1:8-9 NKJV) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. {9} As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

The Biblical word for fellowship is *koinonia*, *communio* and this fellowship is not from human effort or decision but is produced by the means of grace. (1 John 1:3 NKJV) *that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

The connection with the Lord's Supper is clear in (1 Cor 10:16-17 NKJV) *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? [17] For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.* Fellowship is not brought about by the blessing and the breaking but by the content of the bread and the cup, and certainly not by human action or association. (Sasse, pp. 352, 353, 355.)

This stands in stark contrast to the Reformed view wherein the individual is assured of salvation by his consciousness of his election by God, not by his consciousness of his belonging to the church on the basis of his baptism. The certainty of election tears him away from the association of the family and of the church, and grounds him upon himself, and fills him with the consciousness of self-sufficiency and independence. (Rieker, pp. 71-73.)

Such as the above will never do. Internal unity of faith finds expression of mutual brotherly acknowledgement in activities. The primary activity of expressing church fellowship in a public way is altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship. (Note: Kurt Marquart, a member of the LC-MS, would probably not agree with the "unit concept" of fellowship which would not include "prayer fellowship" in his definitions.)

Thesis VI - External unity and fellowship in the church (pulpit and altar fellowship) cannot be based on human estimates of anyone's external spiritual condition, faith, love, and the like (only God, Who searches the heart and the reins, Jer 17:10, knows who His own are (2 Tim 2:19, Rom 11:14), but must rest entirely on the church's objective foundation (Eph 2:20), the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments, which are therefore the church's true and infallible marks; where these marks are pure (orthodoxy), fellowship must be granted; where they are impure (heterodoxy), fellowship must be refused. Axiom: As part of the Christ-Mystery (Acts 9:4) the church is an article of faith, not of sight. It can be

located and identified therefore only by listening for the pure voice of the Shepherd - - not by counting or weighing sheep (Matt 7:15; John 10:4; 5:16). **Corollary:** The pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments, in so far as they are marks of the church, distinguish church from non-church (synagogue, mosque, Red Cross etc.), and in so far as they are pure marks, distinguish the orthodox church from heterodox churches. (Marquart, p. 11)

In this thesis we begin to touch on issues of application and living out the principles of fellowship which the Scriptures as explained in our Confessions enjoin. We should first note that there is a Biblical requirement to extend external fellowship to others. (1 Cor 1:10 NKJV) *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* It is clearly the will of God that all Christians be united in the truth of the Word of God. The demand above for uniformity in speech is nothing less than a Divine demand for a common profession of Christian doctrine. We are to be agreed in words and in the meaning of those words as they relate to Scriptural teaching. Where such agreement exists, external fellowship (altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship) must be extended. It is schismatic not to do so. By a schism we mean a division in the Church which is not commanded by the Word of God but which is conducted by people for carnal reasons. (Pieper, p. 427.)

It is also a grave sin to extend altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship to those who do not share the same confession of faith. This is called unionism or syncretism. We read: (Mat 7:15 NKJV) *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.;"* (Rom 16:17 NKJV) *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.* Beware, avoid. . . these are God's own directives to His church for her self-preservation. The Holy Scriptures explicitly tell us that God allows false teachers to arise so that Christians may show their obedience by avoiding them, not so that Christians may fraternize with them (Deut 13:3; 8:2, 1 Cor 11:19). (Pieper, p. 425.) Luther put this in his own unique way: "We do not want to make a pig-pen out of Christ's church and let everyone come to the Sacrament, as sows to the trough, without having been previously examined - such churches we leave to the enthusiasts." (Wittenburg, p. 23, trans John Bruss, quoting

Martin Luther in Open Letter to the Congregation of the City of Frankfurt am Main, 1532.)

The Christian obedient to the Word of God will be interested in the details of the proper basis upon which external fellowship (altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship) is to be extended or withheld. As noted in our present thesis, one cannot make these judgments on the basis of faith. One human cannot see the personal faith of another human, only God can do this (2 Tim 2:19). We are, rather, commanded to look at the confession. We cannot look into hearts, but we can and must judge persons, congregations, pastors or synods by what they say and do, that is, by their confession of word and action. Thus persons and church bodies are to be judged by their public doctrine as it is actually taught and practiced in its pulpits, its congregations and its publication. A mere "professing" of "official doctrine" is insufficient. The actual teaching of a church body determines the character of that church body, and by default, the doctrinal character of all those who formally hold membership in such body. This is not an individual matter, it is a corporate matter. To those who persistently hold to doctrines that disagree with the clear word of God, external fellowship must be denied.

In recent years there has been in Lutheran circles discussion of a concept called "levels of fellowship". Ralph Bohlmann, former president of the LC-MS describes this idea in a transcription from a video presentation:

So what you're really saying with that terminology, whether you use "levels of fellowship" or "levels of relationship", . . . is that Christian people today, and this has always been true, exist and live out their Christian life and action in a variety of relationships simultaneously, ranging all the way from a kind of minimal agreement, I suppose, but nonetheless important unity that we have among all of us who believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, ranging all the way from a relatively minimal agreement in this faith, all the way over to the other end of the continuum, where we have full agreement in the whole doctrine of the Gospel as taught in the Scripture, and then establish fellowship and have a strong Altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship, unity of confession. You're suggesting, as I think I am too, that between one end and the other end of this continuum, the Christian finds himself at various level or various points where there are agreements, but at some points disagreements, and that we need to be perhaps more precise in identifying what we

can do as a result of where we find ourselves in a relationship at any point.(Marquart, p.242-243.)

I believe that most, if not all of us, can relate to what ex-president Bohlmann says and feels. We can feel his pain! The tragedy of divided Christianity causes great pain and suffering among Christians. Yes, there are those that are not within our church fellowship that , upon examination, hold to the pure doctrine of the Bible, and yet they are formally a part of a synod or church that has errors. Sociologically speaking, we can see such a continuum. There is no such continuum in Biblical conceptions of church fellowship. Kurt Marquart reminds us:

Like the church herself, the fellowship of the church is one and indivisible: *communio una est*. The two theological meanings of "fellowship" (*koinonia*), the internal and the external, are not two different and separate fellowships, but two distinct but in principle un-separated aspects of the *one* fellowship of the church. . . What keeps these two aspects or "modes" of the one church from flying apart into two churches is precisely the biblical, evangelical doctrine that the external Gospel and Sacraments are not mere outward symbols or formalities which may or may not be accompanied by spiritual efficacy, but are powerful, faith-creating - and therefore church-creating - *media salutis* (instruments of salvation) imparting forgiveness, life and salvation.(Marquart, p. 244 - 245.)

The "levels of fellowship" as proposed by Bohlmann above is a false dichotomy proffered in an apparent attempt to render incomprehensible the truly Biblical concept of fellowship. If such thinking were followed to its logical conclusion, then our Lord's Words, which in several places admonish the church to watch for false prophets and avoid them, would be reduced to meaninglessness. And frankly, such has been done in some Lutheran circles. Thanks be to God for delivering us from such frightful and chilling theological gymnastics.

The Lord in His mercy has not only commanded us to distinguish between true and false prophets, but He has also provided us with the ultimate litmus test. The test is simple: the pure preaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. Where Gospel preaching is pure, and where the Sacraments are administered rightly, fellowship exists and must be acknowledged. Where there is impurity in Gospel preaching and the Sacraments are wrongly administered, then fellowship does not and cannot exist. Where "fellowship" is exercised regardless, one does not have church fellowship, but spiritual promiscuity. The criteria for fellowship or for

separation are objective, not subjective. **Pure** preaching of the Gospel, **right** administration of the Sacraments - these and these alone are the criteria for true church fellowship because they and they alone create and sustain the church.

Some minds within Lutheranism have raised the question, "How pure does this preaching have to be, and how rightly do the Sacraments have to be administered?" This position is often taken in an attempt to reach a "lowest common denominator" kind of theological thinking and to create a false separation between the Gospel and Sacraments from other articles of faith.

Thesis VII - While the heart, soul and center of the Gospel is absolution in Christ (John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 2:3; 3:11; Augsburg Confessions IV and XII), this article, on the "proper understanding" of which "the entire Gospel that we preach depends" (Large Catechism, Creed), is not the only article, eliminating the others, but [is] the chief article, illuminating all the other articles, which together with it constitute the "one faith" (Eph 4:5, Jude 3) and "doctrine" (note singular in John 7:16-17; Acts 2:42; Rom 6:17, 2 John 9:10) of Christ - with the Law, as God's "strange" or "alien" works always necessarily presupposed (Apology, XII, 51 ff.).

First, a word about the Law. When we speak of fellowship, internal or external, the Law is eliminated in so far as the Law cannot and does not create and sustain faith. Since the Law always accuses, it does not and cannot create the church and therefore it cannot unite the church. The Law does not belong, fundamentally, but only secondarily, in a definition for Christian unity or fellowship. It is the Gospel alone that creates faith and thus the Gospel alone creates the church and unity or fellowship within the church. Yet the Law and its acceptance are a necessary presupposition to unity of faith in the Gospel.

What we are saying in simpler terms is that the Word of God cannot be atomized by human reason and choice. Luther explains it this way:

In philosophy a tiny error in the beginning is very great at the end. Thus in theology a tiny error overthrows the whole teaching. Therefore doctrine and life should be distinguished as sharply as possible. Doctrine belongs to God, not to us; and we are called only as its ministers. Therefore we cannot give up or change even one dot of it (Matthew 5:18) . . . For doctrine is like a mathematical point. Therefore it cannot be divided; that is it cannot stand either subtraction or addition. . . . Therefore

doctrine must be on eternal round golden circle, in which there is no crack; if even the tiniest crack appears, the circle is no longer perfect. (Luther, pp 36-39.)

Our Lutheran Confessions make it plain that with regard to external fellowship there must first be in place "mutual agreement in doctrine and in **all** its articles as well as right use of the holy sacraments, according to the familiar axiom, 'Disagreement in fasting does not destroy agreement in faith'". (Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Art. X, 5.)

There is currently a virulent danger, I believe, that increasingly atomizes the Word of God as Thesis 7 rejects. The modern danger is an increasing and theologically malignant individualism. Gene Edward Vieth, Jr., in his insightful text *Postmodern Times - A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thoughts and Culture*, reminds us that our forefathers in the faith, some of whom are seated in this room, faced and fought the battle of Rationalism with its so-called scientific scholarship, historical-critical approaches to Biblical interpretation, and demythologizing of the Word of God. Now, says Vieth, Rationalism has given way to ir-rationalism, to spiritually without objective truth, to a spiritual individualism without constraint. And, it is taking place *within* the evangelical churches. Vieth holds that even in the evangelical churches there has been a shift from truth to desire. People will not believe what they do not enjoy. (Vieth, p. 192-193) Let me cite a couple of examples with which most of you are familiar, especially if you are part of a missions or evangelism committee in your congregation. How many times in the past year have you, upon contacting a visitor, been told, "I'm glad I came to your church because the Word of God was preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments were administered according to the God's command"? Hopefully, you have heard that often. But in reality are not most comments like this: "I really liked your church"; "I enjoyed the Pastor, he is so nice!"; "I didn't appreciate the fact that I could not go to Communion". If you have heard these or similar messages, then you have experienced post-modernism at work. Not only can this individualist thrust be seen within lay people, it is probably most strongly in evidence among pastors and ministers. Vieth informs us that many evangelical and conservative pastors no longer mention topics such as sin, hell and death in sermons because "people don't like to hear about such things." There is a joke that says "Roman Catholics are saved by good works, Lutherans are saved by grace, and Episcopalians are saved by good taste". That, by the way, came from an Episcopalian. Yet

the message that it conveys is a religious reality in the mind of the world....God's Word is supposed to conform to individual taste.

If human desire or taste is the measure by which people select their church, then you can readily see why we as a Synod have a special challenge before us. For we hold, by God's grace, that His Word cannot be chopped up and served like so many choices at a Swedish smorgasbord. The Word of God is a whole and the extension of fellowship can come only when that Word of God is believed, taught and confessed undivided and untainted.

Thesis VIII - The Gospel is not purely preached, nor are the Sacraments rightly administered where:

- (a) as in Roman Catholicism, the "chief article" (grace alone) is under attack in various ways, including the distortion of the Holy Supper into a propitiatory sacrifice;**
- (b) as in Reformed theology, [where] Law and Gospel are confused, and biblical Christology and the means of grace are under attack in various ways, including the denial of the Real Presence of the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar.**
- (c) as in historical-critical theology (prevalent also throughout nominal world Lutheranism today), the absolute authority of Holy Scripture and the apostolic prophetic foundation (Gal 1:8-9; Eph. 2:20) of the church and of all Christian doctrine is radically under attack.(Marquart, p. 20-23.)**

These VIII needs little comment. We include it here only for a practical reason. It is my sense that many of our members feel ill-prepared to stand up for the faith in daily conversations with those outside our confession of the faith. Many of us sometimes feel ill-equipped to "give an account of the faith" in those Sunday morning sessions of explaining why Holy Communion is not available for all. Here, dear fellow redeemed, are the reasons. The God-given requirement for fellowship, and that means Altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship is the Gospel purely preached and the Sacraments rightly administered. To the Roman Catholic you might well say, "Dear Friend, we cannot permit you at our altar for, sadly, the church to which you belong distorts and teaches wrongly regarding the Holy Supper of our Lord. His Supper is not "a sacrifice of our hands" which your priest says in your liturgy...no, it is our Lord Jesus Christ serving us with life and salvation." Here, in this thesis are the reasons for you to use when fellowship must be painfully denied.

Thesis IX - The pure marks of the church are not abstract ideals or unstable makeshifts flickering and flaring now here and now there, but they are embodied solidly and concretely in the great continuity and consensus of the orthodox Creeds and Confessions (the Book of Concord of 1580), which through the centuries assert unchanged the One Faith of Christ's holy, catholic, and apostolic church, against heretical, sectarian aberrations and their official representatives as such.

First, a definition. When we speak in this thesis of the concept of confession, we do so by noting the definition of the word "confess" as it appears in Holy Scripture in three main senses: the confession of sin, the confession of the faith, and the praise of God. This occurs, as Herman Sasses says, "... when a man, seized by the revelation of the living God, speaks forth - a speaking in which the confession of sin, confession of faith, and praise of God ring together." (Sasse, p. 4.) In this thesis we are restricting, in the main, the term, "confess" or "confession" to the second of the three Biblical uses, that is the confession of the faith. Unlike the confession of sin and praise to God, confession of the faith is directed not only to God, but also to other men. This is a churchly confession, the church as a whole expressing her faith both to God **and** to the world.

The Holy Christian Church in heaven and on earth has always been and will always be a confessing church. In St. John's Revelation we hear the church triumphant confessing her faith: (*Rev 5:8-9 NKJV*) *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [9] And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.* Like the church triumphant, the Holy Christian Church on earth has confessed the faith in formulations which make clear to all people the truth as revealed to mankind by God. We see the Israelites confessing God before foreigners (Neh. 9:1-3). The Jews in the days of the apostles confessed the faith as when the Pharisees made confession of belief in the resurrection and the angel and the spirit as opposed to the Sadducees (Acts 23:8). We read the words of Peter as he confesses Jesus as the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16). Such confessions are sometimes in a negative way as when John the Baptizer confessed that he was not the Christ (John 1:20). Such

confessions are not merely semantic arguments but embody matters of eternal significance - matters about which errors in the church cannot be tolerated.

Not only has the church made such confessions through the ages, she and all her members must make such a confession - it is not optional. We are told in Romans 10:9-10 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* It is highly significant that Jesus Himself demanded verbal confession from His disciples - "(Mat 16:15-16 NKJV) He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" {16} Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." In that Divine catechetical exchange we find nothing less than the first confession the church.(Sasse, p. 5.)

Our Lord's response to the confession of Peter is even more profound - (Mat 16:17 NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.* Jesus is declaring that Peter was the possessor of a precise knowledge, a revealed knowledge. Herman Sasses says this:

It is a knowledge which according to its subjective side must be designated faith-knowledge, according to its transsubjective side, revelation-knowledge

. . .For it is God himself who works faith. And this faith expresses itself immediately in a confession. Confession belongs to the essence of the believer, he cannot be without it. He cannot be silent . . .And how does faith express itself? Not in a hymn, not in a gush of feeling, but rather in a confession, a sober judgment of reality, in which the facts of revelation are attested, "You are the Christ!!" This sobriety, this objectivity, is characteristic of all genuine confession . . . Thus confession may be described as the answer to revelation - the revelation which occurred once in history. In her confessions the church gives her answer for all time, the answer of faith in the revelation in Christ.(Sasse, p. 5)

Confession and the church, and therefore fellowship in the church, go together. It is no little significance that after that first confession of Peter, we have the first mention of the church(Sasse, p. 7.) - (Mat 16:18 NKJV) *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My **church** [ecclesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it..* When the church gives answer to God's revelation in Christ

Jesus in her confessions and symbols, she is by that very answering both affirming truth and denying error to the world. Confession has the one great task of separating truth from error and the church and everything that it outside the church.(Sasse, p. 7) This is why we say in this thesis that the Creeds and Confessions of the church are no namby-pampy matters. They are the rules by which the church measures all doctrines and teachers of doctrine. They are the boundaries, the line in the sand, by which fellowship can be and must be gauged.

Thesis X - The orthodox Confessions, and thus the pure marks of the church, are effectively denied and contradicted where, despite formal confessional subscription in constitutions or ordination ceremonies, the Confessions' doctrinal content is not honored as the real and effective norm for all teaching and practice, and thus as actual determinant of the boundaries of church fellowship, but is devalued to only one among a whole Babel of "interpretations", all cohabiting promiscuously within the boundaries of a loose, and therefore essentially frivolous, church fellowship (for example: the Lutheran World Federation's notion of "Reconciled Diversity"). [Note: Of late we might also include as an example recent ELCA/Reformed declarations of altar and pulpit fellowship.] (Marquart, p 29.)

How can we re-state this in simpler terms? - "All blow and no go!" would seem to be an apt illustration. The sainted Dr. Robert D. Preus addressed the issue of this thesis in 1990 with an article titled *Confessional Lutheranism in Today's World*. Here Dr. Preus pointed out a "queer dichotomy and divorce, alien to the Lutheran Confessions, between doctrine on the one hand and practice and worship on the other."(Preus, p. 102) He reminds us from the Lutheran Confessions that doctrine and practice go hand in hand. Obviously false doctrine robs Christ. Yet, mouthing right doctrine without the true teaching of the same or practice that conforms to right doctrine is merely theory, and is not a basis for church fellowship. While it is most certainly true that in our Christian liberty we may use more or less "ceremonies" as may be most profitable and edifying, yet, as our Confessions make clear, practice and worship are to be void of "all frivolity and offenses" in the interest of the weak in faith. There is a time, however, when even these ordinarily indifferent matters lose the character of indifference when a

"clear-cut confession of the faith is demanded of us."(Concord, Formula of Concord, Art. X, 3 - 4.)

We are also reminded that the Confessions use the term "fellowship" not only to indicated outward fellowship marked by external signs of the pure teaching of the Gospel and right administration of the Sacraments as well as spiritual (inner fellowship) of faith and the Holy spirit in the hearts, but also "fellowship" is used to mean the divine service or Holy Communion. (Concord, 1921 #12, Smalkald Articles II,II,9; Large Catechism V, 87.) Dr. Preus goes on to show from the Confessions that doctrine, practice and worship are inexorably connected in issues of church fellowship. Rev. Preus concludes:

It is clear from the citations above that external church fellowship involves mutual consensus and confession of the doctrine and all its articles, and agreement in practice, and full and uninhibited participation in all worship. It also involves the condemnation of errors. Where these factors do not obtain, external fellowship is a capitulation and mockery which obscures the gospel and imperils faith.(Preus, p.105.)

Summary

It becomes clear that fellowship is fundamentally and primarily that state in which a person, bring brought to faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Ghost, is intimately united with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This same God-given faith, at the same time, creates an inward and so invisible bond with other believers. In this spiritual life there is always a desire for and actual expression of that life through the common use of the means of grace in the corporate setting. These activities are commonly referred to as church fellowship as a general term for all their particular manifestations.

It is self-evident that all men do not have faith in the Triune God and therefore do not enjoy fellowship with God nor fellowship with others that do believe in the Triune God. Happily, there are in the world over those who with us worship God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Scriptures enjoin us to unite together in outward manifestations of that inward faith we share. Yet the same Scriptures places boundaries or limits on such fellowship. Christians must select and choose, as guided by the Word of God, those with whom we can and cannot join in outward expressions of fellowship. This can be done only in one way and that way is by an examination of the confession of both individuals and larger bodies such as synods or congregations. Should this confession include the pure

proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments in accordance with Christ's command, then external fellowship, that is Altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship, must be extended. We must also include in the term pure Gospel proclamation and right administration of the Sacraments and all other articles of faith as the other articles are not divorced from the Gospel and Sacraments but are illuminated by the same. Further, not only must the confession be in accord with the Word of God, but the actual practice and teaching must be in accordance with them. We must acknowledge, however, that we are all weak, sinful human beings and because of our sinful nature we will never reach absolute unity of faith and doctrine this side of heaven. Such weakness of faith is not alone a reason to terminate fellowship or absolutely refuse it but is a Scriptural reason for practicing fellowship in our mutual aid of one another. Persistent adherence to sin, false doctrine and practice is Biblical cause for termination of fellowship.

Thus we have set before ourselves a review of the nature, basis and limits of church fellowship. What remains now is to reflect on the wonderful, comforting blessings that God has poured out on our Synod and those with whom, by God's grace, we have true church fellowship.

Our Blessed Fellowship

If one peruses the back pages of Evangelical Lutheran Synod Report for 1998, one will find a list of "Church Bodies in Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod." That is for us a profoundly joyful title. In that list we find:

- Christ the King Lutheran Church (Nigeria)
- Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico)
- Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Puerto Rico)
- Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Russia)
- Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland)
- Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany)
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia
- Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Peru
- Lutheran Church of Cameroon
- Lutheran Church of Central Africa - Malawi
- Lutheran Church of Central Africa - Zambia
- Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway)
- Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church - Japan
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

Each year as we gathered in convention our president brings us news from those churches and synods with whom we enjoy church fellowship. How good it is to hear about people

throughout the world who, along with us, stand on the inspired, inerrant Word of God. President Orvick has kept us updated on the progress of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, the umbrella organization for all those bodies with whom we enjoy fellowship. How blessed we are to be joined by those who work to uphold the cause of Confessional Lutheranism throughout the world. Each year we have the joy of welcoming into church fellowship pastors and congregations who have come to recognize the ELS as a Bible-believing, confessional, orthodox church. Our long-standing relationship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has been a true blessing for a long time. As we read and hear these things, we find that we have a Blessed Fellowship, a fellowship that has been blessed by God and brings to us all many blessings from God.

The Scriptures declare: *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)* It is well then for us to have a few sentences on the “goodness” and “pleasantness” of living in true Biblical fellowship.

One of the greatest blessings of the fellowship we enjoy involves our youth, our children. Not too long ago we had as our theme “His Truth for Our Youth”. As a parent I can tell you that I have grave concerns for my son as he grows up in a world that is increasingly evil and godless. What an absolute blessing to know that there exists by God’s grace places where the truth of God’s Word continues to be proclaimed and taught in all its truth and purity. I can die with the comfort of knowing that my child can search out and find those of like faith from Australia to Zambia. I can rest better at night knowing that there are those who will feed my child the bread of life. All of us can give thanks to God for this blessed fellowship for our youth.

We live in a world today where it seems that the only certainty is uncertainty. “Change and decay in all around I see” says the hymn writer in *Abide with Me*. Employment is no longer a certainty with corporate downsizing, mergers, and little loyalty to employees of long and outstanding service by employers. We live in a time of high-tech and low-touch with the nuclear family atomized into ever smaller and sometimes perverted fragments. There are those in the churches who arrive each Sunday to the newest in contemporary worship and retranslated creeds to avoid offense to a politically correct generation. How blessed we are in our fellowship. What joy there is in knowing that we can go into a congregation of our fellowship and find certainty, the certainty of sins forgiven through the precious blood of the unchanging Savior. We can

have certainty of joining with others for whom spiritual truth is an unchanging reality as the Lord says, (*Mal 3:6 NKJV*) "*For I am the LORD, I do not change.*" What pleasure there is in being with people for whom there is still a clear conception of right and wrong, who have values and morals based not upon human opinion or the latest fad from the pop-psychologists of the airwaves, but are founded on the very revelation of Almighty God. We have a blessed fellowship.

How good it is to be in fellowship with those who truly love, not with the lily-livered, self serving love of the world, but with true Christian love, the kind of love that will reach out when I am weak and have sinned and call me to repentance. How good it is to be with those that are quick to call to task under the Word of God, but also quick to apply to our troubled consciences and souls the refreshing Gospel of forgiveness. How blessed we are to have brothers and sisters in the faith that help us mind our doctrine and life. This is true love, a fruit of our blessed fellowship.

In the garden Adam had perfection, but there was one thing that prevented complete contentment - loneliness. (*Gen 2:18 NKJV*) *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* It is painful to be alone, and it is painful to be religiously alone, to be *the voice of one crying in the wilderness*. . . (*Isa 40:3 NKJV*) How terrible not to have friend to help in time of need - (*Eccl 4:9-10 NIV*) *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: [10] If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!* In our blessed fellowship we are not alone. Ours is not the only voice in the world proclaiming the pure Gospel. We are not alone in administering the Sacraments according to the command of Christ. Others stand with us and we are encouraged. This too is part of our blessed fellowship.

In Acts we read of the early church - (*Acts 4:32 NIV*) *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.* Our blessed fellowship, as we have quoted before, "opens all doors, unlocks all strong boxes, and bids the other one abide in our soul and heart." What blessings we derive from combined resources of time, talents and treasures. Consider how the work of spreading the Gospel would be hampered without the mutual support of our seminaries and colleges providing God-fearing pastors and teachers to our congregations, even across Synodical lines and world date lines for the furtherance of the Gospel? Consider how our combined resources can accomplish so much

more than working alone. These are the good and pleasant things of our blessed fellowship.

The Holy Scriptures enjoin us (*Rom 14:19 NIV*) *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification;* (*2 Cor 13:11 NIV*) *Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.* For those of you who are natives of the ELS, you may not really know the lack of peace that exists where true fellowship does not exist. Can you begin to imagine the maneuvering, gossip, and out-right hostilities that erupt when the truth of the Word of God is a matter of dispute? Can you fathom the sheer confusion in the souls of the lambs and sheep for whom the Savior died when in each place there is a different practice and procedure? Can you imagine the lack of peace? Our is a blessed fellowship because of the peace we enjoy. God by grace has and is keeping us of one mind so that we can live in peace and assurance. This is part of our blessed fellowship!

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we exist in a time in which most of those around us in the world live with a gaping void in their soul. There is a void in natural, unregenerate man - a void of which he is aware, and a void which he seeks to fill at all costs. Mankind's efforts to fill this void have ranged from worship of idols, to the intellectual idolatry of Rationalism and Humanism, right down to our day of Postmodern chaos. People, disgusted with the failures of the philosophies and pseudo-religions of history, have turned to filling their internal void by constructing personal realities and "truth" so that there will be a "custom" fit. The result of this Postmodern suicide is the creation of the only absolute truths that now seem to hold sway in our nation - diversity, individuality and alternativism. These three concepts stand in absolute opposition to unity, consistency and objective truth. Our modern ethos is totally antithetical to the Biblical concept of church fellowship.

As proof consider with me the concept of "family". The family of 1999 is not the family it was even as late as 1965. The family structure has been vastly altered in a short time. We have gone from "the extended family to the nuclear family and finally to a network of families related through not only brothers and sisters, but also step-mothers and step-fathers, half-brothers and half-sisters, step-brothers and step-sisters. This network of families either is without a recognized center or has several centers."(Scaer, p. 82) Witness the wildly popular movie

"Mrs. Doubtfire". In this tale of a troubled marriage, the father, who loves his children and cannot live without seeing them for even one day, is dressed in drag by his clearly homosexual brother, applies for a house-keeper position in his own home, and by this method is able to be with his children. Even though there are attempts at reconciliation between husband and wife, in the end reconciliation is not possible. The family has come apart, or so it would seem. At the very end of movie, the husband, still in drag and serving as the host for a children's show, receives and reads a letter from a young member of the television audience. This young child laments the fact that in her young life the family no longer consists of mom and dad, 2.5 children, one dog and one cat. The separated father, still in women's clothing, assures his young fan, that there are "all sorts" of families . . . families with one mommy...families with no daddy...and, by implication, families with two daddies or two mommies under one roof. The concept of "family", and if you will allow it, the truth of the concept of family, has been altered to fit lifestyle desires of mankind. If the "truth" of family stands in the way of desire, then simply redefine family. Thus we find that even our civic, earthly and most precious institutions of marriage and family have been violently torn apart and redefined. The fellowship of family can hardly be maintained any longer. How much more difficult is it then, to live and proclaim a much wider fellowship like church fellowship that cannot and will not compromise and change to fit human desires? Yet such a "custom fit" church is what people these days are seeking, and we cannot deliver it.

In this postmodern age in which we live, it should strike us that the doctrine of fellowship is the most divisive of doctrines. For if one wants to stand for something, then that stand rejects the opposite. Our world today wants to stand for everything, which means it stands for nothing. So we find that our Biblical teaching about fellowship requires us to stand apart from the world, to go against the culture, a culture with a hole in its soul. The void that certainly can be found in human souls finds its answer alone and is filled alone by the blessings we have in our Divine Fellowship. For this Divine Fellowship is nothing less than a family. It is a family into which you and I, poor miserably sinners, have been adopted by our Father, through His Son, by the power of His Spirit. Being adopted into this family has filled the void in our souls. We, by God's grace through our adoption in Baptism, through the new birth of Baptism, now belong . . . we belong to God's family. As part of that family, we have been given what many in the world miss

most, intimacy, Divine Intimacy. By grace alone this Divine Intimacy, begun with incarnation of Jesus Christ, carried on by His life, suffering, death and resurrection, brought to us through the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion (the Gospel), results in an intimacy that will last forever in the glories of heaven. Ah, yes, ours is a blessed fellowship, because it is a Fellowship Divine, one Divinely given, and one that will last by the eternal mercies of God through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for our blessed fellowship, a Fellowship Divine. Amen.
Soli Deo Gloria

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SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Membership Applications of Pastors

WHEREAS, The following pastors have been recommended by the seminary faculty and approved by the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,

WHEREAS, It has been established that in their applications 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 of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

- 1. The Reverend Aaron Hamilton, pastor of Harbor Trinity Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, Washington.*
- 2. The Reverend Paul Sullivan, pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.*
- 3. The Reverend Jesse Jacobsen, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin.*
- 4. The Reverend Timothy Zenda, pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minnesota.*
- 5. The Reverend Jon Bruss, Professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota.*

Resolution 2: Membership Applications 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 Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met, therefore,

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

- 1. The Reverend William Stehr, pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Irvine, California.*
- 2. The Reverend Richard Waters, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Carthage, Missouri.*
- 3. The Reverend Robert Benson, pastor of First American Lutheran Church, Mayville, North Dakota.*
- 4. The Reverend Young Ha Kim, missionary at large to the Korean community in the USA.*
- 5. The Reverend Mark Raitz, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Linden, Michigan.*

Resolution 3: Membership Transfer of Pastor

WHEREAS, The Reverend Ralph Martens has been transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod by officials of the

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Reverend Ralph Martens be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 4: Membership Applications of Congregations

WHEREAS, It has been established that the requirements for synodical membership have been met by the following congregations, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That Faith Lutheran Church, Carthage, Missouri, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That Grace Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Linden, Michigan, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 5: Constitution Review

WHEREAS, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Irvine California, has submitted its revised constitution for review and it has been found to be in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa, has submitted a revised constitution and it has been found to be in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Irvine, California, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: President's Activities

WHEREAS, President Orvick has preformed 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 No. 2: Printing of the President's message and Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President's Message and Report be accepted and printed in the 1999 Synod Report.

CREDENTIALS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Excuses of Congregations – no delegates

WHEREAS, An excuse for absence from the 1999 Synod Convention has been received from Our Savior Lutheran Church (Grants Pass, Oregon), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 2: Excuses of Lay Delegates – early departure

WHEREAS, The following lay delegates have requested that they be excused for early departure from the 1999 Synod Convention: Harmon Anderson; James Reith; George Lawson; Lloyd Ahlbrand; David Albrecht, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 3: Excuses of Pastors – non attendance

WHEREAS, excuses for absence from the 1999 Synod Convention have been received from pastors: Ernest Geistfeld, Thomas Fox, ElRoy Buhr, Matthew Luttmann; Mark Grubbs; Beauford Anderson; John Petersen; Daniel Metzger; Jeff Londgren; Thomas Kuster; Mark DeGarmeaux; Bruce Leonatti; Michael Langlais; Ralph Martens; James Olsen; Steve Reagles, Darryl Bakke, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

RESOLUTION 4: Excuses of Pastors – late arrival

WHEREAS, Excuses for late arrival at the 1999 Synod Convention have been received from pastors: Harvey Abrahamson, Charles Keeler, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

RESOLUTION 5: Excuses of Pastors – early departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 1999 Synod Convention have been received from pastors: Kenneth Schmidt,

Jerome Gernander, Dennis Schmidt; Stephen Schmidt; Greg Haugen; Søren Urberg; Fred Lams; Richard Fyffe; Larry Vinton, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

The committee known as the Doctrine Committee at one time bore the name Union Committee. Eventually there arose realization that this might not be the name best suited for a committee which was to try, among other things, to help the people of the synod overcome the effects of the ill-advised union, or merger, of several Lutheran church bodies in 1917. While the committee, as well as the synod, certainly was interested in the preservation of unity in doctrine and spirit, it did not set a high priority on mere outward union. The merger of 1917 on the basis of a Scripturally untenable platform was responsible for the departure of a remnant of the old Norwegian Synod to reorganize the synod in the spirit of its confessionally oriented forefathers. As a church body which gave high priority to doctrinal soundness on the basis of God's Holy Word, it wanted a synodical committee which would focus on this aspect of a church's life and work under our Lord's great commission.

The guidelines for this committee, as amended in 1976, list among its duties: "1) to help keep members of the Synod informed concerning the confessional principles of the Synod; 2) to keep abreast of doctrinal trends and issues and keep laity and clergy informed; 3) to assist the president of the Synod in the maintenance of fraternal relations with church bodies...in doctrinal agreement with our Synod...; and 4) to advise the president in matters of doctrine." While the committee has made suggestions to the present Self Study Committee for minor changes in the guidelines for the committee, it continues to seek to carry out the above duties assigned to what now officially goes by the name of the Doctrine Committee of the ELS.

At the 1998 convention Pastor Paul Zager and Prof. emeritus Juul Madson were reelected to the committee for three-year terms. The terms expiring at the 1999 convention are those of Professor John Moldstad, Jr. and Professor emeritus Norman Holte; we regret that the latter has chosen not to have his name placed in nomination for reelection. Again this past year the committee has held its regular meetings, usually lasting a day and a half each, besides taking part, either as a whole or in a representative manner, in other meetings that may have invited our attention and attendance. One of these meetings was with the CICR of the WELS. Because the biennial meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum occurred again last fall, this time in Milwaukee, WI, representatives of the committee also met with their counterparts of the WELS on this occasion.

If the Lord wills, several members of the committee will also have been present at the third triennial convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference by the time our synodical convention meets in June of this year. The committee also suggests that the summary statements of the document *The Eternal Word*, now under preparation by a committee of the CELC, be printed in a separate folder for general use. In regard to action involving both the organizations mentioned above, it is suggested that members of this year's convention floor committee on doctrine refer to Resolutions Nos. 2, 3 and 4 in the 1998 ELS Report, p. 77.

The document entitled *The Office of the Public Ministry*, prepared by the Doctrine Committee, has in accordance with its plan been distributed to the members of the clergy and is undergoing their study and scrutiny both individually and in various study groups. Some reactions have already found their way to the Doctrine Committee, which in turn intends to give attention to all the suggestions and information forthcoming, in the hope that eventually a document faithful to the Word and acceptable to the members of the ELS can result from this joint effort. To that end we pray the Lord of the Church to enlighten us for the task through the gift of His Holy Spirit mediated through His Word.

A series of articles on important doctrines of Scripture, authored by committee members and other writers selected by the editor, is currently appearing in the *Lutheran Sentinel*; we encourage especially the members of the synod to read these articles carefully, for in many instances they deal with matters that are not uniformly accepted and confessed even by much of so-called Christendom. The committee also is attempting to respond to questions on doctrinal issues raised by individuals and congregations. As an example we refer to an article appearing over the pen of committee member John A. Moldstad, Jr., in the September 1998 issue of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. The article, "Is Gambling a Sin?" was written for the committee as a response to a question posed by the ELS Great Lakes Pastoral Conference of the synod. A later article by the same member of the committee and entitled "Contemporary Musings on the Import of Article X [of the Formula of Concord]" appeared in the December 1998 issue of the *LSQ*. Article X in the Formula is entitled: "The Ecclesiastical Rites that are Called Adiaphora or Things Indifferent."

In the Preface to the *Formula of Concord of 1577* and the *Book of Concord of 1580*, the "electors, princes, and estates in the Holy Empire of the German Nation" expressed not only their concern for the welfare of the true church on earth but also their reason for subscribing to and promulgating the various confessions in this volume. The concern and dedication which they therein expressed is something which we as heirs by grace of the saving truth of God must also share in an age of heightened apostasy from the truths of Holy Scripture:

Mindful of the office which God has committed to us and which we bear, we have not ceased to apply our diligence to the end that the false and misleading doctrines which have been introduced into our lands and territories and which are insinuating themselves increasingly into them might be checked and that our subjects might be preserved from straying from the right course of divine truth which they had once acknowledged and confessed.

(Tappert, *The Book of Concord*, p. 4)

The resources for this task are to be found nowhere else than in the Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture, concerning which we sing with the hymn writer:

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.
(TLH 234, 1. 4.)

Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, chairman
Rev. Juul Madson, secretary

DOCTRINE
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Memorial

WHEREAS, The doctrine of the ministry is being studied by our synod, and

WHEREAS, It would be beneficial in this study to review the historical doctrinal statements of our synod, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, This memorial be referred to the Doctrine Committee.

Resolution 2: Prof. Norman Holte

WHEREAS, Professor Norman Holte has served faithfully on the Doctrine Committee of our synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Prof. Norman Holte be thanked for his years of service.

Resolution 3: Doctrinal Articles in *The Lutheran Sentinel*

WHEREAS, Articles on various doctrines of Scripture, written in response to questions raised by individuals and congregations of our synod, have been printed in the Lutheran Sentinel and the Lutheran Synod Quarterly, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee has encouraged our synod "to read these articles carefully," therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of our synod be encouraged to read carefully these doctrinal essays, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications investigate publishing these articles under a separate cover.

Resolution 4: CELC

WHEREAS, In today's world of apostasy and liberalism in doctrine among so many Christian denominations, it is incumbent upon those who hold the truths of Scripture to stand firmly on the Word of God and to contend boldly for the pure Gospel, and,

WHEREAS, Those who hold a Scriptural confession are often isolated from like-minded brethren, and,

WHEREAS, Our synod has been blessed by the close ties of fellowship with its brethren in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, and,

WHEREAS, The theme of our 1999 synod convention is, "Our Blessed Fellowship," therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod joyfully thank the Lord for the fellowship which it shares with our dear brethren throughout the world, especially in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the synod be encouraged to pray for and support in every possible way, the ongoing work of our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

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; and The Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Donald Peterson, who had served as a Regent and advisory member for over thirty years, died unexpectedly in August of 1998. We thank our Lord for allowing us the privilege to have worked with Dr. Peterson in advancing the work of Bethany.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

The following persons have served on the faculty and administrative professional staff during the 1998-99 school year.

FULL-TIME FACULTY AND STAFF

Joseph Abrahamson, Associate Director of Library Media Services
Peter Bloedel, Theater
Silas Born, Director of Christian Education, Education
Norma Brown, Director of Library Media Services
Kenneth Brueske, Deferred Giving Counselor
Jon Bruss, Strategic Plan Director, Greek, World Literature
Kris Bruss, Communication, Transfer Counselor
Ronald Buelow, Mathematics
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, Geography, Sociology, Political Science
Calvin Johnson, Financial Aid Director
Lyle Jones, Physical Education, Health, Women's Basketball
Lynette Jones, Physical Education, Health, Volleyball and Softball Coach
Mary Kelley, Administrative Computing

Thomas Kuster, The Eleanor Wilson Chair of English/Speech
Communication
Adrian Lo, Director of Instrumental Music
Linda Loge, Admissions Counselor
Patty Lussky, Health, Biology, Counseling
Theodore Manthe, Executive Director of the Marvin M. Schwan
Retreat/Conference Center
Todd Marzinske, Mathematics, Physics
Dennis Marzolf, Music, Choral Groups, Voice
Daniel Metzger, German, Religious Studies
Marvin Meyer, President
Ralph Miller, Controller
Andrew Overn, Art, Graphic Design
Robert Pipal, Retreat Center Coordinator, Soccer, Physical Education
Amy Rank, Admissions Counselor
Steve Reagles, Communication, Religious Studies
Jay Roth, Associate Director of Admissions
Lance Schwartz, Alumni Affairs
John Sehloff, Computer Science, Acting Information Technology Director
Dean Shoop, Accounting, Business, Economics
Erling Teigen, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Director of Paul Ylvisaker
Center
David Thompson, Dean of Student Services, Religious Studies
Paul Zweit, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Art Westphal, Athletic Director, Men's Basketball
Don Westphal, Admissions Counselor, Public Relations Director
Jean Wiechmann, Registrar, Learning Specialist, Sociology
Mark Wiechmann, Psychology, Career Counseling
Nancy Wiechmann, Business, Staff/Student Computer Training
Paul Wold, Bookstore Manager
Eric Woller, Chemistry
Derek Woodley, Student Activities Director, Physical Ed., Baseball Coach
Ronald Younge, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Biology

PART-TIME

John Boubel, History
Tatjana Durand, Spanish
Ann Fredrickson, Voice
Adolph Harstad, Religious Studies
Susan Harstad, Theater, Art
Esther Iverson, Costume Director
Julie Kjeer, Mathematics
Sigurd Lee, Literature
Laura Matzke, Music
Tanya Norris, Mathematics
Bonnie Ottenbacher, Piano
Barbara Strassberg, Art
Charles Waters, Mathematics

EMERITI

Louella Balcziak
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 19 the college observed the following anniversaries:

Ms. Norma J. Brown, Director of Library Media Services	10 years
Mr. Gregory W. Costello, Director of Finance and Business Affairs	20 years
Ms. Kathryn L. Forsberg, Head of Technical Services—Library	10 years
Mr. Calvin K. Johnson, Financial Aid Director	40 years
Prof. Dennis W. Marzolf, Professor of Music	15 years
Mr. Orville Sampson, Maintenance	35 years
Ms. Julie A. Stelter, Cashier—Business Office	10 years
Mr. Paul B. Tweit, Vice President for Administrative Affairs	30 years
Mr. Arthur P. Westphal, Athletic Director	15 years
Ms. Jean K. Wiechmann, Registrar	10 years

This past academic year we had several new faculty and professional personnel join our staff -- Mr. Ronald Buelow in Mathematics; Mrs. Lynette Jones in Physical Education and Coaching; Mr. Theodore Manthe, Executive Director of the Marvin M. Schwan Conference/Retreat Center; Mr. Robert Pipal, Soccer Coach & the Marvin M. Schwan Conference/Retreat Center Coordinator; and Nancy Wiechmann in Business and Computer Training.

As we look to the fall of 1999, we are expecting to add professors in the areas of English, Communication, Biology, History and Literature. In addition, we will add administrative personnel in Development, Financial Aid and Business Affairs.

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 1998-99 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	189	165
Sophomores	135	146
Specials*	14	13
Part-Time	<u>30</u>	<u>24</u>
	368	348
FTE	351	333

*Includes PSEOP Students

At the time of this report, it appears that our fall enrollment will be significantly up over the fall of 1998. This is due to two factors — our applications are up 60 over last year as of March 1st and we will be welcoming our first junior class.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

The hard work by the faculty and staff that we spoke of in last year's report to the synod has really paid off. During the summer of 1998, we prepared a report and application for the State of Minnesota requesting the approval to be registered in Minnesota to offer baccalaureate degrees. We received notice in early July that the college was now registered in Minnesota to offer bachelor degrees.

By late summer, the faculty completed the required comprehensive institutional self-study for North Central Association (NCA). That document was to partially fulfill the requirements for continued accreditation for the A.A. degree, analyzing the institution's readiness for upper-division work and request approval for regional accreditation of baccalaureate degrees. In addition NCA sent a team of four educators to the campus in late October. We are thrilled to report that after the visit and the submittal of all the required material, the NCA team recommended that the college be given ten-years before the next comprehensive self-study. That recommendation was given to the Board of Trustees of NCA and consequently approved by them in early March. This was an exceptional result due to the fact that we were moving into the baccalaureate area. This result, the maximum allowed, clearly communicates to us the outstanding work the Bethany Lutheran College faculty and staff did in preparing for this visit and developing the new curriculum to support the baccalaureate work.

NCA will conduct a focus visit in three years to look at enrollment, current budgets, faculty and staff credentials, shared governance and institutional planning. These issues are of significant importance as we now move into upper-division work. This focus visit was inevitable due to our new programs.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The college continues to develop the campus as it prepares for the 21st century and our new direction. The new Memorial Library was dedicated June 21, 1998, Synod Sunday, and has had a very successful first year. The new men's residence was completed by January 1, 1999, and utilized during spring semester. Dedication of this new residence hall will be June 20, 1999, Synod Sunday.

Significant planning is underway for a science building. Several programming meetings have taken place enabling the design phase of planning to begin. If all goes as presently planned, architects should have construction documents completed by April 1, 2000 with construction beginning May 1, 2000 and completed by January 1, 2002.

In order to accommodate the construction of the science facility, Marsh Street, which borders the southern part of the campus will be moved further south. The moving of the street will improve the flow of city traffic and bring four or five additional acres of land into the mall area of the campus. This work will begin in late June of 1999 and be completed before the snow flies.

The development of the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat/Conference Center is well underway. The retreat site should be completed by July 1, 1999 and have space to accommodate 140 individuals. The final planning stages of the conference center site are nearly complete with construction to begin by last spring. This is truly an exciting development for Bethany Lutheran College and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. It will give several new opportunities for all of us.

BOARD OF REGENTS

In 1997 the Board of Regents was given authorization to enlarge the board through the appointment of three additional Type B members to be appointed by the board with ratification by the next annual convention of the synod (1997 Synod Report, pages 89-90, Resolution No. 1).

The initial appointments were made at the April 1999 meeting of the board. The board herewith submits the following appointments for ratification:

Mr. Lyle Fahning, Burnsville, Minnesota (3 year term).

Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota (2 year term).

Rev. Klebe Brumble, Scottsdale, Arizona (1 year term).

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. They are in the process of moving away from direct grants to matching programs similar to Lutheran Brotherhood.

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 \$15,000. Many, many thanks to these wonderful ladies.

The Marvin M. Schwan Foundation supports the college in a significant way. Grants from the Foundation have supported a number of programs and projects this year.

FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

The 1997-98 school year ended with a deficit of \$119,054 and an accumulated deficit balance of \$31,691 in the current operation. Unfortunately, the present academic year will generate a deficit of approximately \$100,000. It continues to be the hope and prayer of the Board of Regents and college administration to do as much as possible to keep the deficit to 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.

At the 81st Annual Convention of the Synod, a historic event took place. The Synod approved a \$100 million capital campaign for Bethany Lutheran College. The "Five Talents" campaign was developed to support endowments and capital needs, as well as, current needs of the institution for the next ten years. The development staff of the college has been working diligently over the last year contacting donors and developing printed material in support of the campaign.

The following is a summary of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998:

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$2,947,526
Government Grants	77,845
Synod Subsidy	176,000
Housing Assistance	84,000
Maintenance Assistance	21,500
Capital Improvements	20,206
Private Gifts and Grants	861,162
Endowment Income	403,733
Sales and Services of Student Activities	178,233
Other Sources	355,571
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>1,516,621</u>
	\$6,642,397

EXPENDITURES

Educational and General	\$4,084,795
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	741,258
Scholarships and Grants	965,532

Auxiliary Enterprises

969,866
6,761,451

Fund Balance

(\$119,054)

Prior Year's Fund Balance

87,363

Current Fund Balance (Deficit)

(\$31,691)

CONCLUSION

Life on the campus of Bethany continues to be interesting and challenging as we prepare to welcome our first junior class. Throughout the planning process our spiritual moorings and academic heritage have held strong. The "One Thing Needful" the precious gospel of our risen Savior is at the center of all our efforts. We ask our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, to keep our work in its prayers.

John A. Moldstad, Sr., Chairman
Edward L. Bryant, Secretary
Marvin G. Meyer, President

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

Our Lord Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." (John 10:11) All people by nature were wandering sheep. We had gone astray in the terrible corruption of sin. Satan, that old wolf, had attacked us, grabbed us by the neck and was dragging us to eternal destruction. Yet the Good Shepherd came to our defense. He did battle with Satan throughout His life, culminating in the battle of the ages on the cross. There He crushed the old wolf under His feet freeing us from his terrible grasp. He gave His life to destroy the power of sin, death, and the devil and opened for us the gates to paradise. Still the sheep were not left without a shepherd. On the third day the Good Shepherd arose triumphant from the grave, our victorious Savior. It is this Good Shepherd that sends shepherds or pastors to shepherd the flock, the church of God, with the means of grace.

The purpose of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is to prepare men who will be shepherds or pastors under the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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; the Rev. M.E. Tweit of Mankato, Minnesota; and the Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf of St. Louis, Missouri, serve as advisory members to the board.

FACULTY

The following taught in the seminary during the 1998-99 school year: Adolph Harstad, John Moldstad, Jr., Thomas Kuster, Wilhelm Petersen, and Gaylin Schmeling. Professor Harstad is leading a work-study program in Israel this summer and is working on a commentary series sponsored by Concordia Publishing House. Professor Moldstad is fulfilling the requirements of his STM degree during the summer months. President Schmeling has written a book on Baptism which will be published this summer. This book is part of the WELS People's Bible Teaching Series. President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen continues to teach homiletics and Professor Kuster is teaching the communication courses.

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment at the seminary in the 1998-99 academic year was 20. It breaks down as follows: 4 juniors, 5 middlers, 6 seniors, and 5 vicars. The vicars who served their vicarages were: Steven Brockdorf, Reformation Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Oregon; Paul Fries, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota; Cory Hahnke, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Phillip Lepak, King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota; Bernt Tweit, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin.

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." (Matt. 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.

SEMINARY VIDEO

The seminary recently produced a new video entitled *Whom Shall I Send?* It shows our facility and explains what is involved in the training of a pastor. It is designed to provide information about our seminary to our congregations and also to serve as a recruiting tool for our pastors. Any pastor or congregation who desires a copy, please contact the seminary.

GRANTS

Aid Association for Lutherans initiated a new member gift-matching program which is matched dollar-for-dollar by AAL. The program started in October, 1998.

Lutheran Brotherhood is committed to its gift-matching program which directs funds into our endowments for operation. These dollars assist in planning for the seminary's future.

Each year there are corporations that match their employees' contributions to the seminary through their foundations. We are thankful for this added support.

Members of the ELS ladies' organizations have given support to the Scholarship Fund, Student Support Fund, and the Library Fund. This has been a wonderful blessing for our students. Thank you for all your help.

ACTIVITIES

The annual senior recognition dinner was held on the evening of April 23, 1998. 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 14, 1998. The returning vicars reported on certain phases of their vicarage. President George Orvick delivered a paper entitled, *You and Your Synod*. Brief presentations were also given on our synod's pension fund, insurance plan, and deferred giving.

A summer institute was held in Mankato, Minnesota, July 27-29, 1998. Professor Moldstad led an exegetical study of I Timothy with the theme: *Unchanging Pastoral Advice for an Ever Changing World*. President Schmeling gave a presentation on church polity discussing the many questions that have arisen concerning church government.

The thirty-first annual Reformation Lectures were held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center, Mankato, Minnesota, on October 29-30, 1998. These lectures are sponsored jointly by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Professor Arnold J. Koelpin of Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, presented the lectures. The topic of the lectures was: "Luther's Legacy: The Luther-Erasmus Debate Revisited." Prof. Koelpin presented the topic emphasizing three main themes: The Enslaved Will and God's Absolute Freedom; The Cross, God's Mask in Human History; and Scripture, the Revelation of History's Lord. The reactors to the lectures were the Rev. Dr. Karl Fabrizio, pastor of Our Father Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greenfield, WI (LCMS) and the Rev. Prof. Erling T. Teigen of Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN.

An invitation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was again extended to our seminary students and staff to attend the annual mission seminar February 2-4, 1999, at Mequon, Wisconsin. The invitation was gratefully accepted and appreciated by the attendees. The theme of the seminar was: *Chosen to Declare God's Praise*. It emphasized the Christian's role in mission work and evangelism. President and Mrs. Schmeling conducted a seminar on the parsonage February 12-13, 1999. The purpose of this seminar was to prepare the students and their families for life in the parsonage and in the congregation. 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 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, 1997-June 30, 1998.

REVENUES

Tuition and fees	\$ 68,460.00
Synod: Subsidy	68,000.00
Legacies	8,816.00
Endowment Income	19,418.00
Gifts and Grants	254,947.00
Other Sources	<u>25,398.00</u>
TOTAL	\$445,039.00

EXPENDITURES

Education & General	\$390,375.00
Maintenance & Utilities	21,458.00
Video Production	<u>22,796.00</u>
TOTAL	\$434,629.00

Increase in Fund Balance	\$ 10,410.00
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Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, president
Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., chairman
Mr. Harold Theiste, secretary

HIGHER EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Anniversaries Of Bethany Lutheran College Staff Members

WHEREAS, the following anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College staff members have been observed:

40 yrs.	Calvin J. Johnson	Financial Aid Director
35 yrs.	Orville Sampson	Maintenance
30 yrs.	Paul B. Tweit	Vice President for Administrative Affairs
20 yrs	Gregory Costello	Director of Finance and Business Affairs
15 yrs.	Dennis W. Marzolf	Professor of Music
15 yrs.	Arthur P. Westphal	Athletic Director
10 yrs.	Norma J. Brown	Director Library Media Services
10 yrs.	Kathryn L. Forsberg	Head of Technical Services- Library

10 yrs. Julie A. Stelter Cashier - Business Office

10 yrs. Jean K. Wiechmann Registrar, and,

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 2: Facilities Expansion

WHEREAS, The new men's residence for Bethany Lutheran College has been completed and dedicated this year, and,

WHEREAS, Plans are underway for a new science building, and,

WHEREAS, The development of the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center is well underway, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the synod members join in giving thanks to the Lord of the Church for making these new facilities possible.

Resolution 3: Grants

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

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

WHEREAS, Many corporations and the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation have generously supported the College and seminary, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod express its heartfelt thanks to Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, the Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary, the many corporations, and the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for their continuing support of both institutions.

Resolution 4: North Central Association Approval

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College is now registered in Minnesota to offer Bachelor degrees, and,

WHEREAS, The North Central Association team has granted the College ten years before the next comprehensive self-study (the maximum time allowed), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend the outstanding work of the Bethany Lutheran College faculty and staff in preparing for this visit and in developing the new curriculum to support the baccalaureate work.

Resolution 5: Seminary Enrollment

WHEREAS, The supply of men for the Office of the Holy Ministry is an ongoing concern for the synod as indicated in the Higher Education action of the Synod (1998 Synod Report, Resolution No.6, page 90), and,

WHEREAS, The Lord continued to answer our prayers to prepare 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, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give 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 recommend that all pastors and lay members continue to seek out, pray for, and support qualified men that they may enter into preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Resolution 6: Seminary Recruitment Video

WHEREAS, Bethany Theological Seminary has recently produced a new video entitled, "Whom Shall I Send?", and,

WHEREAS, This video is designed to provide information about our seminary to our congregations and also to serve as a recruiting tool, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod heartily encourage our congregations to invite a seminary representative to make a presentation in conjunction with the use of this video.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

Jesus calls Christians "the salt of the earth... the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13,14) Salt and light have a beneficial effect on their environment. By God's grace, and through the power of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, the home missionaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the mission congregations they serve have bring a beneficial effect to their communities. They bring the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus, the Good News that because of his perfect life in place of our sin and his innocent death as punishment for that sin, God loves us, forgives us, blesses us each day, and someday will take us to heaven.

Our home missions are reaching out with that Gospel, and God is blessing the effort. In 1998, 77 new members were added to the numbers of our synod through our Home Missions, and over \$47,000 was contributed to the ELS by these congregations.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The board is composed of the following members: Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ*, Chairman; Mr. Robert Smith*, Vice-Chairman, Rev. Richard Weichmann, Treasurer; Rev. Rod Flohr, Secretary; Mr. John Merseth, Chaplain; Rev. Dan Basel and Mr. Leslie Just. Members marked with an asterisk (*) also serve on the Trustee/Home Mission Subcommittee. Chairman Ekhoﬀ also serves on the Planning and Coordinating Committee. Missions Counselor Rev. Steven Petersen also attends board meetings.

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 1998:

February. The board resolved to support work in the Minneapolis-St. Paul inner cities with hope that the program can be expanded in the future. It was also resolved to adopt Christ Lutheran Church, Windsor, California as a home mission and support it with a limited term subsidy program. Subsequently, Rev. Karl Anderson was Called there. The board rejoiced that Rev. Robert Otto had accepted our Call to begin exploratory work in North Mankato, Minnesota, one of three exploratories in 1998.

May. The board Called Candidate of Theology Aaron Hamilton to serve the exploratory mission in Gig Harbor, Washington, and Rev. Nathan Krause to begin exploratory work in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin., the second and third exploratory missions opened in 1998. Construction financing from the Partners in the Gospel fund was approved for Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington.

August. The board approved construction financing for Grace Lutheran Church, Hobart, Indiana from the Partners in the Gospel fund, approved an outreach grant for Hope Lutheran Church, Port Hadlock, Washington.

November. The board adopted a proposed revised Home Mission Salary Scale which reflects the 1997 Synod Convention resolution to provide a scale "with a view towards a substantial increase". Further, the board resolved to petition the Year 2000 Offering Committee for funds to increase the number of

home mission starts, including possible cross-cultural work. It was also resolved to begin exploratory work in south Naples, Florida.

Furthermore, the board rejoices at the fact that Family of God Lutheran Church, Fort Mojave, Arizona and Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, Florida have completed their subsidy relationship with the synod. 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. Much of the financial planning for the board is being provided by the Synod's Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft.

Plans include two mission starts in 1999 and at least one per year thereafter, depending on the proceeds available from the Year 2000 special offering. Also the board is reviewing its goals and work plans in response to a request by the Planning and Coordinating Committee. The Home Missions will participate in a special advertising campaign and worship program designed to focus on the how the Gospel brings "Certainty in Uncertain Times" at the dawn of the new millennium.

SALARY SCALE FOR 2000

In addition to the following scale, housing allowance for home missionaries will henceforth be determined using the (board adjusted) fair market rental value survey of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Utilities, increment for years of service and education allowance are provided within the salary scale.

Car allowance is paid per mile for actual miles driven based on the synod's reimbursement rate for mileage (currently 30¢/mile)

Health insurance is provided at the lowest deductible.

Pension is 6% of salary.

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

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Salary</u>
0	23,010	16	28,360
1	23,260	17	28,835
2	23,510	18	29,310
3	23,760	19	29,785
4	24,010	20	20,260
5	24,260	21	30,810
6	24,585	22	31,360
7	24,910	23	31,910
8	25,235	24	32,460
9	25,560	25	33,010
10	25,885	26	33,635
11	26,285	27	34,260
12	26,685	28	34,885
13	27,085	29	35,510
14	27,485	30	36,135
15	27,885		

THANK YOU

During the past year, various individuals, congregations and other organizations have contributed special gifts toward our home mission efforts. The board used proceeds from several 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 recent Home Missions Seminar. We are especially grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for matching the synod offerings.

OPERATING BUDGET

	1998 <u>Budget</u>	1999 <u>Budget</u>	2000 Proposed <u>Budget</u>
HOME MISSIONS:			
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	35,000	29,000	26,500
Redeemer, Scottsdale	30,000	26,500	19,500
Resurrection, Winter Haven	27,500	20,500	12,000
Lord of Life, Holland	26,500	20,500	12,000
Peace, Lakeland	26,500	20,000	12,000
Family of God, Ft. Mojave	4,000		
Peace, Kissimmee	2,500		
CONGREGATIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT:			
Emmaus, Chicago	14,000	9,000	4,000
Christ, Windsor	12,500	22,500	17,500
EXPLORATORY MISSIONS:			
Harbor Trinity, Gig Harbor	30,000	45,000	40,000
Peace, North Mankato	50,000	45,000	40,000
Cottage Grove, WI	25,000	45,000	40,000
New start 1999		50,000	45,000
New start 1999		50,000	50,000
New start 2000			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	35,400	36,000
Moving expense	12,000	12,000	12,000
CAPITAL INTEREST SUBSIDY:			
Abiding Word, Bowling Green		8,828	8,332
Resurrection, Winter Haven	27,600	24,906	20,333
Saved By Grace, Gresham	24,600	12,500	12,500
Peace, Kissimmee	22,300	19,482	15,253
Peace, Lakeland		27,350	26,193
Redeemer, Scottsdale		19,909	16,343
Family of God, Ft. Mojave		3,512	3,205
Christ the King, Green Bay		13,302	12,521
Lord of Life, Holland		12,139	11,124
New Life, Sebring	10,000	5,009	4,314
Christ, Port St. Lucie	6,600	3,875	3,183
Our Savior, Lakeland	2,750	1,388	89
1998 Mission Start		4,733	4,691
1998 Mission Start		4,733	4,691
1998 Mission Start		4,733	4,691

In 1998, the synod allotted \$171,000 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.

Support for the Home Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod enables us to be the "salt" and "light" through which Christ blesses the world with the Gospel. To Him alone the glory!

Rev. S.P.Petersen, Missions Counselor

HOME MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Thank you for Special Gifts

WHEREAS, The synod has received special gifts from various individuals, congregations, organizations, Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, and the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank God for providing all these benefactors.

Resolution 2: Financial Contributions from Home Missions

WHEREAS, Our home missions have contributed over \$47,000.00 to our synod's work in 1998, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank them for their generosity.

Resolution 3: Salary Scale

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions recommends a salary scale for 2000, and,

WHEREAS, This new salary scale does represent a substantial increase as directed by the synod in 1998 (1998 Synod Report, page 101), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept this recommendation, noting that the wording in the first paragraph under the heading Salary Scale for 2000 be changed to read as follows:

"In addition to the following scale, housing allowance (including utilities) for home missionaries will henceforth be determined using the (board adjusted) fair market rental value survey of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. An increment for years of service and education allowance are provided within the salary scale."

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

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 synodical building in Mankato, and are very thankful for these excellent facilities. The president of the synod and the missions counselor attend our meetings regularly.

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 also three missionaries serving in Chile. They are the Rev. Oto Rodriguez, the Rev. Karl Kuenzel, and the Rev. Ralph Martens. Missionary Martens was commissioned in a Sunday morning service at Mt. Olive, Mankato, on October 4, 1998. Missionary Martens comes to us from the WELS. He had been a missionary for many years in Puerto Rico, then a missionary to the Latin community in the Miami area for over 7 years. We welcome Missionary Martens and his wife Roxanne into our synod and into our foreign field.

PERUVIANS VISIT SYNOD CONVENTION

During last year's convention, the Rev. Fidel Convercio and his wife Dora, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru, visited our country. They were accompanied by missionary Erickson and his wife Ellen. They visited five congregations of our synod, the WELS headquarters, seminary, and publishing house, and then Bethany Lutheran College and our annual synod convention. Many people hosted them on their travels, and the trip was a great thrill to the Convercios and to our synod people. May the Lord continue to bless this couple, and the church in Peru, for the salvation of many.

WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

In September of last year, a conference bringing together all our synod's missionaries and members of the Board for Foreign Missions, was held in Plzen, Czech Republic. There were also missionaries from Thoughts of Faith; our sister synod, the WELS; and representatives from other synods in fellowship with us. About 75 were in attendance at the conference, which lasted four days. Funding was supplied by a corporate donor. Reports were given by every field, with much encouraging and challenging information presented. The Lord is blessing the work we are doing in many places, for which we thank, praise, and glorify Him. After the conference a three-day bus tour of Lutherland in Germany was conducted, with 56 participants. This is the second World Mission Conference held by your board. We hope to continue to conduct similar conferences every three years. Bringing the missionaries together is of great benefit to all.

VISITS TO SISTER CHURCHES AND THE MISSION FIELD

Before the World Mission Conference in September, the field secretary of the board, the Rev. David Lillegard, and his wife Ione, visited our sister churches in Sweden and Norway. Our board has been giving these churches some support in the last year. This year we are hoping that the Scandinavian

Fund, established last year by the synod convention, will provide continuing support for these struggling small churches.

Pastor Lillegard made a presentation to a church in Sweden, and preached twice at worship services in Norway. The confessional Lutheran Church in those countries may be small, but it is dynamic, with pastors and people working hard and with enthusiasm to bring the pure gospel of Jesus Christ to their own people. This is especially difficult because of the Lutheran state churches in those countries, which are liberal. Most people do not attend worship services. Some who call themselves Lutherans are in fact atheists. May the Lord bless our sister churches in these countries!

Missions Counselor Steven Petersen made a trip to Chile in July to assist the Board in the purchase of a residence. Field Secretary Lillegard made a three-day trip to Chile in November to help the new team of three missionaries get organized. We feel that we are fortunate in having a good mix of talents and interests with the three missionaries and their wives. They are working together well, and anxious to expand their outreach and their instruction in pre-seminary courses.

Pastor Lillegard also made a three-day trip to Peru in January this year, along with board member Rev. Kurt Smith. They visited a site for possible establishment of a medical mission, on the northern coast of Peru. The request of the board to the Year 2000 Special Offering Committee, that it consider the medical mission as a project, was not granted. Perhaps the board will be able to carry on some medical work on the northern coast through other gifts, beginning with a smaller and simpler operation. There is a great need for medical assistance in this area. The Missions Counselor also visited Lima to assist in evaluating the possibility of starting Christian Day Schools and joined in the exploration of doing medical mission work.

PERU

The work in Peru continues to expand. There are six full-time national pastors working in Lima and other areas of the country. Two or three vicars are completing their work and should be ordained soon. There are at least 12 more in the seminary at present, preparing for the ministry in a full course of study, comparable to what is required of seminary students in the states.

There are about 30 groups where services and Bible studies are held in Peru, with a number of smaller groups in the formative stage. Some of the national pastors serve several groups, which in some cases are scattered over a wide area. The Lord has blessed our mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru with dedicated and competent pastors, for which we give thanks to God.

Efforts are currently underway to begin work in the jungle, in a region called Amazona. One of the national pastors, in cooperation with one of the missionaries, is exploring the possibility of working in several communities. There seems to be an acceptance of the gospel among the peoples in these areas.

CHILE

The work in Chile also continues to grow. The missionaries are hard at work serving four established groups, three in the Santiago area, and one in Linares, about six hours south of Santiago on the coast. Plans are also being made for a Bible Institute, which will serve to prepare men who wish to study for the ministry. Currently two nationals are studying theology with the missionaries, with the hopes that eventually they will be able to begin seminary training. Missionary Kuenzel has been in Chile about one and a half years, and is now able to participate fully in the work of preaching and teaching in Spanish. We are thankful that the new missionary, Ralph Martens, has been able to enter directly into the work, since he is fully capable in the Spanish language.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA

The board serves as the channel for funding from the Schwan Foundation to the ELSA. The synod's Missions Counselor conducts communication with that Synod on behalf of the board.

PERUVIAN CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

The request of the mission staff in Peru to the Year 2000 Special Offering Committee, that it consider as a project the establishment of Christian Day Schools, was granted. Assuming that the synod adopts the recommendations of the special committee, we would go ahead with plans for purchasing and or building schools in the Lima area. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru has been discussing this possibility for a number of years. The church in Peru has qualified teachers who would be available to staff the schools. We ask for God's blessings on these projects.

MISSIONS COUNSELOR

Missions Counselor Steven Petersen is conducting a series of seminars in 1999 entitled "Missions At Home and Afar" in an effort to further acquaint ELS congregations with the synod's outreach efforts and to help equip them for local outreach. The program is funded by a grant from AidAssociation for Lutherans.

VOLUNTEERS

There is an increasing interest from members of our synod in doing volunteer work in our Latin missions. As of this writing, there are plans for two young men to volunteer for a summer in Peru. The missionary teams welcome these efforts, and our board has guidelines in place for administrating volunteer help. May our Lord bless this work, so that the missions are helped, and so that more interest is stirred up in the states for the work of foreign missions.

SABBATICAL

Missionary Tim Erickson is planning a sabbatical of one year, to begin in July this year. Tentatively he plans to do some studying in the states and perhaps also in Europe. Missionary Erickson has been on the field over 17 years. This will be his second sabbatical.

GUIDELINES

The board has been working on updating its guidelines the last years, and at present has a more or less finished project. However, because of changing situations, revision of the guidelines is an ongoing process.

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY

Our thanks, as always, to Marlin and Jean Goebel, who faithfully publish *Mission News* regularly during the year, and receive special contributions for our mission fields. This last year receipts totaled over \$84,000, a large increase over previous years. Most of these gifts were directed about evenly to Peru and Chile. About \$8,800 was given for home missions. About \$5,600 went to Thoughts of Faith, and the remainder for incidental items. Total receipts through Faith Mission Society since its inception in June 1972 are now over \$660,000. We also thank all those who have generously contributed to our missions through the society.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands fully supports two of our missionaries in Latin America. An endowment fund of over \$700,000, together with gifts from corporate and individual donors, provides the funding for the missionaries, a total of about

\$120,000 per year. Our special thanks to Robert and Madelyn Soule for their many hours of volunteer work in taking care of the Helping Hands financial matters, which also encompasses various other financial dealings for the missionaries and the mission fields. Our thanks also to the corporate and individual donors for their generous gifts.

CROSS STITCH

Cross-stitch, the network of ELS Women's Missionary Societies, was inaugurated in 1998. Nearly \$20,000 was raised for the following projects, primarily in Peru: construction of a church at Zapallel; completion of a church at Ancom; purchase of cell-phones for missionaries, communion ware and church furnishings for missions, and theological books for national pastors and seminarians; improvements at Las Vertientes, Chile. Donors included area Women's Missionary Societies, women's groups, individuals, Bible classes and Christian Day Schools. Cross-stitch plans to support Chile mission building improvements and U.S. inner-city mission work in the coming year.

EXPENDITURES FOR 1999

The following has been budgeted by the Board for Foreign Missions for 1999, listed here according to general categories:

Missionary salaries, housing, schooling, and pension	\$263,318
Missionary operating expenses Chile/Peru (includes insurance, utilities, car allowance)	133,000
Mission Front operations (seminary, national pastors, congregational support, utilities, maintenance)	179,200
Mission Board expenses, including overseas travel	45,000
Mission Counselor	35,177
Australia	30,000
Miscellaneous, unanticipated items..	40,000
Capital expenses (field vehicle)	35,000
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES	\$760,695

REVENUE FOR 1999

Synod budget	\$166,000
Mission Counselor	32,000
Schwan matching	200,000
Income from various endowments/funds	189,500
Corporation grant	250,000
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$837,500

THOUGHTS OF FAITH

This is a church related organization, according to guidelines drawn up by the synod. A church related organization is not a member of the synod, but is to report to the synod through the appropriate board, in this case the Board for Foreign Missions. Thoughts of Faith has its own board of directors and own source of funding. No funds are received through the synod budget. Rev. Kurt Smith represents the board at Thoughts of Faith meetings, which the Missions Counselor also attends on behalf of the synod.

Thoughts of Faith is governed by a board of eleven directors, seven of those from our synod, and four from the WELS. When a director resigns, the board nominates qualified candidates and elects a new member. Funding is received primarily from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, which in 1999 has promised Thoughts of Faith \$2,500,000. Last year total expenditures were just over \$3,000,000, and this year total expenditures are also expected to be about

\$3,000,000 Thoughts of Faith supports two administrative staff positions in the states, four U.S. pastors in Ukraine, and two U.S. pastors in Plzen, along with seven teachers.

Work is carried on in the Czech Republic principally in Plzen. Here Martin Lutheran School, with grades Kindergarten-9, operates with a pastor of our synod as principal and mission administrator, and seven other staff from the U.S. as teachers. Enrolment is about 140 students in the ten grades. Another pastor serves as pastor to the congregation which has been formed from parents and friends of the school. A chapel in the school serves as the place of worship. About \$600,000. was budgeted for the Czech Republic last year.

In Ukraine, The Ukrainian Lutheran Church has been formed, with six registered congregations in three different areas of the country, and a total membership of over 1500. There are also at present at least six mission stations. Nine national and U.S. clergy serve the congregations, along with six deacons. Plans are to add three new missions in 1999, and five new pastors. Annual conventions are held. Last fall it was decided to request membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, to which our synod belongs. A radio ministry called "The Lutheran Moment" airs a 15 minute program once a week. A seminary with 14 students operates with assistance from visiting professors from the U.S. There is also a pre-seminary program with five students enrolled. The seminary graduated its first three students at the end of the last academic year. These men are now serving as pastors in the Ukrainian church. About \$1,000,000 has been budgeted for 1999 for the Ukrainian church.

In Ukraine, "Medical Clinic on Wheels/Lutherans for Life" (known now as "Gift of Life") provides medical help using vans, and Lutherans for Life provides counseling centers, materials and assistance to expectant mothers. A soup kitchen provides food for the needy, especially in the winter. A total of over \$500,000 was budgeted for humanitarian needs last year.

In Latvia, \$75,000 has been budgeted in 1999 to help the Latvian Lutheran Church, which sponsors radio broadcasts and publishes confessional Lutheran material.

Of the 1998 budget, about \$1,150,000 went for support of staff (U.S. and foreign), about \$235,000 350,000 for office expense, and about \$140,000 for the St. Sophia Seminary in Ukraine.

Rev. David Lillegard, Field Secretary

FOREIGN MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: World Mission Conference

WHEREAS, The World Missionary Conference brings the synod's missionaries and board members together every three years to encourage one another and exchange helpful information, and,

WHEREAS, These conferences have proved to be of great benefit to all who participate, and,

WHEREAS, The World Missionary Conference funding to date has been supplied by a corporate donor, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage all our Foreign Missionaries to continue to attend future conferences, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the corporate donor for its generosity in making such conferences possible, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the board to continue the conferences and seek additional forms for funding such conferences.

Resolution 2: Scandinavian Fund

WHEREAS, The Scandinavian Fund has been established to provide support for our sister churches in Sweden and Norway, and,

WHEREAS, Very little has been publicized to date about this fund and the aid it may render to the churches of our Scandinavian heritage, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the board seek ways to educate our members about this fund and the needs of our sister churches, e.g. Lutheran Sentinel, bulletin inserts, Mission's Counselor, etc.

Resolution 3: Peru

WHEREAS, The work of spreading the Gospel in Peru continues to flourish, and,

WHEREAS, More and more national pastors are being trained by our missionaries to do the work of preaching and teaching the true Word of God, and,

WHEREAS, It appears that a door is now opening up to do mission work in another part of Peru, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage our missionaries, and the national pastors to continue "to work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work", and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we rejoice over the mission opportunities that have been presented to our workers in the jungle region of Peru, called Amazona, and wish them God's speed in their endeavors there.

Resolution 4: Chile

WHEREAS, Our mission staff in Chile again has three full time missionaries, and,

WHEREAS, They have as one of their major goals to train Chilean men to become pastors, and,

WHEREAS, The "fields are white unto harvest" also in this South American Country, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage our missionaries in Chile, and the men they are training for ministry to continue to go forth in their work in the strength of the Lord, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we rejoice over the souls that God has brought into His Kingdom through the preaching of the Gospel.

Resolution 5: Volunteers

WHEREAS, There is an increasing interest among the members of our synod in helping in the foreign mission field, and,

WHEREAS, The involvement of our members may be of great assistance to our missionaries, foreign programs, and the national members of the foreign missions, and,

WHEREAS, Our Lord's great commission is spoken to all the members of our synod to help build up the Kingdom of Christ, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board consider taking steps to publicize volunteer opportunities in our foreign fields, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That interested members of our synod be encouraged to pursue such opportunities, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board make every effort to stir up more interest in our synods' congregations for the work of foreign missions.

Resolution 6: Contributors to Foreign Mission Work

WHEREAS, "Faith Mission Society" continues to support the work of our foreign missions, and,

WHEREAS, "Helping Hands" continues to support our work in Latin America, and,

WHEREAS, The women's "Cross Stitch" organization supports our ELS mission program, and,

WHEREAS, "Thoughts of Faith" continues to bring the Gospel to Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Latvia, and,

WHEREAS, There have also been many individuals, fraternal and corporate contributors to the work of foreign missions, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation for their wise stewardship and generosity, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage them to continue to faithfully serve our Lord.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" Acts 2:42 (NKJV).

The early Church didn't evangelize just for the sake of growth in numbers. The focus was on understanding and applying God's Word to their lives. As they learned from God's Word, God granted the growth in numbers. The result was a growing fellowship around the Word and the sacraments. Christians encouraged one another as they faced hardships in the early church. This is the instruction and fellowship which we should desire for our congregations. We see that evangelism isn't just telling someone about Jesus and then walking away. There is a continued concern to instruct people in all that Jesus taught, concern about their baptisms, and a focus on continued fellowship and growth within the congregation. This should be included in our prayer for evangelism in our nation.

BOARD MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

The board met three times this past year (September, 1998; January, 1999; and April, 1999). The board has five members: Pastors-Michael Smith (chairman), Kenneth Mellon, and Nathan Krause; Laymen-Mike Mahnke and Odell Iverson.

EVANGELISM WORKSHOPS

Since last synod convention the board held one evangelism workshop in Wausau, Wisconsin for Circuit 5. Scheduling conflicts would not permit any other workshop presentations in the remainder of 1998. Each circuit has been given a videotape of the workshop. Workshop workbooks are available from the board secretary for congregations to use with the tape. Planning has begun for a second workshop for congregations of the synod.

TRACTS

Thousands of our fifteen tracts entitled, "We're Glad You Asked About..." have been distributed during this past year throughout the synod. We continue to reprint them as needed, so supplies of all the tracts are plentiful. We have new tracts available for the June convention. One tract contrasts the differences between the ELS and the ELCA. Another tract has been written concerning what it means to be a confessional Lutheran. A third tract has large print Bible verses and is entitled: "Questions? God Has Answers!"

EVANGELISM SUNDAY RESOURCE BOOKS

Several new evangelism Bible studies have been distributed to ELS pastors. They are available in paper form for insertion in the Evangelism Resource Book and also on computer disk. A new sermon has also been added to the sermon collection. These sermons have a wealth of mission and evangelism ideas from various ELS pastors and can be a good resource in studying special texts.

EVANGELISM NOTES

The board has published a newsletter called "Evangelism Notes." The board seeks to offer practical suggestions for evangelism in our congregation. Theological studies in evangelism and practical ideas from congregations are welcomed for future issues. Please send them to the editor, Rev. Nathan Krause.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE WORKSHOP

The board held its first workshop in January for students and staff at Bethany Lutheran College. Basic truths about evangelism were presented.

Emphasis was placed on how good character and witnessing work well together in future vocations.

BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY WORKSHOP

A second workshop was presented to the seminary students in April. The focus of the workshop was to train the students to evangelize in settings common to the pastoral office. Several role-playing situations were created so that each student could participate.

CONSULTATION WITH CONGREGATIONS

The board continues to work out plans so that it can consult with congregations of the synod for specific help in evangelism in their local areas. Congregations interested in consultation should contact the chairman, Rev. Michael Smith.

Built on the Rock the Church doth stand
Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land,
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting. (ELH #211:1)

Rev. Kenneth E. Mellon, Secretary

EVANGELISM ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Evangelism Workshops

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has presented another evangelism workshop, and

WHEREAS, This was well produced, and was 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, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That all congregations who have not attended these workshops be encouraged to do so, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Board for Evangelism to present a second workshop, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That all congregations make use of the workshops, workbooks and workshop video made available by the Board for Evangelism.

Resolution 2: Tracts

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has produced three new tracts ("We're Glad You Asked About ... The Differences Between the ELS & the ELCA", "What It Means To Be A Confessional Lutheran", and "Questions? God Has Answers"), therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage all congregations to make use of them, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be encouraged to produce more tracts.

Resolution 3: Evangelism Materials

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has published an Evangelism Sunday Resource Book and Evangelism Bible Studies, and,

WHEREAS, The Board continues to publish semi-annually a newsletter about evangelism entitled Evangelism Notes, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all congregations be encouraged to make use of these excellent resources.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Over the past year, the Board for Education and Youth met twice to carry on its work. The board is still reaping the benefits 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 responsibility with encouragement from and assistance to the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The officers of the board are the following: Pastor Charles Keeler serving as chairman of the board, Mr. Timothy Voigt as treasurer and Pastor Jonathan Madson as recording secretary. Two members of the board, Pastor Joel Willitz and Mr. Timothy Voigt, have decided not to be nominated again for the board. We thank them both for their years of service on the BEY. We welcomed to the board Mr. Troy Grooms, a member at King of Grace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

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. Troy Grooms, Mr. Rob Pipal, Pastor Matthew Thompson and Pastor Jonathan Madson (secretary).

The 1998 ELS Youth Convention was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 16-19 on the campus of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Approximately 230 young people and counselors attended the convention. Devotions and Bible studies centered around the theme *More Than Conquerors*, based on Romans 8. The 1999 convention will be held at Bethany Lutheran College on July 29 - August 1. The theme will be *Lift Up Your Heads*, focusing on the end times. The 2000 convention will be held at the Marvin G. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center in Spooner, Wisconsin. The 2001 convention is scheduled to be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

In 1998 the subcommittee provided grants toward approximately 8 area youth retreats held throughout the synod. We grant up to \$150 per retreat involving more than one ELS church and \$250 per retreat if there are more than 20 youth attending. Over the years, the Youth subcommittee has given some

financial assistance for the Youth Honor Choir, held during the Synod Convention in June. We are grateful to Prof. Dennis Marzolf and Mr. Steven Jaeger for the great work they have done for the Honor Choir. It has been a real asset to our convention. The Honor Choir is scheduled to take place during the 1999 Synod Convention. Camp attendance in the synod's 6 area youth camps continues to be about the same. Camp Indianhead from Minnesota plans to hold its 1999 camp at the Marvin Schwan Conference and Retreat Center in Spooner, Wisconsin.

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. Work is still progressing on the production of a song book for camps, retreats, youth conventions, etc.

The subcommittee is in the midst of producing a video on youth work. The video will cover various aspects of youth work for lay youth leaders as well as pastors. Pastor Don Moldstad gave a presentation to the seminary students on the work of serving young people in our churches. Work is continuing on producing a synod-wide Bible study on families.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARISH EDUCATION

The subcommittee on Parish Education assists educational agencies in our synod's congregations. The members remain the same as in 1998. Mr. Glen Hansen serves as chairman. The other members of the subcommittee are Pastor Fred Lams and Pastor Mark Wold who serves as secretary.

The 1998 Advent devotions were mailed out by the Board for Publications. The 1999 Lenten devotions were reprinted from a previous year and included in the bulletin inserts distributed by the Board for Publications. No requests were made this year for certificates to honor Sunday school teachers for years of service. A mailing was sent to all pastors serving congregations which included a review by Pastor Fred Lams of the 1999 VBS materials from NPH, CPH and Kremer Publications, a Bible study on Family devotions produced by Prof. John Moldstad Jr. and a registration form for the Sunday school teachers workshop.

On Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend in 1999 the subcommittee will present a workshop for Sunday school teachers at the Marvin G. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center in Spooner, Wisconsin. All families of Sunday school teachers and other interested members from the synod are invited. Contact Mr. Glen Hansen if you would like a registration form.

Proof reading is currently being done on a new translation of N.J. Laache's *Book of Family Prayer*. In 1998 the subcommittee had a bulletin insert informing seniors of devotional books available. The Subcommittee asks the synod if a devotion book for seniors similar to *Cling To The Cross* should be produced.

We hope to have a Bible study, called "The End: A Study of the Last Things" produced by Pastor Alex Ring, available for pastors and congregations of the synod by the fall of 1999.

It was the goal of the subcommittee to set up a database for Bible studies. In place of our own database, we invite pastors of the synod to make use of the NPH Web Bible Study Resources database. We would like to see this free of charge, but a lifetime membership can be purchased for only \$29.99. Pastor Mark Wold and Pastor Charles Keeler have subscriptions. Questions can be directed to them. The following information about subscribing comes from the Bible Study Workshop Newsletter Spring 1998:

There are two easy ways to subscribe.

1. Subscribe on-line with a bank card. Follow these simple steps. Connect to the NPH Web site at www.wels.net/nph; click on Bible Studies; click on Subscribe to NPH Web Bible Study Resources. Enter the subscriber information and select a bank card.
2. Subscribe by phone. Call 1-800-662-6093 ext. 8 from 8:00 to 4:30

weekdays. Select a payment option. After your order is processed, you will receive a BSW password by e-mail within 3-5 business days.

ELS pastors are encouraged to submit Bible studies to this database. Send them to Robert Koester, NPH, 1250 North 113th St., Milwaukee, WI 53226-3284. NPH pays a small honorarium for each study they use.

The following materials for pastors or congregations of the ELS may be requested free of charge from the subcommittee :

- VBS series on the Ten Commandments
- VBS series on the Apostle's Creed
- Bulletin Inserts on the Catechism
- Certificates to recognize Sunday School teachers for years of service.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

The Subcommittee on Christian Day Schools assists congregations which endeavor to train their children through a Christian Day School. Members of the subcommittee are: Pastor Joel Willitz, Mr. Timothy Voigt, Mr. James Schneck, and Professor Mark Wiechmann.

All teachers' were encouraged in their calling at several local teacher's conferences. The Midwest ELS Teachers' Conference met at Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, Wisconsin on October 29th and 30th. The teachers in the Pacific Northwest Conference met at Cannon Beach, Oregon from September 30th to October 2nd, and at Lakewood, Tacoma, Washington on January 15th. They also met jointly with the WELS at Our Redeemer, Yelm, Washington on March 22 and 23rd. Our Arizona and Florida schools attended their local WELS conventions. Our teachers continue to be edified through their attendance at these conferences and we, as a board, encourage all teachers to actively participate in their local conferences.

During 1998, 11 teachers took advantage of the financial assistance offered, receiving \$2,215 in aid for continued education. We, as a board, encourage teachers to continue to make use of these funds. These funds are especially important in view of increasing state regulations imposed on the staffs of Christian day schools, and in the encouragement and support of all our teachers becoming synodically certified.

The board encourages the establishment of Christian educational agencies within all the churches of the synod. Subsidy grants reflect our encouragement for the growth of day schools and starter programs, including preschools. Using funds made available through the *His Truth for Our Youth* offering and synodical matching funds, \$45,000 was distributed between five schools to assist in the purchase of facilities and equipment. We thank you for having made these funds available to help our ELS schools grow and improve their programs.

Mr. Silas Born is now editing our publication for teachers, *ELS Education*, replacing Pastor Joel Willitz who is leaving the board. We hope that through this publication our teachers continue to gain an appreciation of their unique position in the ELS, and that synod ties of fellowship and friendship can be strengthened through this periodical. We ask that those requested to submit articles willingly share their respective knowledge with the other teachers of the synod. Anyone who is interested but is outside the circle of our teachers may receive this publication by contacting the editor.

We would like to thank the for their generous support in providing 3% yearly from the matching funds for the work of promoting Christian day schools. We have already reached many congregations with the funding available from the *His Truth for Our Youth* fund and the 3% match, providing funds for building projects, starter schools, and technology. We eagerly anticipate being able to share the blessings of Christian education with an increasing number of congregations, and a growing number of Christ's lambs as these funds continue to be a blessing to our schools.

In conjunction with these grants, we are currently working on a program whereby congregations seeking to begin new schools could be helped through counsel and initial starting costs. It was resolved by the subcommittee to designate \$50,000 as the amount of help that could be given to a congregation that meets criteria set by the board for viability and congregational support of such a venture. We are currently in the process of developing an instrument to assess and evaluate potential sites for new schools. As we continue to seek ways to provide greater assistance to congregations trying to begin a Christian Day School, the board will be available for resource material, planning assistance, practical advice and financial aid. Those wishing information or a congregational visit should contact the Secretary of Schools, James Schneck. He can schedule someone to visit with your congregation, and share with you the benefits and practical requirements for a Christian Day School.

Due largely to the efforts of Mr. Born, we have three candidates available for placement this year. They have been tracked through Bethany and several other institutions, and are proper candidates for service in our schools. We encourage congregations to make use of these fine candidates. Information may be sought through Mr. Born at Bethany College.

In response to Resolution #3, page 96 of the 1998 Synod Report, our subcommittee spent a great deal of time struggling with how best to implement this resolution. Our schools have a variety of different situations in which principals function, full time administrators to teacher/administrators in one room schools. As we delved into the subject, it became clear that one guideline could not fit each situation. We also feared that simply adding a number to the salary would eliminate a greater concern, that being sufficient time to perform all the necessary tasks of teaching and administration without burdening the home life of the called worker. With this in mind, our subcommittee submits the following resolution in answer: to Principal Salary And Compensation:

WHEREAS, We have studied the role of the principal in the Christian Day School, and adequate compensation for his or her duties; and,

WHEREAS, In our study we have identified another major concern; namely, a lack of adequate time for the principal to perform administrative duties;

- A. RESOLVED, That principals be remunerated a minimum of an additional 20% of the synod scale base salary; and
- B. RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to provide administrative time during the school day; and
- C. RESOLVED, That we encourage congregations to provide secretarial assistance for their principals.

Concerning resolution #7, page 97 of the 1998 Synod Report, the board was encouraged by the support for technology education. We, too, have seen a need in our schools, any who are not yet connected to internet services. We also see the possibility of use of the internet for distance learning in postgraduate studies and synodical certification work. Since the possibilities and benefits seem to be unlimited, the subcommittee established the following goals concerning electronic communication:

- A. RESOLVED:, That all ELS schools be capable of communicating by means of an audio-video link within three years; and
- B. RESOLVED, That the board seek funding through alternative sources to provide the necessary funds, as they are available, to the schools to achieve this project; and
- C. RESOLVED, That we set, as a goal, to have two computers in every ELS classroom within three years.

RECOMMENDED SALARY SCALE

In response to the request that we make available an extended salary schedule for budgeting purposes, the CDS subcommittee has developed a salary schedule for a three year period. It is hoped that congregations will make use of this schedule. We realize that there might be local exceptions to this standard, but we also desire to impress on each of the congregations the importance of paying their teacher a living wage, and one reflective of the value of having a person trained in education and doctrine to instruct the Lord's youngest lambs in His church. The board recommends the following teacher salary schedule for the following school years based on a twelve-month call:

	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree
<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
<u>2001/2002</u>		
Base Salary	\$21,300	\$22,790
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. Principalship duties are to be remunerated at 20% of base salary. Other duties assigned to a teacher, but not those expected because of regular congregational membership, 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

7. Each substitute teacher shall be paid a minimum of \$65 per day.

Teachers:

Pupil / Teacher Ratio 17.5 to 1
(17.3 to 1, 1998)

Total Number:	15
Preschools Only:	3

Pre-S	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
245	130	137	135	129	103	117	98	97	93

JOINT CONCERNS

Rev. Jonathan N. Madson, secretary

RESOLUTION 1: Christian Day School Teachers

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank Mr. Born for his efforts, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the synod encourage young people to prepare to become Christian Day School teachers and principals in the future.

RESOLUTION 2: Bethany Lutheran College Education Curriculum

WHEREAS, The synod will continue to need Christian Day School teachers, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College's expansion to a four-year institution provides an opportunity to train teachers for the synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Bethany Lutheran College be encouraged to develop further an education curriculum which will provide Christian Day School teachers for the schools of the synod.

RESOLUTION 3: Compensation for principals

WHEREAS, The subcommittee of Christian Day Schools of the Board for Education and Youth has studied the role of principals in the Christian Day School and the adequate compensation for the duties of principals, and,

WHEREAS, This study has also identified a lack of adequate time for the principal to perform administration duties, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to remunerated principles at a minimum of an additional 5% of the synod scale base salary for teachers; and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to provide administrative time during the school day; and

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage congregations to provide secretarial assistance for their principals.

RESOLUTION 4: Teacher Salary Scale

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth recommended the teacher salary scales for the three school years from 1999 to 2002, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the salary scale for teachers recommended by the Board for Education and Youth, with one change under Additional Recommendations, section 1, first sentence, to read: "Principalship duties are to be remunerated at a minimum of an additional 5% of base salary."

RESOLUTION 5: Coordination of Salary Compensation

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth and the Board for Home Missions establish salary guidelines independently of each other, and,

WHEREAS, The boards' recommendations may result in unintended inequalities of compensation between pastors and teachers, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth and the Board for Home Missions study the matter jointly and report to the next convention.

RESOLUTION 6: Support for Technology Education

WHEREAS, Resolution 7 of the 1998 Synod Report (p. 97) encouraged the Board for Education and Youth to "play a leadership role in making electronic communication more readily available within the synod," and,

WHEREAS, The board reports that the possibilities and benefits of the use of the internet seem to be an unlimited resource for our teachers and students, and,

WHEREAS, The board sees the possibility for using the internet for distance learning in postgraduate studies and synodical certification work for synod teachers, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That all ELS schools be capable of communicating by means of an audio-video link within three years, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board seek funding through alternative sources to provide the necessary funds, as they are available, to the schools to achieve this project, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod set the goal of having two computers per classroom within three years.

RESOLUTION 7: Synod Teacher Certification

WHEREAS, The synod certification of Christian Day School teachers means that a teacher is trained to teach and apply the Word of God properly in the synod's Christian Day Schools, and,

WHEREAS, The synod provides funds for continuing education for such certification, and

WHEREAS, The board reports that about thirty per cent of ELS teachers remain uncertified, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod congregations encourage their Christian Day School teachers to become certified and make use of the available funds to assist in the certification process.

RESOLUTION 8: Christian Day School Encouragement

WHEREAS, Many congregations have already benefited from the His Truth for Our Youth fund, which provides funds for building projects, starter schools, and technology; and,

WHEREAS, In conjunction with these grants a great opportunity currently exists for congregations to receive a

synodical grant up to \$50,000 for the initial costs of starting a Christian Day School, and,

WHEREAS, the Board for Education and Youth and the Bethany Lutheran College Education Coordinator, currently Mr. Silas Born, are available to give counsel; therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That those congregations of the synod with a Christian Day School be encouraged to strengthen their program of Christian elementary education by requesting synodical funds to expand their facilities and equipment; and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That those congregations of the synod without a Christian Day School be encouraged to investigate beginning a school making use of the resources available through the Board for Education and Youth.

YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Senior Devotions

WHEREAS, Our Synod has no devotional material dedicated specifically to the issues facing Senior Citizens, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth Subcommittee on Parish Education be encouraged to produce a devotional publication for Senior Citizens similar to Cling to the Cross, our synod's youth devotional booklet.

Resolution 2: Review of Christ Light Sunday School Materials

WHEREAS, The 1998 Synod Report (p. 98): "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.", and,

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee on Parish Education has reviewed some of the Christ Light materials,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Subcommittee on Parish Education to make their review of these materials available.

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND
YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION
JOINT ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution 1: "Goals 2000" and "School-to-work" programs

WHEREAS, The federal "Goals 2000" and "School-to-Work" programs are being implemented by numerous state governments, and,

WHEREAS, Some aspects of these federal and state-related programs may conflict with the philosophy, methods, and, content of education found in our Christian Day Schools, and,

WHEREAS, Home schools and other private schools, including synodical Christian Day Schools, will not necessarily be exempt from these federal and state education programs, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we request that the Board for Education and Youth study "Goals 2000" and "School-to-Work" programs and provide a critique and an evaluation of these programs to the synod and our Christian Day Schools.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

This board is typically made up of three ELS pastors and three lay people, preferably people with some printing or publishing experience or knowledge. Currently serving on the board are The Reverends Walther Gullixson, Roger Holtz, and Brad Homan and Robert Deering, Howard Siewert and Paul Wold. Rev. Holtz chairs the board.

A primary function of the board is the publishing of the *Lutheran Sentinel*. The board names an editor, currently Rev. Theodore Gullixson, who has served in that capacity the past three years. The board appreciates his unselfish efforts, his writing, and the efficient and organized manner in which he produces a quality magazine, on time, every month. We also appreciate the work of his regular staff and contributing writers. The design of the magazine was changed a year ago and this year the paper was upgraded to enhance its appearance and readability.

The board has responsibility for, and advises and assists the synod secretary, Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, in the publishing and printing of the *Synod Report* annually. The 1998 report was the second for Rev. Ferkenstad and we compliment him for his fine work and the fact that costs were less than for previous issues.

Fourteen bulletin inserts plus Advent and Lenten devotions were produced and distributed with the help of the other boards. These are all printed and shipped to individual churches in January for distribution throughout the year. Printing and distributing these at one time saves considerable money.

The board oversees the production and distribution of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* which is edited by Seminary President Rev. Gaylin Schmeling.

An *ELS Pictorial Directory* was completed and distributed in 1998.

The board is currently producing a new *Handbook of Ministerial Acts* under the watchful eye of Rev. Walther Gullixson.

Plans are under way for the publishing of a *30 Year Anniversary of Foreign Missions* book this year.

The following resolution, relative to the cost and distribution of the *Convention Echo* and the *Synod Report*, was passed by the Board for Publications for final approval at the convention:

WHEREAS, The new policy of covering the cost of publishing the annual Convention Report and Echo is: at a cost to the congregations of 30 cents per communicant member, the following is provided: Echo; one copy for each family in the congregation; Synod Report; Send only to active clergy serving member congregations or those attending the convention, and invoice accordingly, and

WHEREAS, There is a deficit from last year's distribution,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations be urged to give their financial support to this project.

Mr. Howard L. Siewert, secretary

PUBLICATIONS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Periodicals

WHEREAS, *The Lutheran Sentinel*, the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, the *Convention Echo*, and the *Synod Report* faithfully report synodical activities and proclaim God's Word; and

WHEREAS These publications are produced by dedicated individuals, selflessly donating time, skill, and energy; therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod express its appreciation to all those who contribute to the publication of this high quality Christian literature, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the pastors and all synodical members be encouraged to make use of these publications, introduce others to them, and make them available to visitors.

Resolution 2: Handbook of Ministerial Acts

WHEREAS The Board for Publications has published a new Handbook of Ministerial Acts; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That pastors of the synod be encouraged to use this new handbook.

Resolution 3: 1975 Synod policy

WHEREAS, The 1975 Synod Report (p. 85) stipulated a \$.25 cost per communicant member be assessed each congregation for the publication of the *Convention Echo* and the *Synod Report*, which is no longer sufficient, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That each year, a sufficient assessment be determined by the Board for Publications on the basis of the cost.

Resolution 4: Assessment for Convention Echo and Synod Report

WHEREAS, The Convention Echo is sent out in sufficient quantities for all households in the congregations; and

WHEREAS, Each congregation is assessed an amount to defray the cost of publishing the Convention Echo and the Synod Report, and,

WHEREAS, Not all congregations are paying the assessed amount; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations be strongly encouraged to pay their assessment for the publication of Convention Echo and Synod Report.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

One regular meeting in Mankato and two conference call meetings 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 Retired Benefit Coordinator. Rev. David Hoyord was re-elected Term Insurance Coordinator.

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

We are happy to report that nearly all of our congregations paid the premium for their called workers this past year. Hopefully this will continue in the future. The next billing date will be May or June.

WORLD NEEDS FUND

The Board for Christian Service would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Word Needs Fund. This is how most of the fund was distributed:

\$8,000	Tornado Relief – St. Peter, Minnesota (funds were distributed by the Norseland congregation)
\$12,000	Honduras and Colombia Relief (funds were sent through WELS – Commission on Relief)
\$2,044	ELS pastors in need

TAX SHELTER ANNUITY 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).

A TSA plan was presented to the Board of Trustees at their November 1997 meeting. It was studied by the trustees and approved by them. The TSA plan was then brought to the 1998 convention by the Board for Christian Service. It was resolved that the synod adopt the guidelines for the TSA that the Board for Christian Service proposed and the Board of Trustees approved.

The first year (1998), \$250.00 was to be given to each pastor and teacher and the congregation was to match the \$250.00, and it was to be placed in a TSA of the pastor or teacher's choice.

Of the \$50,000 that the synod set aside for the TSA plan only one-half (\$25,000) was actually used, so the Board of Trustees notified the Board for Christian Service of this unused money.

This year (1999) the Board for Christian Service, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, has resolved to set the matching sum at \$400.00 for full time workers and \$200.00 for part-time workers. As we found out, the matching sum may vary from year to year.

WELS CARE-LINE

The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (WELS) maintains a Care-Line for all members of their synod and our synod. 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.

WIDOW'S SUBSIDIES

The widow's subsidies were not raised in 1999. An increase has already been proposed for the year 2000.

BOARD GUIDELINES

The board reviewed their Guidelines throughout the year and up-dated guidelines have been sent to the Self Study Committee.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2000

Widow Subsidy Payments	\$ 23,439.60
Pastor Retirement Payments	4,146.36
Group Life Insurance	5,000.00
Board Expenses	<u>1,500.00</u>
	34,085.96

Rev. John E. Smith, secretary

CHRISTIAN SERVICE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: World Needs Fund

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has distributed from the World Needs Fund in 1998:

\$8,000 for tornado relief in St. Peter, MN;

\$12,000 for Honduras and Columbia Relief; and

\$2,044 for ELS pastors in need, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks and praise to the Lord of the church for moving His people to respond to these needs.

Resolution 2: WELS Careline

WHEREAS, We live in an increasingly turbulent society where even our members may be affected by drugs, rebellion, suicide, loneliness, mental illness, and a world view at enmity with God and His Church, and,

WHEREAS, Our synod has been richly blessed with the opportunity to make use of the WELS Care-line, and,

WHEREAS, This 24 hour, toll free hotline is designed to work in harmony with the counseling provided by one's own pastor, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we continue to thank God for providing this needed service to His Church and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the ELS continue to thank the Wisconsin Synod for making this service available to our members as well, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we actively promote this service to our congregations and their members, young, teen, and old alike, teaching an appropriate use of this service as a supplement to the pastor's work, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That we make it clear to our members that this service is available to everyone - not just WELS members, or families with children, and,

E. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage those who are able, to support this service financially or in other ways.

Resolution 3: Widows' Subsidies

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has been diligent and faithful in showing concern for the widows of ELS pastors, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend the board for the concern shown for ELS pastors' widows and encourage continued vigilance for their welfare.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The committee continues working on the *Handbook to the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, and the bulk of the information pertaining to the hymn tunes and texts has been compiled and awaits further editorial work. In addition work on an *Agenda* to accompany the ELH proceeds, with the following elements among items to be included in the book:

Thanksgiving for and Recognition of an Emergency Baptism

Confirmation

Receiving of Members

Excommunication and Reconciliation

Marriage

Thanksgiving for Marriage (for use at Anniversaries and Blessings of a Civil Marriage)

Comfort in a Miscarriage or at the Burial of a Stillborn Child

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

Ministry to the Sick and the Dying

Burial of the Dead

Ordination and Installation of a Pastor
 Installation of a Teacher or Professor
 Anniversary of an Ordination or Installation of a pastor, missionary, teacher
 and other servants of the church
 Placing in Office of the Church Council, Sunday School Teachers, and
 auxiliary organizations of the church
 Groundbreaking
 Cornerstone Laying
 Consecration of a Church
 Consecration of a School, Parish Hall, Hospital, Home for the Aged
 Consecration of a Dwelling
 Dedication of Vestments, Paraments, Musical Instruments, Sacramental
 Vessels, Bells
 Proper Liturgies for Special Days:
 Ash Wednesday
 The History of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord, drawn from
 the four Gospels
 Palm Sunday
 Maundy Thursday, with Tenebrae and the Stripping of the Altar
 Good Friday
 The Vigil of Easter

The committee is also overseeing the production of an edition of melodic settings for the singing of the collects and the prefaces. Pastor Alex Ring has volunteered to produce the preliminary draft of this resource.

Pastor Mark DeGarmeaux, a member of the committee, is working on a new translation of the daily family devotional of Bishop Laache, and the committee is reviewing his work. This volume will include many new hymn texts based upon the themes of the Sundays and Seasons of the Christian Year.

Everyone is invited to peruse the ELH home page on the web at:
<http://www.blc.edu/comm/gargy/gargy1/ELH.html>

Rev. Dennis Marzolf, Chair
 Rev. Harry Bartels, Secretary
 Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux

WORSHIP **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution 1: Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary and Related Resources

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship is reporting on developing the Handbook to the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary (ELH), the Agenda to accompany the ELH, and an edition of melodic settings for the singing of the collects and prefaces of the Church Year, and,

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has a goal to encourage congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to adopt the ELH as the congregation's hymnal, and

WHEREAS, These accompanying resources would assist the pastor and congregations in utilizing the ELH, therefore,

A. *BE IT RESOLVED*, That the Committee on Worship be commended in this work as they continue to pursue the publication of such resources, and,

B. *BE IT RESOLVED*, That the synod encourage all its congregations to make every effort to purchase the ELH for congregational use in anticipation of the publication of these other resources.

Resolution 2: Liturgical Curriculum

WHEREAS, The Committee on worship proposed among its goals in 1998 to encourage the Curriculum Committee of the Seminary "to discuss the development of the present worship course into a series of courses that enlarge on the preparation" for our future pastors so that they might be more "conversant in liturgical matters," (c.f. 1998 Synod Report, p.122, item 7), and,

WHEREAS, The synod in 1998 directed the Committee on Worship to pursue its list of goals for its future work, and,

WHEREAS, The synod would like better to equip its pastors with more resources regarding our liturgical and hymnic heritage, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship initiate a discussion with the Curriculum Committee of the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary on the possibility of developing "the present worship course into a series of (worship) courses..." (c.f. 1998 Synod Report, p. 122, item 7).

Resolution 3: Memorial, Recording of Hymns

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed His Church with the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, and,

WHEREAS, The hymns of the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary continue to glorify our Lord and edify the Body of Christ, and,

WHEREAS, Many people are not familiar with a number of its melodies, therefore,

A. *BE IT RESOLVED*, That the committee on worship investigate and, if possible, produce a choral recording of unfamiliar melodies and,

B. *BE IT RESOLVED*, That this be the synod's response to the memorial.

Resolution 4: Education

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship proposed among its goals in 1998 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" (1998 Synod Report, p. 122, point 5) and,

WHEREAS, The Synod in 1998 directed the Committee on Worship to pursue its list of goals for its future work, and,

WHEREAS, Our Lord reminds us through Solomon (Proverbs 22, 6): "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," and,

WHEREAS, It would greatly enhance such training if what was heard and sung in the church and school would also be heard and sung in the home, therefore,

- A. *BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod direct the Committee on Worship to plan the development of a curriculum for use in Sunday Schools and Christian Days Schools as reflecting the traditions of the synod, and*
- B. *BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship produce a list of resources for Christian parents that would aid in the teaching and appreciation of our liturgical and hymnic heritage (e.g. available recordings of choral works, liturgies and hymns, other musical resources, locations of downloadable MIDI files, etc.).*

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 eleven times since it last reported to the synod: April 23, May 18, August 10, August 24, September 25, October 16, November 13, and December 11, 1998 and January 15, January 27 and February 9, 1999.

APPOINTMENT OF SYNOD TREASURER:

This matter is still under study by the Self Study Committee which makes this request of the synod at this time:

WHEREAS, The matter of "Appointment of Synod Treasurer" was referred to the Self Study Committee by the 1997 Synod Convention, and,

WHEREAS, The synod has since that time established the office of Business Administrator, and,

WHEREAS, More time is needed to study the relationship between the office of the treasurer and the office of the business administrator,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self Study Committee be granted another year to study this relationship before it brings its recommendation.

EQUALIZATION FOR RETIRED PASTORS:

This matter was referred to the Self Study Committee by the Board of Trustees. This matter is under study by the committee at the present time.

BYLAWS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD:

After careful study of the Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod the Self Study Committee recommends the adoption of the following amendment.

CHAPTER IV – Conventions

Paragraph 1

Synodical conventions are to be held annually.

Paragraph 2

Member congregations should make every effort to be represented at the synodical conventions by their pastor(s) and by two duly elected delegates. These delegates shall be elected by the congregations and shall present their credentials to the convention for action. The pastors serving member congregations who are in attendance at the convention and the properly seated delegates constitute the voting membership of the convention. A quorum, a majority of the voting members, shall be necessary for conducting of business. The president shall have the right to vote only to break a tie.

Paragraph 3

Special conventions shall be held

- (a) when a regular convention so decides.
- (b) when at least one-third of the congregations so request, or
- (c) when the president, in concurrence with the Board of Trustees, calls for such a convention.

Normally, the delegates and committees of the previous regular convention shall serve at such special conventions.

Paragraph 4

Male members holding individual membership in the synod are advisory members to the convention and may serve on its committees. The convention shall decide who, in addition to the voting and advisory members shall be given the right to speak.

(Note: We would draw the convention's attention to CHAPTER VIII of the Bylaws which states: "Resolutions for amendments are to be presented to a regular convention, and if adopted by a two-thirds majority vote, shall become amendments to the bylaws.")

ELS HANDBOOK:

The committee has spent the greater part of its time on the re-editing of the *ELS Handbook* and will continue that work until it is completed.

With this report we present, as an attached document, for the synod's consideration and adoption the portions of the *ELS Handbook* which we have completed.

Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

The The Board for Stewardship accomplished its main business by conducting only one meeting: January 14, 1999. 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 were sent occasionally to all pastors, board members and synod convention delegates providing a monthly listing of synodical contributions from all the congregations. A listing of congregational contributions to the synodical budget for the past eleven years (1988-1998) has also been provided, as well as parochial statistics from 1970 until 1997.

(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. *Lutheran Sentinel* articles have also been written.

(4) An special offering was conducted on the first Sunday in December to help reduce the budget deficit which resulted in December gifts of \$132,297.77, which were \$4,488.26 less than what was received in December of 1997. 1998 was an average year for the budget, receiving a total of \$786,094.82, leaving a deficit of \$13,905.18. In 1998, 60 congregations gave less than in 1997 and 69 gave more, with 8 giving "0". (See statistical sheet for comparison)

(5) The board, together with the trustees, is very concerned about why the synodical giving to the budget has remained so "flat" over the past years. Chairman Schneider, in cooperation with the Board of Trustees, is in the process of meeting with all synodical pastors, presenting a stewardship seminar to discuss and deal with this matter. An update on these meetings will be given orally at the convention.

(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 *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. There seems to be a surplus of these envelopes with many congregations having sufficient quantity for the next several years. This surplus will be used up and the synod will experience a slight savings on the normal cost of these materials.

(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 "\$teward\$hip" has been made available for pastors to use in teaching God's principles of stewardship within the congregations. This material was presented personally by the chairman to all the pastors attending the various Pastoral Conferences of the synod during the spring and fall of 1998. The final presentations were completed since the last convention, which encouraged the use of this material.

(11) Chairman Schneider conducted a survey of pastor's salaries and made a presentation to the Circuit Visitors in August of 1998. Out of 100 pastors contacted, 78 returned their forms. Fourteen pastors responded that their parishes are not taking adequate care of all their financial needs. Congregations need to be encouraged to provide for their pastors.

(12) What blessings continue to be received by our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, especially with the entire synodical income being matched by a generous donor. In 1998 a total of \$1,335,818 dollars 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!

Rev. Paul Schneider, Chairman

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD - 1998

	1998 Budget	1998 Non- Budget	1998 Total
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH	9,012.10	\$205.00	\$9,217.10
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	1,907.00	0.00	1,907.00
Bethany, Ames, IA	300.00	140.00	440.00
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Bethany, Hampton, IA	1,697.10	50.00	1,747.10
Bethany, Luveme, MN	11,274.30	0.00	11,274.30
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Bethany, Princeton, MN	9,360.00	147.00	9,507.00
Calvary, Ulen, MN	3,087.70	67.00	3,154.70
Center, Sr arville, IA	2,445.00	95.00	2,540.00
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	2,478.00	300.00	2,778.00
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	5,548.37	1,372.00	6,920.37
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	2,136.44	97.66	2,234.10
Christ, Windsor, CA	3,701.19	54.00	3,755.19
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	300.00	0.00	300.00
Christ the King, Green Bay, WI	6,150.00	0.00	6,150.00
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	3,008.00	362.00	3,370.00
Concordia, Hood River, OR	0.00	0.00	0.00
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	2,247.50	110.00	2,357.50
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	0.00	0.00	0.00
English, Cottonwood, MN	13,847.34	220.00	14,067.34
Faith, Alpena, MI	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, Clara City, MN	6,227.00	548.00	6,775.00
Faith, East Jordan, MI	891.00	156.00	1,047.00
Faith, Hillman, MI	237.00	0.00	237.00
Faith, Litchfield, IL	4,671.28	207.00	4,878.28
Faith, Orange County, CA	2,200.00	501.00	2,701.00
Faith, Oregon, WI	5,035.00	0.00	5,035.00
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, San Antonio, TX	2,586.56	570.00	3,156.56
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	220.00	52.00	272.00
First, Suttons Bay, MI	1,220.00	10.00	1,230.00
First American, Mayville, ND	185.00	0.00	185.00
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,913.05	153.00	2,066.05
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	6,740.00	0.00	6,740.00
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	6,593.65	126.00	6,719.65
Forest, Forest City, IA	340.00	58.00	398.00
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN	10,353.49	0.00	10,353.49
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	15,209.78	139.00	15,348.78
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	2,742.00	88.00	2,830.00
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	4,444.68	295.00	4,739.68
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	1,200.00	535.77	1,735.77

Grace, Crookston, MN	400.00	73 00	473 00
Grace, Hobart, IN	3,822.35	110.95	3,933.30
Grace, Madison, WI	5,530.00	318.00	5,848.00
Grace, Piedmont, MO	70.00	0.00	7000
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	29,916.03	0.00	29,916.03
Grace, Weston, OH	4,039.00	-727.00	4,766.00
Harbor Trinity, Gig Harbor, WA	1,009.31	0.00	1,009.31
Hartland, Hartland, MN	2,580.25	78.60	2,658.85
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	9,873.12	405.00	10,278.12
Holton, Holton, MI	4,355.00	0.00	4,355.00
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	43,546.62	3,250.43	46,797.05
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	30,759.60	1,910.00	32,669.60
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	37,999.99	468.00	38,467.99
Hope, Port Hadlock, WA	50.00	0.00	50.00
Hope, West Jordan, UT	0.00	0.00	0.00
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	13,002.00	435.75	13,437.75
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	1,490.32	0.00	1,490.32
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	14,908.25	20.00	14,928.25
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	48,769.75	1,459.25	50,229.00
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	617.30	10.00	627.30
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	388.92	127.00	515.92
Lamb of God, Cartersville, GA	0 00	0.00	0.00
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	2,254.00	0.00	2,254.00
Lord of Life, Holland, MI	4,292.47	124.05	4,416.52
Manchester, Manchester, MN	1,025.00	186.26	1,211.26
Messiah, Omro, WI	5,580.50	45.00	5,625.50
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	39,149.43	2,717.40	41,866.83
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	108.00	0.00	108.00
Nazareth, Trail, MN	432.00	13.00	445 00
New Life, Sebring, FL	1,699.00	40.00	1,739.00
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	2,632.00	343.00	2,975.00
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	19,855.30	280.00	20,135.30
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	4,793.34	476.00	5,269.34
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	3,200.00	0.00	3,200.00
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	275.00	10.00	285.00
Our Saviors, Albert Lea, MN	8,560.00	837.00	9,397.00
Our Savior, Amherst Junction, WI	626.00	0.00	626.00
Our Saviors, Bagley, MN	2,996.75	648.00	3,644.75
Our Savior, Belview, MN	1,413.62	65.00	1,478.62
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	212.00	510.00	722.00
Our Saviors, Elderon, WI	1,800.00	80.00	1,880.00
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	20.00	3,000.00	3,020.00
Our Saviors, Hawley, MN	200.00	175.00	375.00
Our Saviours, Lake Havasu City, AZ	12,981.00	820.00	13,801.00
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	5,735.49	100.00	5,835.49
Our Saviours, Madison, WI	2,400.00	55.00	2,455.00
Our Savior, Naples, FL	21,012.00	2,933.16	23,945.16
Our Saviors, Princeton, MN	4,460.25	0.00	4,460.25
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	6,950.00	1,165.00	8,115.00
Peace, Deshler, OH	3,939.50	8,442.74	12,382.24
Peace Jefferson City, MO	1,346.97	982.97	2,329.94
Peace Kissimmee, FL	11,241.00	10,000.00	21,241.00
Peace, Lakeland, FL	5,496.24	45.00	5,541.24
Pilgrim, Waterloo IA	272.50	45.00	317.50
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	2,351.35	49.00	2,400.35
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	4,725.00	0.00	4,725.00
Redeemer, Iola, WI	939.00	37.00	976.00

Redeemer New Hampton, IA	720.00	175.00	895.00
Redeemer Scottsdale, AZ	7,868.89	0.00	7,868.89
Reformation, Hillsboro, OR	12,010.00	0.00	12,010.00
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	0.00	125.00	125.00
Resurrection, Winter Haven, FL	6,680.66	0.00	6,680.66
Richland, Thomson, IA	5,242.23	0.00	5,242.23
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	6,644.00	1,200.00	7,844.00
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	4,018.63	0.00	4,018.63
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	785.97	0.00	785.97
Saude, Lawler, IA	15,086.25	0.00	15,086.25
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	4,375.00	0.00	4,375.00
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	0.00	0.00	0.00
Shepherd of the Hills, Grass VY, CA	1,737.90	2,700.00	4,437.90
Somber, Northwood, IA	3,352.28	0.00	3,352.28
St Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	175.00	0.00	175.00
St. Marks, Chicago, IL	2,205.25	0.00	2,205.25
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	15,453.97	222.00	15,675.97
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	729.67	391.00	1,120.67
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	3,505.00	50.00	3,555.00
St. Paul Clintonville WI	12,412.50	123.00	12,535.50
St. Paul Escondido CA	3,122.75	1,232.90	4,355.65
St. Paul, Lengby, MN	1,075.00	0.00	1,075.00
St. Pauls, Portage, WI	824.50	229.00	1,053.50
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	15,885.00	1,321.00	17,206.00
St. Timothy, Williamsburg, IA	653.82	293.00	946.82
Synod, Scarville IA	5,985.96	300.00	6,285.96
Trinity Brewster, MA	1,491.00	50.00	1,541.00
Trinity Calmar, IA	995.00	0.00	995.00
Trinity, Rogers City, MI	373.00	0.00	373.00
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	4,902.00	282.00	5,184.00
Trinity, West Bend WI	15,035.22	729.75	15,764.97
Wayfarers' Chapel Ventura, CA	685.00	0.00	685.00
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	6,842.67	738.30	7,580.97
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,966.00	105.00	2,071.00
Zion, North Huntingdon, PA	840.00	0.00	840.00
Zion, Thompson, IA	1,224.65	200.00	1,424.65
Zion, Tracy, MN	6,618.00	0.00	6,618.00
Other sources:			
Aid Association for Lutherans	0.00	28,500.00	28,500.00
Messengers of Peace	0.00	39,975.76	39,975.76
Helping Hands	0.00	27,240.00	27,240.00
Lutheran Brotherhood	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
Matching funds	0.00	1,104,219.00	1,104,219.00
Other	<u>18,760.00</u>	<u>1,258,362.58</u>	<u>1,277,122.58</u>
	766,094.82	2,559,040.28	3,345,135.10

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYNOD

Total for years Indicated

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, O				1,833	4,628	6,039	9,012
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	207	397	1,557	2,689	2,341	2,223	1,907
Bethany, Ames, IA	665	365	700	840	800	500	300
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	0	293	0	1,600	1,000	1,400	1,200
Bethany, Hampton, IA					680	1,940	1,697
Bethany, Luverne, MN	8,884	10,638	14,978	10,848	6,125	11,763	11,274
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	10,120	10,000	17,917	23,114	7,000	1,167	5,000
Bethany, Princeton, MN	11,703	10,971	11,020	9,626	9,785	10,789	9,360
Calvary, Ulen, MN	3,021	3,231	3,854	1,801	2,246	2,808	3,088
Center, Scarville, IA	2,482	1,649	2,392	2,342	1,996	0	2,445
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	1,185	2,766	2,819	3,405	3,536	2,272	2,478
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	1,090	1,210	2,173	2,653	2,290	2,258	5,548
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	2,173	1,191	1,540	2,203	1,722	1,970	2,136
Christ, Windsor, CA	9,550	8,000	9,720	4,948	10,608	4,490	3,701
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	4,134	0	0	0	0	0	300
Christ the King, Green Bay, WI				2,700	3,015	2,700	6,150
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	1,435	2,035	2,037	2,285	2,006	2,222	3,008
Concordia, Hood River, OR	0	0	0	422	424	575	0
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	4,110	4,309	4,774	6,239	3,447	5,537	2,248
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	1,881	1,257	738	1,080	333	0	0
English, Cottonwood, MN	11,442	11,161	12,187	13,302	12,385	12,956	13,847
Faith, Alpena, MI	0	820	200	0	0	0	0
Faith, Clara City, MN				3,511	2,825	3,995	6,227
Faith, East Jordan, MI	0	850	0	1,168	750	815	891
Faith, Hillman, MI	378	523	0	91	254	290	237
Faith, Litchfield, IL	2,022	2,477	3,821	5,131	4,514	4,581	4,671
Faith, Orange Co., CA	2,800	1,355	1,200	1,705	1,800	3,200	2,200
Faith, Oregon, WI	3,908	4,105	3,889	5,868	4,104	4,200	5,036
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	1,100	1,197	800	1,000	1,000	265	0
Faith, San Antonio, TX	3,327	4,391	4,425	6,093	3,344	3,066	2,587
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	1,660	3,431	2,666	330	2,214	2,850	220
First, Suttons Bay, MI	2,152	1,981	2,771	830	501	820	1,220
First American, Mayville, ND	1,763	1,565	1,200	303	377	225	185

First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,365	1,373	1,801	2,265	1,826	1,845	1,913
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	4,046	6,422	7,730	5,807	4,577	7,891	6,740
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	5,912	0	0	5,968	6,972	6,610	6,594
Forest, Forest City, IA	1,140	549	1,407	161	744	285	340
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN						1,765	10,353
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	9,319	5,367	5,935	3,764	16,626	15,668	15,210
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	2,003	1,860	2,950	2,775	2,389	2,656	2,742
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	4,525	6,703	5,607	6,647	7,074	6,184	4,445
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	1,099	312	510	206	1,360	163	1,200
Grace, Crookston, MN	0	200	201	591	0	0	400
Grace, Hobart, IN			2,129	1,216	3,398	3,054	3,822
Grace, Madison, WI	12,840	6,665	6,600	7,100	5,088	7,412	5,530
Grace, Piedmont, MO	34	0	142	0	120	639	70
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	27,226	34,962	31,543	36,330	32,249	28,304	29,916
Grace, Weston, OH	3,125	3,239	3,946	4,188	3,104	3,502	4,039
Harbor Trinity, Gig Harbor, WA							1,009
Hartland, Hartland, MN	2,969	2,960	3,153	3,027	3,775	2,893	2,580
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	9,141	6,949	11,073	8,285	9,376	9,820	9,873
Holton, Holton, MI	3,043	3,635	5,002	3,822	2,770	4,032	4,355
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	31,514	42,652	46,887	41,392	41,567	42,577	43,547
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	23,118	23,523	34,073	21,684	23,851	24,016	30,760
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	24,308	26,565	29,541	45,984	39,000	37,200	38,000
Hope, Port Hadlock, WA							
Hope, West Jordan, UT							50
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	7,418	8,076	8,409	9,760	9,756	9,519	13,002
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	833	1,097	2,961	687	1,215	195	1,490
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	18,039	17,435	14,318	15,369	15,492	13,973	14,908
King of Grace, Golden Va., MN	40,780	55,520	53,260	51,003	50,920	47,497	48,770
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	1,388	2,329	1,735	1,322	762	1,236	617
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	865	973	771	763	700	300	389
Lamb of God, Cartersville, GA					1,427	87	0
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	2,243	2,262	2,884	2,389	2,924	2,199	2,254
Lord of Life, Holland, MI			2,002	2,869	1,899	2,460	4,292
Manchester, Manchester, MN	912	146	421	2,334	1,000	843	1,025
Messiah, Omro, WI					4,000	9,691	5,581
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	29,306	30,683	30,829	34,011	34,423	37,148	39,149
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	1,286	1,032	1,008	1,002	575	134	108

Nazareth, Trail, MN	2,072	955	1,402	1,334	932	1,269	432
New Life, Sebring, FL	1,172	2,275	4,217	4,020	2,835	2,275	1,699
Newport, Wis. Dells, WI	1,500	1,503	1,535	1,477	1,672	1,666	2,632
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	10,481	21,828	20,859	10,868	14,791	16,267	19,855
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	6,131	6,172	8,491	8,258	5,474	9,565	4,793
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	3,000	3,150	2,750	449	1,286	2,477	3,200
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	1,143	375	535	385	45	740	275
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	19,335	15,233	19,590	15,620	19,305	12,711	8,560
Our Savior's, Amherst Jct., WI	1,057	1,234	839	1,654	1,491	853	626
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	4,587	2,000	5,169	3,193	3,891	2,730	2,997
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	2,914	2,205	3,860	2,787	3,472	2,178	1,414
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	340	0	0	0	0	0	212
Our Savior's, Elderon, WI	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,775	1,900	1,600	1,800
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	1,000	550	575	310	600	600	20
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	977	500	260	52	0	436	200
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu, AZ	12,067	11,914	12,750	10,371	13,389	14,413	12,981
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	6,174	6,415	7,260	4,866	6,575	6,842	5,735
Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	1,652	1,565	2,305	2,840	3,280	2,400	2,400
Our Savior, Naples, FL	5,531	6,000	14,332	13,694	8,561	20,354	21,012
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	17,283	13,474	16,218	17,570	12,399	14,426	4,460
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	8,971	3,247	5,103	7,958	6,445	7,463	6,950
Peace, Deshler, OH	9,594	1,433	5,180	3,910	925	3,589	3,940
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	436	410	513	683	449	176	1,347
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	6,096	6,847	9,480	8,576	11,420	13,903	11,211
Peace, Lakeland, FL		2,439	2,776	2,886	3,563	4,763	5,496
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	1,350	2,149	1,994	2,100	2,950	1,478	273
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	100	3,044	2,543	4,703	2,831	2,925	2,351
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	5,193	5,100	5,888	5,696	6,200	6,000	4,725
Redeemer, Iola, WI	550	440	1,208	1,013	854	861	939
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,514	2,650	1,480	1,088	1,093	626	720
Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ						4,048	7,869
Reformation, Hillsboro, OR						12,000	12,010
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resurrection, WinterHaven, FL			893	3,685	4,120	10,607	6,681
Richland, Thornton, IA	15,662	8,620	7,652	5,433	6,403	8,944	5,242
River Heights, E.Grand Forks, MN	43,768	12,083	10,755	9,389	8,432	9,773	6,644
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	5,348	3,765	6,742	5,538	4,448	4,123	4,019

Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	1,307	1,418	1,113	693	928	826	786
Saude, Lawler, IA	15,336	12,116	18,420	14,597	14,689	12,380	15,086
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	4,675	6,169	6,500	7,500	7,500	5,000	4,375
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	952	265	49	0	130	520	0
Shep. of the Hills, Grass Valley., CA	837	1,516	1,238	1,448	1,494	1,666	1,738
Somber, Northwood, IA	2,211	2,059	2,293	2,029	1,653	641	3,352
St. Luke, Mt. Vernon, WA	112	0	0	0	0	0	175
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	2,018	2,061	1,324	1,163	1,874	1,967	2,205
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	11,383	13,696	15,463	15,702	16,550	22,403	15,454
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	295	303	379	500	1,330	422	730
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	2,551	2,675	2,400	2,820	3,047	3,330	3,505
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	4,310	6,424	8,080	12,354	9,636	6,953	12,413
St. Paul Escondido, CA	1,471	120	7,418	2,129	4,933	5,441	3,123
St. Paul's, Lengby, MN	2,883	2,405	2,444	2,817	3,538	2,816	1,075
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	87	0	137	100	200	500	825
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	0	385	215	176	285	125	0
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	15,643	17,056	16,640	18,706	16,423	15,445	15,885
St. Timothy, Williamsburg, IA							654
Synod, Scarville, IA	9,463	9,641	8,355	7,709	6,649	7,672	5,086
Trinity, Brewster, MA	3,920	2,985	2,677	3,072	2,183	2,375	1,491
Trinity, Calmar, IA	715	630	1,289	1,147	956	973	995
Trinity, Rogers City, MI				81	223	437	373
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	4,604	5,657	6,372	5,201	4,137	4,762	4,902
Trinity, West Bend, WI	21,140	17,329	32,215	27,468	19,773	20,537	15,035
Wafarer's Chapel, Ventura, CA	1,700	1,200	923	150	100	0	685
West. Koshkonong, Cot. Gr., WI	5,030	3,290	6,775	5,172	5,361	0	6,843
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,077	783	1,604	810	3,777	1,613	1,966
Zion, North Huntingdon, PA				490	840	840	840
Zion, Thompson, IA	1,140	1,443	1,449	1,196	2,412	1,423	1,225
Zion, Tracy, MN	13,662	5,728	8,868	4,746	7,035	7,309	6,618
Budget Totals for Year	\$712,868	\$672,319	\$795,441	\$791,325	\$749,500	\$790,234	\$786,095

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS - ELS HISTORY

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Congregations	112	116	120	123	123	125	128
Pastors	123	127	130	130	139	140	149
Baptized	20,246	19,850	19,942	21,454	21,378	21,544	21,630
Confirmed	15,396	15,012	15,083	15,892	15,518	15,740	16,181
Average .Sunday attend.	9,076	8,769	9,220	9,341	10,348	9,042	9,042
Bible class	2,343	1,949	1,914	1,874	1,875	1,908	2,001
Sunday school	3,039	2,916	2,932	3,098	3,290	3,191	3,233
Day school	872	752	882	930	1,060	977	1,010
Home contributions	4,647,714	4,725,783	4,996,111	5,298,882	5,713,773	6,186,648	6,527,076
All other	931,677	791,586	1,050,715	1,082,198	1,043,612	1,324,321	1,193,789
Synod budget	718,222	719,357	722,656	725,861	740,809	741,918	721,535
Total synod	1,051,201	1,233,445	1,167,666	1,355,481	2,488,825	1,791,897	1,751,037

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Congregations	126	126	125	128	135	134	138
Pastors	154	151	156	159	162	166	171
Baptized	21,347	21,535	21,493	25,379	22,371	22,046	22,098
Confirmed	16,004	15,929	15,780	15,960	16,543	16,511	16,444
Average .Sunday attend.	9,340	9,575	9,063	9,595	10,049	9,602	9,754
Bible class	1,935	1,909	1,913	2,059	2,156	2,365	2,653
Sunday school	3,168	3,210	2,967	3,055	3,248	2,993	2,988
Day school	1,047	1,173	1,090	1,175	1,203	1,137	1,250
Home contributions	6,657,338	6,944,522	6,759,222	7,288,521	7,712,358	8,136,195	8,937,103
All other	1,030,445	1,271,058	1,100,660	1,195,698	1,084,136	1,104,996	1,150,419
Synod budget	762,962	712,868	672,394	795,441	791,325	749,500	790,234
Total synod	2,936,977	2,801,268	1,925,541	2,813,480	3,119,511	3,300,398	4,406,403

REPORT OF THE LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

As acting 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 1998 convention period.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 3/16/98		\$ 8,228.17
Receipts:		
Church Assessments	\$ 24,058.00	
Interest Income	<u>\$ 153.98</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 24,211.98</u>
Total		\$ 32,440.15
Disbursements:		
Delegates:		
Air Fares and Mileage	\$ 26,867.14	
Printing , Postage, checks, etc.	<u>\$ 123.30</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 26,990.44</u>
Balance on Hand 2/28/99		\$ 5,449.71

1. Mileage payments will be at the rate of \$.20 per mile (round trip) to a laymen 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.)

Mr. Ralph Miller, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod met on October 1, 1998 and January 4, 1999.

The committee is composed of the officers of the synod and the chairman (or their representative) of the following boards: Board of Regents, Board for Home Missions, Board for Foreign Missions, Board for Evangelism, Board for Education and Youth, Board for Publications, Board for Christian Service, Board for Stewardship, Doctrine Committee, and Board of Trustees. There also are three laymen elected to serve on the board.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The committee regularly receives reports and plans from each of the boards. A listing of long-range goals and objectives was presented to the 1998 convention. All boards now have been asked to anticipate work to be started, eliminated or changed during the years 2000-2005. A report is planned for the 2000 convention.

2000 BUDGET:

At both meetings, the committee heard reports from the representatives of each board explaining their work along with budget requests. A synod-funded budget of \$810,000 for the fiscal year 2000, allocated as follows, is recommended:

	<u>Program Needs</u>	<u>Special Funding</u>	<u>Synod Funding</u>
Bethany Lutheran College (subsidy):			
operations	176,000		
maintenance on college	21,000		
interest	4,000		
maintenance on residences	4,000		
faculty housing allowance	84,000		
less interest applied		<u>-16,000</u>	
total			273,000
Bethany Lutheran Seminary (subsidy):			
operations	62,500		
maintenance on residences	<u>2,000</u>		
total			64,500
Home Missions:			
total program needs	624,446		
less special funds		<u>-421,446</u>	
synod funding			203,000
Foreign Missions:			
total program needs	766,722		
less special funds		<u>-568,722</u>	
synod funding			198,000

Evangelism:	16,500	
total program needs		16,500
Education and Youth:		
total program needs	88,748	
less special funds		<u>-47,748</u>
synod funding		41,000
Publications:		
total program needs	85,000	
less special funds		<u>-50,000</u>
synod funding		35,000
Christian Service:		
total program needs	83,500	
less special funds		<u>-50,000</u>
synod funding		33,500
Synod Fund:		
administration	231,000	
boards, committees, etc.	88,500	
house expenses	16,000	
interest	9,000	
less special funds		<u>-49,000</u>
synod funding		<u>295,500</u>
Total expenditures	<u>2,362,916</u>	
Less special funds		<u>-1,202,916</u>
Total to be funded by the synod		1,160,000
Less allocation of program and project funds		<u>-350,000</u>
TOTAL SYNOD BUDGET NEED		810,000

Rev. 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 11, November 10, and February 9. The board also met via conference telephone calls on July 3, July 11, and March 2. The board also will meet in May 1999.

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 following subcommittees also have been appointed:

Trustees-Regents subcommittee: A.Levorson, W.Lieske, A.Merseth.

Trustees-Home Missions subcommittee: M.Doepl, C.Ferkenstad, J.Moldstad.Jr.

Trustees-Foreign Missions subcommittee: A.Borlaug, G.Griffin, L.Meyer.
Trustees-Publications subcommittee: C.Ferkenstad, L.Meyer, G.Orvick.

STAFF

The Deferred Giving Counselor, the Rev. Richard Wiechmann, and the Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, report regularly to the board.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

The board has continued to work with the Board of Regents in the construction of the residence facility.

Bethany Lutheran College has embarked upon the "Five Talents" campaign program seeking \$100 million for institutional development" (1998 *Synod Report*, pages 90,91, resolution 4). The support of the synod is of vital importance in this undertaking. The Board of Trustees has agreed to participate in the "Five Talents" campaign by \$1 million dollars from the Matching Funds to be given to this campaign over a four-year period beginning in 2001, subject to the approval of the synod. The board presents the following resolution for adoption of the synod:

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College has been blessed by our Lord in innumerable and varied ways — allowing her to provide young minds with a sound moral and values-laden Christian foundation, and

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College will begin to grant baccalaureate degrees (1996 *Synod Report*, pages 91,92, Resolution 2), and

WHEREAS, This will require increased funding for curriculum development, faculty and staff additions, faculty development, student scholarship, and ongoing operations, and

WHEREAS, New buildings for housing, activities, and classes will be required, and

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College will also seek to maintain its annual donations programs, and,

WHEREAS, The synod has approved a ten-year \$100 million program of institutional development (1998 *Synod Report*, pages 90,91, Resolution 4), and

WHEREAS, The commitment of the synod is of vital importance in the attaining of these goals, and

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the synod with matching funds to enable us to make such a commitment, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has agreed to participate in the "Five Talents" campaign,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commit \$1 million dollars of matching funds to the "Five Talents" campaign for the development of Bethany Lutheran College, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That this commitment be met over a four-year period beginning in the year 2001.

SYNOD PROPERTIES

The board receives reports for its regular quarterly meetings from the twenty-four congregations where it has any financial responsibility. These reports are reviewed by the board and any required action is taken. The board keeps in contact with these congregations through correspondence by the business administrator.

In addition, loans for construction of church additions were co-signed with Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington (\$700,000), and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastian, Florida (\$140,000).

In conjunction with the Board for Home Missions, a loans has been granted to Grace Lutheran Church, Hobart, Indiana (\$300,000) for construction of a church building.

In conjunction with the Board for Foreign Missions, a four-bedroom house has been purchased in Santiago, Chile (\$187,000).

SPECIAL FUNDING

The synod is grateful for the special funding which comes in the form of matching funds through the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. The guidelines of that foundation state that no funds greater than "public support" can be given to the synod. Currently, the synod is receiving the maximum possible match. We are grateful to our sister-synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, for allowing additional funds, from the foundation, for Thoughts of Faith and Helping Hands to be directed to us. The WELS would now prefer that such funding be made directly to the ELS.

It is possible to continue such special funding if a new organization is created for such a purpose. This organization will need to have its own board of directors and will come under the supervisory control of the Board of Trustees of the synod. The purpose of such an organization will be to grant funding to organizations, such as Thoughts of Faith and Helping Hands, who are conducting activities on behalf of, or with the approval of, the synod.

The Board of Trustees has endorsed the concept of such a new organization, and has appointed an interim Board of Directors consisting of: Allen Borlaug, Greg Griffin (chairman), David Meyer, Steven Petersen (secretary), Keith Wiederhoeft (treasurer). The board of directors is to establish legal authorization with the IRS and to prepare guidelines for the organization, subject to approval of the ELS Board of Trustees.

This action should be ratified by the synod and therefore the following resolution is recommended:

WHEREAS, The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation makes significant grants to the synod which greatly enhance the work of the synod, and

WHEREAS, Continued additional funding is available for Thoughts of Faith, Helping Hands, and other such projects, through a new organization, and

WHEREAS, Such a proposal is acceptable to Thoughts of Faith and Helping Hands, and

WHEREAS, Such an organization falls within the guidelines of the foundation, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has endorsed the concept of such an organization,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That such an organization be established to receive funding from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment of the interim Board of Directors be ratified, and

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors be instructed to prepare guidelines, including a name, for the organization.

GENERAL

The synod received grants in 1998 from:

Lutheran Brotherhood	\$48,000 (evangelism)
AAL	\$17,500

MARVIN M. SCHWAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

At the May 11, 1999 meeting the Board of Trustees met with a representative of The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. In recent

years, the ELS annually has received, from the Foundation, funds in excess of the \$1 million which is allocated at the Synod Convention. Any excess funds have come under the control of the Board of Trustees and have been applied primarily both to debt reduction and also as additional allocations to the boards.

The Foundation anticipates supporting the ELS to the extent which it has done in the past; however, we have been informed that a change is taking place in the manner in which this will be done in the future. The Schwan Foundation will no longer disburse money on the basis of matching funds. Future synodical funding, from the Foundation, will be on the basis of projects rather than matching funds. Any funds exceeding \$1 million of special funding priorities approved at the Synod Convention will be limited to special synodical projects which receive the approval of the Foundation upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

2000 CONVENTION

The 1998 convention directed the Board of Trustees to set the date for the 2000 convention "with the intent of having Synod Sunday on the second Sunday in June" (1998 *Synod Report*, page 154, Resolution 8). The date of the next regular convention will be June 11-15, 2000.

PROGRAM AND PROJECT FUNDS FOR 2000

Home missions	\$300,000
Foreign missions	200,000
TSA contributions	50,000
CDS match (3%)	30,000
Budget supplement	350,000
Board of Trustees	<u>70,000</u>
Total	\$1,000,000

WILLS AND ESTATES

The synod gratefully acknowledges the following estates:

Ralph Sorenson estate	\$24,115
Lila Kloster estate	\$42,157
Lenore Peckat	\$63,238
Juel Natvig estate	\$55,500

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary of Income and Expenditures and Changes in General Fund Balance

Year ended December 31, 1998

Budget contributions		\$786,094.82
Operating expenditures	\$2,862,875.89	
Less:		
Income from publications	\$57,020.65	
Foreign missions Helping Hands funds for operating expenditures	108,296.08	
Foreign missions Seminary funds for operating expenditures	83,757.48	
Foreign missions excess expenditures funded from reserves	751,536.13	
"Truth for Youth" income used for expenditures	15,000.00	
Other grants and special funds	141,045.93	
Home missions special contributions for operating expenditures	5,499.13	
Home missions excess expenditures funded from reserves	424,035.00	1,586,190.40
Net expenditures before interest income		1,276,685.49
Interest income		267,426.51
Net expenditures		1,009,258.98
Net operating income (deficit)		(223,164.16)
Other changes in General Fund Balance:		
Increases:		
Estates appropriated for debt reduction	24,299.59	
Special contribution for debt reduction	1,101.65	
Market value gains	1,285.31	
Matching funds for debt reduction	485,481.00	
Decreases:		
Payments on mortgages and loans	(42,849.54)	
Net increase - other changes		469,318.01
Net increase for year		246,153.85
General Fund Balance - December 31, 1997		177,606.28
General Fund Balance - December 31, 1998		\$423,760.13

ARCHIVES REPORT

The Committee of Archives and History is appointed annually by the synod's Board of Trustees. The following have served on the committee this past year: Prof. Sigurd Lee, chairman, Prof. J.B. Madson, secretary, Rev. W.C. Gullixson, Pres. Em. Norman Holte, Mr. Gerhard Lee, Mr. Gerhard Solli. Mr. Norman Werner was added to the committee in October, 1998. They have met four times this past year. Norman Holte serves as archivist with the capable help of Rev. Gullixson. They both generally work nine hours per week.

The committee has adopted rules governing access to archival material. These have been referred to the trustees for review. Preserving the valuable archival material is an important responsibility.

Stored in the archives are also many artifacts, large pictures, and some pieces of furniture. Much of this came from the Hannah Ottesen estate in 1931. Another donation came from Prof. Sigurd Lee's family consisting of a collection of Indian arrowheads and other Indian artifacts, a cradle that dates from the 18th century—a rare and valuable antique. There is also a painting with a gold frame that has been appraised at \$15,000. Rev. Gullixson has compiled a list of museum items from three notebooks. It remains for us to identify the items and list other items that have not been recorded and then to have them appraised. This needs to be done for insurance purposes. Some of the museum pieces—especially the pictures, need some restoration before they can be displayed. A more accessible place for display of such artifacts would be helpful. They are an important part of our synod's history.

There are a number of projects we need to complete: microfilming *Sentinels*, arranging books to make them more accessible for researchers, translating and transcribing letters handwritten in Norwegian, and, of course, the daily work of accessing material that comes in goes on.

We continue to receive material from pastors and congregations on a regular basis. Some of the larger donations this past year are: G.A.R. Gullixson's papers, M.E. Tveit's papers, several boxes from the Foreign Mission Field Secretary, several boxes of old Bethany and synodical records from the Bethany vault, the minutes of several boards and committees of the synod, programs, *Scrolls*, and athletic department records from Bethany. We also received 20 boxes of B.W. Teigen's papers and 8 file boxes of the synod treasurer's records. These have not yet been accessed.

We ask pastors and congregations to send us bulletins of important services—ordinations, installations, dedications, anniversaries, etc. Also that synod boards and committees send us past minutes and records that are no longer a part of their active files.

Our sincere thanks for your cooperation and support.

Mr. Norman Holte, Archivist

Rev. Craig A. 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 11, 1998, 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 1998. Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. Wilbur Lieske were elected in 1997. 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 the use of the income from those investments.

An accounting is found in the "Financial Statements and Accountant's Review Report."

Mr. Robert Brown, chairman

REPORT OF THE YEAR 2000 SPECIAL OFFERING COMMITTEE

"Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever – Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace"

At its 1998 convention, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod resolved to gather a special offering to celebrate 2000 years of God's grace through our Savior, Christ Jesus (cf. 1998 SR, pp. 152-153). Pres. George Orvick appointed six men to a committee to make plans for this offering, and to bring these plans to the 1999 synod convention for consideration. The men appointed to this committee are Mr. Herb Berg (Chairman), Prof. Silas Born, Rev. Erwin Ekhoft, Prof. Adolph Harstad, Rev. David Lillegard, and Rev. Michael K. Smith (Secretary).

The committee met three times during the year: in August, 1998; in January, 1999; and in June, 1999. The committee chose to center the offering and celebration on the theme, "Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever -- Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace." The committee made preliminary plans for the promotion and implementation of the offering, including a Bible study for congregational use corresponding to the 2000 convention essay to be presented by Pres. Gaylin Schmeling. Brochures and other informational material will be disseminated to the congregations, and articles will appear in *The Lutheran Sentinel* in order to promote the offering. It is hoped that the kickoff of the offering will be in November, 2000, and that the offering will be gathered over a two-year period.

The committee formulated a proposed goal of the synod's celebration of 2000 years of grace:

RESOLVED: That the Year 2000 Special Offering Committee proposes that (a) the synod inspire and inform its people concerning the 2000 years of grace, so that (b) we might raise up an offering of \$1 million (c) to spread that grace of God to Peru and the United States of America.

The committee received specific proposals for the distribution of the offering from the Board for Home Missions, the Board for Foreign Missions, and the Board for Evangelism. The Board for Home Missions proposed to use the proceeds of the offering to begin new home missions, and for the Board for Evangelism's consultation plan. The Board for Foreign Missions proposed to use \$200,000 of the proceeds to begin Christian Day Schools in Reynoso and Año Nuevo, Peru, and \$1,500,000 to begin a medical mission near the village of Cancas, Peru. The Board for Evangelism proposed to use \$100,000 of the proceeds to implement a congregational evangelism consultation plan. After

prayerful consideration and deliberation, the committee makes the following proposal to the synod concerning the distribution of the offering:

RESOLVED: That the Year 2000 Special Offering Committee proposes to distribute the proceeds of the special offering as follows: \$100,000 for the Board for Evangelism's consulting proposal, \$200,000 for starting Christian Day Schools in Reynoso and Año Nuevo, Peru, and the remainder for home mission endeavors.

It is the prayer of the committee that God, who has blessed His people with 2000 years of grace through His Son, will open the hearts of the members of our synod to support this effort to expand our synod's outreach with the Gospel.

Rev. Michael K. Smith, Secretary

MEMORIALS

SUBJECT: THE MINISTRY

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod defines itself as the legitimate successor to the "old" Norwegian Synod in both doctrine and practice, as noted here:

[In regards to the June 1918 meeting at Lime Creek]: The one thought of the meeting was: "We want to continue as before," and much time was spent discussing this. But this was not so simple as a mere passing of motions, for with several opinions present, much time had to be spent discussing, whether or not this little group had the right, or dared, to organize its own independent body. But finally a decision was reached. In a simple paragraph the plans were set forth: "We, members present of the Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, ministers, delegates of congregations, and members of congregations, join together for this purpose of continuing the work of the Synod on the old basis and according to the old principles." The appeal of President Bjug Harstad, as he addressed that gathering, contain [sic] things we could think about today. "The faith which our fathers fearlessly confessed in speech and writing, and which they have also embodied in our Synodical constitution and church policy, is given us by God Himself. We have a Christian right to stand on this ground, and we cannot yield to false brethren and this for the very reason that we want to retain the freedom which the Gospel gives us. The dear fathers who have left us this church order as a precious heritage have finished their course with honor, leaving their shields untarnished. We need not be ashamed of their work" (*A Blessing in the Midst of the Land*, pages 34,35). (See also: *Pioneer Days*, by B. Harstad, pages 3,4; *Grace for Grace*, ed. by S. C. Ylvisaker, page 210; *A City Set on a Hill*, by T. Aaberg, pages 77,78; *Built on the Rock*, by H. Larson and J. Madson, page 67), and

WHEREAS, The "old" Norwegian Synod addressed the false practice of lay ministers in the following seven theses adopted in 1862:

1. God has instituted the public ministerial office for the public edification of the Christians unto salvation by the Word of God.
2. God has not instituted any other office for the public edification of the Christians to be used along-side of the public ministerial office.
3. When a man assumes the direction of the public edification of the Christians by the Word, he thereby assumes and exercises the public ministerial office.
4. It is a sin when a person assumes this (office) without a call or without need.

5. It is both a right and a duty in case of actual need for anyone who is capable of doing so to exercise the public ministerial office in a Christian and orderly manner.
6. The only correct definition of "need" is that there exists a need when a pastor is not at hand or cannot be secured; or when, if there is a pastor, he either does not serve the people properly but teaches false doctrine, or cannot serve them adequately but only so rarely that the people cannot thereby be brought to faith or kept in it and be defended against errors, so that the Christian must faint for lack of care.
7. When such need exists, efforts should be made to relieve it by definite and proper arrangements according as circumstances will permit. (Quoted from *Grace for Grace*, page 139), and

WHEREAS, The doctrine of the office of the holy ministry is under discussion within Lutheranism today, including the ELS, and

WHEREAS, It is useful and edifying to be informed of the doctrine and practice of our synodical forefathers, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the 1999 Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod reaffirm its commitment to the doctrine and practice of the "old" Norwegian Synod as stated in the seven theses on "Lay Ministry" as adopted by the "old" Norwegian Synod in 1862.

submitted by:
Pastor Thomas L. Rank

SUBJECT: RECORDING OF HYMNS

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed His Church with the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, and

WHEREAS, The hymns of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* continue to glorify our Lord and edify the Body of Christ, and

WHEREAS, Many people are not familiar with a number of its melodies,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Bethany Lutheran Choir, under the direction of the Rev. Dennis Marzolf, tape the melodies which are unfamiliar to those who have used *The Lutheran Hymnal*, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the cost of said taping not exceed \$3,000., and

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That these same tapes be made available to our Evangelical Lutheran Synod and all other interested parties, as soon as possible through the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore.

submitted by:
Pastor William C. Mack

SUBJECT: USE OF RETIRED PASTORS

WHEREAS, Many of the areas of our nation are under-served with respect to ELS congregations, and

WHEREAS, This creates a hardship for parishioners who move away from their original church home and have no suitable new church home in which to hear the Word of God preached in its truth and purity, and

WHEREAS, There also exists retired ELS and WELS pastors who are not yet ready to completely end their activities on behalf of the synod,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions study this problem and bring possible solutions for the use of retired pastors to periodically visit as

many of these unserved ELS and WELS members as possible, several times per year, providing Holy Communion and other spiritual support, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod should gather the names and addresses of those members who have relocated to areas where no ELS or WELS congregations exist, and in trips lasting several days to a week visit such synod members, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions provide a proposal to be presented to the annual convention of the ELS in 2000, or sooner.

Submitted by:
Reformation Lutheran Church
Hillsboro, Oregon

FINANCES

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

RESOLUTION 1: Giving to synod

WHEREAS, Total congregational financial support of the synod has remained relatively flat in recent years, and,

WHEREAS, This affects the synod's ability to carry out its work, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That, in the spirit of Malachi 3:10 ("Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows"), the synod encourage each congregation to evaluate its support of the synod's work and consider increasing it annually, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage each congregation to keep the subject of Christian giving and the work of the synod on their agendas.

RESOLUTION 2: Pastors' Salaries

WHEREAS, The Lord has instructed us to care for the needs of our pastors (e.g., "The worker is worthy of his hire" – I Tim. 5:18), and,

WHEREAS, A number of pastors have indicated that they are not receiving adequate compensation, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod direct the circuit visitors to evaluate the salaries of the pastors in their circuits before the 2000 synod convention, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the circuit visitors encourage the congregations of their circuits to pay their pastors in keeping with the home mission salary scale as published annually in the Synod Report.

RESOLUTION 3: Report of the Board for Stewardship

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Board for Stewardship.

RESOLUTION 4: Report of the Laymen Delegates' Equalization Fund Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Laymen Delegates' Equalization Fund Committee.

RESOLUTION 5: Allocation of 2000 Program and Project Funds

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the Board of Trustees' recommended allocation of program and project funds as proposed.

RESOLUTION 6: 2000 Budget

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed 2000 budget, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the budget for 2000 as proposed.

RESOLUTION 7: Bethany Lutheran College's "Five Talents" Campaign

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College has been blessed by our Lord in innumerable and varied ways, allowing her to provide young minds with a sound moral and values-laden Christian foundation, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College will begin to grant baccalaureate degrees (1996 Synod Report, pages 91-92, Resolution 2), and,

WHEREAS, This will require increased funding for curriculum development, faculty and staff additions, faculty development, student scholarships, and ongoing operations, and,

WHEREAS, New buildings for housing, activities, and classes will be required, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College will also seek to maintain its annual donations programs, and

WHEREAS, The synod approved a ten-year \$100 million program of institutional development (1998 Synod Report, pages 90-91, Resolution 4), and,

WHEREAS, The commitment of the synod is of vital importance in attaining these goals, and,

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the synod with special project funding to enable it to make such a commitment, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has agreed to participate in the "Five Talents" campaign, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commit \$1 million of project funding to the "Five Talents" campaign for the development of Bethany Lutheran College, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That this commitment be met over a four-year period beginning in 2001.

RESOLUTION 8: Special Funding

WHEREAS, The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation makes significant grants to the synod which greatly enhance the work of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, Continued additional funding is available for Thoughts of Faith, Helping Hands, and other such projects through a new organization, and,

WHEREAS, Such a proposal is acceptable to Thoughts of Faith and Helping Hands, and,

WHEREAS, Such an organization falls within the guidelines of the foundation, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has endorsed the concept of such an organization, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That such an organization be established to receive funding from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointment of the interim Board of Directors (Allen Borlaug; Greg Griffin, Chairman; David Meyer, Steven Petersen, Secretary; Keith Wiederhoeft, Treasurer) be ratified, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod direct the Board of Directors to prepare guidelines, including a name, for the organization, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors submit the guidelines to the Self-study Committee for review.

RESOLUTION 9: General Grants and Wills & Estates

WHEREAS, In 1998 the synod received generous grants from AAL and Lutheran Brotherhood, and,

WHEREAS, In 1998 the synod received substantial donations from the Ralph Sorenson estate, the Raymond and Lila Kloster estate, the Lenore Peckat trust, and the Juel Natvig estate, and,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank our God for these additional gifts of grace, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod extend thanks to AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, and the various estates for their charitable contributions to the work of the Lord throughout the synod.

RESOLUTION 10: Committee of Archives and History

WHEREAS, Preservation of synodical history is vital for future generations, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Committee of Archives and History for its diligent work, and encourage its congregations to submit to the Committee items of historical importance.

RESOLUTION 11: Report of the Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION 12: Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the Treasurer's Report.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Report of the Year 2000 Special Offering Committee

WHEREAS, at its 1998 convention, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod resolved "that a special offering be gathered to celebrate 2000 years of Grace," and "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" (cf. 1998 Synod Report, pp. 152-153), and,

WHEREAS, The committee chose to center the offering and celebration on the theme, "Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever—Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace," and

WHEREAS, The committee formulated a proposed goal for the synod's celebration, namely that the synod inspire and inform its people concerning the 2000 years of grace, so that in gratitude to God we might raise an offering of \$1 million to spread His grace to Peru and the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, The committee has made its proposal concerning the distribution of the offering, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the theme for the year 2000 convention be as suggested: "Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever—Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace," and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the proceeds of the Year 2000 Special Offering be distributed as follows: \$100,000 for the Board for Evangelism's consulting proposal; \$200,000 for starting Christian Day Schools in Reynoso and Año Nuevo, Peru; and the remainder (\$700,000, plus any additional funds gathered) for home mission endeavors, and

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Year 2000 Special Offering be gathered over a two-year period, beginning in November of the year 2000, and

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the members of the special offering committee for their hard efforts to date, and that we encourage them to continue their work in bringing the celebration and offering to completion.

Resolution 2: Addendum to the Report of the Self Study Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That we adopt the proposed changes to the ELS Handbook as recommended by the Self Study Committee, but with the following emendations to be noted:

a) Under the Guidelines for the Doctrine Committee, Article I, A., (p. vii), should read: "This committee shall consist of two elected lay and four elected clergy members."

b) Under the Guidelines for the Board for Home Missions, Article II, B. (p. viii), the last sentence should read: "A call issued by a mission congregation must also be signed by a representative designated by the board."; Article II, E. (p. viii), the last sentence should read: "The call shall be signed jointly by the congregation and by a representative designated by the board."; Article VII: Right of Appeal (p. x), change the last sentence to read: "A pastor who is serving under the board has the same right."

c) Under the Convention Guidelines, Article II, D. (p. xiii), add after the word "Fifth" the parenthetical remark "(if needed)".

d) Under the Guidelines for the Planning and Coordinating Committee, Article III, F. (p. xiv), change the words "matching funds" to "grants".

e) Under the Guidelines for the Colloquy Committee, Article I, B. (p. xvi), change the sentence to read: "If fewer than five members are able to attend a colloquy, the president may appoint an additional member of the Doctrine Committee or a layman at large for that colloquy."

f) Under the Guidelines When There is a Pastor or Teacher Vacancy in the Congregation, Article I: Vacancy (p. xviii), add the

sentence: "When there is a teacher vacancy the Bethany Lutheran College Education Coordinator shall also promptly be notified."; under Article V: Calling a Teacher (p. xviii), change the paragraph to read: "In time of a teacher vacancy the congregation shall counsel with the Bethany Lutheran College Education Coordinator and request a list of candidates. If a congregation desires to add its own candidates from the Christian Day School Teacher Roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod or desires to call a teacher from a sister synod, it shall counsel with the Bethany Lutheran College Education Coordinator regarding the request and the proper procedures."

g) Under the Guidelines for the Board for Education and Youth, Article I, C. (p. xx), change "a minimum of three times a year" to "a minimum of two times a year"; under Article II, G. (p. xx), strike the words "and secondary" from the second sentence; under Article III, E., 3. (p. xxi), strike the words "and high school students"; under Article IV: Certification Rules for Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in paragraph C. substitute for the first sentence the following: "Has successfully completed the Christian Education Curricula at Bethany Lutheran College and a Bachelor's degree program in Education or the Teacher Education Program at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota (WELS); or, as a graduate of an institution other than those, has completed the following steps:..." [See S.R. 1996, pp. 121, 185 & 186.]

h) Regarding the proposed changes to the Guidelines for Church Related Organizations (pp. xxiv), no action is recommended at this time because the Self Study Committee has withdrawn it from its current report.

Resolution 3: Memorial from Reformation Lutheran Church

BE IT RESOLVED, That the memorial be directed to the Board for Home Missions for further study and recommendations.

Resolution 4: 2000 Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the date of next year's convention be set for June 11-15, 2000.

Resolution 5: Appointment of Synod Treasurer

WHEREAS, The matter of "Appointment of Synod Treasurer" was referred to the Self Study Committee by the 1997 Synod Convention, and,

WHEREAS, The synod has since that time established the office of Business Administrator, and,

WHEREAS, More time is needed to study the relationship between the office of the treasurer and the office of the business administrator, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self Study Committee be granted another year to study this relationship before it brings its recommendation to the synod.

Resolution 6: Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the amendment (Chapter IV) to the Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as found on page 46 in the Book of Reports and Memorials.

Resolution 7: The Revised Handbook

BE IT RESOLVED, That the revised ELS Handbook be printed as a separate document when completed.

MINUTES

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

RESOLUTION 1: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the activities held on Synod Sunday, June 20, 1999, as well as, the Monday (June 21, 1999) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the minutes as read.

RESOLUTION 2: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Tuesday (June 22, 1999) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the minutes as read.

RESOLUTION 3: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Wednesday, (June 23, 1999) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the minutes as read.

RESOLUTION 4: 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 24, 1999 morning and afternoon sessions.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE REOCRDS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Pastoral Conference Records

WHEREAS, The Committee on Pastoral Conference Records reviewed the minutes from Circuits 1,3,4,5,6,8,10, and 11, including some of the papers delivered at the various conferences, and,

WHEREAS, These minutes indicated a balanced study of theological subjects and practical matters, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages all pastors and professors to make full use of the Circuit Conferences, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That all papers delivered at conferences be included in the circuit minutes.

RESOLUTIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following letters be approved.

Letters of greeting have been sent to the following:

President Karl Gurgel, WELS

The Rev. Timothy Erickson, Peru

President Armin Panning, CELC

The Rev. Roger Falk, Lutheran Church of Japan

President Martin Andersson, The Lutheran Confessional Church
(Sweden and Norway)

The Rev. Matthew Luttman, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Plzen, Czech
Republic

The Rev. Oto Rodriguez, Chile

The Rev. Donald McElwain

President Gerhard Wilde, Evangelical Lutheran Free Church, Germany

Letters of Condolence have been sent to the following:

Mrs. Donald Peterson

Mrs. Donald Larson

Mrs. Harvey Bell

Mrs. Holgar Ausen

Mrs. Martin Galstad.

Letters of thanks recognizing years of service have been sent to the following:

The Rev. El Roy Buhr

The Rev. Wildrid Frick

Prof. Mark Harstad

Missionary Karl Kuenzel

The Rev. Philipp Lehmann

TREASURER'S REPORT
Financial Statements

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Year ended December 31, 1998

BALANCE SHEET
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1998

EXHIBIT I

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	\$183,182.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$183,182.43
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	546,277.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	546,277.73
Inventory of publications	61,286.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,286.92
Prepaid expenses	9,766.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,766.66
Investments:							
Investment management accounts	1,737,478.79	348,564.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,950,715.71	10,036,759.43
Savings accounts and CD's	1,928.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,928.58
Money market funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	1,461,162.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,342,729.28	2,803,891.49
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	268,161.78	268,161.78
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)	0.00	0.00	23,920,251.00	2,395,086.53	311,843.71	191,879.88	26,819,061.12
	2,539,921.11	1,809,727.14	23,920,251.00	2,395,086.53	311,843.71	9,753,486.65	40,730,316.14
Due from (to) other funds	64,377.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(64,377.90)	0.00
Total assets	\$2,604,299.01	\$1,809,727.14	\$23,920,251.00	\$2,395,086.53	\$311,843.71	\$9,689,108.75	\$40,730,316.14
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES							
Liabilities:							
Notes payable: (Note D)							
Working capital	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Investment program	0.00	519,994.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	519,994.05
Life Loan Plan	47,028.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,028.75
Accounts payable	43,227.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,227.81
Accrued interest payable	5,069.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,069.20
Unexpended restricted income (Note E)	1,985,213.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,985,213.12
Mortgages payable	0.00	896,446.29	0.00	0.00	63,161.78	0.00	959,608.07
Total liabilities	2,180,538.88	1,416,440.34	0.00	0.00	63,161.78	0.00	3,660,141.00
Fund balances:							
Unrestricted:							
Designated for investment	0.00	393,286.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,048,171.66	1,441,458.46
Undesignated	423,760.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	423,760.13
	423,760.13	393,286.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,048,171.66	1,865,218.59
Restricted (Note F)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,640,937.09	8,640,937.09
Net investment in real estate and buildings	0.00	0.00	23,920,251.00	2,395,086.53	248,681.93	0.00	26,564,019.46
Total fund balances	423,760.13	393,286.80	23,920,251.00	2,395,086.53	248,681.93	9,689,108.75	37,070,175.14
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$2,604,299.01	\$1,809,727.14	\$23,920,251.00	\$2,395,086.53	\$311,843.71	\$9,689,108.75	\$40,730,316.14

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1998

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 - December 31, 1997	\$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
ADD:							
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions received - net	1,101.65	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,967.83	202,194.48
Matching funds for debt reduction	485,481.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	485,481.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	706,409.92	706,409.92
less income distributed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(488,630.67)	(488,630.67)
Portion of unrestricted estates appropriated for General Fund debt reduction and to ELS Foundation	24,299.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,547.96	99,847.55
Market value gains	1,285.31	1,292.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,579.28	16,157.24
Principal payments on President's house charged to budget	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,989.67	0.00	4,989.67
Payments on liabilities by General Fund	(42,849.54)	0.00	38,048.26	4,801.28	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Bethany Lutheran College net value adjustment at June 30, 1998(Note B)	0.00	0.00	3,058,976.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,058,976.74
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	469,318.01	1,417.65	3,097,025.00	4,801.28	4,989.67	507,874.32	4,085,425.93
	646,924.29	393,286.80	23,920,251.00	2,395,086.53	248,681.93	9,826,819.88	37,431,050.43
DEDUCT:							
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income for the period	223,164.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223,164.16
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,507.19	6,507.19
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	131,203.94	131,203.94
	223,164.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	137,711.13	360,875.29
BALANCES - December 31, 1998	\$423,760.13	\$393,286.80	\$23,920,251.00	\$2,395,086.53	\$248,681.93	\$9,689,108.75	\$37,070,175.14

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1998

EXHIBIT III
 (Page 1 of 3)

INCOME

Contributions:

Budgetary:

Restricted	\$25,203.78	
Unrestricted	760,891.04	\$786,094.82

Estate and trust income:

Restricted		451,729.10
Unrestricted		99,847.55

For special purposes:

Bethany Lutheran College special	1,955.00	
Bethany Lutheran Seminary special	6,244.67	
Bethesda Lutheran Home	346.00	
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	967.83	
Faith Mission Society	200.00	
Foreign missions special	374,014.91	
Home missions special	22,553.10	
Lutheran Brotherhood:		
Evangelism	40,000.00	
Aid Association for Lutherans:		
Home mission seminar	4,500.00	
Missiology seminars	10,000.00	
80th Anniversary	13,000.00	
Pastoral conference	1,000.00	
"World Needs"	38,755.78	
"Helping Hands"	49,530.72	
"Thoughts of Faith"	1,748.61	
"Messengers of Peace"	41,359.74	
Matching funds	1,316,128.00	
Miscellaneous	1,562.65	
Youth work	28,575.00	
WELS Lutherans for Life	642.00	

		1,953,084.01
Total contributions - carried forward		3,290,755.48

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1998

EXHIBIT III
 (Page 2 of 3)

Total contributions - brought forward		\$3,290,755.48
Investment income:		
Restricted:		
Merle R. Aasen Estate	\$822.35	
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund	494.15	
President's Office Endowment Fund	55,829.27	
"Helping Hands"	49,335.38	
"Partners in the Gospel"	182,930.01	
W-O-W Fund	8,263.12	
Foreign Mission Seminary Fund	83,757.42	
General Foreign Mission Fund	5,819.31	
Home missions reserves	217,276.21	
Home Missions SS Endowment Fund	143.60	
Challenge Fund	503.04	
"Truth for Our Youth"	30,987.18	
Unrestricted:		
Loans receivable	31,111.40	
NOW checking account	8,577.59	
Unrestricted endowment	70,392.48	
Other	101,515.77	
Total investment income		847,758.28
Total income from all sources		4,138,513.76
Less income for special purposes		2,985,144.88
Total income available for current purposes - carried forward		1,153,368.88
EXPENDITURES		
Bethany Lutheran College	176,000.04	
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	68,000.04	
Home missions	582,035.00	
Foreign missions	1,083,589.69	
Education and youth	82,253.69	
Evangelism	14,311.59	
Christian service	28,932.46	
Publications	101,961.45	
Synod fund	602,229.80	
Capital budget	5,695.91	
"World Needs"	21,254.00	
Evangelism grant	40,000.00	
80th Anniversary publication	16,085.38	
Pension plan	24,875.00	
Home mission seminar	5,499.13	
Missiology seminars	3,807.03	
Evangelism seminars	6,345.68	
Total expenditures - carried forward	2,862,875.89	

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1998

EXHIBIT III

(Page 3 of 3)

Total income available for current purposes - brought forward			\$1,153,368.88
Total expenditures - brought forward		\$2,862,875.89	
Less expenditures financed by special funds:			
Home missions grants and reserves	\$424,035.00		
Foreign missions reserves	751,536.13		
"Helping Hands" Fund	108,296.08		
Foreign Mission Seminary			
Endowment Fund income	83,757.48		
"World Needs" Fund	21,254.00		
80th Anniversary publication	16,085.38		
Missiology seminars	3,807.03		
Evangelism seminars	6,345.68		
"Truth for Our Youth" income	15,000.00		
Pension plan	24,875.00		
Education & youth special funds	28,575.00		
Evangelism grant	40,000.00		
Home mission seminar	5,499.13		
Christian service grant	103.84		
	<u>1,529,169.75</u>		
Publications income	57,020.65	1,586,190.40	
Expenditures financed by income available for current purposes			<u>1,276,685.49</u>
Excess of expenditures over income			(123,316.61)
APPROPRIATED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES			
Portion of unrestricted estates:			
For General Fund debt reduction		24,299.59	
To Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation		<u>75,547.96</u>	<u>99,847.55</u>
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income - (decrease) in General Fund balance			<u>(\$223,164.16)</u>

(A) Summary of significant accounting policies:

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis. The significant accounting policies followed are described below to improve the usefulness of the financial statements.

These financial statements are presented in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds according to their nature and purpose.

The General Fund represents resources available for current operating purposes.

The Church Extension and Loan Fund represents resources used for loans to congregations for building and improvement programs.

The Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and Residences and Real Estate funds represent the investment of the Synod in these physical properties. The Bethany Lutheran College fund is explained further in Note (B).

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is an "endowment" fund established by the Synod's Board of Trustees. In addition to donations specified for the Foundation, one-third of undesignated trust and estate income is appropriated to the Foundation each year.

No provision is made for depreciation of equipment and furniture. The cost of such items is charged to operations in the year incurred.

(B) The value shown for Bethany Lutheran College is based on the net investment in plant as shown for the plant fund in the College's audit report as of June 30, 1998. The current, endowment and reserve funds of the College are not included in the assets of the Synod. The amount of \$23,920,251.00 was determined as follows:

Per audit report of the College as of June 30, 1998:	
Total invested in plant	\$23,998,728.00
Less obligations of the plant fund	<u>78,477.00</u>
Total net investment in plant - June 30, 1998	<u><u>\$23,920,251.00</u></u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1998

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	\$32,788.36
Estates for home missions programs	291,450.95
Other home missions unexpended restricted income	61,257.08
Estates for foreign missions programs	467,008.81
Other foreign missions unexpended restricted income	462,715.17
Grants	30,576.88
Truth for Youth Fund income	69,688.77
"Messengers of Peace" funds	196,672.58
Matching funds	303,493.22
Other	69,561.30
	<u>\$1,985,213.12</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 1998

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)	\$11,770.67
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund (to be invested permanently with income for scholarships)	7,073.03
President's Office Endowment Fund	770,428.80
Marvin and Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	706,155.76
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	1,869,486.41
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment Fund	118,273.02
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment Fund	1,198,851.45
General Foreign Mission Fund	83,294.28
Charitable Gift Annuity Fund	153,689.31
Home Mission Reserve Fund	185,291.64
Home Mission Expansion Fund	3,086,438.77
75th Anniversary Fund - "His Truth for Our Youth"	443,530.88
Challenge Fund	6,653.07
	<u>\$8,640,937.09</u>

- (G) The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is contingently liable as co-signor on mortgage loans for Bethany (Port Orchard, Washington), Our Savior (Lakeland, Florida), Bethany (Ames, Iowa) and Christ (Windsor, California).

LOANS RECEIVABLE

 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1998

SCHEDULE A
Church Extension and Loan Fund

	TOTAL LOANS	BALANCE 12-31-97	RECLASSIFICATIONS/ NEW LOANS 1998	PAID 1998	TOTAL PAID	BALANCE 12-31-98
CONGREGATION						
Bethany - Ames, Iowa	\$2,162.21	\$1,062.21	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$1,650.00	\$512.21
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:						
Church	155,500.62	107,510.85	0.00	2,142.10	50,131.87	105,368.75
Parsonage	65,143.02	34,606.22	0.00	4,543.90	35,080.70	30,062.32
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas	384,977.59	131,349.28	0.00	824.55	254,452.86	130,524.73
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota	63,946.76	38,852.07	0.00	2,559.82	27,654.51	36,292.25
Hope - West Jordan, Utah	186,203.42	186,203.42	0.00	6,340.09	6,340.09	179,863.33
Lakewood - Tacoma, Washington	15,500.00	1,574.18	0.00	1,373.16	15,298.98	201.02
Our Redeemer - Yelm, Washington	15,000.00	10,064.19	0.00	4,541.69	9,477.50	5,522.50
Peace - Kissimmee, Florida	414,408.72	0.00	329,256.15	0.00	85,152.57	329,256.15
Resurrection - Winter Haven, Florida	479,322.97	0.00	362,297.73	0.00	117,025.24	362,297.73
Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	326,953.69	0.00	260,676.70	0.00	66,276.99	260,676.70
Trinity - Rogers City, Michigan	49,000.00	33,618.16	0.00	13,033.64	28,415.48	20,584.52
	<u>\$2,158,119.00</u>	<u>\$544,840.58</u>	<u>\$952,230.58</u>	<u>\$35,908.95</u>	<u>\$696,956.79</u>	<u>\$1,461,162.21</u>

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund

Christ - Port St. Lucie, Florida	\$60,986.63	\$12,752.96	\$0.00	\$12,752.96	\$60,986.63	\$0.00
Family of God - Riviera, Arizona	127,800.00	97,959.03	0.00	4,958.96	34,799.93	93,000.07
Good Shepherd - Brownsburg, Indiana	74,500.00	42,036.34	0.00	4,485.68	36,949.34	37,550.66
Peace - Kissimmee, Florida	414,408.72	342,368.99	(329,256.15)	13,112.84	85,152.57	0.00
Redeemer - Scottsdale, Arizona	308,062.44	293,851.48	0.00	11,659.41	25,870.37	282,192.07
Resurrection - Winter Haven, Florida	479,322.97	378,137.12	(362,297.73)	15,839.39	117,025.24	0.00
Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	326,953.69	276,550.44	(260,676.70)	15,873.74	66,276.99	(0.00)
	<u>\$1,792,034.45</u>	<u>\$1,443,656.36</u>	<u>(\$952,230.58)</u>	<u>\$78,682.98</u>	<u>\$427,061.07</u>	<u>\$412,742.80</u>

Home Mission Reserve Fund

Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	<u>\$97,500.00</u>	<u>\$69,028.95</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$3,034.03</u>	<u>\$31,505.08</u>	<u>\$65,994.92</u>
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Home Mission Expansion Fund

Abiding Word - Bowling Green, Ohio	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,224.52	\$12,224.52	\$117,775.48
Christ the King, Green Bay, Wisconsin	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	12,559.41	12,559.41	187,440.59
Lord of Life, Holland, Michigan	180,000.00	178,429.06	0.00	7,358.72	8,929.66	171,070.34
Peace - Lakeland, Florida	407,131.00	346,609.74	56,021.26	14,925.85	19,425.85	387,705.15
	<u>\$917,131.00</u>	<u>\$855,038.80</u>	<u>\$56,021.26</u>	<u>\$47,068.50</u>	<u>\$53,139.44</u>	<u>\$863,991.56</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1998

SCHEDULE B
Page 1 of 3

	MERLE R. AASEN ESTATE(07)	MERLE R. AASEN SEMINARY 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	\$11,770.67	\$7,073.03	\$707,267.02	\$706,155.76	\$1,193,676.24	\$118,273.02
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	412,742.80	0.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	63,161.78	0.00	184,000.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79,067.37	0.00
	11,770.67	7,073.03	770,428.80	706,155.76	1,869,486.41	118,273.02
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,770.67	\$7,073.03	\$770,428.80	\$706,155.76	\$1,869,486.41	\$118,273.02
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1997	11,747.83	7,059.34	769,066.57	704,791.16	1,866,914.32	118,044.62
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	822.35	494.15	55,829.27	49,335.38	182,930.01	8,263.12
less income distributed	(822.35)	(494.15)	(55,829.27)	(49,335.38)	(182,930.01)	(8,263.12)
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	22.84	13.69	1,362.23	1,364.60	1,604.26	228.40
	22.84	13.69	1,362.23	1,364.60	2,572.09	228.40
Balances - December 31, 1998	11,770.67	7,073.03	770,428.80	706,155.76	1,869,486.41	118,273.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$11,770.67	\$7,073.03	\$770,428.80	\$706,155.76	\$1,869,486.41	\$118,273.02

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1998

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 TRUTH FOR OUR YOUTH FUND(20)
ASSETS						
Investments:						
Investment management accounts	\$1,198,851.45	\$83,294.28	\$207,067.21	\$119,296.72	\$2,109,634.70	\$443,530.88
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,994.92	863,991.56	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	112,812.51	0.00
	1,198,851.45	83,294.28	218,067.21	185,291.64	3,086,438.77	443,530.88
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	(64,377.90)	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,198,851.45	\$83,294.28	\$153,689.31	\$185,291.64	\$3,086,438.77	\$443,530.88
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1997	1,196,534.58	83,133.03	160,196.50	172,259.12	2,807,598.21	442,673.98
Add:						
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00
Income	83,757.42	5,819.31	0.00	12,829.55	204,446.66	30,987.18
less income distributed	(83,757.42)	(5,819.31)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(30,987.18)
Estates appropriated by						
Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	(6,507.19)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(129,103.94)	0.00
Market value gains	2,316.87	161.25	0.00	202.97	3,497.84	856.90
	2,316.87	161.25	(6,507.19)	13,032.52	278,840.56	856.90
Balances - December 31, 1998	1,198,851.45	83,294.28	153,689.31	185,291.64	3,086,438.77	443,530.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$1,198,851.45	\$83,294.28	\$153,689.31	\$185,291.64	\$3,086,438.77	\$443,530.88

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1998

SCHEDULE B
Page 3 of 3

ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED					TOTAL - ALL FUNDS
	CHALLENGE FUND(21)	TOTAL	DONATED(30)	BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATED(35)	TOTAL	
Investments:						
Investment management accounts	\$6,653.07	\$6,912,544.05	\$775,855.28	\$262,316.38	\$1,038,171.66	\$7,950,715.71
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	1,342,729.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,342,729.28
Notes receivable	0.00	258,161.78	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	268,161.78
Land	0.00	191,879.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	191,879.88
	6,653.07	8,705,314.99	785,855.28	262,316.38	1,048,171.66	9,753,486.65
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	(64,377.90)	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)	(64,377.90)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,653.07	\$8,640,937.09	\$785,855.28	\$262,316.38	\$1,048,171.66	\$9,689,108.75
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FUND BALANCES						
Balances - December 31, 1997	8,236.23	8,348,255.49	784,355.70	186,334.37	970,690.07	9,318,945.56
Add:						
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions - net	0.00	200,967.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	200,967.83
Income	503.04	636,017.44	54,704.90	15,687.58	70,392.48	706,409.92
less income distributed	0.00	(418,238.19)	(54,704.90)	(15,687.58)	(70,392.48)	(488,630.67)
Estates appropriated by						
Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,547.96	75,547.96	75,547.96
Annuity amortization	0.00	(6,507.19)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(6,507.19)
Distributions	(2,100.00)	(131,203.94)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(131,203.94)
Market value gains	13.80	11,645.65	1,499.58	434.05	1,933.63	13,579.28
	(1,583.16)	292,681.60	1,499.58	75,982.01	77,481.59	370,163.19
Balances - December 31, 1998	6,653.07	8,640,937.09	785,855.28	262,316.38	1,048,171.66	9,689,108.75
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$6,653.07	\$8,640,937.09	\$785,855.28	\$262,316.38	\$1,048,171.66	\$9,689,108.75

SYNOD FUND**SCHEDULE C**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1998

Bethany College:		
Maintenance - college	\$21,500.00	
Maintenance - residences	5,571.45	
Interest	4,379.02	
Faculty housing allowance	84,000.00	\$115,450.47
Bethany Seminary - maintenance - residences		8,948.13
Administration:		
Officers' expenses	28,596.31	
Salaries and stipends	92,106.48	
Retirement, social security & insurance benefits	16,703.40	
Housing expenses	17,265.11	
Seminary office expenses	3,565.10	158,236.40
Boards, committees, etc.:		
Archives committee	5,986.37	
Colloquy committee	803.19	
CELC	3,000.00	
ELS convention	1,886.28	
Doctrine committee	4,006.16	
Insurance	1,940.81	
ELS/WELS Forum	2,224.21	
Nominations committee	1,712.23	
Planning and coordinating committee	3,711.14	
Professional services	7,719.33	
Pastors' equalization fund	12,027.00	
Self-study committee	2,525.48	
Stewardship committee	10,490.64	
Board of Trustees	12,784.60	
Worship committee	3,619.67	
Video production	0.00	
Visitors' expenses	11,615.37	
Other	3,086.00	89,138.48
Business administrator		47,048.67
Deferred giving counselor		67,307.89
Missions counselor		72,105.11
Interest:		
Working capital loan	9,665.75	
Life loan plan	393.75	
Investment program	29,948.42	
Church property mortgages	3,986.73	43,994.65
TOTAL - Synod Fund expenses		<u>\$602,229.80</u>

DIRECTORIES

CHURCH BODIES IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

MEMBERS OF THE CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

Bulgarian Lutheran Church
Christ the King Lutheran Church (Nigeria)
Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico)
Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Puerto Rico)
Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Russia)
Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland)
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany)
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia
Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Peru
Lutheran Church of Cameroon
Lutheran Church of Central Africa–Malawi
Lutheran Church of Central Africa–Zambia
Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway)
Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church–Japan
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53222
(414) 256-3888

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD

President: The Rev. Karl R. Gurgel
 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 256-3201
 First Vice President: The Rev. Richard E. Lauersdorf
 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 256-3204
 Second Vice President: The Rev. Jon M. Mahnke
 5828 Santa Theresa Blvd., San Jose, CA 95123 (408) 225-0107
 Secretary/Statistician: The Rev. Douglas L. Bode
 1005 E. Broadway, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 (608) 326-4899

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

The Rev. Karl R. Gurgel, Chairman
 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 256-3201
 The Rev. Richard E. Lauersdorf, First Vice President
 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 256-3204
 The Rev. Jon M. Mahnke, Second Vice President
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 The Rev. Paul M. Janke
 3461 Merle Ave., Modesto, CA 95355 Arizona-California District
 The Rev. Peter J. Naumann
 620 W. 9th St., Mobridge, SD 57601 Dakota-Montana District
 The Rev. John C. Seifert
 907 Mattes Dr, Midland, MI 48642 Michigan District
 The Rev. Larry E. Cross
 4520 19th Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901 Minnesota District
 The Rev. Joel G. Frank
 110 Hwy. 4, Box 222, Plymouth, NE 68424 Nebraska District
 The Rev. Walter F. Beckmann
 7401 Masonville Dr., Annandale, VA 22003 North Atlantic District
 The Rev. Douglas J. Engelbrecht
 249 E. Franklin Ave., Neenah, WI 54956 North Wisconsin District
 The Rev. Warren L. Widmann
 7610 NE Fremont, Portland, OR 97213 Pacific Northwest District
 The Rev. John R. Guse
 3630 Heatherwood Trace, Marietta, GA 30066 South Atlantic District
 The Rev. Vilas R. Glaeske
 11303 Stroud Dr., Houston, TX 77072 South Central District
 The Rev. David N. Rutschow
 527-63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516 Southeastern Wisconsin District
 The Rev. Herbert H. Prah
 215 E. Hamilton, Eau Claire, WI 54701 Western Wisconsin District

Informe Estadístico 1998
Sínodo Evangélico Luterano del Perú

Sínodo Evangélico Luterano del Perú													
No.	Congregación	Pastor	Miembros Bautizados	Miembros Confirmados	Miembros Volantes	Bautismos				Confirmaciones		Matrimonios	Comulgados
						de niños	de adultos	de niños	de adultos				
Cono Sur de Lima													
1	San Gabriel Norte-Dios es Mi Rey	A. Robles (p)	44	25	3	4		6		454	1		
2	San Gabriel Sur-Jesus mi Salvador	G. Ocrospoma (a)	27	18	9					162			
3	Villa Solidaridad	A. Robles (p)	16	7	2					120			
4	Villa El Salvador	S. Melendez (a)	6	1	1								
	Otros	G. Ocrospoma (a)	33	16									
Cono Norte de Lima													
5	Año Nuevo - Jesús Redentor	A. Rosario (p)	70	41	2	5				185			
6	Tahuantinsuyo	A. Rosario (p)	24	16	3					74			
	Otros		6	6									
Callao													
7	Reynoso	R. Berrospid (p)	87	63	8	1		1	2	1254			
	Otros		27	17									
Lima													
8	Santa Beatriz	Misioneros	22	17	4	3				336	1		
9	Santa Anita	Misioneros	9	5	2								
	Otros		25	11	2								
Panamericana Norte													
10	Ancón-Cristo Rey	B. Capulán (v)	24	17	3				4	138			
11	Puente Piedra- Santísima Trinidad	A. Rosario (p)	25	12	3	1		2		192			
12	Zapallal-Jesús Pan de Vida	J. Estrada (l)	8	5		1			2	120			
13	Los Cedros, Ventanilla-Arcángel Gabriel	G. Asto (a)	12	5									
Provincias de Lima													
14	Huacho	O. Fernandez (p)	26	12	2					80			
15	Cañete	A. Robles (p)	18	8	1					101			
16	Chancay-Huaral	O. Fernandez (p)	15	9	1			3	3	92			
	otros				14	7	3						
Bolognesi de Ancash													
17	Chiquián	F. Convercio (p)	24	18	5			3	3	149			
18	Llamarca	F. Convercio (p)	47	39	10					216			
19	Pacclón	F. Convercio (p)	110	73	20	4			2	398			
20	Pocpa	F. Convercio (p)	22	12	4	2			1	156			
	Otros		32	8	1								
Ancash													
21	Chimbote-Cristo Vive	S. Gutierrez (p)	47	22	7					288			
22	Huarez	F. Convercio (p)	7	3	1					17			
23	Vista Alegre, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	23	23				3	3	288			
24	Marque, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	17	6									
	Otros		1	1									
Otros Departamentos del Perú													
25	Cajamarca	S. Gutierrez (p)	20	16	2								
	Otros												
Total del Sínodo Evangélico Luterano del Perú			874	532	110	28	3	18	20	4820	2		
(a) alumno-student, (l) laico-layman, (v) vicario-vicar, (p) pastor													

No.	Cultos Especiales	Promedio Asistencia	Cultos Regulares	Promedio Asistencia	Escuela Dominical	Estudio Bíblico	No. de Profesores	Esc. Bíblica Vac.	Colegio Secundario	Patrimonio
1	1	75	49	31	35	14	1			
2	1	14	48	15	8	11	3	32		\$ 5,000.00
3			48	9		3			3	
4			49	6		6			2	
			32	6		8				
5	2	77	48	26	35	10	2	57	10	\$ 25,000.00
6	1	21	48	13	15	5	2	10	7	
	2	23	96	12	14	37		50		
7	2	35	49	40	25	12	2	54	5	\$ 15,000.00
8	5	192	48	27		20			3	\$ 60,000.00
9			45	10	4	6	1		2	
			10	6						
10			49	19	35	12	2	30	3	\$ 1,600.00
11	2	114	49	14	25	14	3	42	6	\$ 8,000.00
12			12	19	30	22	1	32	3	\$ 2,000.00
13			48	12	35	21	1			\$ 100.00
14			48	8		12				
15			20	9		10				
16			96	13	12	10				
			12							
17	1	58	52	14	15	29	1			\$ 4,000.00
18	1	47	52	22				12		\$ 2,500.00
19	1	97	52	30	20	54	4	21		\$ 4,000.00
20	1	64	31	20		66				\$ 1,000.00
21			52	25	17	10	2	17	2	\$ 9,500.00
22			84	4		19				
23			52	18	24	29	2			\$ 2,000.00
24			52	14	7	11				
25			20	25		24				
						12				
total	20	92	1351	467	356	487	27	357	46	\$ 139,700.00

Foreign Missions: 1998

No.	CONGREGATION				MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS						
	Country	Location	Congregation	Pastor	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials
1	Chile*	Santiago	La Cisterna	K.Kuenzel	76	40	14			2		189		
2			Las Vertientes	R.Martens	105	37	9	4			2	503		
3			Linares	O.Rodriguez	18	4		1				17		1
4			San Bernardo		35	24	2		1	7	1	135		
5	Peru	#	#	T. Erickson	874	532	110	28	3	18	20	4820	2	1
				D. Haeuser										
				T.Schultz										
6	Czech Republic	Pizen	St. Paul's	M. Grubbs	105	95		7	8	7	5	1,040		
				J. Krueger										
				M. Luttman										
7	Czech Republic	Prague	Augsburskeho vyznani	J.Krikava	60	30	11	5				520		
8		Pizen	Augsburg Confession		70	51	20	4					3	1
9	Ukraine	Kyiv*	Kyiv Lutheran Congregation	J.Shep	187	155		11	10	12	33	840		2
10	Ukraine	Vulytsya Rus'ka	Lutheran Church of Ternopil	J.Rakos	290	150		4	2	15	42	1,500	3	3

* Current statistics not provided

For detailed information see Sinodo Evangelico Lutheran del Peru on previous page

MISSION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD IN PERU

(Peru, South America)

Seminary Building:

Enrique Barron 964
Santa Beatriz
Lima 1, Peru, SA
Tel: 011-51-14-133-126
Fax: 011-51-14-133-126
e-mail:
postmas@mselp.org.pe

Mailing Address:

Skyexpress Enterprises
Name of Missionary
6410 N.W. 82 Ave. Box 136
Miami FL 33166

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 Fernández
The Rev. Segundo Gutierrez
The Rev. Andres Robles
The Rev. Abraham Rosario

No.	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
1	49	27	5	38			5	1	14					989	
2	42	21	6	21					9					608	
3	8	15	2	32					12					5	
4	41	11	3	15			12	3	8					102	
5	1351	467	20	92			356	27	487	357			46		139,700
6	52	68	7	100	145	18					12	7	7		
7	52	30	4	40	60	4			12			2		5,000 Kā	
8	52	30	6	25			8	2	10			1	7	25,000 Kā	
9	52	197	2	215			64	4	40		78	2	33		
10	52	310	20	190			120	7	180	440	95	1	55		

IGLESIA CHRISTIANA DE LA REFORMA LUTHERANA

(Chile, South America)

Mailing Address:

Name of Missionary
Exp #1141
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:

Kyiv:

c/o John Shep
Pushkinska 21/31
Kiev 252004
Ukraine
Tel: 011-380-44-235-7721
Fax: 011-380-44-234-0800

Ternopil:

Ruska 4/27
Ternopil 282001
Ukraine
Tel/Fax: 011-380-35-222-2534

Pastors:

The Rev. Roger Kovaciny
The Rev. Joel Rakos
The Rev. John Shep
The Rev. David Jay Webber

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Mailing Address:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and
The School of Martin Luther
Skolni namesti 1
31805 Plzen
Czech Republic
Tel/Fax: 011-420-19-28-0754

Pastors:

The Rev. Mark Grubbs
The Rev. Matthew Luttman

Teachers:

Kimberly Festerling
Tel: 011-420-19-28-0784
Mary Grubbs
Tel: 011-420-19-28-0559
Robert Hill
Tel: 011-420-19-28-0782
Marlene Hill
Tel: 011-420-19-28-0782
Jennifer Kelm
Tel: 011-420-19-28-7017
Paul Kelm
Tel: 011-420-19-28-7017
Sharon King
Tel: 011-420-19-28-6206
Nancy Luttman
Tel: 011-420-19-28-6208

FOUR CORNERS MISSION SOCIETY

(church related status pending)

Mailing Address:

Ke skále 378
Horomerice
Czech Republic 25262
Tel/Fax 011-420-2-2097-0397
E-mail: clamataor@hotmail.com

Pastor:

The Rev. James Krikiva

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

www.EvLuthSyn.org

OFFICERS

President.....	The Rev. George Orvick Home 1117 Lori Lane, Mankato, MN 56001 Office 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001 Phones: Office 507-344-7356; Home 507-387-1498 Fax 507-344-7426, E-mail gorvick@blc.edu
Vice President.....	The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr. 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001 Phones: Office 507-344-7358; Home 507-386-7267 Fax 507-344-7426, E-mail jamjr@blc.edu
Secretary.....	The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad RR 3, Box 40, St. Peter, MN 56082 Phones: Office 507-246-5312; Home 507-246-5140 E-mail elsec@prairie.lakes.com
Treasurer.....	Mr. Leroy Meyer 1038 South Lewis Avenue, Lombard, IL 60148 Phones: Office 630-971-0150; Home 630-620-4348 E-mail lmeyer@flexco.com

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(4 years, elected 1998)	
President George Orvick.....	President
(4 years, elected 1996)	
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad.....	Secretary
Mr. Leroy Meyer.....	Treasurer
(3 years, elected 1997)	
The Rev. Martin Doepel.....	212 Volk St., Portage, WI 53901 Phone: 608-742-4286
Mr. Albin Levorson.....	668 450th St., Northwood, IA 50459-8776 Phone: 515-324-1189
(3 years, elected 1998)	
Mr. Allen Borlaug.....	1035 Windsor Ave., Waucoma, IA 52171 Phone: 319-569-8687
Mr. Wilbur Lieske.....	9 Skyline Dr., Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: 507-345-4784
(3 years, elected 1999)	
Mr. Robert Brown.....	W305 N5660 Stevens Rd., Hartland, WI 53029 Phone: 414-367-2212
Mr. Greg Griffin.....	1405 Burning Wood Way, Madison, WI 53704 Phone: 608-249-6760
Advisory Members.....	The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr., Vice President The Rev. Alf Merseth, 106 13th St S., Northwood, IA 50459

WISCONSIN CORPORATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President George Orvick
 The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
 Mr. Leroy Meyer
 Mr. Wilbur Lieske
 Mr. Allen Borlaug

Mr. Greg Griffin
 Mr. Robert Brown
 Mr. Albin Levorson
 The Rev. Martin Doepel

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

OFFICERS

President.....President George Orvick
 Secretary.....The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
 Treasurer.....Mr. Leroy Meyer

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

(elected by the Board of Trustees)

Mr. Robert Brown.....W305 N5660 Stevens Rd., Hartland, WI 53029
 Mr. Greg Griffin.....1405 Burning Wood Way, Madison, WI 53704
 Mr. Leroy W. Meyer.....1038 South Lewis Avenue, Lombard, IL 60148
 The Rev. Richard Wiechmann.....225 Moreland Ave., Mankato, MN 56001

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INCORPORATED

GENERAL OFFICERS

President.....The Rev. George Orvick
 Vice President.....The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr.
 Secretary.....The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad

BOARD OF REGENTS

Type A members

(3 years, elected 1997)

Mr. Paul Chamberlin.....68 Fairview, South Chatham, MA 02659
 The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr.....Box 187, Audubon, MN 56511
 The Rev. J. Kincaid Smith.....7876 Bonny Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

(3 years, elected 1998)

Mr. William Overn.....1459 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121
 The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt.....1288 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095

(2 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Mark Bartels.....1721 Manley St., Madison, WI 53704

(3 years, elected 1999)

Mr. Jon Bruss.....N61 W29865 Stoney Hill Circle, Hartland, WI 53029
 Mr. Harold Theiste.....15035 18th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55447
 Mr. Roland Reinholtz.....PO Box 1600, 192 Borders Rd., Avon, CO 81620

Type B members

(3 years, ratified 1999)

Mr. Lyle Fahning.....14000 Frontier Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337

(2 years, ratified 1999)

Mr. Willis Anthony.....RR 1 Box 66, St. Peter, MN 56082

(1 year, ratified 1999)

Rev. Klebe Brumble.....4733 E. Swilling Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85024

Advisory Members: The Rev. George Orvick, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001
 The Rev. M.E. Tweit, 115 Echo #506, Mankato, MN 56001
 The Rev. Raymond Branstad, 17451 Tyler St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330
 The Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, 514 Earth City Expy #233, Earth City, MO 63045

THE SYNOD'S BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

THE SYNOD'S VISITORS

(3 years, elected 1998)

Circuit 1	Alt. The Rev. David Lillegard
Circuit 2	The Rev. Thomas Fox
	Alt. The Rev. Michael Langlais
Circuit 3	The Rev. Paul Schneider
	Alt. The Rev. J. Kincaid Smith
Circuit 4	The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt
	Alt. The Rev. Mark Bartels
Circuit 5	The Rev. Frederick Theiste
	Alt. The Rev. Harold Vetter
Circuit 6	The Rev. Wayne Halvorson
	Alt. The Rev. Tom Rank
Circuit 7	The Rev. Mark Wold
	Alt. The Rev. Ernest Geistfeld
Circuit 8	The Rev. Erwin Ekhooff
	Alt. The Rev. Gene Lilienthal
Circuit 9	The Rev. Micah Ernst
	Alt. The Rev. Loren Zell
Circuit 10	The Rev. Klebe Brumble
	Alt. The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch
Circuit 11	The Rev. Glenn Obenberger
	Alt. The Rev. James Braun

(2 years, elected 1999)

Circuit 1	The Rev. Rodger Dale
-----------------	----------------------

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Wilhelm Petersen	909 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001
Mr. Allen Quist	Rt. 3, Box 33, St. Peter, MN 56082

(3 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. Juul Madson	169 Heather Lane, Mankato, MN 56001
The Rev. Paul Zager	527 N Main St., Lombard, IL 60148

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr.	114 Echo St., Mankato, MN 56001
Mr. David Roembke	921 Cline, Port Orchard, WA 98366

(By virtue of office)

President of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

COLLOQUY COMMITTEE

The president of the synod

The vice-president of the synod

The chairman of the Doctrine Committee

One layman from the Doctrine Committee

(appointed by the president of the synod)

The president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

(3 years, elected 1997)

Mr. Robert Smith.....13151 Gamma Way, Apple Valley, MN 55124
The Rev. Richard Wiechmann.....225 Moreland Ave., Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. Daniel Basel.....5-039 Road G, Deshler, OH 43516
Mr. John Merseeth, Sr.....1028 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Erwin Ekhooff.....6000 Duluth St., Golden Valley, MN 55422
The Rev. Rodney Flohr.....6324 Portage Ave., Portage, IN 46368
Mr. Leslie Just.....213 W. Frazee, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Kurt Smith.....P.O. Box 66, Okauchee, WI 53069

(2 years, elected 1998)

Mr. Larry Otto.....2150 129th St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

(3 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. Wayne Halvorson.....2133 Kenneth Dr., Albert Lea, MN 56007
Mr. Robert Soule.....16600 313 Ave., Princeton, MN 55371

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Paul Anderson.....3459 Hillview Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703
Mr. Marlin Goebel.....24885 Morrow Rd., Hillman, MI 49746
The Rev. David Lillegard.....625 Atlantus Ter., Sebastian, FL 32958

BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Nathan Krause.....1955 S.E. Kelly Ave, Gresham, OR 97080

(3 years, elected 1998)

Mr. Odell Iverson.....17103 Spanaway Loop Rd., Spanaway, WA 98387
The Rev. Michael Smith.....601 Woodland Drive, Holland, MI 49424

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Kenneth Mellon.....826 Jefferson Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402

(1 year, elected 1999)

Mr. Lloyd Ahlbrand.....235 S. Pennsy St., Hobart, IN 46342

BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

(3 years, elected 1997)

Mr. Glen Hansen.....1976 115th Ave, Princeton, MN 55371
Mr. Timothy Voigt.....1195 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095
The Rev. Mark Wold.....PO Box 26, Lengby, MN 56651

(2 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. Frederic Lams.....1031 Hickey St; Hobart, IN 46342

(3 years, elected 1998)

Mr. Troy Grooms.....14210 44th Place N., Plymouth, MN 55446 Prof.
The Rev. Charles Keeler.....151 Tremont W, Port Orchard, WA 98366
The Rev. Donald Moldstad.....1123 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001
Mark Wiechmann.....1615 Broad St. North, Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Jerome Gernander.....304 Elm St. Box 86, Thornton, IA 50479
The Rev. Jonathan Madson.....2915 Oaktree Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34744
Mr. Robert Pipal.....54 Skyline Drive, Mankato, MN56001
Mr. James Schneek.....3820 Cherry Tree Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
The Rev. Matthew Thompson.....357 Banyan Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33884

BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Bradley Homan.....1201 Droster Rd, Madison, WI 53716
Mr. Howard Siewert.....13795 Diamond Path, Apple Valley, MN 55124

(3 years, elected 1998)

Mr. Robert Deering.....1122 Nichols Road, Madison, WI 53716
Mr. Paul Wold.....938 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Walther Gullixson.....210 N. Black Eagle Drive, Mankato, MN 56001
The Rev. Roger Holtz.....1402 Martin Road, Bloomer, WI 54724

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

(3 years, elected 1997)

Mr. Herb Berg.....13 Cypress Run, Haines City, FL 33844

(3 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. David Hoyord.....13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Apple Valley MN 55124
Mr. Stanley Reinholtz.....5026 Bayfield Ter., Madison, WI 53705

(3 years, elected 1999)

Mr. Don Heiliger.....2433 Leslie Road, Stoughton, WI 53589
The Rev. Mark Marozick.....2642 Church St., Cottage Grove, WI 53527

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux.....115 Blue Earth St., Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1998)

The Rev. Dennis Marzolf.....114 Hannah, Mankato, MN 56001

(3 years, elected 1999)

The Rev. Harry Bartels.....5835 Apple Blossom Dr., Brownsburg, IN 46112

BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

(3 years, elected 1997)

The Rev. Bruce Leonatti.....600 Pine St, Irwin, PA 15642
Mr. Allen Wollenzien.....813 Hyland, Stoughton, WI 53589

(3 years, elected 1998)

Mr. Timothy Peterson.....3235 N. Wellington Lane, , Minneapolis, MN 55441

(3 years, elected 1999)

Mr. Howard Hougan.....1915 Paulis Drive, Faribault, MN 55021
The Rev. Paul Schneider.....4525 West Main St, Midland, MI 48640

Ex Officio.....Treasurer Leroy Meyer

EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

	(3 years, elected 1997)	
Mr. Lars Petersen.....	263 Ridge St., Emmons, MN 56029	
	(3 years, elected 1998)	
Mr. Ralph Miller.....	145 Atwood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001	
	(3 years, elected 1999)	
The Rev. Roger Holtz.....	1402 Martin Road, Bloomer, WI 54724	

PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The officers of the synod

The chairman (or his representative) of the following boards:

Board for Christian Service	Board for Publications
Board for Education and Youth	Board of Regents
Board for Evangelism	Board for Stewardship
Board for Home Missions	Doctrine Committee
Board for Foreign Missions	Three (3) laymen:

	(3 years, elected 1997)	
Mr. Julian Olsen.....	R.R. 2, Nicollet, MN 56074	
	(3 years, elected 1998)	
Mr. Norman Werner.....	9781 Bluebird St., Coon Rapids, MN 55433	
	(3 years, elected 1999)	
Mr. Albert Homan.....	3871A S. 11 th St., Grand Forks, ND 58201	

THE SELF STUDY COMMITTEE

Elected Positions--

	(3 years, elected 1998)	
Mr. Robert Brown.....	W305 N5660 Stevens Rd., Hartland, WI 53029	
	(3 years, elected 1999)	
The Rev. J. B. Madson.....	169 Heather Lane, Mankato, MN 56001	

Presidentially Appointed Positions--

	(3 years, appointed 1997)	
The Rev. Milton Tweit.....	115 Echo St. #506, Mankato, MN 56001	
	(3 years, appointed 1998)	
Mr. Norman Werner.....	9781 Bluebird St., Coon Rapids, MN 55433	
	(3 years, appointed 1999)	
The Rev. Alf Merseth.....	106 13th Street South, Northwood, IA 50459	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2000 CONVENTION

The Rev. Glenn Obenberger.....	PO Box 44006, Tacoma, WA 98444
The Rev. Thomas Rank.....	301 Main St. Box 56, Scarville, IA 50473
The Rev. Paul Schneider.....	4525 West Main St., Midland, MI 48640
The Rev. Paul Zager.....	527N Main St., Lombard, IL 60148
Mr. Harmon Anderson.....	8556 E. Appaloosa Tr., Scottsdale, AZ 85258
Mr. William Overn.....	1459 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121
Mr. Paul Rawlings.....	22W453 Foster Box 122, Medinah, IL 60157
Mr. Paul Neilson.....	36606 Hartslake Loop Rd. S., Roy, WA 98580

COMMITTEE ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

507-344-7854

(elected by the Board of Trustees)

The Rev. W.C. Gullixson.....	210 N. Black Eagle Dr., Mankato, MN 56001
Mr. Norman Holte.....	422 Belmont, Mankato, MN 56001
Dr. Gerhard Lee.....	2215 Waunona Way, Madison, WI 53713
Prof. Sigurd Lee.....	225 Hinckley Street, Mankato, MN 56001
The Rev. J.B. Madson.....	169 Heather Lane, Mankato, MN 56001
Mr. Gerhard Solli.....	1305 N. Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001
Mr. Norman Werner.....	9781 Bluebird St., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

FULL-TIME WORKERS

Rev. Steven Petersen.....	Missions Counselor
Rev. Richard Wiechmann.....	Deferred Giving Counselor
Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft.....	Business Administrator

Office: 507-344-7395; Home: 507-345-1388
Fax 507-344-7426, E-mail keithw@blc.edu

TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR:

The WELS Committee for Counseling Called Workers (C.C.C.W.)
1-800-422-7341

PRESCHOOLS AND CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

July 1, 1999

* indicates school administrator/principal/director

Secretary of Schools (Board for Education and Youth).....James Schneck
3820 Cherry Tree Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403-4459
Home: 520-453-9723; School: 520-855-8811
Fax: 520-855-8811; E-mail: az_jimbo@hotmail.com

Director of Christian Education (Bethany Lutheran College).....Silas Born
Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Drive, Mankato, MN 56001
Home: 507-388-6963; Office: 507-344-7431
E-mail: sborn@blc.edu

Bethany Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
151 Tremont West
Port Orchard, WA 98366-3737
Tel. 360-876-1300
Fax 360-876-5098
Ramona Fisher
Barb Mantey
Curtis Mantey*
Carol Olsen
Ryan Rathje
Lucy Rinehart

Concordia Preschool
(Preschool Only)
3715 London Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Tel 715-834-0921
Fax 715-834-0921
Lynda Krueger*

Heritage Lutheran Preschool
(Preschool Only)
13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Tel. 612-431-6225
Cheryl Streckert*

Holton Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
6655 Marvin Road
Holton, MI 49425
Tel. 231-821-0032
Becky Martin
Timothy Ristow*
Julia Tweit

Holy Cross Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
2670 Milwaukee Street
Madison, WI 53704
Tel. 608-249-3101
Fax 608-249-0601
Patricia Becker
Pamela Berndt
Camilla Dashcund
David Doelger*
Julie Homan
Ione Ibeling
Elizabeth Krause
Daniel Madson
Barbara Pape
Shelly Schoenherr
Sharon Treder

Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

PO Box 44

35181 Wisconsin Avenue

Okauchee, WI 53069

Tel. 414-567-0669

Fax 414-567-0669

Patricia Hoeft

Linda Mickelson

Fred Pahmeier*

Dawn Sauer

King of Grace Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

6000 Duluth Street

Golden Valley, MN 55422

Tel. 612-546-3131

Fax 612-540-0028

Steve Balza

Polly Browne

Elisabeth Cox

Shiela Degner

Anne Fehr

Karl Hassler*

Judy Luxford

Cinda Meitner

Karen Merseth

Carol Robison

Mark Ross

Lakewood Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

10202 112th Street SW

Tacoma, WA 98498

Tel. 253-584-6024

Fax 253-584-4615

Laura Anderson

Alice Keen

Shu-Ting Lai*

Dolores Morrison

Mt. Olive Lutheran School

(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

1123 Marsh Street

Mankato, MN 56001

Tel. 507-345-7927

Marie Aaberg

Steven Beilke*

Carolyn Bernard

Sherrie Bukowski

Timothy Pietsch

Kari Sehlof

Mary Younge

Our Redeemer Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

805 East Yelm Ave.

Yelm, WA 98297-9424

Tel. 360-458-7310

Millie Kirsten

Nancy Loomis

Dennis Morrison*

Mary Schwisow

Victor Settje*

Our Savior Lutheran Preschool

(Preschool only)

10,000 Airport Road North

Naples, FL 34109

Tel. 941-597-6009

Fax 941-597-8846

Janyce Ford

Jessica Lambrecht*

Our Savior's Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

3163 Maricopa Drive

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

Tel. 520-855-8811

Gloria Dennis

James Schneck*

Karen Schneck

Parkland Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
12309 Pacific Avenue
PO Box 44006
Tacoma, WA 98444
Tel. 253-537-1901
Fax 253-537-0172

Laurie Barnes
Connie Davis
Sue Jankens
Jolene McClung
Linda Perry
Alex Ring
Chris Rogich
Larry Rude*

Precious Lambs Preschool
(Preschool only)

143 Washington Street
Oregon, WI 53575
Tel. 608-835-3554

Kathleen Bartz*
Jackie Grundmanis

Princeton Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

7401 Alpha Road
Princeton, MN 55371
Tel. 612-389-0704
Fax 612-389-0704

Kathleen Stein*
Denece Standland

Scarville Lutheran School
(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

Box 20
Scarville, IA 50473
Tel. 515-568-3372

Laurie Rygh

St. Timothy Ev. Lutheran Preschool

(Preschool only)
547 N. Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148-1632
Tel. 630-627-6790

Pam Johnson
Paul Zager*

Trinity Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

1268 Pleasant Valley Road
West Bend, WI 53095
414-675-6627

Diana Borman
Richard Holz
Judy Larabell
Elizabeth Ruege

Western Koshkonong Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
2632 Church Street
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
Tel. 608-873-6011

Camille Bovee
Evelyn Daley*
Linda Marozick

The School of Martin Luther
(Kindergarten through Ninth Grade)

Skolni namesti 1
31805 Plzen, Czech Republic
Tel. 011-420-19-28-1097

Kimberly Festerling
Mary Grubbs
Robert Hill*
Marlene Hill
Jennifer Kelm
Paul Kelm
Sharon King
Nancy Luttmann

CHURCH LOCATIONS

CIRCUIT 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

P. Lepak

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

Kennesaw-Resurrection

10:45

Vacant

909 Acworth Due West Road; 30152

CIRCUIT 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 3

INDIANA

Brownsburg-Good Shepherd

10:15
H. Bartels
204 E. Main St.
Mail: 5835 Apple Blossom Dr.; 46112

Portage-Hope

10:30
R. Flohr
6322 Portage Ave. 46368

MICHIGAN

Alpena-Faith

9:00
A. Dethlefsen
233 Cavanaugh; 49707

Detroit-St. Matthew

10:30 (S 9:30)
L. Vinton
4981 Cabot
Mail: 4430 St. James St.; 48210

East Jordan-Faith

10:45 (S 10:00)
Vacant
02148 S. Wilson Rd.; 49727

Hartland-Good Shepherd

10:00
M. Raitz
Mail: 1910 Charleston Circle 48353

Hillman-Faith

11:00
A. Dethlefsen
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: 3146 Delevan Dr.; 48603

Suttons Bay-First

10:00
R. Pederson
321 St. Mary's 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 County Road G; 43516-9788

Weston-Grace

10:00
P. Lehmann
20425 Taylor St.
Mail: PO Box 304; 43569-0216

PENNSYLVANIA

North Huntingdon-Zion

10:30
B. Leonatti
351 Robbins-Station Rd.; 15642

CIRCUIT 4

ILLINOIS

Chicago-Emmaus

10:45
S. Schmidt
5440 W. Gladys Ave; 60644

Chicago-St. Marks

9:30
S.Schmidt
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-Abiding Savior

N.Krause
Mail: 213 W. Cottage Grove Rd. #7
53527

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; Mon 6:30
(S 8:15 & 10:00; Mon 6:30)
M. Bartels, B. Tweit
2670 Milwaukee St.; 53704

Madison-Our Saviour's

8:00, 10:15, Sat. 5:30
(S 9:00, Sat. 5:30, Mon. 7:00)
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 146; 53069-3357

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
Mail: 1288 Pleasant Valley Rd.; 53095

Wisconsin Dells-Newport

10:30
M. Doepel
N8794 Peterson Rd., (4 miles E)
Mail: 212 Volk, Portage; 53901

CIRCUIT 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

8:00; Mon 7:00

E. Gernander

31 N. Park St.; 54929

Eau Claire-Ascension

9:00; Mon. 6:30

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; 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; 54307-1473

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 Elem. Sch.

607 Tyler Ave.

Mail: 1232 Snowdon Dr, Oshkosh,

54904

Shawano-St. Martin

9:30

E. Gernander

W8302 Belle Plaine Ave.; 54166

CIRCUIT 6

IOWA

Ames-Bethany

Sat. 7:30

M. Hoesch

3109 Diamond St; 50010

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

P. Fries

546 West M. St.

Mail: PO Box 42, Glenville, MN; 56036

Hampton-Bethany

10:00

M. Hoesch

Mail: 3109 Diamond St., Ames, 50010

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

Newton-Grace

8:15
M. Hoesch
814 1st Ave. E.
Mail: 3109 Diamond St., Ames, 50010

Northwood-First Shell Rock

10:30
A. Merseeth
Central & 15th
Mail: 106 13th St. S.; 50459

Northwood-Somber

9:45
A. Merseeth
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. Merseeth
Main St.
Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood; 50459

Scarville-Center *

T. Rank
5 miles S.
Mail: PO Box 105; 50473
T. Rank
411 Logan St.
Mail: PO Box 105; 50473

Thompson-Zion

10:45
P. Fries
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

9:00
G. Haugen
3815 Ansborough Ave.; 50701

Waterville-East Paint Creek

10:00 (S 9:30)
P. Madson
1151 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
2141 P Ave. (149 North & I-80)
Mail: PO Box 766, Williamsburg
52361-9639

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 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

1221 Barette St.

Mail: Box 316; 56716

East Grand Forks-River Heights

11:00 (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

9:00 or 11:00 (S 9:00 or 10:30)

S. Urberg

Sixth & Joseph

Mail: Box 248, 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

9:00 or 11:00 (S 9:00 or 10:30)

S. Urberg

207 First Street NW

Mail: PO Box 326; 56585

NORTH DAKOTA

Mayville-First American*

Robert Benson

3rd Ave. NE; 58257

CIRCUIT 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)

Vacant

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. Ekhoft

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, Mon. 7:00

(S 8:30 & 10:00)

D. Moldstad

1123 Marsh St.; 56001

North Mankato- Peace

10:00

R. Otto

Hoover Elementary School

Mail: 1049 Oak Terrace Dr, 56003

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 9

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau-Scriptural
10:00

H. Gieschen
3587 County Rd. 635; 63701

Carthage-Faith

10:45 (S 9:45)

R. Waters
2134 South Grand; 64836

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

Vacant

650 W. Campbell Rd.; 75080

San Antonio-Faith

10:15

Vacant

14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd.; 78232

CIRCUIT 10

ARIZONA

Fort Mojave-Family of God

10:15

C. Wosje

1863 Pandaro Rd.

Mail: PO Box 10510; 86427

Lake Havasu City-Our Saviour

8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:00)

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

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

W. Stehr

13955 Yale Ave.; 92620

Windsor-Christ

10:15

K. Anderson

125 Shiloh Rd.; 95492

CIRCUIT 11

OREGON

Grants Pass-Our Savior

9:30

J. Ruppel

230 Buysman Way; 97526

Gresham-Saved By Grace

9:30

T. Bartels

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

J. Larson

2323 East 12th St.; 97058

UTAH

West Jordan-Hope

8:00 & 10:30

G. Sahlstrom

2930 W. 9000 S.; 84088

WASHINGTON

Gig Harbor-Harbor Trinity

9:00

A. Hamilton

Rosedale Community Center

Mail: 5415 36th Ave NW #C-201

98335

Mt. Vernon-St. Luke

10:30 (S 9:30)

J. Dalke

1524 E. Blackburn Rd.; 98274

Port Hadlock-Hope

9:30

Vacant

VFW Hall (31 Matheson St)

Mail:

Port Orchard-Bethany

8:15 & 11:00; Mon 7:00

C. Keeler, A. Pittenger

151 Tremont W.; 98366

Tacoma-Lakewood

11:00 (S 10:00)

H. Mosley, Jr.

10202 112th St. SW; 98498-1699

Tacoma-Parkland

8:30 & 11:00

G. Obenberger, A. Ring

12309 Pacific Ave.

Mail: PO Box 44006; 98444

Yelm-Our Redeemer

10:30 (S 9:00 & Thurs. 7:00)

V. Settje

805 Yelm Ave. E; 98597

* Consult pastor for Service time

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The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation 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.

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B. GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY

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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.

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Mankato, Minnesota 56001**

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	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	Lutheran H.S. & College	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	91	47	13				3			2	52	35	6	20			15	6	12	20	8			1	32,700	264	148,000	89,000	
2	AZ	Lake Havasu City	10	Our Saviour	H.Huherkoch	221	183	69	2			1	1,669	1	3	69	157	13	137	45	3	24	4	37			1	1	10	145,911	14,474	865,691	190,233	
3	AZ	Scottsdale	10	Redeemer	K. Brumble	71	62	20	1			1	1048		1	52	56	13	41			10	3	56										
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	16	10	13				1	7	10			3	35,761	1,293				
6	CA	Escondido	10	St. Paul	T. Gullixson	151	90	34					485	1	2	53	49	13	30			10	4	7	12	3		5	26,618	3,786				
7	CA	Fillmore	10	Wayfarers' Chapel	J. Schmidt	46	35	8	1				370			52	33	4	30			10	3	24	20			1	46,000	1,200	185,000			
8	CA	Irvine	10	Faith	W. Stehr	100	85	22	3		1					52	60	8	34			6	10	12			1	12	155,402	501	29,630			
9	CA	Windsor	10	Christ	K. Anderson	46	35	10				1	276		2	51	24	15	20			2	1	14				2	33,977	3,808	525,000	196,070	1,832	
10	FL	Kissimmee	1		J.N. Madson	125	105	31	7	1	1	3	1,520	2	4	52	84	12	60			5	3	24	8	1		6	85,700	9,974	465,000	330,000		
11	FL	Lakeland	1	Our Savior	D. Raetz	101	94	30					750		1	52	66	15	37			3	2	15				6	69,847	5,222	335,000	44,049		
12	FL	Lakeland	1	Peace	J. Willitz	86	58	12	9		3	4	487	1		52	62	11	50			20	4	13	20	4	6	81,243	5,500	500,000	386,000		501,000	
13	FL	Naples	1	Our Savior	R. Dale	215	172	36	4	1		6				52	127	18	62	30	3	32	6	25			3	109,186	21,279	1,132,831	47,988	5,000		
14	FL	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	C. Keeler	233	183	15	7		1	4			2	52	108	14	68			35	8	30		4	3	100,504	33,377	300,000	113,191			
15	FL	Sebastian	1	Trinity	D. Lillegard	109	90	20	1	1		1	1,446		2	52	72	14	53			11	2	30			1	70,336	4,548	190,000				
16	FL	Sebring	1	New Life	R. Fyffe	69	59	20					1,312		1	67	44	17	43				2	22		2			83,456	1,739	350,000	159,000		
17	FL	Vero Beach	1	Grace	J. Petersen	264	232	41	7		3	2	2,708	6	6	53	160	12	109			22	8	35	51	10	11	138,958	41,274	932,067				
18	FL	Winter Haven	1	Resurrection	M. Thompson	113	101	24	3				1,961	1	3	52	92	16	63			14	2	35	28				68,839	6,147	420,006	362,297		
19	GA	Kennesaw	1	Resurrection	Vacant	52	34																											
20	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	
21	IL	Chicago	4	St. Mark's*	S. Schmidt	19	19	6					175	1		52	17	2	12										11,941	2,230			10,000	
22	IL	Litchfield	4	Faith	W. Frick	135	100	20	1		5		1,140		1	52	73	15	50			33	7	20	32		1	15	53,748	5,088	52,000			
23	IL	Lombard	4	St. Timothy	P. Zager	180	125	24	5	1	1	2	1,029	2	1	65	69	16	38	18	1	25	5	25	35			8	144,855	17,589	869,000	127,264	110,000	
24	IN	Lake Station	4	Grace	F. Lams	111	91	21	7	3	3	4	2,075		3	52	89	13	72	17	1	32	7	55	48			18	189,965	7,042	112,100			
25	IN	Brownsburg	3	Good Shepherd	H. Bartels	97	72	14	3				1,271		1	52	64	14	37			19	5	34	17		1	17	69,715	12,385	173,000	37,928		
26	IN	Portage	#	Hope	Vacant	238	188	173	15	1	8	4	1,796	2	1	52	106	5	70			50	10					18	70,000	3,000	1,300,000			
27	IA	Ames	6	Bethany	M. Hoesch	52	44	11								52	25	3	12			6	2	10				2	3,311		250,000	57,161		
28	IA	Calmar	6	Trinity	H. Abrahamson	42	36	7					40	1	2	51	26	12	23			4	2	8	4				20,000	1,000				
29	IA	Forest City	6	Forest	R. Newgard	81	69	14	4		1		378			50</																		

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