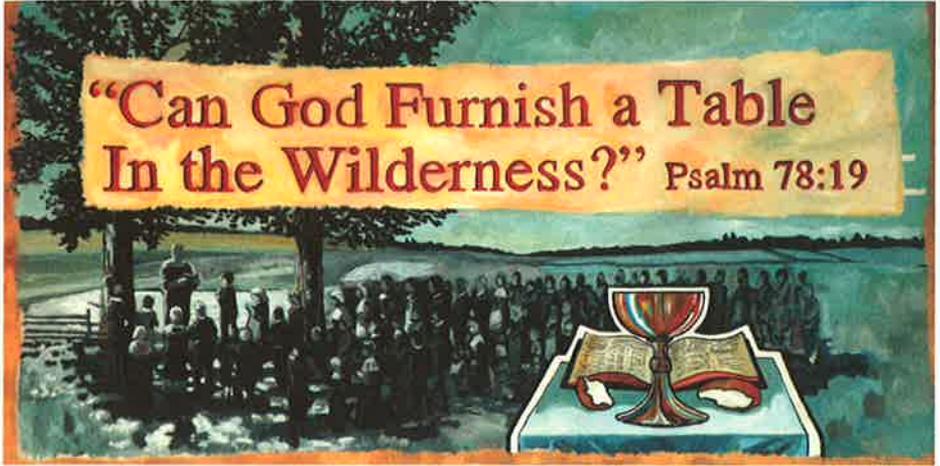


2003



**86th Annual Convention
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Bethany Lutheran College
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mankato, Minnesota
June 15-19, 2003



Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

86TH REGULAR CONVENTION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

and the

47TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
CORPORATION

Observing the Sesquicentennial of the
Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Convention Theme:
"A Table in the Wilderness"

Essayist:
Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad

Compiled by
Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, Secretary

Held at
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
and
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mankato, Minnesota
June 15-19, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Convention Day-by-Day	3
Roll Call	
Representatives	
Convention Committees	
President's Message and Report.....	21
Essay	43
Reports and Action	
Synodical Membership	72
Credentials	73
Doctrine, Report of the Board	74
Bethany Lutheran College, Report of the Board	77
Bethany Lutheran Seminary, Report of the Board	81
Home Missions, Report of the Board	87
Foreign Missions, Report of the Board	91
Evangelism, Report of the Board	97
Education & Youth, Report of the Board	101
Publications, Report of the Board	108
Christian Service, Report of the Board	109
Worship, Report of the Committee	111
Laymen's Delegates Equalization, Report of the Committee	112
Stewardship, Report of the Board	113
Planning & Coordinating, Report of the Committee	116
Trustees, Report of the Board	118
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, Report of the Board	121
Special Offering, Report of the Committee	121
Integrating Technology, Report of the Committee	124
Synod Review, Report of the Committee	129
Miscellaneous Action	139
Memorials.....	143
Financial Statements	147
Directories	
Church Bodies in fellowship with the ELS.....	192
Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Officers	198
Board and Committee Members, Addresses	203
Foreign Missions.....	206
Other Addresses	209
Area Lutheran High Schools	209
Bethany Lutheran College.....	210
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.....	214
Christian Day Schools and Preschools.....	215
Christian Day School Teachers.....	218
Congregations	223
Clergy	233
Periodicals.....	247



THE CONVENTION DAY-BY-DAY

THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

SYNOD SUNDAY, June 15, 2003

The 86th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 47th 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. Frederick Theiste (Eau Claire, Wisconsin) was the speaker basing the sermon upon select verses from Psalm 78 and using the theme "A Time to Remember and a Time to Respond." He said we want to remember our beginnings under the grace of God as our synod was founded on the principle "By grace you are saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). We respond by continuing in and preserving for tomorrow that centrality of grace in Christ Jesus in everything we say and do in and through our synod, our congregations, and our personal lives. The 150th anniversary serves as a sign along life's way that marks greater and greater strength, experience, and motivation for loving serving in God's kingdom. The Rev. D. Basel (Mankato, Minnesota) served as liturgist.

The assembly then gathered at the Museum-Mission Building at 4 Browns Court for a Dedication Service. Rev. George Orvick and Rev. Steven Petersen spoke. The Rite of Dedication was performed by President John Moldstad.

At 7:00 pm the assembly gathered again in Trinity Chapel for the Graduation Service for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Two students were graduated. The Rev. M. Smith based the sermon upon Psalm 1:1-6. Using the theme "God's Word is your Delight" he said that the transition from vicar to pastor involves a change from being told what to do to making one's own decisions. God's Word directs pastors by instructing them concerning the path they are to take. Aside from preparation for sermons and Bible studies, pastors delight in God's Word for their own spiritual direction. They also delight in God's Word for their spiritual strength. Since they are not like the "chaff" (the wicked/unbelievers), they are planted firmly in God's life-giving Word. By keeping God's Word as his delight the new pastor will remain spiritually strong. President G. Schmeling served as liturgist and the Rev. J. Moldstad Sr. represented the Board of Regents.

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

MONDAY, June 16, 2003

The first working day of the 86th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 47th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation was opened with a devotion conducted in Trinity Chapel. The chaplain, the Rev. B. Homan (Madison, Wisconsin) based the sermon upon Psalm 23 under the theme "The Good Shepherd Leads from Wilderness to Paradise." The speaker spoke of a dog who was howling because he was sitting on a cocklebur. Rather than move, the dog sat on the cocklebur and kept howling; we can be both like that dog when we grumble or complain.



Seminary Graduates

There is no need to grumble because we are led by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Our Good Shepherd has provided us with all we need for this life. We never need to fear because of the goodness and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. The hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" also was sung.

President Moldstad welcomed the delegates, pastors and visitors to the 86th Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Secretary Ferkenstad announced that the roll had been gathered at the credentials desk. By the conclusion of the convention 93 permanent voting members and 45 permanent advisory members had responded to the gathering of the roll.

The Credentials Committee recommended the seating of 138 men who either had been certified by their congregations as representatives to this convention; by the conclusion of the convention there were 162 delegates who had registered their credentials.

President Moldstad declared the 86th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 47th 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 Moldstad then read the President's Message reminding us that at this convention we are commemorating the 150th anniversary of the organization of the Norwegian Synod and that our synod today regards herself as the rightful heir to the doctrinal theology espoused by the old Norwegian Synod. He also highlighted a number of items which we can glean from the past.

Guests were welcomed and written greetings were read from: Prof. Armin Panning, president of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC), Rev. Egil Edvardson (Den Luthersek Beljennelseskirke), Rev. Tor Jacob Wilde (Norway), Missionary Terry Schultz (Peru), Rev. Norman Madson (South Korea), Rev. Larry Burgdorf (Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation), Missionary Kurt Smith (Peru).

Oral greetings were brought by: Rev. Andriy Honcharuk (on behalf of the Bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church) and Rev. Uldis Fandjevs (on behalf of Gundars Bakulis, Bishop of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia).

The afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. B.Tweit (Madison, Wisconsin) who read Psalm 121. The assembly sang the hymn "Thine Forever, God of Love."

The convention elected its working committees, committee work was assigned and the convention recessed at 1:50 pm so that the Convention Committees could meet to prepare resolutions for consideration.

TUESDAY, June 17, 2003

The Tuesday morning devotion was delivered by the Rev. J.Willitz (Lakeland, Florida), using Matthew 28:18-20 as the text. The pastors and delegates were reminded that a wilderness vacation to South America might be a fascinating get-away from everything and everyone. Yet even there we cannot escape from our own sinful hearts. Our Lord Jesus walked our wilderness for us, granting us His forgiveness and commanding us to go to the wilderness, baptizing and teaching. Thirty-five years ago our missionaries went to Peru and ten years ago our missionaries went to Chile to set the Lord's table in the wilderness. In all of our toil and struggles our Lord has promised, "Surely I am with you always." The devotion included the singing of the hymn "Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word."

Following the normal preliminaries, the Synodical Membership Committee reported. Seven individuals and three congregations were welcomed into membership. The new individuals, along with representatives of the new congregations, were invited to the stage and welcomed by President Moldstad.

A Higher Education presentation was made with both President Schmeling and President Bruss addressing the assembly. President Bruss stated that the college truly is a "gem" of the synod and that the mission and purpose of the college has not changed; it is yet to provide a solid Christ-centered education.

The convention then proceeded with the report of the Higher Education committee.

Oral greetings were brought by the Rev. David Vallesky (president of Wisconsin

Lutheran Seminary; Mequon, Wisconsin).

The Tuesday afternoon session began with the singing of the hymn "I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus."

As this year marked the 35th anniversary of the start of mission work in Peru and the 10th anniversary of mission work in Chile, a Foreign Mission Presentation was made which included a video presentation entitled "Proclaim His Name!"

The convention then considered the work of the Foreign Missions Committee and the Higher Education Committee.

A Stewardship presentation was drawing attention to a stewardship emphasis: "Tell the Praiseworthy Deeds of the Lord" after which the Finance Committee work was considered. Mr. Albin Levorson was presented with a plaque of thanks for twenty-seven years of service on the Board of Trustees.

A presentation was made on behalf of the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center. The ELS Historical Society presented copies of the 150th anniversary commemorative medallion to BLC Professor Bill Bukowski, Museum Director G.Orvick, and Synod President J.Moldstad. Thanks was extended to Prof. D.Norris, M.DeGarmeaux, E.Teigen, and M.Harstad for the anniversary time-line.



The convention began the consideration of the report of the Doctrine Committee before adjourning for the Anniversary Service at 5:00 pm. The Rev. R. Wiechman used Matthew 5:3 as his text under the theme "Every Good Gift is from Above." The hymn "Lord Jesus Who Art Come" was sung.

At 7:30 pm, a 150th Anniversary Program, "The Road to Koshkonong," was conducted in Trinity Chapel and was followed by a President's Reception in the Great Room.

WEDNESDAY, June 18, 2003

The Wednesday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. S.Sparley (Grants Pass, Oregon). The sermon was based upon John 7:37-39 with the theme: "The River that Never Runs Dry." The hymn "O Bread of Life from Heaven" also was sung.

After the normal preliminaries, President Moldstad introduced the essayist: the Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad (St. Peter, Minnesota). The essayist began reading the essay "A Table in the Wilderness: Our Legacy as the Spiritual Successors of the Norwegian Synod." He read first two portions of the essay: Doctrine and Foreign Missions.

Mr. Art Westphal spoke on behalf of the Development office of Bethany Lutheran College before morning recess.

An Evangelism Presentation was made which was followed by the report of the Evangelism Committee.

A "Thoughts of Faith" Presentation then was made speaking about the three fields of work in the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Latvia. The annual operating budget of "Thoughts of Faith" is \$2,865,000.

An Ottesen Museum Presentation also was made.

The Wednesday afternoon session began with the singing of the hymn "Jesus, priceless Treasure."

Oral greetings were brought by President Gurgel (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod).

The convention then pursued the report of the Elementary Education Committee

A presentation was made by the Home Mission board with the video presentation "The Making of a Home Mission. A presentation also was made by a representative of the Lutheran Home Association (Belle Plaine, Minnesota). This association consists of 215 ELS and WELS congregations. This was followed by a continuation of the Home Mission presentation which featured mission work in North Mankato. A presentation

also was made later in the afternoon on behalf of the 2000 Years of Grace Thank Offering committee.

The report of the Doctrine Committee was continued. Other reports considered included: Home Missions, Youth and Parish Education, and Worship.

The Memorial Service was conducted beginning at 4:30 pm. The Rev. W.Petersen (Mankato, Minnesota) was the speaker. The sermon was based upon Revelation 7:9-17 with the theme: "A Glimpse into Heaven." The hymns "Behold a Host, Arrayed in White" and "O Happy Day When We Shall Stand" were sung.

The Communion Service was conducted in Trinity Chapel beginning at 7:30 pm. President J.Moldstad (Mankato, Minnesota) served as the preacher and Vice-president G.Obenberger (Tacoma, Washington) was the liturgist. Basing his sermon upon John 7:37-39 and using as his theme: "The Giving of the Living Water," the preacher stated that at this convention we have been reminded again and again of the question from Psalm 78, "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" The answer is: Of course He can! Is the arm of the Lord ever too short?" Primarily what God furnishes for our wilderness table as we journey through this life is water—the Living Water of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the water that sustained the Israelites. This is the Water that sustained the "Dietrichsonians" at Koshkonong. This is the Water that sustained the "Lime Creekites" in 1918. This also is the Water that sustains us in 2003. More than anything, our need is found with our parched tongues and mouths at the foot of the cross at Golgotha longing to be touched and filled with the soothing and life-giving water of our Savior. That is the truth from the past—well beyond 150 years—and that is the truth for every generation yet to come.

THURSDAY, June 19, 2003

The Thursday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. H.Huhnerkoch (Kissimmee, Florida). The devotion consisted of the singing of the hymn "Thou Art the Way" and a sermon based upon Matthew 11:28-30 with the theme "The Weary Find Rest in Jesus." Only when we work hard, do we welcome rest. Nothing is a greater burden than our sin. What a joy that Christ carries our sin-burden for us and gives us rest for our souls. There is indeed, rest in the wilderness.

After the normal preliminaries, the reading of the essay was concluded by Rev. C.Ferkenstad.

A presentation on behalf of the Board for Education and Youth was made before the convention turned to the reports of the committees on Publications, and Miscellaneous.

The Thursday afternoon Devotion was conducted by the Rev. A.Dethlefsen (Mayville, North Dakota). The Devotion consisted of the reading of John 14:1-6 and the hymn "Thou Art the Way."

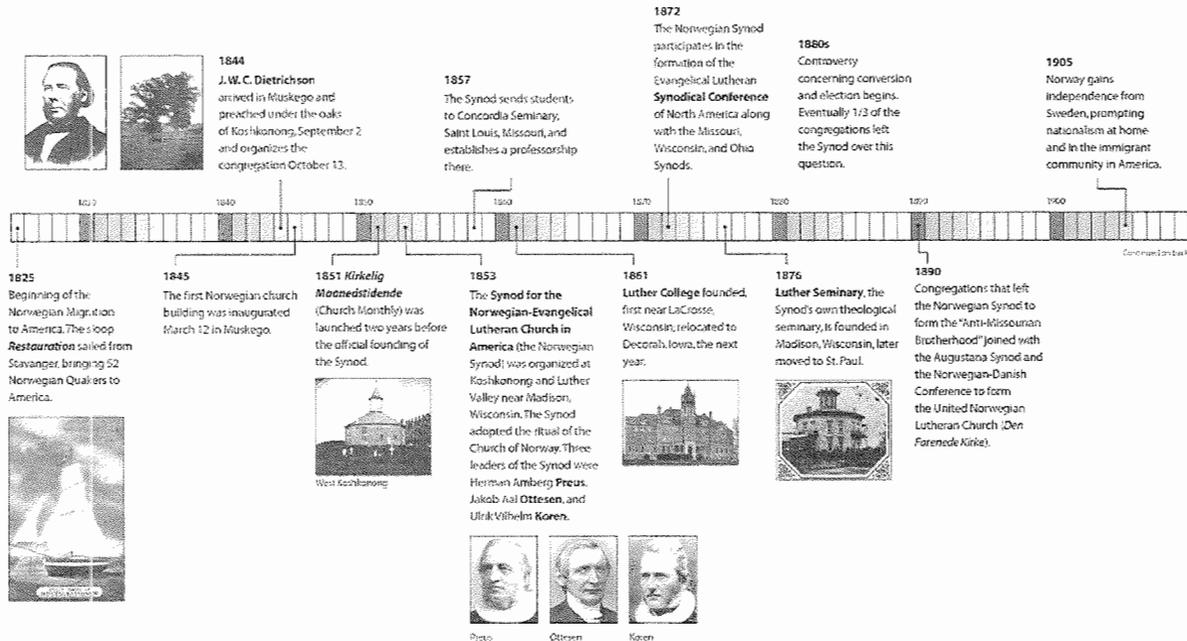
The report of the Miscellaneous Committee was continued along with reports of the committees on Worship, Christian, Service, Pastoral Conference Records, President's Message and Report, and Resolutions.

At 3:25 pm the president declared the 86th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 47th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be adjourned "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The closing devotion was conducted by the chaplain which consisted of the singing of the hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing," the reading of Philippians 3:12-14, prayer, and benediction.

TO GOD ALONE
BE THE GLORY

A timeline history of the Norwegian Synod (1853) and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (1918)



1917

On June 9, the United Church, the Hauge Synod, and the Norwegian Synod merged to become the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, based on a doctrinal compromise. The "minority," who chose not to go along with the merger, organized as the Aberdeen Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastor Bjerg Hestad's elected president until formal organizations can take place.

1912

The Madison Settlement Oppiger, approved upon by representatives of the Hauge Synod, the United Church, and the Norwegian Synod, rendered doctrinal compromise over the objections of a minority who want to remain faithful to the theology of the Old Synod.



1927 Bethany Lutheran College is purchased by the little Norwegian Synod and opens as a co-ed junior college and high school.



1957 The Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church adopts the name Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

1980's Treights of Faith begins mission work in Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Latvia

1997 Dedication of the new Seminary and Synod office building

2002 75th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran College

1910

1916 The Aarvik Agreement finds compromise as the solution of the majority and bids for Norwegian Lutheran merger. Both synagogical and monergistic teaching are to be tolerated side by side in the new merger body.

1918 The Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church (later called the ELS) reorganizes at Lime Creek, Iowa to continue in the old doctrine and practice of the Norwegian Synod.

1946 Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is established on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College, with Norman A. Madison as its first dean. The first graduate is Robert D. Priest.

1955 The Synod suspends fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

1963 The ELS leaves the Synodical Conference.

1966 Latin American mission work begins in Peru

1995 The synod participates in the organization of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

2001 Bethany Lutheran College hosts first class of B.A. graduates

2002 150th Anniversary of the Norwegian Synod



Bob Kueber and his family



Robert Madison



Classroom



Madison



The Aarvik Agreement at Lime Creek in 1916.

150th Anniversary Ode

C.M.

Today remembrance doth impart
A memory we hold dear,
Of fathers who with stalwart heart
In faith did persevere.

Forsaking home and fatherland
Like Abram did of old,
By grace of God a faithful band,
His Word they did uphold.

And in this wide world's wilderness
A Table there was set.
Its heavenly food their souls to bless:
God's Word and Sacrament.

On wooded hills or prairie field
His temples God would raise,
In which His children faith received
By blest baptismal grace.

They heard the message of the Lord,
His praise they loved to sing,
And to their children taught the Word
Of their Redeemer King.

Now we His children gathered here
His legacy maintain,
That we might tell a world in fear:
"Salvation in His Name."

For all the mercies of His love
Our hearts our Lord shall laud,
And join in song with saints above:
"Now thank we all our God."

—Paul Gerhardt Madson

ROLL CALL OF PERMANENT MEMBERS

Active Membership:

1. Pastors serving member congregations:

Members having the right to vote

Present: H.Abramson, J.Abrahamson, K.Anderson, H.Bartels, M.Bartels, T.Bartels, D.Basel, J.Braun, S.Brockdorf, M.Brooks, K.Brumble, E.Bryant, L.Buelow, M.Crick, A.Dethlefsen, K.Dethlefsen, M.Doepel, E.Ekhoff, D.Faugstad, C.Ferkenstad, F.Fiedler III, T.Fox, P.Fries, R.Fyffe, E.Gernander, J.Gernander, H.Gieschen, W.Grimm, T.Gullixson, C.Hahnke, W.Halvorson, A.Hamilton, R.Harting, G.Haugen, K.Heck, K.Hermanson, M.Hoesch, B.Homan, C.Howley, H.Huhnerkoch, J.Jacobsen, C.Keeler, B.Kerkow, Y.Kim, N.Krause, F.Lams, D.Larson, R.Lawson Sr, R.Lehmann, G.Lilienthal, J.Londgren, W.Mack, J.Madson, M.Marozick, D.McQuality, K.Mellon, D.Moldstad, H.Mosley, G.Obenberger, R.Otto, R.Pederson, J.Petersen, A.Pittenger, R.Preus, T.Rank, A.Ring, M.Rogers, D.Russow, D.Schmidt, K.Schmidt, S.Schmidt, P.Schneider, B.Schwark, V.Settje, T.Skaaland, J.E.Smith, J.K.Smith, S.Sparley, S.Stafford, W.Stehr, P.Sullivan, F.Theiste, B.Tweit, H.Vetter, L.Vinton, R.Waters, L.Wentzlaff, J.Willitz, C.Wosje, P.Zager

Absent: D.Bakke, J.Dalke, E.Geistfeld, T.Hartwig, M.Langlais, B.Leonatti, D.Lillegard, J.Schmidt, K.Smith, E.Stubenvoll Jr, T.Zenda

2. Pastors serving non-member Lutheran congregations which are, nevertheless, in fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: M.Ernst

3. Pastors serving independent congregations whose confessions and teachings are in agreement with those of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: R.Flohr, T.Smuda

Absent: J.Krikava

4. Ordained clergymen serving as professors in educational institutions of the synod or a sister synod or as teachers in schools of member congregations:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: M.DeGarmeaux, M.Harstad, T.Kuster, S.Reagles, G.Schmeling, M.Smith, E.Teigen, D.Thompson

Absent: A.Harstad, D.Marzolf, D.Metzger

5. Ordained clergymen serving in administrative offices of the synod:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: J.Moldstad Jr, S.Petersen, R.Wiechmann

6. Ordained clergymen serving in home & foreign mission fields or in church related organizations:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: T.Erickson, M.Grubbs, P.Lepak, R.Muetzel, G.Sahlstrom, D.Webber
Absent: D.Hauser, R.Kovaciny, K.Kuenzel, M.Luttman, J.Rakos, O.Rodriguez, T.Schultz

7. Pastors emeriti:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: P.Anderson, W.Anderson, R.Carter, W.Gullixson, R.Honsey, a.Kuster, J.Madson, P.Madson, J.Moldstad Sr, G.Orvick, W.Petersen, F.Schmugge, M.Tweit
Absent: R.Branstad, E.Buhr, W.Frick, L.Gerbhardt, J.Krueger, H.Larson, P.Lehenbauer, N.Madson, D.McElwain, A.Merseth, P.Petersen, E.Stubenvoll Sr, B.Teigen, O.Trebelhorn

Teachers serving in schools of member congregations:

*Advisory Membership:
Not having the right to vote*

Present: R.Brei, C.Mantey, D.Morrison, F.Pahmeier, L.Rude
Absent: S.Beilke, A.Labitsky, D.Madson,

Inactive Membership:

Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: R.Dale, R.Holtz
Absent: D.Hoyord, M.Krentz, D.Meyer, C.Sielaff, M.Thompson, M.Tuffin, M.Wold

Individuals:

Present: N.Holte, M.Meyer

To be received into Membership at this convention:

1. Pastors serving member congregation:

Present: M.Dale, W.Kessel, K.Kluge, L.Lanier, R.Lawson Jr, G.Schmidt

Individual:

Present: D.Bruss

2003 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Congregation	Address	Delegate
Abiding Word Apostles Ascension	Bowling Green, OH Ukiah, CA Eau Claire, WI	Mark Stuever David L Park E Dean Williams Leo Sommers
Beautiful Savior	Medford, OR	Brian C Laughlin Shane M Donlay Robert P McMullen
Bethany	Ames, IA	Donald Schumann
Bethany	Luverne, MN	LaVern Kafka Eugene Mann
Bethany	Princeton, MN	Glen Hansen Dick Vagts
Bethany Bethany	The Dalles, OR Port Orchard, WA	Terry Nelson Curtis Mantey Kevin Butler Lyle Manthe
Calvary Center Christ Christ	Ulen, MN Scarville, IA Windsor, CA Port St. Lucie, FL	Herb J Fischer Keith Duin William Sigurdson
Christ Christ	Klamath Falls, OR Sutherlin, OR	Erik Hughes Jake Young Alex Ledford
Christ the King Christ the King	Bell Gardens, CA Green Bay, WI	Charles Hartwig Jonathan Brodhagen
Concordia Concordia	Hood River, OR Eau Claire, WI	Clifford Raether Larry Wittwer
East Paint Creek Emmaus English	Waterville, IA Chicago, IL Cottonwood ,MN	Dwayne Boerner Harold Loe
Faith	Irvine, CA	Robert F Schneider Calhoun W Sumrall
Faith	Litchfield, I	Davvid Rovey Harry Pinerton
Faith Faith Faith	Parkersburg, IA Alpena, MI East Jordan, MI	Donald C Sell Robert Carter Eric Erickson Marlin Goebel
Faith	Hillman, MI	Wayne Spieker Ronald D Maurer
Faith	Clara City, MN	Eric Waters Chet Williams
Faith Faith Faith	Carthage, MO San Antonio, TX Oregon, WI	Donald Stern Sean Stake

Family of God	Fort Mojave, AZ	David McDaniel
First	Suttons Bay, MI	Ronald G. Johnson
First American	Mayville, ND	David Flitter
		Mike Carr
First Evanger	Fertile, MN	August Ollrich
First Shell Rock	Northwood, IA	Ralph I Olson
First Trinity	Marinette, WI	
Forest	Forest City, IA	
Gloria Dei	Saginaw, MI	Doran Bethke
		Edward Schmidt
Gloria Dei	Cold Spring, MN	Maynard Pick
		Arnold Hamann
Good Shepherd	Brownsburg, IN	
Good Shepherd	Indianola, IA	Mark French
		Ryan Dee
Good Shepherd	Richardson, TX	Peter Hermanson
Good Shepherd	Bloomer, WI	Darrell Hoepner
Grace	Vero Beach, FL	Philip Saubert
		Norbert Stege
Grace	Hobart, IN	John Ballantyne
		Lloyd Ahlbrand
Grace	Newton, IA	
Grace	Crookston, MN	Brian Benoit
Grace	Piedmont, MO	
Grace	Weston, OH	
Grace	Madison ,WI	Bruce Gee
		Phillip Yagla
Hartland	Hartland, MN	Arvil Bartness
		Corley Hendrickson
		Ed Hendrickson (alt)
		Donald Jordahl (alt)
Heritage	Apple Valley, MN	William Overn
		Bob Smith
Holton	Holton, MI	Jeff Tillman
		Ed Cregg
Holy Cross	Madison, WI	James Baxter
		Norman Marozick
Holy Scripture	Midland, MI	
Holy Trinity	Okauchee, WI	Robert Brown
		Daniel Neumann
Hope	Portage, IN	
Hope	West Jordan, UT	Curt Huttzell
Immanuel	Riceville, IA	
Immanuel	Audubon, MN	Leslie Just
		Jon Tibbetts
Jerico	New Hampton, IA	John D Costello
King of Grace	Golden Valley, MN	John Kantorowicz
		Chan Handberg
Lake Mills	Lake Mills, IA	Harlan Levorson
		Phillip Peterson
Lakewood	Lakewood, WA	
Lime Creek	Lake Mills, IA	Paul E. Dahle
Lord of Life	Holland, MI	Jeff Martzowka
		Adam Deck
Manchester	Manchester, MN	Luther Ylvisaker
Messiah	Omro, WI	Clarence Lee

Mt. Olive	Mankato, MN	Wilbur G Lieske Sigurd Lee
Mt. Olive	Trail, MN	
Nazareth	Trail, MN	
New Life	Sebring, FL	Orv Behnke
Newport	Wisconsin Dells, WI	
Norseland	St. Peter, MN	Lydell Struck Harold Rodning Rod Tollefson Willard Johnson
Norwegian Grove	Gaylord MN	
Oak Park	Oklee, MN	
Our Redeemer	Yelm, WA	John Anderson Paul Nielsen Robert G. Rurup Donald Wienke Dr Jack McNeil Patrick Leon Geroge Wyckhuysen Richard Bjelland Benjamin Anderson Donovan Hauge (alt) Russell Sander Martin Fabrizius Lambert J Beckers Robert Soule
Our Savior	Bishop, CA	
Our Savior	Lakeland, FL	
Our Savior	Naples, FL	
Our Savior	Grants Pass, OR	
Our Savior's	Albert Lea, MN	
Our Savior's	Bagley, MN	
Our Savior's	Belview, MN	
Our Savior's	Hawley, MN	
Our Savior's	Princeton, MN	
Our Savior's	Amherst Jct., WI	
Our Savior's	Elderon ,WI	
Our Saviour	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Eugene Nickel James Schneck Donald Heiliger Dan Perovich Odell Iverson Dan M Barger Herb Berg Bill Dumke Dennis Korth William E Smith Wilhelm Petersen Paul Madson Howard Hanson
Our Saviour's	Madison, WI	
Parkland	Tacoma, WA	
Peace	Kissimmee, FL	
Peace	Lakeland, FL	
Peace	Jefferson City ,MO	
Peace	No Mankato, MN	
Pilgrim	Waterloo, IA	
Pinehurst	Eau Claire ,WI	
Pinewood	Burlington, MA	
Redeemer	Scottsdale, AZ	Nate Larson Harmon Anderson Wally Knutson Derwin Robinson Tom Hoyord Matthew Paine Matthew Bryden Richard Maginnis Tom Shearer
Redeemer	New Hampton, IA	
Redeemer	Iola , WI	
Reformation	Hillsboro, OR	
Resurrection	Winter Haven, FL	
Resurrection	Kennesaw, GA	
Richland	Thornton, IA	Glenn Frederick Melvin Moulds Albert Holmn
River Heights	East Grand Forks, MN	
Rock Dell	Belview, MN	

Saude	Lawler, IA	Oakleigh Natvig Stanley Holt Alfred Schoennauer
Saved by Grace Saved by Grace Scarville	Gresham, OR Springboro, OH Scarville, IA	Arthur B Pederson Erling O Brudvig
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St. Luke	Mt. Vernon, WA	
St. Mark's	Chicago, IL	
St. Martin	Shawano, WI	Todd Teske
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St. Paul's	Portage, WI	
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Trinity	Sabastian, FL	Christopher Dale George Lillegard
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Candidate A. Palmquist
Candidate G. Smith

22. Chaplain:

Rev. B. Homan

23. Head Ushers:

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Rev. G. Orvick
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25. Assistant Secretary:

Rev. M. Smith



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

to the 86th Annual Convention of the
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Greetings in the name of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to all gathered here at the 2003 convention where we observe the 150th anniversary of the founding of the old Norwegian Synod.

The theme for our convention this year may seem a little unusual to any not familiar with the history of our synod. Why the use of Psalm 78:19, "*Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*" This verse served as the text for the sermon preached at the first Communion service of the Norwegian Lutheran immigrants settling near the area of Madison, Wisconsin. The date was 1844, and nine years later came the official organization of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, the predecessor church body of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod today.

No matter what your personal family heritage, no matter what country your grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great grandparents called home before settling in this land of great opportunity with spacious skies and amber waves of grain, our theme has an important message for you and me living in the year 2003. Aren't you and I, who are privileged first and foremost to be confessing Christians and then secondarily to be identified as members and friends of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, proof that God surely has furnished a bountiful table in an unlikely place? Is not the evangelical spirit that God pours into our hearts to speak his Word to others—especially that message of redemption through faith in Christ—evidence that sustenance exists in what otherwise is barren wasteland? Can we not say that the unity we enjoy in proclaiming Christ crucified and in confessing boldly the truths of Holy Scripture before a godless society is a clear demonstration of a nourishing table furnished by our benevolent God?

Psalm 78 presents the history of the people of Israel. Rebellion was rampant. Our theme question originally was raised in defiance and mockery. The Israelites, wearied and worn from wilderness travel, wailed against the manna God miraculously set before them. "*If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!*" (Numbers 11:4-6) This was the climate in which they jeeringly asked the question. Verse 19 reads: "*They spoke against God, saying, 'Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?'"* The writer of this psalm explains what prompted their question: "... *they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance*" (v. 22). But God **did** provide for them in spite of their obstinacy and apostasy. In his mercy he provided quail. But there was more—much more. In verse 38 of this same psalm a sweet melody breaks forth amidst chaotic dissonance: "*Yet he was merciful; he atoned for their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.*"

How do we compare to those rugged and ragged days of Israel's defiance? How do we measure ourselves to the small group of Norwegians Lutherans standing under the oaks in 1844 as they pondered that question in Psalm 78? Dare we, like Israel of old, ever imagine that the Lord's arm is too short?

Pictures of the dry, dusty war-torn desert region of Iraq are fresh in our memories. Remember the desert—the wilderness—from which we all have come. Look even now at the wilderness surrounding our own personal feet dangling under the table of God's goodness and mercy. We, like our ancestors from the past, are sinners through and through. We have deserved nothing but punishment from the courtroom of God's justice. How could we ever hope to stand in the presence of his holiness, when we see our violations of his holy law? The parched desert areas around us can offer no help—a cultural landscape advocating religious pluralism, a world absorbed with materialism, a generation hungering for fulfillment but not having the foggiest notion where to turn for guidance, a plethora of religious leaders teeming with advice on correcting social ills

yet offering no solid remedy for man's greatest ailment. As a synod, too, we have to say: Had all depended on our own strength, wisdom and striving, we would have been deceived and led into unbelief and despair and all kinds of false doctrine and ungodly life.

But you and I too—like the Dietrichson group at Koshkonong, like the remnant of believers in the Sinai wilderness—have been led to see what God has put on the table. The words of Isaiah have come to fruition: *“The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and bloom”* (Isaiah 35:1). The glory of the Lord has appeared. We have, by the grace of God the Holy Spirit, been led to trust that our Lord has been so merciful that he sent his only-begotten Son to make atonement for all of our sins, and that he promises eternal life in heaven to all who believe. With the eyes of faith we have been privileged to watch how God so loved us that he did not spare his own Son. This was the only way to have forgiveness on the table. His very body and blood shed for the remission of sins is what accomplished the unthinkable: that God's justice against us and our sins should be met fully and completely by means of the substitute sacrifice of his Son. In the courtroom of God's justice **mercy** now prevails because his Son took the rap. Sinners—you and me and all—have been declared righteous because he experienced the full brunt of God's wrath against sin in our place. Here we especially see how long the Lord's arm really is! The apostle John writes: *“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”* (1 John 4:9, 10).

The massive oaks at Koshkonong are no longer there. But the table is. Truly, it is God alone who has furnished the table. On that table especially are his Means of Grace—the word of the Gospel, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Here is the way he has provided for the spiritual nourishment for our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents. Here also is the way we can expect him to sustain us today. Sin, Satan, death and hell swarm around us, but—as David penned in the 23rd Psalm, *“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”* (v. 5). In Christ we find the fulfillment of the promise recorded by the prophet Jeremiah: *“The people...will find favor in the desert; I will come to give rest to Israel”* (Jeremiah 31:2).

Our synod today regards itself as the rightful heir to the doctrinal theology espoused by the old Norwegian Synod as it was led by men such as Rev. H. A. Preus, Dr. U. V. Koren and Rev. Jacob Aal Ottesen. This is why we celebrate the 150 years. We use the occasion not to gloat or boast in lineage, nor to look at the past only for history's sake. We take the opportunity to praise and thank God for his bountiful blessings. We join the psalmist in saying, *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his loves endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations”* (Psalm 100:4, 5).

What can we learn from our synodical ancestors? If we observe what they dearly treasured, might it influence our priorities and emphases today? Can we learn from their zeal, as we seek to reach more and more of all races, languages and backgrounds with the saving Gospel of Christ? Do we appreciate their devout study of God's Word, their love for worship and hymn singing, and their diligence in prayer?

Pastor Ferkenstad in his essay scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday will give us much to ponder and discuss. Here, too, I wish to highlight a number of things we as a synod can glean from a glimpse at the past. I will classify them as six snapshots.

Snapshot #1: The leading role of the doctrine of justification

A hallmark of the old synod that we pray is evident among us today is that God in Christ has declared the whole world forgiven on account of the perfect life, suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior. This is plainly taught in 2 Corinthians 5, where we read *“that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them”* (v. 19). During the time of the Absolution Controversy (1860s), our forefathers sounded a clear trumpet on this quintessential teaching from Holy Scripture. Dr. U. V. Koren, for example, explained: “It became clear here that our oppo-

nents did not want to admit that the contents of the Gospel and the essence of absolution are always the same, independent of the condition of the person to whom they come. We taught that the forgiveness of sin in absolution did not come into existence first when a person believed, but that absolution is always forgiveness of sin by God, even though the one who does not believe refuses God's gift and thus does not become a partaker of it" (*Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 101).

May we continually hold this great truth before our people. Pulpits in our synod Sunday after Sunday ought to project this comfort into the ears and hearts of sinners. A proper understanding and use of the sacraments directly relates to a correct exposition of justification. Confidence of a sinner's right standing with the Almighty comes only this way. We want to reaffirm Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker's summation of objective justification, when he in 1955 by personal letter comforted his family with these words: "The Bible doctrine is simply that when Christ died for our sins, i.e., for the sins of the whole world...God declared the whole world forgiven (justified) and now God wants us to believe this. Others say: 'Believe, and thou shalt be justified.' God says: 'Believe *that* thou hast been justified.' And the thing is as simple as that—but what a difference when death stares a person in the face" (*Sigurd Christian Ylvisaker 1884-1959*, p. 53).

Snapshot # 2: The crucial nature of confessional unity

In his opening address to the 1865 convention, Rev. H. A. Preus felt the need to dispel the idea on the part of some that efforts to revise the synod's constitution would be a kind of "cure-all" for the synod. "We do not believe that a constitution can create or reform a congregation or church body. The Spirit of God alone can do that through the Word of the Lord and the Sacraments. Through them He regenerates people's heart and works and preserves faith in them... All errors, aberrations and imperfections in the church can be corrected and set right only thorough the Word of God being taught purely and in its entirety... When people therefore...turn their eyes first and foremost to the constitution question and expect a glorious future from the adoption of this or that constitution, then they only display thereby how far they have come away from the Word of God, the solid main pillar of the church" (*Built on the Rock*, p. 34).

Not a unity based on a constitution, nor a unity based on polity, but a unity grounded immovably in the truths of Scripture as confessed also by the Lutheran Church in its Book of Concord is the vital component of a true and vibrant church body. By God's grace, this realization has been carried over to succeeding generations, generations that had to contend faithfully for the doctrine of church fellowship during very difficult times. We pray that all future generations heed the standing call of the "Triple U":

"We acknowledge one, and only one, truly unifying influence and power in matters both of doctrine and practice, namely the Word of God, and only one God-pleasing procedure in striving for unity: That 'the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God lead holy lives according to it'" ("Unity, Union and Unionism," 1936).

Our synod has had its share of doctrinal controversies over the years. The doctrine of the public ministry is currently under study. As we struggle to confess in clear language only what Scripture teaches, rejoice in knowing that we are bound together with fellow brothers and sisters who desire to walk in unity, pledging themselves to Holy Scripture as the only source and norm of all truth. Checking the abundance of ecumenical church bodies rampant with higher criticism, should we not be extremely grateful for the harmony we enjoy in our own synod as we work together all the more to speak with one voice?

Snapshot #3: The search for mission opportunities

The founding fathers of our present ELS gave immediate attention to preaching the gospel beyond the limits of their local congregations. Already in 1918 a new home mission in Chicago received support, and in 1920 efforts were made to further the Gospel in China and India through representation in the joint work of the Synodical Conference.

We are celebrating this year 35 years of work in Peru and 10 years of work in Chile. Are we constantly keeping these mission fields in our prayers? Can we do more? Might we be able to open another new field in 5-10 years, such as one in Korea or in another country where the door appears open? The time also seems ripe for exploring to a greater degree the burgeoning opportunities to spread the Gospel among Hispanics—both at home and abroad. And should we not also grab the chance to bring God's Word to the millions of people living in spiritual darkness under the Muslim umbrella?

Who knows how much time we have left? We see the fulfillment of many of the signs of the end times: wars, earthquakes, false prophets, false Christs, increase of wickedness, lovelessness, etc. Are we not moved to ask, "Is the Lord still planning to use **me**, to use my **church**, to use my **synod** to reach one more lost soul with the Good News of Christ the Savior?" Peter writes: "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9).

Snapshot #4: The sacrificial spirit for the sake of Christian education

Although some may question our claim of being the true historical heirs to the old Norwegian Synod, it has been duly noted that we are justified in making the claim—not least of all—because of the strong support for Lutheran elementary schools. Proportionately at the reorganization in 1918 our synod had more Christian day schools than ever was to be found in the old synod. President Preus told the Norwegian Synod in 1875: "As I see it, a thoroughly Christian educational system is the chief of all conditions for a church body's health and development in this country. But the gross neglect thereof, in a non-Christian, irreligious, more or less worldly-minded training of our children and youth, I see the decay and destruction of our beloved church within a few generations" (quoted in the 1928 Synod Report).

Has some of the vigor and steam of our forefather's resolve to expend their time and efforts and resources on church schools escaped our vision today? Not every congregation is in a position to operate its own school, but could there be more churches in our synod where the idea and implementation of a Lutheran elementary school should be fostered? A memorial from one of our congregations to this year's convention helps highlight the urgency. Remember, it also was urgency and sacrifice for the sake of Christian education, when Pastor George A. Gullixson in 1927 raised his hand and said, "I move that we take over the school." What a great challenge for a small synod to assume the purchase and control of a bankrupt ladies' college under the beloved name of Bethany. What dedication to emulate!

Snapshot #5: The appreciation of our heritage

In recounting the story of the immigration of Norwegians to America, S. C. Ylvisaker in *Grace for Grace* gives us a window into the poor, simple pioneer homes of those who settled in our land in the 1840s and 1850s. He describes them as "people who had been intimately connected with the Church in the homeland, and they brought with them greater respect and love for the rites and usages of the Church of their fathers. Therefore, when the divinely appointed moment came and the Lord sent His messengers to gather them about the means of grace, the seed thus sown fell in good and fertile soil" (p. 15).

Yesterday we had the privilege of dedicating a new museum for our synod. Let us appreciate our heritage. Let us see *why* our forefathers did the things they did in organizing the old synod, and why they cherished certain liturgical customs. If *they* appreciated *their* heritage, how much more shouldn't *we* cherish the heritage they have left us? But may it all be to the glory of God alone and in no way to the glory of man.

A dear and deeply respected friend of the old synod, Dr. C. F. W. Walther of Missouri, once stated that a major duty of a truly Evangelical Lutheran church body is that "it seek not its own glory but only the glory of God, being intent not so much on its own growth but rather on the growth of Christ's kingdom and the salvation of souls" (*Essays*

for the Church, II, p. 7).

Understand especially that it is the *doctrinal* heritage we cherish. Only when a body of people is bound and guided by the Word can it be a blessing to other individuals, to other groups, to other languages and races around the globe, focusing attention on our one, all-embracing Redeemer. To that end, may we as a synod truly appreciate our roots, whether of lutefisk ilk or otherwise!

Snapshot #6: The devotional attitude of gratitude and prayer

When the Norwegian immigrants arrived, many of their ornate wooden chests contained a Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, a hymnbook and possibly a devotional such as Bishop Laache's *Book of Family Prayer*. These were not simply packed away as mementos. A healthy devotional life and prayer life characterized the homes of many of the early settlers.

Can the homes of our synod today be described as devotional? Appreciation for the Lutheran doctrine of the Means of Grace naturally ought to move all of us to a healthy devotional life. Through the use of his Word, God the Holy Spirit brings the needed spiritual strength to our souls. May God grant that the old, God-pleasing institution of family devotions be retained and expanded in the households of our synod.

The Lord has richly blessed our synod. Thinking of his gracious providence these past 150 years, we have much for which to give thanks. Look at all that God has placed on the table. We have not deserved it. The wilderness setting remains. Yet, what gifts God has given to equip us for meeting every challenge and opportunity still ahead for our ELS!

John A. Moldstad, president

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS

Candidate of Theology Kurt Kluge was ordained and installed as pastor of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Tracy, Minnesota, on June 23, 2002. The ELS President-elect, Prof. John A. Moldstad, preached the sermon and Alternate Circuit Visitor, the Rev. John Smith, performed the rites of ordination and installation. Others who participated in the service were the Reverends Bradley Kerkow, Carl Wosje, Daniel Faugstad, Wilhelm Petersen, and Matthew Thompson.

The Rev. Gregory Sahlstrom was commissioned as missionary to the Clermont, Florida, area on June 30, 2002. Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, preached the sermon and also officiated for the commissioning; Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Joel Willitz, conducted the liturgy; and the Reverends John Petersen and Mark Wold also participated in the service.

Miss Erin Ekhoﬀ was installed as preschool teacher and director of childcare at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School on Sunday, June 30, 2002. The Rev. Jonathan Madson, resident pastor, preached and performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology Michael Dale was ordained and installed as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie, Florida, on July 7, 2002. The ordinand's father, the Rev. Rodger Dale, preached the sermon; the Rev. John Petersen was liturgist; and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Joel Willitz, was the officiant.

Stacey A. Mantey was installed as the 1st through 4th grade teacher of Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, on July 7, 2002. Pastor Timothy Hartwig preached and performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology Gregory Schmidt was ordained and installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Naples, Florida, on July 14, 2002. The ordinand's father, the Rev. John Schmidt, preached the sermon; the Rev. Mark Wold, served as liturgist; and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Joel Willitz, was the officiant. Other area pastors who participated in the service were the Reverends Herbert Huhnerkoch, Michael Dale, Gregory Schmidt, Mark Wold and Greg Sahlstrom.

Candidate of Theology Egons Mudulis was ordained at a service in Kekava, Latvia, along with three other Latvian candidates of theology on August 4, 2002. The rite of ordination was conducted by the head of the CLCL, the Rev. Gundars Bakulis, a graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was assisted by Iars Plume of the CLCL, Prof. Erling Teigen (ELS) and Pastor Neal Schroeder (WELS). Egons Mudulis was a June graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Phillip Lepak was commissioned to be exploratory missionary at Plainfield, Illinois, on August 11, 2002. The service was held at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS), West Chicago, Illinois. Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, preached the sermon; the Rev. Alan Gumm (WELS) conducted the liturgy; and the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, chairman of the Board for Home Missions, was the officiant. Others participating were the Reverends Jesse Jacobsen, Paul Zager, Rodney Flohr, Fred Lams, Gene Lilienthal, and Steven Schmidt. The following WELS pastors also participated: The Reverends Matthew Schwartz, David Witte, and Philip Schupmann.

On Sunday, August 25, 2002, Mrs. Mary Schoeneck was installed as teacher of grades 5 & 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, West Bend, Wisconsin. Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, the resident pastor, preached and performed the rite of installation.

Mrs. Karen Madson was installed as 8th grade teacher at King of Grace Lutheran School, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on August 25, 2002. Pastor David Russow preached the sermon and Pastor Erwin Ekhoﬀ performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Dan McQuality was installed as pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan, on August 25, 2002. The Rev. Ronald Pederson preached the sermon and vacancy pastor, the Rev. Frederick Adrian (WELS) served as liturgist. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation and the Reverends Kenneth Mellon, Kincaid Smith and Homer Mosley were lectors. Other area pastors

participating in the service were the Reverends Rodney Flohr, Larry Vinton, and Geoffrey Kieta (WELS).

The Rev. David Thompson was installed as chaplain of the Schwan Retreat and Conference Center during the Opening Service at Bethany Lutheran College on August 25, 2002.

The Rev. Michael Smith was installed as professor at Bethany Lutheran College during the Opening Service at Bethany Lutheran College on August 25, 2002. Pres. Marvin Meyer was speaker for the afternoon service and Chaplain Mark DeGarmeaux served as liturgist.

The following teachers were installed at Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Mankato, Minnesota, on August 25, 2002: Richard Holz, Alissa Uecker, Mary Born, and LuAnn Sting. Pastor Donald Moldstad preached the sermon and Pastor Daniel Basel officiated.

Miss Edith Zickuhr was installed as the preschool/kindergarten teacher of Western Koshkonong Lutheran School on September 1, 2002. The Rev. Mark E. Marozick preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

On September 1, 2002, St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran congregation in Plzen, Czech Republic, installed two called workers. Both received and accepted one-year calls to teach in Martin Luther School. They are Anita Rupprecht and Elizabeth Krause. The installation service was conducted by Rev. Matthew Luttmann.

Candidate of Theology Robert Lawson, Jr. was ordained and installed as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Escondido, California, September 1, 2002. The ordinand's father, the Rev. Robert Lawson, Sr., preached the sermon and presented the stole as a symbol of his entrance into the public ministry of the church; Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Karl Anderson, performed the rites of ordination and installation; and the Reverend Steven Brockdorf was the liturgist. Other Reverends participating in the service were William Stehr, Young Ha Kim, and Richard Kuegler (WELS) who is an uncle of Mrs. Kristen Lawson.

The Rev. John A. Moldstad was installed as president and the Rev. Glenn Obenberger as vice-president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on September 4, 2002. The service took place at Norseland Lutheran Church, rural St. Peter, Minnesota. The Rev. Donald Moldstad, brother of the president, preached the sermon; host pastor, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, served as liturgist; and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, performed the rites of installation. The Reverends John Moldstad, Sr., Bradley Kerkow, Gaylin Schmeling, Erling Teigen, Thomas Kuster, Arnold Kuster, Daniel Basel, Kurt Kluge, John Smith, Michael Smith, Edward Bryant, Theodore Gullixson, Martin Doepel, and Timothy Erickson also participated in the service. Prof. Dennis Marzolf was organist and Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux



*Installation Service of President Moldstad
and Vice President Obenberger*

was soloist. At the conclusion of the service greetings were brought to the synod and its newly-installed officers by the Rev. Karl Gurgel, president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

The Rev. Paul Zager was installed as pastor of Holton Lutheran Church, Holton, Michigan, on September 8, 2002. The Rev. Kincaid Smith preached the sermon; Circuit

Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation; and the Rev. Geoffrey Kieta (WELS) was liturgist. Other area pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Homer Mosley, Kenneth Mellon and Ronald Pederson.

The Rev. Arlen Dethlefsen was installed as pastor of First American Lutheran Church, Mayville, North Dakota, on September 15, 2002. His son, the Rev. Kent Dethlefsen, preached the sermon and Pres. John Moldstad spoke on behalf of the synod and performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Edward Bryant was installed as pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, Illinois, on October 20, 2002. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Frederic Lams, preached the sermon; Synod President, the Rev. John Moldstad, was lector and performed the rite of installation; and the Rev. Phillip Lepak served as liturgist. Others participating in the service were the Reverends Gene Lilienthal, Stephen Schmidt, and Wilfrid Frick. Also participating were the Reverends Matthew Schwartz, David Witte, and Nathan Cordes of WELS.

The Rev. Bruce Schwark was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran, Alpena, Michigan, and Faith Lutheran, Hillman, Michigan, on October 27, 2002. The Rev. Ronald Pederson preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Larry Vinton was liturgist and the Reverends Kincaid Smith, Jeff Longren, and Thomas Smuda were lectors.

The Rev. Charles Howley was installed as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, Minnesota, on November 3, 2002. The Rev. Bradley Kerkow preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Erwin Elkhoff, performed the rite of installation and served as liturgist. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends John Smith, Craig Ferkenstad, Robert Lawson, Sr., Kurt Kluge, Rodger Dale, Paul Sullivan, Carl Wosje, Timothy Zenda and Matthew Thompson.

The Rev. Thomas Smuda was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Ohio, on January 12, 2003. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The scripture lessons were read by the Reverends Larry Vinton, Kenneth Mellon, and Paul Lehenbauer, who also served as the liturgist. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Alois Schmitzer, Jeffrey Mittelstadt, and Allen Schroeder, all of WELS.

Dr. Dan Bruss was installed as President of Bethany Lutheran College the evening of January 19, 2003. Prof. Adolph L. Harstad delivered the sermon; the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Regents performed the rite of installation; the Rev. John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, was lector; and Chaplain Mark DeGarmeaux was the liturgist.

The Rev. Kurt Smith was called by the Board for Foreign Missions to be missionary to Peru on October 4, 2002. He accepted the call and took up his duties in Peru in January 2003.

The Rev. Charles Keeler was installed as pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, on January 19, 2003. The Rev. John Petersen delivered the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Joel Willitz, performed the rite of installation. Other pastors participating were the Reverends Michael Dale, Gregory Schmidt, Greg Sahlstrom, Herbert Huhnerkoch, and Mark Wold.

The Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith was installed as pastor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin, on February 16, 2003. His son, Prof. Michael Smith, delivered the sermon and the Rev. Paul Schneider was liturgist. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Frederick Theiste, performed the rite of installation; The Reverends William Mack, Rodney Flohr, and Leonard Pankow (WELS) were lectors.

Our church related organization, Thoughts of Faith, commissioned Dr. John Lawrenz to serve as a mentor to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. The commissioning took place at the TOF meeting in Madison, WI on April 4th. The Rev. George Orvick was the officiant.

Vicar Tor Jakob was installed and ordained at "the Lutheran Congregation at Avaldsnes," Karmøy, Norway, on June 8, 2003. The Rev. Egil Edvardsen, pastor, preached the sermon and officiated the rites of ordination and installation. Rev. Welde

will serve both St. Lukas Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Stavanger and The Lutheran Congregation at Avaldsness, Karmøy as co pastor with the Rev. Edvardsen. Tor Jakob Welde was a June 2002 graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

GROUND BREAKING SERVICES

On June 16, 2002, the mission congregation of Peace Lutheran Church broke ground for a house of worship on its new land in North Mankato, Minnesota. About 100 people were present for this historic occasion. The service was conducted by Pastor Bradley Kerkow.

Abiding Word Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, Ohio, broke ground for its new building after the regular worship service on June 23, 2002.

DEDICATIONS

The new Worship and Education facility of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa, was dedicated on June 22, 2002. The Rev. Rolf Preus preached the sermon and the Rev. Karl Heck, resident pastor, served as the officiant and liturgist. The Rev. Robert Harting was lector.

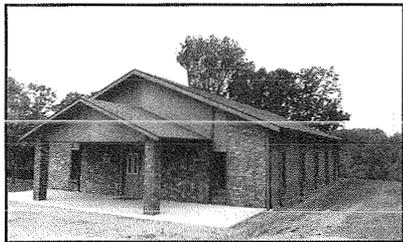
The Hall of Science and Mathematics recently constructed on the campus of Bethany College was dedicated on July 14, 2002, in connection with the 75th Anniversary of Bethany College and the Alumni Reunion. Synod President-Emeritus, the Rev. George M. Orvick, was the preacher for the morning festival service and Bethany Chaplain, Mark DeGarmeaux, served as liturgist. Prof. Dennis Marzolf directed the alumni choir; and former Bethany student, Mark Davidson, was guest organist. Following the service the congregation proceeded to the Hall of Science and Mathematics where college president, Dr. Marvin Meyer, members of the Board of Regents, Trustees of the Synod, the Architects, General Contractor, and Engineer had gathered. Pres. Meyer addressed the group briefly and introduced the Chairman of the Board of Regents, the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., who was officiant for the dedication. A lunch was served under the large tent which had been provided for the weekend festivities.



Abiding Shepherd—Bowling Green, Ohio

Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne, Minnesota, held a special Reformation Service on Sunday, November 3, 2002, during which a new clavinova and bell tower were dedicated. The bell tower houses the more than one-hundred-year-old bell from the former Rose Dell Trinity Lutheran Church in Jasper, Minnesota. President John Moldstad preached for the service and also performed the rite of dedication.

Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, Ohio, dedicated its new house of worship at a 4 p.m. service on May 4, 2003. The Rev. Steven Petersen, ELS Missions Counselor, preached the sermon and performed the rite of dedication. Pastor Kenneth Mellon was liturgist, and the Reverends Paul Lehenbauer and Thomas Smuda read the Scripture lessons.



Peace—Jefferson City, Missouri

Peace Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri, dedicated its new sanctuary on May 18, 2003, at the 8:30 a.m. service. The congregation's pastor, the Rev. Matthew Brooks, was the officiant.

Peace Lutheran Church, North Mankato, Minnesota, dedicated its new house of worship at a 4 p.m. service on June 1, 2003. The Rev. Erwin Ekhoff, Chairman of the Board for Home Missions, preached the sermon and

Pastor Bradley Kerkow performed the rite of dedication.

ANNIVERSARIES

Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, celebrated its 75th anniversary on May 18, 2003. Synod President, the Rev. John A. Moldstad, preached for the festival occasion.



Concordia—Eau Claire, Wisconsin



St. Matthew—Detroit, Michigan

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on March 2, 2003. During the 10:30 morning service the Rev. Charles Bonow, formerly a pastor in the WELS, gave an anniversary organ concert. A festive service was held at four o'clock in the afternoon with the Rev. Edward Bryant preaching.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

The following anniversaries of ordination are being observed past year: Those who have served 25 years are the Reverends Timothy Erickson, Mark Grubbs, William Kessel, Gaylin Schmeling, and Otto Trebelhorn. Those serving for 40 years are the Reverends Walter Anderson, Donald McElwain, and Carl Wosje. The Reverend Raymond Branstad has served 40 years. The Reverends George Orvick and Wilhelm Petersen have served 50 years and the Rev. Arnold Kuster observed his 65th anniversary of ordination.



*Rev. Raymond Branstad
Rev. Lewis Gerbhardt*

ANNIVERSARIES OF CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

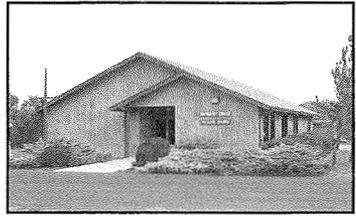
The following teachers are being honored for 25 years of service as teachers: Mrs. Patricia Becker, Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. Steven Beilke, Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Mankato, Minnesota; Mrs. Carol Olsen, Bethany Lutheran School, Port Orchard, Washington

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

The following congregations have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod: (The proper documents have been submitted.)
Beautiful Saviour Lutheran, Springboro, Ohio
Saved By Grace Lutheran, Medford, Oregon, the Rev. Steven Sparley, pastor
Apostles Lutheran, Ukiah, California. Vicar Andrew Palmquist has served there this past year.

The following have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper letters of request are on file.
The Rev. Robert Lawson, Jr., pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Escondido, California

The Rev. Gregory Schmidt, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida
 The Rev. Kurt Kluge, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Tracy, Minnesota
 The Rev. Michael Dale, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie, Florida
 The Rev. Leslie Lanier, pastor of Wayfarer's Chapel, Fillmore, California by colloquy
 Dr. William Kessel, professor at Bethany Lutheran College, by transfer from the WELS
 Dr. Dan Bruss, President of Bethany Lutheran College



Saved by Grace—Medford, Oregon



Rev. Michael Dale



Rev. Kurt Kluge



Rev. Robert Lawson Jr.



Rev. Gregory Schmidt



Rev. Leslie Lanier



Dr. Dan Bruss



Dr. William Kessel

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been made to the Committee for Information and Technology (CFIT): Mr. Dennis Behr (2 yrs.), Rev. Phillip Lepak (3 yrs.), Prof. Mark Meyer, (3 yrs.) Mr. Mark French 2 yrs.), and Mr. Rod Kuznicki (1 yr.). The vice-president of the synod serves as the committee's supervisor. The chairman of the Board for Publications, or its designated representative, serves as an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The Rev. Micah Ernst resigned his call as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Ohio, in August 2002.

Prof. Erling Teigen was appointed as an advisory member of the Synod Review Committee, September 4, 2002.

The Rev. Matthew Thompson resigned as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, Minnesota, effective September 22, 2002.

The Rev. Mark Wold resigned as pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, in October 2002.

Mr. Silas Born was appointed to the Board for Foreign Missions to fill the vacancy created upon David Lillegard's acceptance of a call to the Chile Mission.

Dr. Jon Bruss resigned from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, November 2002.

The Rev. David Hoyord resigned as pastor of Heritage Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota, January 2003.

The Rev. David Hoyord resigned from the Board for Christian Service in January 2003.

The Rev. Roger Holtz resigned as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clintonville, Wisconsin, in February 2003.

The Rev. Ralph Martens resigned as missionary to Chile upon his acceptance of a call to a WELS mission in Mexico.

The Rev. Paul Fries was appointed to the Board for Foreign Missions effective November 18, 2002, to fill the vacancy created by the Rev. Kurt Smith's acceptance of his call to the Peru Mission.

The Rev. Paul Fries resigned from the Board for Publications due to an added workload of other synod duties.

The Rev. Mark Wold resigned from the Board for Education and Youth.

The Rev. Bernt Tweit was appointed to the Board for Education and Youth to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rev. Mark Wold from that board.

The Rev. Mark Tuffin resigned as pastor of Our Redeemer in Kallangur, Australia, in order to pursue further studies.

The Rev. Charles Keeler was appointed as Alternate Visitor of Circuit #1.

The Rev. Kenneth Mellon was appointed as Alternate Visitor of Circuit #3.

The Rev. James Braun was appointed as Visitor of Circuit #12.

The Rev. Alex Ring was appointed as Alternate Visitor of Circuit #12.

The Rev. Karl Anderson resigned as visitor of Circuit # 11 upon his acceptance of a call to another circuit, June 2003. The Rev. William Stehr was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

The Rev. Jesse Jacobsen was appointed as an advisory member to the Board for Publications. He will serve as a liaison between the Board and the Committee for Informational Technologies (CFIT).

Prof. Mark Harstad was appointed to a three-year term to the Board of Directors of the ELS Historical Society.

The Rev. Matthew Brooks resigned from Grace Lutheran Church, Columbia, MO (WELS) in order to serve full-time the ELS congregation, Peace Lutheran, at Jefferson City, MO.

COLLOQUY

The Rev. Leslie Lanier was colloquized by the ELS Colloquy Committee on October 3, 2002, and found to be in doctrinal agreement with our synod. The Colloquy Committee recommends that he be received into membership. He is presently serving as pastor of Wayfarers' Chapel in Fillmore, California.

DEATHS

The Rev. Richard MacKain was called to his heavenly home on August 6, 2002. Funeral services were held on August 10th at St. Martin Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin, where he had been pastor since November 28, 1999. The Rev. Leonard Buelow preached the sermon and the Rev. Frederick Theiste, Circuit Visitor, spoke on behalf of the synod.

Mrs. Olaila Vangen, widow of the sainted Rev. Luther Vangen, was taken to her heavenly home on October 16, 2002. Funeral services were held at Good Shepherd By The Lake Lutheran Church, rural Stoughton, Wisconsin, (LCMS) on October 19, with a private committal service the following day at Lime Creek Lutheran Church, rural Lake Mills, Iowa.

The Rev. Hugo Warnke was called to his heavenly home on October 29, 2002. The Rev. Steven Sparley conducted the funeral service at Saved by Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Medford, Oregon. Pastor Warnke had served several ELS congregations during his ministry.

The Rev. Arthur Schmitt was taken to his heavenly home on December 28, 2002. The Christian burial service was held on January 2nd at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Escondido, California, where he had served as pastor for sixteen years. He was buried at Oak Park Cemetery in Escondido. The Rev. Robert Lawson, Jr. conducted the service.

Mrs. Veta Deibert Kuster, wife of the Rev. Arnold Kuster, was taken to her heavenly home on December 30, 2002. The funeral service was at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on January 3, 2003, with the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ oﬀiciating. Interment was in Dartsford Cemetery, Green Lake, Wisconsin, on the following day.

Mrs. Marian Larson, wife of the Rev. J. Herbert Larson, was taken to her heavenly home on January 23, 2003. A memorial service was held in Risen Savior Lutheran Church of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in Austin, Texas, on January 27, 2003, the Rev. Roger Zehms oﬀiciating.

Mrs. Karen Schneck, wife of Mr. James Schneck, was called to her heavenly home on February 15, 2003. She had served as a Christian Day School teacher at Holy Trinity in Okauchee, Wisconsin, and also at Our Saviour in Lake Havasu. The Christian burial service was held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, with Pastor Timothy Hartwig conducting the service.

The Rev. James Larson was called to his heavenly home on May 12, 2003. The Christian burial service was held on May 17th at Concordia Lutheran Church, in Hood River, Oregon, with the Rev. Cory Hahnke oﬀiciating.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD (WELS)

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1) writes the psalmist. The fellowship we enjoy with our brothers and sisters of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is greatly appreciated. In October of this past year leaders from ELS and WELS gathered for the biennial Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and discussed numerous items of interest common to respective boards in our two synods. This coming July your president plans to bring personal greetings to the 2003 WELS Convention in Watertown, Wisconsin. Both the ELS and the WELS continue to foster the work of the ten-year-old Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC). It was in April of 1993 that 13 church bodies held the constituting convention of the CELC in Oberwesel, Germany. Today nineteen churches comprise this worldwide fellowship.

THE CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

Nineteen church bodies from around the world comprise the CELC. The most recent members of the conference are: The Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia; The Ukrainian Lutheran Church; and The Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Theological Commission's document on justification, the second booklet in the Eternal Word series, was adopted at the April 2002 convention in Sweden. The commission reported that the third document, on the Holy Spirit, is nearing completion.

Up until the present time, the CELC has received significant support in the form of gifts and grants. For the conference's continued existence, however, member churches will need to increase their financial support. A set of suggested contribution guidelines for the member churches was adopted at the last convention. The ELS contributes \$3,000 annually to the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

Professor Em. Armin Panning and Professor Adolph Harstad serve as president and vice-president, respectively. Professor Forrest Bivens is the secretary. Rev. Daniel Koelpin and Rev. John Moldstad are members of the Planning Committee.

Copies of the Proceedings for the 2002 convention were published this past fall and distributed to the pastors of our synod. The booklet contains the essays of the last triennial convention centering on the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

We ask our gracious Lord to bless the fellowship we enjoy with these member churches. It is a truly remarkable work of God the Holy Spirit that these Lutheran churches, separated geographically but united confessionally, are working together for promoting the truth of God's Word and for encouraging one another in spreading the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSIONAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LATVIA

August 4, 2002 was a very special day for our sister church in Latvia. The first CLCL church building was dedicated in the town of Kekava and four new pastors were ordained into the public ministry. Rev. Egons Mudulis, one of the newly ordained and a graduate of our own Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, currently serves a mission in Liepaja. Rev. Gundars Bakulis, superintendent of the CLCL, reports a 25% increase in membership in their church body for 2002, with a total membership of 491. Hopes remain high for the congregation in Riga, numbering 115, to build its own sanctuary. At the present time the Riga congregation rents space from an Anglican church.

The church body in Latvia is still working on being recognized officially by the Latvian government. Just lately a signal was received from the Department of Justice of Latvia indicating this status may occur relatively soon. Many Latvians are learning of the CLCL as a result of its monthly newspaper. The "Latvian Lutheran" has become the most popular religious newspaper in Latvia.

Pastor Bakulis writes: "We thank the ELS for all the support you have provided for our church during the last decade. Without your brotherly Christian support we would have achieved very little." The Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia receives support from Thoughts of Faith, a church-related organization of the ELS.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL CHURCH (SWEDEN AND NORWAY)

The president of the Lutheran Confessional Church (LBK) of Norway and Sweden is Rev. Egil Edvardsen. The church body has 280 members in nine congregations, served by five national pastors. In 2002 the LBK opened a new seminary where five students presently study.

Two of the LBK congregations are located in Norway; one in Stavanger and the other in Avaldsnes on the west coast of Norway. Tor Jacob Welde, a graduate of our Bethany Seminary, has been serving a preaching station in Bergen. On June 8, 2003, Vicar Welde was ordained and installed at the Avaldsnes parish.

Our synod's anniversary this year reminds us of the blessings we have enjoyed through the years as a result of God's Word at work in the motherland of Norway. We pray that the light of Christ's Gospel will continue to shine in Scandinavia. Donations to our synod's Scandinavian Fund assist in this vital work.

THE UKRAINIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

We rejoice over the swift progress made by our sister church body in establishing churches throughout this former communist country. The ULC currently has 3,000 baptized souls and 17 national pastors who serve 21 congregations. Thoughts of Faith is the sponsoring organization of the ULC and operates a seminary in Ternopil under the direction of the Rev. David J. Webber, rector. Rev. V'yacheslav Horpynchuk serves as the bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. In 2002 the church became an official member of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH, GERMANY

The ELFK (*Evangelisch-Lutherische Freikirche*) has a membership of about 2,000 souls located in 30 congregations. At its convention in May 2002, the Rev. Rolf Borszik was elected its new president. The history of the ELFK extends back to 1876, and from that time the church body has served as a bastion of confessional Lutheranism in Germany. Since 1953 it has operated its own seminary in Leipzig.

Of interest to our own synod as we continue our study of the public ministry, the ELFK recently adopted a statement entitled, "Theses Concerning the Doctrine of Church and Ministry." (See our December 2002 *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* for the text.) Our sister church body held a special convention in September of 2001 in order to bring about a full resolution of the issue that had generated intense discussions in its midst.

AUSTRALIA

At our 2002 convention, our synod resolved that it "regretfully acknowledge the sus-

pension of fellowship declared by the ELSA (Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia), and that it beseech the Lord in prayer to lead the ELSA to reexamine its suspension of fellowship." Our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, in its June 2002 "Report to the Twelve Districts" stated: "The CICR does not find the charges of the ELSA against the ELS to be appropriate or convincing." Therefore, it is the sincere desire of our synod that the ELSA lift the suspension of fellowship with the ELS and that there be a resolution of the conflict between ELSA and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Kallangur, Queensland, Australia. Since this breach of fellowship disrupts the unity of the CELC (Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference), we urge the Australia Review Committee to continue working at the restoration of true fellowship in doctrine and practice.

SYNODICAL AFFAIRS

THE DOCTRINE OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY

Last year's convention was marked by a strenuous discussion on the doctrine of the public ministry. The synod declined to adopt the seven theses on the ministry as presented by the standing Doctrine Committee and also proposed by the floor committee.

Attendees to the 2002 convention may debate what the vote intended to convey. Some might describe the vote as a rejection of the theology set forth in the theses. Others would say that the vote merely indicated that the synod was not yet ready to adopt a set of theses on the ministry, fearing adoption of any theses as being potentially divisive. One thing is certain: The declination of the convention to adopt the proposed theses means that our synod no longer has an official study document as the ministry discussion continues in our midst.

Following last year's convention, a number of people were asking: Where do we go from here? The synod president, in consultation with the vice president, felt it best to recommend a procedure that could assist us in resolving the apparent doctrinal differences. The word "apparent" is used in describing the differences, since not in every case were the differences concerning the proposed theses doctrinal in nature. Since we as a confessional Lutheran synod take seriously all matters of doctrine and practice, we could not sit back and do nothing, expecting troubles to vanish over time. This would not honor God and his Word, nor would it be wise as we strive to work together in true harmony. Scripture tells us to "*make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace*" (Ephesians 4:3).

To move ahead with the discussion in the spirit of unity, the synod president, along with the vice president, decided to appoint a special committee to study the issues before us and to assist our synod in developing a statement on the doctrine of the public ministry. In October of 2002, the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM) was appointed (see names below).

At its initial meeting the committee received the following general guidelines for doing its work. These guidelines are listed below, so that all may realize the duties and responsibilities incumbent on the committee.

General guidelines for the committee:

- a) Pray for the Lord's guidance. "*The effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much*" (James 5:16).
- b) Work together. It is important that a committee mindset prevail. Talk of who is on what "side" should be discouraged.
- c) Internal organization:
The co-chairmen will alternate the chair position from meeting to meeting.
The committee will elect a recording secretary.
- d) Frequency of meetings:
The committee should have at least three face-to-face meetings per year.
Correspondence between meetings is advised via listserv.
- e) Timetable:
Not open-ended. The PCM reports to the president and also serves at his dis-

cretion. Be conscience of the considerable investment the synod has in the committee's work.

- f) Strive for a workable set of theses. No compromise document. No ambiguities. Length? – Possibly similar to that of the 1980 Doctrine of the Church statement.
- g) The committee reports to the synod president, who also will consult with the synod vice president.
- h) In case of a tie on the six-member committee, simply report it as such to the president.

When the committee's work is completed:

- Synod president reviews it and consults with the vice president.
- Report goes before the Doctrine Committee for its evaluation (Presidium's discretion on *when* to bring it to the Doctrine Committee).
- President receives the evaluation from the Doctrine Committee.
- Entire report (committee's as is, and also the Doctrine Committee's evaluation) brought by the synod president to the General Pastoral Conference.
- Report/statement goes to the Synod Convention.

Other considerations for the committee:

Think in terms of being *precise* and *concise*.

Pastors/laity are encouraged to send helpful suggestions to the committee.

Progress will be reported via the synod president to the General Pastoral Conference and to the Synod Convention intermittently.

The committee should work independently apart from outside influences (Doctrine Committee, General Pastoral Conference, Circuit Visitors, other pastoral conferences/winkels).

We pray that God gives the members of the committee true wisdom, confessional commitment, integrity and an evangelical spirit as they continue this important work for our synod. We trust that our gracious Lord, who alone is the ruler of his church and rules all things for the benefit of his church, will bless the efforts being made.

While we await the outcome of the committee's work, we urge all to be careful in reporting what *did* and *did not* take place at last year's convention. Your president does not conclude from the action taken that the synod *repudiated* the theology of the Doctrine Committee's Theses, or that it *rejected* the WELS position on the ministry. These would be unfair characterizations of the action of the convention. We should simply say that the synod declined to adopt the Doctrine Committee's Theses as a doctrinal statement for the ELS; therefore, no formal study document exists for the synod at this time. Furthermore, we want to assure all that our practice of issuing divine calls to our Lutheran elementary teachers continues in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Presidium's Committee on the Ministry has met three times. An organizational meeting was held in Mankato on December 5 with Synod President Moldstad giving the committee its charge and guidelines. Vice-President Obenberger served as devotion leader and was present at the first session.

Serving on the Committee are co-chairs, Pastor Erwin Ekhoﬀ and Prof. Erling Teigen; Pastor Alexander Ring, secretary; Pastors Karl Anderson, Mark Bartels, and Jerome Gernander. Subsequent meetings on February 21 in Golden Valley and on April 25 in Mankato have been devoted to a study of the Bible passages that have been used in support of various statements on the ministry.

Following a study of the biblical texts, the committee expects to devote time to determining the exact points of controversy. The committee has not adopted a timetable under which to deliver its findings to the president.

The committee understands that its commission is from the synodical president, and

when it has arrived at its conclusions, they will be presented to the president who in turn will determine when and how to publish them.

E. Ekhoﬀ and E. Teigen

BUILD ON THE ROCK REPORT

The synod had decided that a grant or special funding be sought to have a capable individual, accountable to the Board of Trustees, appointed to help implement ideas and proposals set forth in the “Build on the Rock” vision statement (SR 2003, pp. 47-55; also p. 162, Resolution #4). Since special funding was not available, the president appointed a subcommittee from the Board of Trustees to cull important aspects of the “Build on the Rock” statement and to report to the board’s November meeting. The Board of Trustees then forwarded the subcommittee’s work to the Planning and Coordinating Committee, encouraging this committee to focus more of its long-range, strategic planning according to the “Build on the Rock” statement. At its next meeting, scheduled for September 8, 2003, the Planning and Coordinating Committee will take up this subject. Already many ideas from the “Build on the Rock” conference (August of 2001) are being implemented throughout the synod.

COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES (CfIT)

In keeping with the action of the 2002 convention, the synod president in October appointed the following men to serve on this new standing committee:

Mr. Dennis Behr to a 2-year term (temporary chm.)

Rev. Phillip Lepak to a 3-year term

Prof. Mark Meyer to a 3-year term

Mr. Mark French to a 2-year term

Mr. Rod Kuznicki to a 1-year term

The vice president of the synod serves as the committee’s supervisor.

The chairman of the Board for Publications, or its designated representative, serves as an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The organizational meeting for the committee was held on November 10, 2002, at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Since that time, the committee has had a number of teleconference meetings. Among the items currently under discussion: the subject of owning and maintaining a synod website, and looking into the feasibility of distance learning between the seminary in Lima, Peru, and our mission field in Chile.

The committee welcomes requests from the synod’s boards for ways that it can be of service to the boards and to the synod in the use of technology.

PASTORAL RESIGNATIONS

A number of pastors resigned from their respective calls this past year. The resignations occurred for various reasons and need not indicate an alarming trend for our synod. However, pressures of the office, family concerns and congregational responsibilities all weigh heavy on our called workers. Let us pray for our pastors, teachers and missionaries and the flocks that they serve. We also urge congregations to continue offering encouragement and support for the faithful servants who distribute the living water of our Savior. *“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”* (1 Timothy 5:17)

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Dr. Dan Bruss was installed as the seventh president of the college on January 19, 2003. An academic inauguration occurred on March 29, 2003. Let us ask God’s blessings upon the new president and upon our synod’s college.

The college went beyond its goal for its capital campaign of \$100,000,000. The total of gifts and pledges reached was \$102,000,000. The campaign funds will be utilized as follows: \$50,000,000 for endowments; \$30,000,000 for campus facilities (renovations and expansions); and \$20,000,000 for annual operations. We praise God that many hearts have been moved to contribute for the purpose of developing Bethany’s four-year program.

We also want to take note of the fact that the Elementary Education major is being offered this coming fall. It is a blessing to now be able to offer the full training for our synod's future Christian Day School teachers at our own institution of higher learning.

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

At the heart of center of any vibrant church body is the necessary attention given to the training of future pastors. Twelve men have been enrolled in our seminary this past year.

Although we are grateful that at the present time we do not have an abundance of vacancies (even in light of pastoral resignations), our synod generally needs about five graduates from the seminary each year in order to fill the calls available. We are happy to hear preliminary reports that there may be five or six entering the seminary this coming fall. We pray that God instills the desire for becoming a pastor in the hearts of many of our young men. *"Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task"* (1 Timothy 3:1).

VICE PRESIDENT'S ASSISTANCE

Your synod president is grateful for the assistance rendered by Vice President Glenn Obenberger this past year. Currently he is arranging preaching dates at some of our congregations. His visits are of great help to your president in reaching out to the 141 congregations of our synod. Rev. Obenberger also serves as the supervisor of the newly appointed Committee for Informational Technologies.

REPORT FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE MATTERS

At the urging of the Board of Trustees, the president appointed a special committee from various synod programs to discuss the matter of health insurance coverage and bring a recommendation for employee participation to the May 2003 meeting of the trustees for presentation to the 2003 synod convention. On April 10, 2003, the committee held its first and only meeting.

Health insurance costs across our country are rising between 7.5 and 25 percent annually. One possible way for congregations to deal with the high premiums is to go with a higher deductible for their called workers and at the same time establish a medical savings account (MSA). In order to qualify for a MSA, the employer must have at least 2 employees or more. Even if a formal MSA cannot be established, a congregation might choose to use a MSA type plan: a much higher deductible, with the savings in premiums put into a separate account to help offset out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred by the called worker in a given year. This method can save the employer money without asking the called worker to contribute to his insurance on a monthly plan.

Since the insurance industry is in a state of high flux, the committee recommends at the current time simply that each employer/congregation reviews its own financial situation and decides what is best for its respective organization and called worker. Possibly raising the deductible and developing a medical savings fund of some kind may be most beneficial.

Committee members: Dan Mundahl, chm; R. Wiechmann, sec.; Silas Born, Keith Wiederhoeft, and Pres. Moldstad, advisory. Joel Petersen also was present.

GRIEVANCE FILED VS. PEACE LUTHERAN, LAKELAND, FLORIDA AND THE ELS

Our synod has been issued a summons as a co-defendant in a lawsuit filed against Peace Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida, and also against Pastor Joel Willitz. It contests the arrangements of a gift that was given to Peace Lutheran by a couple in June of 1998. Church Mutual Insurance Company is representing both the congregation and the synod.

OTTESEN MUSEUM

The Ottesen Museum has undergone some major changes during the past year. A special "Museum Committee" has met several times and contributed many hours of labor to make it ready for dedication. It has been very nicely decorated and made attractive for displaying our history and artifacts. Rev. George Orvick has visited many museums over the past year gathering information and ideas which have helped him in his new role as director of the Archives and Museum. It should be noted that the building is also the headquarters of the Department of Missions and houses the offices of Missions Counselor Steven Petersen as well as that of Museum Director George Orvick. The dedication will take place following the Synod Sunday afternoon service on June 15, 2003.

2000 YEARS OF GRACE OFFERING

The 2000 Years of Grace Thank Offering began with a kick-off sermon on November 5, 2000, and officially ended at the end of 2002. However, we are grateful that gifts are continuing to come in. The total now stands at \$594,894.38. As you know, our goal was to raise \$1,000,000 over this two-year period with the proceeds being distributed as follows: \$100,000 for evangelism training in all ELS congregations in the USA; \$200,000 for establishing two Christian day schools in our foreign mission in Peru, and \$700,000 (or the remainder) for starting home mission congregations in the USA. The first two goals were accomplished: the Evangelism Assistance Program is in use and the children of Peru have their two Christian day schools: *Martin Luther School* located in Reynoso and *Children of Jesus School* located in the Amazon Jungle both completed their first year anniversary with a joyous celebration. The last goal of starting home mission congregations in the USA was not totally reached. We encourage you to continue to send gifts to this worthy project in order that the amount for Home Mission Advancement can be raised substantially.



Museum Committee

INACTIVE MEMBERS

Article IV, A., of "Guidelines for the Clergy Roster" reads: "An ordained clergyman who does not have a current call but desires to remain on the clergy roster and is eligible to perform the duties of the office of the ministry described in Article II, and who is not emeritus may, by action of the president and secretary, be continued on the Clergy Roster for a period not to exceed three years from the beginning of the period of inactivity. Upon the application of the individual and the recommendation of the president and secretary for an extension of such classification, the convention shall determine in each instance, on written ballot, whether the request shall be honored for an additional three year period."

For the past three years the following names have been on our inactive list: Rev. Theodore Aaberg, Rev. Dennis Schlict and Rev. Carlton Sielaff. Rev. Carlton Sielaff has requested to remain on the clergy roster. With the concurrence of the president and secretary, the convention will need to determine if Rev. Sielaff's request should be granted.

CONGREGATIONS VISITED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Zion Lutheran Church, Tracy, MN; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN; First American Lutheran, Mayville, ND; Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church, Springboro, OH; Grace Lutheran Church, Hobart, IN; St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, IL; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, OR; Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN; Scarville Synod Lutheran Church, and Center Lutheran Church, Scarville and Lake Mills, IA; Bethany Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN; Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, WA; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Yelm, WA; Family of God Lutheran

Church, Fort Mojave, AZ; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ; Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, FL; Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Madison, WI; St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, IA; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, WI; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Okauchee, WI; Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, MN; Saved by Grace Lutheran Church, Medford, OR; Christ Lutheran Church, Klamath Falls, OR.

CONCLUSION

Purely by the grace and mercy of our Lord has the ELS been able to carry out its purpose and mission during its many years of existence. As we look to the future, may we continually pray:

Preserve Thy Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day
And let Thy kingdom flourish,
Enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing,
Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us
While wand'ring here below.

(ELH: 533, 1)

John A. Moldstad, president



CONVENTION ESSAY

A Table in the Wilderness Our Legacy as the Spiritual Successors of the Norwegian Synod

Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad

We, in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, trace the founding of our American Lutheran identity to a September day under two oak trees at a place called Koshkonong in Dane County, Wisconsin. On Monday, September 2, 1844, more than 150 years ago, a Lutheran pastor from Norway gathered with a small group of immigrants beneath these oak trees in the western part of the Koshkonong settlement. These men and women had come with their families from Norway. Already they had established settlements at LaSalle County, Illinois, in 1834 (Fox River); Rock County, Wisconsin, in 1838 (Jefferson Prairie and Rock Prairie); Racine County, Wisconsin, in 1839 (Muskego); and Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1840 (Koshkonong). Most had come for economic reasons. In their brightly painted wooden emigrant trunks many of them had packed their precious Bible, the catechism [*Forklaring*], a book of sermons [*Huspostille*] and a hymnbook [*Psalmebog*]; but they were lacking pastors to serve them.



By the summer of 1844, there were neither any church buildings nor any fully-organized congregations among the Norwegian immigrants. There were only two pastors serving the Norwegian Lutherans. Elling Eielsen was a lay-preacher who had consented to be ordained by a neighboring pastor. Claus L. Clausen had come the previous year as a teacher and, upon request of the settlers at Muskego, was ordained at that time.

Such was the situation when the twenty-nine year-old J.W.C. Dietrichson arrived in Wisconsin. He was the first ordained pastor to come from Norway. The first of what was to be considered his regular services was conducted on Sunday, September 1, 1844, in a barn in the eastern part of the Koshkonong settlement. The young pastor considered this to be the “starting point” of his missionary labors. The next day, he conducted another Service in the western part of the settlement. That Service was conducted beneath two oak trees. Here he preached a confessional sermon based on Psalm 78:19: “Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?” About sixty persons received the Sacrament of the Altar. Pastor Dietrichson wrote about that day: “This was a clear and beautiful day, a day that I can never forget.”¹ From these simple beginnings came the organization of the synod whose sesquicentennial we now remember.

Those oak trees are long gone—they were felled by a wind storm. The Norwegian Synod which was organized is gone—it was felled by a merger. In 1928, upon the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Norwegian Synod, it was said: “We claim to be the logical successors of the old Norwegian Synod, and I do not think that any one can justly dispute this claim.”² We, who today constitute the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, have claimed to be the spiritual successors of that “old” Norwegian Synod.

The gracious Lord yet continues to “furnish a table in the wilderness.” He invites us to dine with Him and He nourishes us as He did those faithful saints who have gone before us. We today glory in God—not in ourselves or in human achievement. Yet by His grace, as the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod, we have received a legacy. We may not have inherited earthly wealth or physical property but we have received a legacy which gives a unique flavor to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Upon the 150th anniversary of its organization, we here wish to remember our legacy as the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod.

PART I DOCTRINE

The most significant legacy which we have inherited from the Norwegian Synod is a concern for doctrinal purity. The Norwegian Synod began with a quest for doctrinal correctness and this continued to be a banner throughout the years of its existence. This already was evidenced through the action of the founding fathers 150 years ago.

Although J.W.C. Dietrichson has the notoriety of being the first ordained Norwegian clergyman from Norway, he does not hold the status among us of a Henry Melchior Muhlenberg or a C.F.W. Walther.

... Dietrichson's work does not compare with the labors of such pioneer ministers as Herman Amberg Preus, Vilhelm Koren, and Jacob Aal Ottesen, or of President Larsen for thirty years the head of Luther College ... Dietrichson did not come hither to make his home with us. He was always a stranger in the land, his heart being ever in his beloved Norway. His labors here extended over a period of barely five years.... But to Johannes Wilhelm Christian Dietrichson belongs the honor of being the first Norwegian Lutheran minister in America; and, with all of his short-comings and mistakes, whatever they were, he deserves to be remembered with respect and gratitude.... Dietrichson bravely bore hardships, trials, annoyances, and downright persecution, that would have driven a weaker, or less devoted, man in despair from the field. His enemies whispered, it is true, that "the black-coated gentleman" was avaricious, was after the wool of the flock—always an easy and effective method to harm ministers of the Gospel. The imputation is, on the face, false and absurd. If it was avarice for Dietrichson to make two journeys from Norway to Wisconsin, and to labor and suffer as he did among the poor settlers on the frontier, all for a promised salary of three hundred dollars, then I pray that we may have more of such avarice.... He made some bitter enemies, but many warm and life-long friends. He made some mistakes, no doubt, but they were mistakes of the head and not of the heart. He held, and sometimes preached, unscriptural opinions, but they never took root among the people. He did not long abide with us, but he did a great and blessed work, and the results of his labors remain unto this day.³

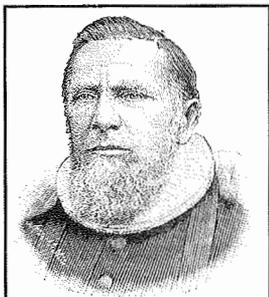
Some things remained the same as they had in Norway. As the pastor knelt before the altar wearing his *prestekrage*, the "klokke" would read the opening prayers on behalf of the congregation. But some things were quite different. The collection of money in the church was distasteful to the descendants of the state church. As a result, Dietrichson devised a plan, which had precedent in Norway, whereby the pastor received an "altar offering" on the three great festivals while the congregation's operating expenses were paid by an assessment gathered by the board of trustees. Yet, the unscriptural opinion of Dietrichson was that of "Gruntvigianism."

Nikolai F.S.Gruntvig was a Lutheran bishop in Denmark. He made what he considered to be a "matchless discovery" which he regarded as the key to the interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. The "matchless discovery" was that the true "living word" was found in the Apostles' Creed as it was used in the Sacrament of Baptism and which, he felt, predated the time of the writing of the New Testament. Hence, this "Baptismal Creed" was called the "Word of God" or the "Living Word" and the Scriptures were to be interpreted in view of this creed. Thus the Scriptures receded more-and-more into the background.

Doctrinal Concern

With the arrival of Pastor H.A.Stub in 1848, there were now three Norwegian Lutheran pastors in America who desired to form a synod. An attempt was made in 1849 at a meeting held at Koshkonong. At this meeting Dietrichson read a sketch of a constitution which he had prepared but, due to poor attendance, no organization took place. The following year Dietrichson returned to Norway for the final time.

The next attempt at organization came in January 1851 when a similar meeting was held at the Luther Valley church in Rock County, Wisconsin. It was here an organization was first formed by three pastors and delegates from eighteen congregations. Pastor C.L. Clausen was elected as president. The new synod adopted a constitution based upon the draft which was prepared by Dietrichson two years earlier. In the second paragraph the adopted constitution said:



Rev. Claus L. Clausen

The doctrine of the Church is that which is revealed through God's holy Word in our baptismal covenant and also in the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, interpreted in agreement with the Symbolical Writings of the Church of Norway, which are: (1) The Apostolic Creed, (2) The Nicene Creed, (3) The Athanasian Creed (4) The Unaltered Articles of the Augsburg Confession which was delivered to Emperor Charles V at Augsburg in 1530, (5) Luther's Small Catechism [emphasis added].

The next regular meeting was held in February 1852 at Muskego. Here the Gruntvigian error in the constitution was duly noted. The offending doctrinal statement was found in an unalterable paragraph and could not be changed. The matter of doctrinal correctness was regarded so highly that, at this meeting, a resolution was passed to regard the resolutions of the previous year as being "preliminary motions." This had the effect of dissolving the organization which had been formed. The next meeting was held in February 1853 at East Koshkonong when the group consisted of seven pastors and thirty-eight congregations consisting of three congregations in Illinois, four in Iowa, and thirty-one in Wisconsin. A new constitution, without the doctrinal error, was adopted. As the delegates were not authorized by their congregations to accept the constitution, it was submitted to the congregations for approval. Soon the announcement was made:

Representatives of the congregations which before that time have accepted the constitution prepared for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the other special regulations, are invited to meet in the Luther Valley Church Monday, the 3rd of October.⁴

The first regular convention of the Norwegian Synod thus was held October 3-7, 1853, at Luther Valley when the constitution was ratified and the Synod began to function as a fully organized body. Six pastors were in attendance and seventeen congregations had, by this time, accepted the constitution and sent representatives. The pastors were:

- Rev. A.C. Preus: Koshkonong, Wisconsin
- Rev. Nils Brandt: Watertown, Wisconsin (Rock River)
- Rev. G.F. Dietrichson: Orfordville, Wisconsin (Luther Valley)
- Rev. J.A. Ottesen: Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- Rev. H.A. Preus: Keyser, Wisconsin (Spring Prairie)
- Rev. H.A. Stub: Muskego, Wisconsin

In addition, the Rev. C.L. Clausen (St. Ansgar, Iowa) also was regarded as a member of the Synod but was not serving a congregation at this time and was unable to attend the meeting.

The date of October 5, 1853, has been regarded, by common consensus, as the date of the organization of The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The name was changed in 1869 to the Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; however, the body was commonly known as the "Norwegian Synod" or simply as "the Synod." The Rev. A.C. Preus was elected as the first president. It is the anniversary date of that organization which we now remember.

A concern for correct doctrinal teaching characterized the organization of the Norwegian Synod. However, the clash with Gruntvigianism did not come to an end with the organization of the Synod. An example of this is to be seen with the publication of the Norwegian Synod's first hymnbook. The congregations had used the hymnbooks which the immigrants had brought with them from Norway; principally the Guldberg

Psalmebog which was published in 1778 and which had been reprinted in America in 1854. The hymns of Thomas Kingo and Petter Dass, along with those of Hans Brorson sustained the Christian faith during the days of Rationalism. The hymns of Paul Gerhard and other German hymn writers were not widely known in Norway until the nineteenth century. Gruntvig also was a prolific hymnist and many of his hymns were becoming popular in Norway. His hymns often centered on the importance of the Means of Grace. The debate, in the Norwegian Synod, centered on whether to include any hymns written by Gruntvig in the new hymnbook. Some of the pastors, including Pastor U.V.Koren, argued that at least one of his hymns should be included. Opposition came from others, such as Pastor H.A.Preus: "Should we now confuse people, he thundered, by including the hymns of one of Lutheranism's destroyers?"⁷⁵ At the 1868 pastors' conference a vote was taken with nineteen in favor and eight in opposition (with three abstentions) that none of Gruntvig's hymns be included in the new hymnbook. One hymn, however, ultimately was included: "God's Word is our Great Heritage" [*Guds ord det er vort arvigods*]. When the first English hymnbook appeared for Norwegians in America, in 1913, it yet contained only five hymns by Gruntvig.

The *Synodens Salmebog* was the first hymnbook prepared and published by Scandinavian immigrants in this country. Among its hymns were twenty-seven original hymns written by U.V.Koren and twenty-one translations prepared by Koren who is remembered as a gifted singer. Among the hymns was one which Koren most likely wrote for the October 14, 1865, dedication of the main building at Luther College: "Ye Lands, to the Lord, Make a Jubilant Noise." This date became known as "Founders' Day" and many subsequent dedication services throughout the Synod were held near this anniversary date. The hymn also became very dear to the members of the Synod as it was used as the opening hymn for most installation, ordination and dedication services throughout the history of the Synod.

Authority of Scripture

The *Salmebog* is but one example of the concern to maintain a correct teaching of the Scripture both in doctrine and practice. The Synod earnestly sought to hold to the two great principles of the Reformation: the authority of the Holy Scripture as the source and norm of all doctrine, which is known as the Formal Principle; and the teaching of justification by faith alone, which is known as the Material Principle. Such a commitment can be seen in the discussions and controversies which arose in the Synod.

One of the first controversies to face the Synod centered on the matter of slavery. The first shots of the Civil War occurred within seven years of the Synod's organization. The Synod's leaders were placed in a difficult situation. All the congregations of the Synod were located in Union territory. The pastors opposed the practice of slavery in America. Members of the congregations fought in the Union army and Pastor Clausen served as a chaplain with the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment under Col. Heg. Yet, while the Synod was opposed to the abuses of slavery in America, it felt compelled to take the unpopular stance of defending the right of slavery precisely because the Scriptures did not prohibit the practice. St. James exhorts the faithful: "Don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God" (James 4:4). This early controversy caused several congregations either to be divided or to withdraw their synodical membership. Following the controversy, at the 1869 synod convention, a statement was recorded as coming from the Silver Lake, Shell Rock, and Lime Creek congregations in Iowa. All three congregations had experienced a division within the previous year. The congregations said: "May it on this occasion be permitted us to assure the Synod of our heartfelt thanks for the truth of our Lutheran Zion, for the courage it has manifested in the question of slavery by taking up the bludgeon in the defense of the perspicuity, authority, and superiority of Scripture ..."⁷⁶

The most adamant defender of the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures was the Rev. U.V.Koren who arrived in America in 1853 only two months after the organization of the Synod. He resided near Decorah, Iowa, and served as the president of the

Norwegian Synod from 1894 until his death in 1910. He wrote:

He who believes that the Bible is God's word, also believes that the Holy Scripture, and that alone, shall be the judge of all doctrine and in all doctrinal controversies. He is not affected by the objection which is so often raised: How can you know that just your interpretation of Scripture is the correct one? Do you claim to be infallible, and that your interpretation is infallible?"⁷

Again he wrote:

We do not want to be "puffed up" because we have the pure doctrine.... Therefore we wish very much to impress upon our hearers and ourselves both the great joy and the grave responsibility which are ours through having the solid and unfailing truth clearly revealed to us in Holy Scripture, so that when we adhere to it, we can be certain that we will not go astray.⁸

In his 1893 report to the Synod, President H.A.Preus said:

At this moment an exceeding[ly] dangerous tendency pervades nearly all Christian denominations in the world. It may not be the aim of the leaders and their followers, but it is the aim of the originator of this tendency, Satan, the Deceiver, to get rid of any absolute divine authority, by rejecting the biblical doctrine of the Inspiration of Scriptures.... The foundation of Christianity and of Holy Writ, which is the Prophets and the Apostles, with Christ as the chief Corner-stone, is thus undermined; justification by faith alone becomes a problem,—divine certainly of faith yields to uncertainty and doubt, and the sinner is deprived of his consolation and peace.⁹

The dedication to the Formal Principle of Lutheranism was reflected in the Greek motto of the Synod which was *gegryptai* ("It is Written") and continues today on the masthead of the *Lutheran Sentinel*. It also was reflected by the pastors who, Sunday-after-Sunday in the pulpit, introduced the reading of the sermon text with the words: "God the Holy Ghost has caused our text to be recorded..." and concluding the reading of the text with the petition of Jesus' high-priestly prayer: "Holy Father, sanctify us through Thy truth; Thy word is truth!" (John 17:17).

Justification by Faith Alone

The young pastor Laur. Larsen records the impression of his first meeting with the Synod's pastors after arriving in America in 1857:

...I speak for myself, that I learned to understand how the doctrine of justification by faith was not only to be the sun in a Christian's life, but was also the kernel and center of all a pastor's preaching.... I can remember how Ottesen in agreeing with what I had said, liked to add: "Through the Word, through the Word." To that I had no objection, but it was likewise his reminder which first brought the acknowledgement, truly living and deep within me, that the faith wherewith we are justified before God is worked by God through His word and isn't anything we can gain ourselves by our own strength or reason. In other words, while I knew that I had learned the Second Article fairly well, Ottesen helped me likewise to a sincere confession of the Third Article, and for that I have always thanked him and thank him even now in his grave.¹⁰

This speaks of the other great principle defended by the Norwegian Synod which was the Material Principle of justification by faith alone. This is the core teaching by which the Lutheran Church differs from all other religions of the world. All of Scripture is written to direct the sinner to the salvation which is given through Christ. The penalty of sin cannot be ignored by a righteous God. The payment for sin must be made by someone. The sinner, being dead in transgressions and sins, is unable in any degree to contribute toward salvation. Something or someone must come to our rescue. Once again, it is the Holy Scriptures which settle the matter: "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because

in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law” (Romans 3:22-28). Martin Luther stated this truth in great simplicity when he wrote in the *Small Catechism*: “I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, and that He is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death.”

Numerous controversies in the old Synod arose in defense of this central Material Principle. The early leaders of the Norwegian Synod realized that the question about the activity of lay preachers actually centered on the surety of justification. A lay movement in Norway had been led by Hans Nielsen Hauge and was brought to America in the person of Elling Eielsen who was a vocal opponent of the ordained clergy. H.A.Preus in his *Seven Lectures* which were delivered and published in Norway wrote: “In those first days, of course, [Eielsen’s] work might in its place have been in order had he taught the pure, true Lutheran doctrine. That he never did this, but rather instead opposed and persecuted orthodox teachers and congregations, that was his greatest sin.”⁷¹ Many such lay preachers lacked a clear distinction between law and gospel. A lack of preaching the law confirms the sinner in his sin while a lack of preaching the gospel leaves one uncertain about his justification. In 1862 the Synod adopted theses which reaffirmed the teaching of the Augsburg Confession: “Of ecclesiastical order we teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the sacraments unless he is rightfully called” (Article XIV).

Another early question which arose was the significance of the Third Commandment and the Sabbath Day. The doctrine of justification was at stake. The pastors of the Synod could not allow its members again to be placed under the law. Supported by a statement from the theological professors in Norway, the issue was settled at the 1863 convention of the Synod although it continued to trouble other Norwegian Lutheran church bodies.

It was the doctrine of justification which the Norwegian Synod also defended in discussions held with other Norwegian Lutheran church bodies. In contrast to them, the Norwegian Synod held to a firm proclamation of God’s absolution for the penitent sinner. This caused considerable debate between the Synod and other bodies. Even years later the United Norwegian Lutheran Church did not include an absolution in its published agenda but would proclaim what appeared to be only a conditional absolution: “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”⁷² The Norwegian Synod pastors, however, would declare with firmness from the altar: “Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God ... hath given His Only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins...” In retrospect, the Rev. U.V.Koren wrote about this controversy: “Here we got right into the middle of the chief questions by which the doctrine of justification stands or falls. It became apparent here that our opponents did not want to admit that the contents of the Gospel and the essence of absolution are always the same.”⁷³ That firm emphasis upon universal justification continued in the 1870s as the Synod defended the “justification of the world” against the error of pietism which made the gospel conditional upon the faith of the individual, as if justification existed only for those who accept it through faith. The question of absolution was a question about the certainly that “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Within the Synod itself, the doctrine of justification was most severely attacked during the predestination or election controversy of the 1880s. The question arose whether there is any human responsibility toward the acceptance of God’s grace. This question

of justification was answered by affirming that salvation and faith are completely dependent upon God's grace in Christ without any dependency upon human cooperation. U.V.Koren, the chief theologian of the Synod, wrote about the controversy saying: "Now if God's grace is made dependent on something which we ourselves provide, then justification by faith is destroyed and all true comfort gone."¹⁴ It also was U.V.Koren who authored the lengthy document of sixty-three theses entitled *An Accounting to the Congregations of the Norwegian Synod* which gave "an accounting" for that which was taught by the pastors of the Synod. It was signed by 107 pastors in 1884 and said in part: "The doctrine of election stands in close connection with the fundamental chief articles of the Christian faith, such as: That fallen man is completely corrupted and dead in sin; that God desires the salvation of all men; that salvation is by the grace of God alone; and that it therefore is gained through faith alone without the works of the law."¹⁵



Rev. Ulrik V. Koren

Such a defense of the gospel was costly. By the time the Election Controversy had ended, most congregations of the Synod had been divided, pastors deposed from their calls, and rival congregations established. One-third of the pastors and congregations had withdrawn their membership. Whereas in 1886, the Synod consisted of 193 pastors, 723 congregations, and 143,885 souls; three years later it numbered 138 pastors, 512 congregations, and 93,891 souls.

Doctrinal Divergence

It was this same concern for the doctrine of justification which motivated a small minority of pastors and members of the Synod to oppose synodical union in 1917 with those individuals who had opposed biblical teaching only three decades earlier. That defense of justification also was costly. When the battle had been waged and the small minority of pastors and members gathered at Lime Creek, Iowa, in June 1918, the Rev. Bjug Harstad said in the opening sermon: "We are, as it were clustered around the old building-site which is storm swept and waste. A destructive hurricane has swept away the dear old mansion, even taking with it most of them that dwelt there. Discouraged, looking around, we discover only the bare ground with wreckage and dangerous cross-roads."¹⁶ Gone were the seminary and the two colleges. Gone were the four mission fields and sixteen academies. Gone were three "children's homes" and one "old people's" home. Gone were the publishing house and three hospitals. Just before the merger the Synod numbered over 150,000 souls, but the following year it was re-organized by thirteen pastors, a few congregations, and a handful of members. Many individuals were left without congregations or church buildings. They were no longer called "the Synod," but had become "the little synod." These faithful few realized their legacy was not one of boards and bricks and mortar but rather one of doctrine. Yet, as the Rev. J.A. Moldstad said about those years: "We were free, were unafraid, and we were happy. We felt that the Lord was with us and that His grace was abundant."¹⁷ It is such a legacy for doctrinal purity which we have inherited from the Norwegian Synod. In 1917, when the majority of the pastors and the congregations of the Synod sought to enter into a church merger which compromised God's Word, it was those few pastors and congregations who eventually re-organized the Synod who continued to stand steadfast upon the legacy of God's pure Word and teaching.

Such a divergent path of doctrine continued to grow wider through the following years. In a sermon preached at Luther College by religion department member Karla Suomala during Advent 2001, the current theology of the merger church body becomes apparent. The text was Job 19:23-27 and the preacher said:

Sometimes during Advent, I feel like *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. My training has really spoiled my ability to enjoy good prophetic advent sermons.... As a Hebrew Bible person, I cringe when I hear the "Servant Songs" from Isaiah

used as prophetic texts predicting the coming of Jesus. And as much as I like to hear Sunday School kids read Isaiah 7:14—"Look, the virgin is with child and shall *bear a son*,"—I struggle because the text does not read "virgin" ... and that is probably not referring to Mary....

She concluded by saying:

My Biblical Cynicism—I mean Criticism—cannot entirely steal Advent from me. After all, the people of Whoville [sic] managed to celebrate Christmas in a new way—without their presents, trimmings, or decorations. If the Grinch's heart grew three sizes that day, imagine what might happen to us if we are willing to let go of our preconceived, tried-and-true notions of Advent.

Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, was singing! Without any presents at all! (The Grinch) hadn't stopped Christmas from coming! It CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the same!¹⁸

In contrast, the legacy which we have received from the Norwegian Synod is one of the importance of doctrine. In a sermon, speaking upon Joshua 4:20-22, preached upon the occasion of the Installation of Dr. Dan Bruss as president of Bethany Lutheran College in January 2003, Prof. Adolph Harstad said:

What do these stones on McMahan Hill mean? Are they simply memorials to achievements of the ELS? Do they just sing the praises of past presidents, instructors, and financial supporters? No, they are memorial stones calling attention to our God of grace. They shout of what he does in hearts through "the one thing needful." The cross of Christ on the steeple of this Trinity Chapel towers high over the whole campus. It reminds us that all these buildings are to be memorials to "blessed Jesus King of grace." These stones mean that we owe all to "Jesus, crucified for me" and that we want all who enter this institution to be able to say about him, "(He) is my life, my hope's foundation...."

I asked a number of people associated with Bethany and our synod this basic question. "What do you think is the biggest challenge that the new president of Bethany faces?" Their answers were just about identical. They all spoke words like these: "Maintaining Bethany's distinctive Christian mission as the school continues to expand."

But tonight we Bethany people say to you, "Mr. President, build up these stones." Joshua assured that the stones at Gilgal had rich meaning as memorials to God's grace and power. Now may God use you to build up the stones of Bethany so that they ring out like a clear trumpet blast, "One thing is needful. Jesus is our glory and salvation."¹⁹

The Lord has prepared a Table in the Wilderness. On the table of His grace, He sets before us the body and the blood which He shed for the complete forgiveness of all sins. Through Word and Sacrament He protects us from all ungodliness and preserves us in the one true faith unto eternal life in heaven. St. Paul gives all glory to God as he writes: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). We, too, share that confidence as we continue to sing the hymn which has concluded many Lenten Services in the congregations of our "little synod":

*Skriv dig, Jesus, paa mit hjerte,
O min konge og min Gud!
At ei vellyst eller smerte
Dig formaar at slette ud:
Denne indskrift paa mig set:
Jesus udaf Nasaret,
Den korsfestede, min ære,
Og min salighed skal være!*

Thomas Kingo (1634-1703)

On my heart imprint Thine image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures,
Have no pow'r Thee to efface.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary #593

PART II FOREIGN MISSIONS

It is not coincidental that a major anniversary of foreign mission work occurs at this convention. An active foreign mission program is a part of the legacy which we have received as the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod.

The early years of the re-organized synod, after 1918, were dominated by a need to serve those individuals who had been left without a church-home following the events of the previous year. There was, however, a strong desire to pursue the work of foreign missions. This is evidenced by the formation of a Committee on Missions in 1919 when the re-organization of synod was complete. At that second annual convention of the synod, in 1919, vice-president John Moldstad preached a sermon in which he said:

...when you know Christ, then you will also witness about Him. You will not retain your knowledge for yourself, you will share it with others, you will reveal it to your fellowmen. As a Christian you are called to preserve and defend the Word and the Sacraments so that they may remain pure and clean. You are to use them diligently for your own edification and in that way constantly witness for yourself. You are to bring these, God's treasures, to others, so that they too may become partakers of them, so that the kingdom of God will come to them....

Think how great an honor it is that God would use us as His messengers to poor sinners, that He who does not need our help yet does us the great honor that He permits us to be along in building God's Church on earth. O let us, therefore, in thankfulness and love work while it is day: let us with courage and reckless abandon, in faithful allegiance battle for the sake of God's truth, for His glory and people's salvation, always being aware of this that even if we fall in the battle, the victory is sure.²⁰

Such is the legacy inherited from the Norwegian Synod. Although the re-organized synod pursued the work of home missions, it is in the field of foreign missions [*hedingemissionen*] where our legacy is found. The Norwegian Synod had a foreign mission program which was more aggressive than that of her sister bodies in the Synodical Conference. The Missouri Synod entered its first foreign mission field in India in 1895. The Wisconsin Synod, although she did extensive work among American Indians, did not embark on foreign mission work beyond the American shores until 1924.

Early Mission Work

Like her sister bodies, the earliest mission work of the Norwegian Synod was to reach-out to her fellow countrymen. In the early years the pioneer pastors, by necessity, also became missionary pastors covering large areas which included numerous congregations. Already in 1855, at the first meeting after its organization, the chief topic of discussion was home mission work. Early missionary pastors included: N.O.Brandt (who traveled into north-east Iowa), C.L.Clausen (who lived at St. Ansgar, Iowa), Laur. Larsen (who traveled into Minnesota), B.J.Muus (who lived at Goodhue County, Minnesota), Thomas Johnsen (who lived at Norseland, Minnesota), T.A.Torgerson (who lived at Lake Mills, Iowa), O.A.Normann (who traveled into northern Minnesota), N.T.Ylvisaker (who traveled in the Red River Valley), and Bjug Harstad (who lived at Mayville, North Dakota). In 1870, President H.A.Preus reported to the Synod:

We have endeavored, so far as possible, to relieve the great spiritual need of our countrymen, especially in the new settlements by increased missionary activity.... The importance of such missionary activity is obvious when we consider how rapidly new settlements are being formed in the western districts. If we

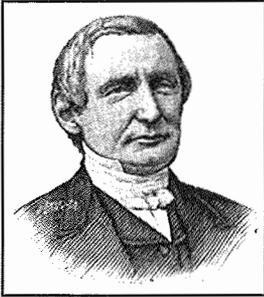


Rev. Bernt J. Muus

do not come to their aid, they will become a prey to all sorts of sects who swarm about them like hungry wolves. The congregations ought, therefore, to increase their contributions for the support of this missionary activity, that it may be expanded so as to meet the present need.²¹

In that same year C.M.Hvistendahl became the first official home-missionary of the Synod as he was sent to the west coast. When the revised constitution of the Synod was adopted in 1869 the phrase "home and foreign mission work" was added as one of the purposes of the body. In 1876 the Synod was divided into districts with the Eastern District being those areas east of the Mississippi River, the Iowa District consisting of congregations in the southern tier of counties in Minnesota and southward, and the Minnesota District consisting of congregations in Minnesota and westward. At that time, the work of home missions was delegated to each of the individual districts.

This does not mean, however, that foreign mission work was disregarded. In 1859 the subject of "Missions Among the Unevangelized" was placed on the convention agenda and a resolution was passed stating that "The Church calls upon all its pastors and congregations to work for missions among the unevangelized..." This was the first recorded synodical resolution urging the support of foreign mission work.²² Five years later, another important resolution was passed saying: "The Synod must acknowledge that work for Missions both among the heathen and among our countrymen is a task which has been greatly neglected by us, wherefore we urge the congregations and pastors to work also for this cause. To its advance the Synod elects a committee of missions consisting of three members."²³ This first mission committee of the Synod consisted of pastors J.A.Ottesen, P.A.Rasmussen, and B.J.Muus.



Rev. Jacob Aal Ottesen

Norwegian Missionary Society

In those early years, mission work was influenced by the mission societies in Norway. Mission work in Norway had been conducted by a variety of independent mission societies the earliest of which dates to 1826. In 1842, sixty of these societies met in Stavanger and established a common organization known as The Norwegian Foreign Missionary Society [*Det norske Misjonsselskap*] (N.M.S.) which was to become a major factor in Norwegian mission work and even established its own school in Stavanger for the education and training of missionaries. One of the representatives to this first meeting of the N.M.S was Hans Schreuder who was a graduate of the theological department of the University in Christiania and represented the Christiania Mission Society. At this meeting Schreuder was chosen as the first foreign missionary of the society. His mission field was to become Natal and Zululand on the south-east coast of Africa. Schreuder considered it was his duty to transplant the Church of Norway into Africa much as the pastors of the Norwegian Synod felt it was their duty to transplant the church into America. The first baptism amongst the Zulus occurred in 1858 when the Norwegian Synod was only five-years-old; it was met with great joy in Norway where M.B.Landstad expressed the joy of the people in the missionary hymn "*Opløft dit syn, o Kristen sjael*":

O Christian soul, lift up thine eyes, / The dew falls gently from the skies, /
The spring of souls is nearing, / The precious seed, the word of truth, /
In heathen ground has taken root, / Good news our heart is cheering.²⁴

The Norwegian Missionary Society and Schreuder's mission activity had a great impact on other young men. Among these was Claus Clausen who had come to Norway from Denmark and had a desire to serve as a missionary with Schreuder in Africa. Because he had not been ordained, he was unable to enter into this work. Rather, he was urged to go to America where he could be a teacher to the children.

Another young man who attended the first general meeting of the N.M.S. was J.W.C.Dietrichson who, two years later, was to conduct the Communion Service under

the oak trees at Koshkonong. Dietrichson also indicated a desire to accompany Schreuder to Africa but he too was persuaded to go to America where life, to the average Norwegian citizen, was portrayed as being as wild and uncivilized as that of heathen Africa.

Still another young student of theology who expressed interest in Schreuder's missionary activity and was preparing to go to that field was H.A.Stub; however, in 1847 a Letter of Call was sent from America to the N.M.S. requesting a graduate. The school in Stavanger had no one to send and forwarded the Call to the University in Christiania. It was assigned to H.A.Stub who then was ordained. Thus there already were attachments between the N.M.S. and the founding pastors of the Norwegian Synod.

The Norwegian Synod had a working relationship with the N.M.S. having been invited in 1869 to cooperate in the work of the society. The following year, Pastor U.V.Koren represented the Synod at the General Assembly of the N.M.S. in Tromsø, Norway, where he preached and brought greetings from the American church. In similar fashion, the Norwegian Synod was represented at the 1873 meeting of the N.M.S. in Drammen, Norway, by Prof. F.A.Schmidt and the Rev. P.A.Rasmussen; and at the 1876 meeting in Stavanger by the Rev. J.B.Frich and the Rev. N.T.Ylvisaker. In 1892 Missionary & Mrs. Hans Astrup visited congregations in the United States seeking support for the work in Zululand. The Norwegian Synod gave wholehearted support to this work. Already in 1859 *Kirkelig Maanedstidende*, the Synod's official periodical, began to report about the progress of this mission. The periodical *Missionsblad* also was published in support of this mission field. The support of this field was so strong that regular reports were made to the conventions. Financial support was given through contributions forwarded through the Synod's treasurer.

This working relationship became strained in 1873 when the N.M.S. also invited the Norwegian-Danish Conference to cooperate in the work. Finally, at the 1881 convention of the Synod, it was decided to leave the matter of the support of the N.M.S. to be determined by the individual congregations of the Synod. At about the same time, Missionary Schreuder withdrew from the N.M.S. and began independent mission work among the Zulus. He was supported by a "Committee for the Church of Norway Mission established by Schreuder" with its headquarters in Christiania. A number of pastors, who became members of the Norwegian Synod, served in this mission field; among them were Hans Astrup, Nils Astrup, Johannes Astrup, Benjamin Raffteseth, and Christopher Faye.

Other Mission Fields

The Norwegian Synod, already in 1858, pursued mission work among the American Indians (which was considered a foreign field); first through the Missouri Synod and, after that field was closed, by establishing its own mission at Wittenberg, Wisconsin, in 1883. Other American "mission fields" pursued by the Synod consisted of Seamen's Missions in New York and San Francisco; an Immigrant Mission in New York; and City Missions in Chicago, New York, Minneapolis, Seattle, and San Francisco. The Utah Mission, among the Mormons, began in 1891 and eventually the Rev. A.G.H.Overn would serve as missionary. Mission work was undertaken among the Eskimos in the territory of Alaska in 1894, where the Rev. H.M.Tjernagel eventually would serve. In 1877 Norwegian Synod President H.A.Preus proposed that work be started among the "Freedmen of the South" and such a field [*Negermissionen*] was established by the Synodical Conference. The Rev. Nils Bakke, of the Norwegian Synod, served as the first missionary in this field.

Foreign mission fields were undertaken in Australia, where the Synod sent a pastor in 1879 to minister to the Norwegian settlers in that country. A missionary was sent to Japan in 1899; unfortunately this work came to an end three years later when the missionary returned to the United States for health reasons. The most ambitious undertaking was started in China where, in 1912, the Synod resolved to establish a mission field and called Candidate George O. Lillegard, who later would become a charter pas-

tor of the re-organized Norwegian Synod, to serve as the first missionary. He began work in the Honan province with Kwangchow as headquarters. Two years later he was joined by four additional missionaries. In that same year he reported about "the worst thing that has befallen Kwangchow and this part of Honan for three centuries." He writes about robbers who had infested the area but ultimately says: "Some day, perhaps, it may turn out so that Jesus Christ, who was crucified between two robbers and who promised one that he should that day be with him in Paradise, will be washing clean the hearts of more than one of these ignorant, misled robbers here in heathen China."²⁵ By the time of the merger in 1917, this mission field had grown to a size consisting of six missionaries serving three congregations with seventy-two members and 171 individuals receiving instruction; there also were five schools consisting of 119 pupils.

Such mission work is not the exclusive legacy of the ELS. The China and Eskimo missions became a part of the merger body. The independent Schreuder mission also was transferred to that body in 1927. Yet the desire for foreign mission work also is a part of the legacy which we have received from the Norwegian Synod. This is as it should be because the Lord Jesus has said: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Norwegian church buildings remained dark on Christmas Eve, but on Christmas morning when the pastor entered the pulpit he would first preach the exordium [festival introduction] which was followed by the appropriate hymn verse; then he would announce with the angel: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). The gospel of salvation through faith in Christ is not our exclusive possession.

The Legacy

The Lord continued to open doors for the work of His kingdom. Three years after the reorganization of the synod, an arrangement was made to place a representative of our synod on the Board for Foreign Missions of the Missouri Synod. Through this arrangement our synod was able to pursue its beloved work of foreign missions.

In that same year, George Lillegard returned to China to serve in a Missouri Synod field all-the-while remaining a member of the "little synod." He returned to the United States in 1927 when the report was made to the ELS: "It is very likely known to all that civil war in China has practically put a stop to our missionary activities in that country, and that at a time when the preparatory work that had been done hitherto was beginning to show marked results. Most of the missionaries in China have been brought back to this country together with their families, while a few still remain in Shanghai awaiting developments. God alone knows how soon their activities may be resumed."²⁶

Another foreign missionary was Miss Anena Christensen who had served at both the Schreuder mission in Zululand and the N.M.S. field in Madagascar. She resigned her work for reasons of conscience and in 1926 was commissioned at a service held at Fairview Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She served as principal of the Missouri Synod's Girls' Boarding School in Ambur, India, for fourteen years. Many prayers and contributions were made throughout the synod for the support of her work.

The congregations of the Synodical Conference began mission work in Nigeria, Africa, in 1935 with whole-hearted support being given by the ELS. Our synod was directly represented on the field by Missionary & Mrs. Paul Anderson (1945-52) and Missionary & Mrs. Gerhardt Becker (1953-57). Missionary Anderson recalls: "In January of 1948 there were ten churches with ten teachers and six schools.... I have a picture of the Okon church on the day of the adult Baptism service. On the back was written that I baptized 57 people on that day in October 1948."²⁷

The Lord opened another door when Pastor Joseph Petersen was sent as a missionary to Cornwall, England, in 1951. This was the first independent foreign mission work conducted by the reorganized synod. Even when the Lord closed this door to us in 1957, the Rev. M.H.Otto was able to report: "May the Lord of the Church enable us who have His pure Gospel to do our utmost to share it with such as yet do not know of His saving

grace and, then, graciously to bless our labors in that endeavor."²⁸

The Lord appeared to be opening still another mission door in 1962 when Peter Chang, a graduate from our seminary, returned to Hong Kong where he had established a congregation. The task of establishing a mission field in Hong Kong did not seem feasible to our small synod and the potential for work in this field was transferred to the Wisconsin Synod where a thriving mission yet continues to this day.

It was upon the 50th anniversary of the reorganization of the Norwegian Synod, thirty-five years ago, that the ELS embarked upon its mission field in Peru. Possible fields had been considered in East Nigeria, Taiwan, Brazil, Peru, and Puerto Rico. An exploratory tour was taken to South America to find the most fitting location for this mission. It was reported to the synod convention that the committee had "...toured Peru and Bolivia, South America, in January and February, 1968, in the interest of exploring the missionary needs in these countries, [and has] reported that between 800,000 to a million people live in the approximately 120 different 'barriadas' of Lima, Peru" and that very little Christian missionary work is being done among the thousands of people in these barriadas.²⁹ In July 1968 our first missionaries arrived in this field. They were Pastor & Mrs. Ted Kuster, Mr & Mrs. Orlin Myrllie, and Miss Gloria Bublitz.

Although some within our synod may have questioned the ability of our little synod to undertake such a large task and may have felt that, with our limited size and resources, we could best fulfill our Lord's Great Commission by other means, the Lord has blessed the labor in His name. Thirty-five years later, the mission field in Peru has organized herself as a daughter-synod known as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru. It numbers 1,065 baptized members in thirty-three congregations. Two Christian day schools have been established in the Lima area: at Año Nuevo and Reynoso. Work also continues to expand in both the Andes Mountains and in the Upper Amazon Basin. A Christian day school has been established in the Amazon village of Nueva Barranquita. There are twenty students who attend the seminary in Lima. In addition there are six national pastors with the anticipation of five additional pastors being ordained in the coming year.

In addition, the synod had undertaken mission work in Nicaragua beginning in 1973. The political situation forced the missionaries to move into Costa Rica until finally the door was closed in 1979. But the Lord opened a replacement door in Chile in 1992. Today the field in Chile numbers 164 baptized members in four congregations. In addition, through the church-related organization Thoughts of Faith, work is being conducted in the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Latvia, and Moldavia.

The Lord has placed before us a "Table in the Wilderness." He invites us to partake of His blessings of salvation. There still is room at the table for many more people and the Savior instructs His servants; "Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full" (Luke 14:23).

We also look forward to that day when the earthly banquet gives way to the eternal feast of salvation. We have the Lord's sure promise: "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). On that great day the Table in the Wilderness will give way to the banquet of salvation when the Lord fulfills His heavenly promise: "On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 25:6-8). On that day we will sit at the heavenly banquet table with those individuals, whom we have not met in person, but with whom we have shared a common faith in Jesus the crucified and risen One. Missionary Terry Schultz has told the often repeated story about the ten Peruvians who began the long journey back to their homes; one of them said to Missionary Schultz: "Can we all ride in one big car instead of two cars? That way, if the car falls off the side of the mountain and we die, we will all go to heaven at the same time. Then when you die, Terry, just ask God,

'where are the people from Viejo Limon Cocha?' He will tell you we are here. We'll be waiting for you!"

With them we have been made brothers and sisters through Christ. Someday we shall join with them in the eternal song of praise.

*Der mange skal komme fra øst og fra vest,
Og sidde til bords i Guds rige
Med Abraham, Isak og Jakob til gjest
Hos ham, som bød ind os at stige.
Miskunde dig over os, Jesus!*

There many shall come from the east and the west
And sit at the feast of salvation
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,
Obeying the Lord's invitation.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

*Gid jeg maatte være, og alle med mig
Blandt Guds den beseglede skare!
Gud tage os naadig i himlen til sig,
Og frels os fra helvedes fare!
Miskunde dig over os, Jesus!*

O that we the throng of the ransomed may swell,
To whom He hath granted remission.
God graciously make us in heaven to dwell
And save us from endless perdition.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

*Gud giv mig at være den salige gjest,
Som sidder hos kongen for borde,
At holde hos hannem den evige fest,
Naar her de mig gjemmer og jorde!
Miskunde dig over os, Jesus!*

God grant that I may of His infinite love
Remain in His merciful keeping;
And sit with the King at His table above,
When here in the grave I am sleeping.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

M.B.Landstad (1802-1880)

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary #200

PART III FELLOWSHIP

The individuals who founded the Norwegian Synod one hundred-fifty years ago came to walk together as a synod because they wished to recognize one another as brothers in the faith who believe and teach the same. Nine years earlier, as the earliest settlers gathered beneath the oak trees at Koshkonong, they were given the assurance that they were not alone but the Almighty God of their fathers was with them and prepared a Table in the Wilderness in their midst. They longed for Christian teaching and Christian fellowship and found it in the organization of the Norwegian Synod in 1853. In His holy Word, the Lord says "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). Christians seek to express their unity through worship, prayer, and work.

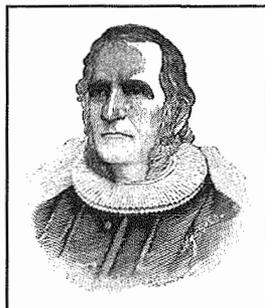
Seeking Unity

The Norwegian Synod did not seek unity just for the sake of unity. It would have been a relatively simple matter for these founding fathers to establish external unity with their fellow Norwegians coming from the Lutheran State Church of Norway. These were the Christians with whom they shared a common heritage and a common language.

In 1853 there were two other small groupings of Norwegian Lutherans in America. There were those who had been influenced by the teaching of Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824). Hauge was a lay preacher in Norway who, in his reaction against Rationalism, stressed a "living Christianity" which placed emphasis upon conversion and sanctification. In America, a more radical form of Hauge's teaching was promoted by Elling Eielsen. His followers laid great stress upon proof of conversion and emphasized the priesthood of all believers to the degradation of the ordained clergy. They had formed a synod in 1846 which in 1876 was divided into the Eielsen Synod and the Hauge Synod. There also were other Norwegian immigrants, especially in the Chicago area, who had become members of the Northern Illinois Synod and in 1870 had organized the "Conference for the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." Yet those individuals who formed the Norwegian Synod did not find a kin-

dred-spirit among the *Ellingianerne*, the *Haugianer* or the *Konference*. H.A.Preus, in his *Seven Lectures*, wrote:

One matter always a source of worry and pain to our synod has been the ecclesiastical division of our countrymen. Our synod's efforts have constantly been directed toward smoothing this out and uniting the factions. We have shown ourselves forthcoming in this not only where we detected an inclination to effect a union but also where over many years our efforts to end the strife and seek unanimity have been met with ill will and coldness... we have not grown weary, but despite repeated rebuffs have continued our efforts to the present day, because we understand the sin that is perpetrated and the dangers to which souls are exposed by departing from the truth and following errors. On the other hand, we also see well how strife, sin, and harm come to both sides when such division among countrymen is continued over the course of years. In heartfelt earnest we seek to prevent this party division, sinful and displeasing to God, from continuing, and our synod's history will testify that we earnestly wish not to bear responsibility for it. But a union without unity of faith, a union in the Prussian mold in which God's Word and human propositions are tolerated side by side and have validity, this kind of union we will not promote. This is an abomination to God and more dangerous to souls than open disunity and faction. We have not wished to work for such a union to take place. Where we have seen error among our opponents we have not tried to cover its shame with the veil of false charity, but have openly and honorably drawn their attention to it, running the danger of seeming uncharitable. And if our opponents were to show us errors in our doctrine or practice, we would thank them for it and consider it a demonstration of Christian love on their part rather than of hatred and lack of love.³⁰



Rev. Herman A. Preus

One of the first concerns of the newly organized Norwegian Synod was to locate a school at which they could establish a professorship and train their future pastors. At the 1855 convention, Pastors Nils Brandt and J.A.Ottesen were instructed to visit the seminaries at St. Louis, Missouri (Missouri Synod); Columbus, Ohio (Ohio Synod); and Buffalo, New York (Buffalo Synod). They also visited the practical seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana (Missouri Synod). They reported to the Synod two years later with the recommendation that a professorship be established at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Their report stated that among the brethren at St. Louis they found "... a heartfelt love of the Symbols (the confessional writings) as well as the teachings of the fathers, a heartfelt trust in God that His holy Word is correctly set forth therein, and that therefore a devoted love, yes, a burning zeal in teaching and practice was found for carrying out these old-Lutheran principles."³¹

The Norwegian Synod looked for fellowship among those who identified themselves as Lutherans. Representatives from the Synod attended the 1866 meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, which led to the organization of the General Council the following year. But they did not become a member of the General Council because they did not find a God-pleasing unity. By God's grace, the Norwegian Synod found true unity of spirit with the synods which formed the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America. This body was organized in 1872 and became the largest association of Lutherans in North America. The six organizing synods were Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Synod, Ohio Synod, Minnesota Synod, Illinois Synod, and Norwegian Synod. From the Norwegian Synod, the Rev. H.A.Preus served as president 1876-77 and Prof. Laur. Larsen served as president 1880-82.

The accusation has been made that the Norwegian Synod learned her doctrine from the Missouri Synod and hence followed her sister-synod in both doctrine and practice.

But the founding fathers stress that such was not the case. The pastors of the Norwegian Synod were young men when they came to America. H.A.Preus was twenty-six years of age, J.A.Ottesen and U.V.Koren were twenty-seven years of age, and Laur. Larsen was only twenty-four years of age. These men just had graduated from the theological department of Royal Frederick's University which had been established in 1811 in Christiania, Norway. Professors Gisle Johnson and Paul Caspari began teaching in 1847. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit these two men largely were responsible for bringing about a confessional revival in Norway. The young graduates from the university brought this confessionalism with them to America. U.V.Koren writes:

It is for these fundamental truths reviewed above that the Norwegian Synod has contended throughout its history. By these truths, eagerness and zeal was called forth among us in the past, which manifested itself in joyful self-sacrifice in the service of the Church of God. We brought this unadulterated Gospel with us from our mother church in Norway, but we had not acquired a truly clear insight into its glory, in opposition to all errors, until we came here, where both the free-church conditions and the controversies which we have had to carry on have, under divine guidance, confirmed us in the old truths.³²

J.A.Ottesen writes:

Since the talk is about Walther and the Missourians, I will, by no means, let myself be frightened by ... weak mockery and ridicule from confessing openly with thanks to God and these orthodox teachers, that I have received much "sound" instruction from them, not in a new "direction," but exactly in the old truth, the same as that which I learned from the first guides into the truth of God's Word that I had in my childhood; and guides who later helped me remember and keep the same,... then I bless and honor also these experienced teachers of the Missouri Synod who in God's hand were instruments in strengthening me in the same truth here in this strange land....

But neither I nor any of us idolize Walther or slave under his authority. We never mention Walther's name alone, or how Walther "takes a stand" in any matter, but we follow Walther's reason and proof from God's Word which speaks for itself and would be just as valid if a child had said something just as excellent.³³

Unfortunately, the Norwegian Synod did not continue on this path of Biblical fellowship. She remained a member of the Synodical Conference until 1883 when she withdrew her membership because of the internal difficulties associated with the Election Controversy. Even though she retained a fraternal spirit of fellowship, she never rejoined the Synodical Conference. She rather began to seek unity with others of Norwegian heritage. In 1890, only three years after her own unity was violently rent asunder, the Norwegian Synod took the initiative toward church union by arranging meetings between representatives of the various Norwegian Lutheran church bodies to discuss church union.³⁴ The Synodical Conference urged caution; but Norwegian nationalism arising both from Norway's independence in 1905 and the centennial of Norway's constitution in 1914, coupled with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, prevailed. In 1912 the compromise document *Opgjør* was adopted and in 1917 the Synod united with those individuals and congregations against which she had taken a firm stance only thirty years earlier.

Divergent Paths

This spirit of unionism continued among the majority who organized The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1917. Naturally, the mission fields and educational programs of the merged synods were combined and, in time, many of the congregations which had been divided in the 1880s again were united. The efforts at unionism have been evidenced through membership in the American Lutheran Conference, the National Lutheran Council, the National Council of Churches, the Lutheran Council in the USA, the Lutheran World Federation, and the World Council of Churches. This broad path of ecumenism is demonstrated in the 2003 New Year's Message issued by

the Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, who said: "God is just; God's grace is bestowed without prejudice; God has not designated favorites. Divine grace is not conferred according to race, gender, nationality, age or descent. Everyone who pursues justice and lives accordingly finds acceptance before God regardless of social status."³⁵

In most recent years the successor body, which today has become a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), also has entered into agreements of fellowship with non-Lutheran church bodies. In August 1997 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted "A Formula of Agreement" with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ. Although a "Concordat of Agreement" with the Episcopal Church failed to be adopted during that same year, the ELCA voted to remain committed to the ultimate goal of full communion with the Episcopal Church and other churches. In 1999 a document entitled "Called to Common Mission" was adopted establishing such fellowship with the Episcopal Church. On Reformation Day 1999, representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church signed a "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" which allows conflicting teachings of justification to stand side-by-side as valid statements of salvation. On March 24 of this year, during a brief meeting with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson called for the possibility of "limited interim Eucharistic sharing" of Lutherans at Roman Catholic altars.³⁶

A different legacy has continued among the minority who reorganized the Norwegian Synod. Prior to 1918 those pastors who reorganized the old Norwegian Synod already sought the brotherly-counsel of the Synodical Conference. The Synodical Conference had sought to bring words of caution to the Norwegian Synod through the years 1912-17 when the merger was being considered. In 1917, Dr. Franz Pieper, representing the Synodical Conference committee, advised the minority: "What I am especially interested in is that you *testify*. Your testimony may not bear fruit for a hundred years, but it will bear fruit" [emphasis original].³⁷ At its first convention in 1918 the reorganized synod voted to apply for membership in the Synodical Conference. The Synodical Conference welcomed the synod back into membership at its next meeting in 1920. The "little synod" especially looked with gratitude to Missouri Synod whom she considered to be her big sister.

Once again, as was the case during the early days of the old Synod, it was not the easy path of fellowship with those nearest which was sought but rather the synod sought to follow a God-pleasing unity of the spirit. In 1955 the Norwegian Synod felt compelled to suspend fellowship with Missouri Synod. In 1961, two years before withdrawing from the Synodical Conference, the synod stated "that with deep sorrow we on the basis of Romans 16:17 reaffirm our act of suspension of fellowship relations with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which to us, as to our brethren of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, means 'terminate,' and also with them entertains the hope that conditions might some day warrant the reestablishment of fellowship."³⁸ Sadly, that day never has been realized. The synod established closer working-ties with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod with whom she had shared fellowship since 1872. A working relationship was established through the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum, for mutual strengthening and edification, in 1967.

Today, we express our fellowship with other Lutherans through the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) which was organized in 1993 by thirteen church bodies. Already in 1962 the ELS passed a resolution which said: "Whereas: In our ever-shrinking world, there is need for orthodox Lutheran churches to express their oneness of faith and confession in some tangible way; Be It Resolved: That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod favor establishing an International Conference of such orthodox Lutheran churches on the basis of those principles and practices that brought about the establishing of the Lutheran Synodical Conference in 1872."³⁹ Before such an organization could be established, it was necessary to resolve various triangular fellowship relationships with other former "overseas brethren" of the Synodical Conference. Finally in 1986, a "Committee of Six," from the ELS and the WELS, was appointed as a

planning committee. The great historical event of the organization of the CELC met with relatively little attention in the ELS due to our own synod's discussion of the Lord's Supper. The Constituting Convention was held April 27-29, 1993, in Oberwesel, Germany, and has gathered three additional times in convention. Topics of presentation have centered upon: "Our Great Heritage" (1993-Germany), "Justification" (1996-Puerto Rico), the "Person and Work of the Holy Spirit" (1999-Florida), and the "Person and Work of Christ" (2002-Sweden). Today the CELC consists of nineteen church bodies throughout the world. Although our synod may appear small in the eyes of the world, she is regarded as a big sister of many of these smaller bodies.

Before our eyes the Lord has prepared a great Table in the Wilderness. His banquet table has been prepared and it is big enough for people "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Revelation 7:9). Here the Lord extends the hand of welcome and greets those who have been made His friends through faith in His Son's atonement. The Savior says these are those "who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels" (Revelation 3:3-4).

The semi-circular Norwegian Altar Ring which is found in many of our church buildings reminds us that the circle of fellowship is completed, on the other side of the Altar, by those who already rejoice around the throne in heaven. The great day finally will come when the earthly fellowship-table gives way to the "wedding supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9). The Savior who serves us at His Altar promises "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Norwegian hymnist H.A. Brorsen captures this when he writes "...they now enjoy their Sabbath rest / the paschal banquet of the blest / the Lamb, their Lord, at festival board / Himself is host and guest" (ELH 553:2). One-by-one, nurtured by God's grace, we take our place on the other side of the circle.

*Saa vil vi nu sige hverandre farvel,
Og ønske Guds fred over eder!
Gud fred med os alle om morgen og kveld,
Saa mange som hjertelig beder,
At Kristus, Guds Søn,
Maa være vor løn,
Naar vi skal af verden udvandre!*

*O hjælp os, Gud Fader; o hjælp os, Guds Søn,
Saa glade vort løb vi fuldende!
Gud Helligaand, himmelske Trøster i løn,
Lad kjærlighedsluene brænde,
At vi kan med lyst
Og mod i vort bryst
Saa kjæmpe, at kronen vi vinde!*

Mrs. C. L. (Martha) Clausen (1815-1846)

And now we must bid one another farewell;
The peace of our God keep you ever!
God's peace in our bosom and all will be well,
Or whether we meet or we sever.
May Christ, our dear Lord,
Be our sure reward
When we from this world pass forever!

Oh, help us dear Father, and Christ Thou the Son,
That gladly our course we may finish!
And Thou, Holy Spirit, Thou comforting One,
Thy love in our hearts so replenish,
That we by Thy might,
May fight the good fight,
Till won is the crown everlasting.

The Lutheran Hymnary #51

PART IV EDUCATION

The 1910 essayist at the Iowa District convention of the Norwegian Synod stated that Christian education and the establishment of parochial schools was the "*Livssag*" [matter to which one's life is dedicated] of the Norwegian Synod.⁴⁰ This was a proper response for sinners who had learned to know the grace of God and the forgiveness which comes through His Word. Such individuals know the value of Christian education which is both the life and death of the earthly church; but, more importantly, it is a matter of eternal life or death for us and our children. The Almighty God has prom-

ised that He shall show "love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:6). The Lord has placed before us a rich banquet of grace which we are to set before our own children and before their children after them.

Such is the urgency which Moses sought to impart to the children of Israel. Following a lengthy exhortation about the mercy of God, it is recorded that "When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life" (Deuteronomy 32:45-47). These are the words which contain the law which convicts the sinner of guilt (Psalm 42:1-2); and these are the words of the gospel with a taste which is sweeter than honey to the longing soul (Psalm 119:103). Throughout time, parents have instructed their children in the truth of the Lord. The faith has been passed from one generation to another upon the knees of fathers and mothers. Children have been encouraged to "continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:14-15).

Education among the emigrants

The Lord also had engendered such a deep interest in the spiritual training of children in the heart of the Norwegian emigrant. The concern for Christian education in America aptly was demonstrated by Elling Eielsen. He was struck by the fact that certain of the early immigrants were lacking Luther's *Small Catechism*. The story is told how in 1842 Eielsen walked from Rock County, Wisconsin to New York City to have Pontoppidan's *Explanation* of Luther's Catechism printed in Norwegian. This was the first Norwegian book to be printed in America.

In Norway it had been customary for the parents to teach their children in their homes. A law which had been passed in 1736, requiring confirmation following catechization before the congregation, had the effect of establishing universal education in that country. Five years later the control of the schools became the responsibility of the church-parish. The local pastor was charged with obtaining a teacher. The Lutheran state church and the school were synonymous as can be seen from the list of required books: the Bible, a book of prayers, a book of hymns, the New Testament, copies of Norway's constitution, and an arithmetic book. At the time when American emigration began, the most common form of the school in Norway was the *omgangskole* [rotating school]. Here a poorly-paid teacher and the students met in various homes for a period of a few days or weeks before moving to another nearby house and repeating the same process again until the three-month school term had ended.

The newly arrived immigrant from Norway expected to find nothing different in the new world. Unlike many other ethnic groups he had not come for religious reasons; rather he was seeking a better economic life for himself and his children. Even though the clergy of the Norwegian Synod urged the establishment of full-time Christian day schools, the immigrant expected the American public school to provide the same instruction which he had experienced in his home-land. He did not necessarily see the need for a dual system of competing schools. He did not have the motivation to pay a sufficient salary beyond that which the poorly-paid teachers received in Norway. He did not recognize the need for a school building. It was felt that the support of anything other than the public school was un-American.

The "school question" became a major point of discussion in the Norwegian-American community. Typical of this tension between pastors and parishioners is that recorded in the 1877 minutes of Saude Lutheran Church of Lawler, Iowa:

Pastor Moses asked the meeting to express itself regarding a matter of such great importance for the congregation. Since no one asked for the floor, Pastor Moses held forth to the meeting passages from Holy Scripture, both from the Old and New Testaments, clear and plain commands that it is the will of God that the young shall be instructed in God's Word. He brought to their attention

that it was not enough that the children learned their instruction books so that they were able readily to give answer in order to be confirmed, but that they should be so instructed in the truths of Christian doctrine that they might more and more learn to know the Lord Jesus. In this way they will be grounded and will abide in that which they have learned since it has been implanted in them from childhood on.

After this there was another one who stated that it certainly was necessary to have a religious school because he believed that the existence of the congregation to a great extent depended upon the children being instructed in God's Word. To this the response was made that the greatest part of the congregation was agreed that the congregation have a congregational school ... there was talk back and forth about the subject from which it became clear that the need of a school was not considered so necessary by all and a lively debate especially as to the amount of time to be spent since the English school must not be neglected, which it would be if we were to have 10 months of religious school in which case much would be lost.⁴¹

Unlike the schools of German-Lutheran congregations, churches and schools were not established simultaneously in the Norwegian communities. Unlike those German brethren, the Norwegian Synod pastor did not teach in the schools that were established both because of the number of congregations which each pastor was called to serve and also because of a class distinction in Norway which would have discouraged such a practice.

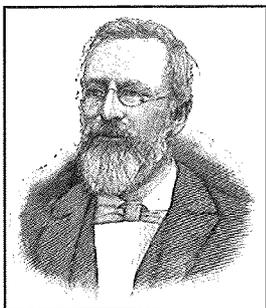
By-and-large, the members of the Norwegian Synod made use of the public schools for their children. At times they sought to place Lutheran teachers in the public schools. Even when the Synod established a Normal School, a major intent was to prepare teachers for positions in the public schools rather than in parochial schools. The Synod's congregations supplemented the public school education with "Norwegian school" which was a precursor of the modern Vacation Bible School and which ended with *Barnefest*. This was a short-term religious school which met in various locations as did the Norwegian *omgangskole*. It has been said: "When the time came for the short session of the religious 'parochial' school, the public school often had to close its doors for lack of pupils until the parochial-session was over."⁴² Various congregations also began to conduct what we today would call Sunday School. Again, the Saude congregation gave this instruction in 1886:

Resolved that the teacher conduct a reading service and catechization session every third Sunday. In the event that any adult be present the teacher shall read a sermon from an accepted book of sermons, but if only children are in attendance he shall read the gospel lesson for the day to them with a short explanation of the lesson and then continue with parts of the Catechism.⁴³

Still, the Norwegian Synod urged the establishment of full-time Christian day schools. President H.A.Preus, in his 1893 report to the Synod said: "Strive with all your might to build up good parochial schools! Try earnestly to give your children a

Christian education. The growth of the Lutheran Church, nay, its very existence, largely depends upon this; for the future belongs to the rising generation."⁴⁴

Next to the organization of the Synod itself, the greatest work of the Synod was found in the establishing of its schools. The energy of the Norwegian Synod centered in that which we would call a liberal-arts higher education. The focus was broader than that of training of pastors and teachers. Here our fore-fathers sought to provide Christian instruction beyond that which was available in the public elementary school. With such an education, people were taught to live as Christians in whatever their vocation.



Rev. Laur. Larsen

The Norwegian Synod established and operated three

institutions. Luther College was founded in 1861. After the initial school year in Wisconsin, it was located in Decorah, Iowa, on land which was acquired by U.V.Koren. The Rev. Laur. Larsen, who is regarded as the fourth "father" of the synod, served as its president for forty-one years. From 1865-86 the college included a department for teacher training. Lutheran Normal School was established in 1889 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the instruction of teachers. Luther Seminary was organized in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1876; it was relocated to Robbinsdale, Minnesota in 1888 and following a devastating fire was rebuilt in Hamline, Minnesota. There also were sixteen academies which were established apart from the direct financial support of the Synod.

Christian Day Schools

Although we no longer have the physical ownership of any these institutions, ours is the legacy of such an educational system. It often has been pointed out that of the fourteen Christian day schools which existed at the time of the Merger in 1917, the only schools which continued their existence were in the re-organized synod. In 1923, upon the 75th anniversary of the old Synod, the *Lutheran Church Herald* of the merged synod conceded: "It may be taken for granted that we have given up the idea of establishing full-time parochial schools to take the place of the public school. While this would be an ideal condition, it would be placing a great burden upon our people which they would hardly be able to bear."⁴⁵

In contrast stands the statements of the "plucked chicken." Already at the second convention of the reorganized Norwegian Synod, in 1919, President Bjug Harstad in his presidential address strongly urged the cause of Christian day schools and the synod responded with the establishment of a School Committee and a Christian Day School Fund. For many years thereafter, at nearly every convention, the urgency of Christian day schools was presented in one of the multiple annual essays. In 1928, at the same time that the merged synod conceded defeat to the public schools, the little synod stated:

... Mindful of the faith of our true Synod fathers, it is our solemn resolve on this our 75th anniversary rather to be here dedicated to the cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion. For just as certainly as we are bound in the word of God in all matters of faith and life, just as certainly *must* we remain champions of the Christian-day school [emphasis original].⁴⁶

The Rev. Christian Anderson stated in the same year:

We who are heirs of the old Norwegian Synod and who have declared that we want to continue to build on the old foundation and according to the old principles, have, by the grace of God, continued to espouse the cause of the Christian day school.⁴⁷

Two years later, the Rev. C.A.Moldstad said:

Today more than ever the Christian Day School is needed. The great loss of newly confirmed is a sad commentary on the lack of daily Christian training.... We have been preaching for 75 years, but few have taken God's Word to heart and done what God has commanded. Would the storm of 1917 have destroyed the old Synod house, if the Synod had practiced what it preached with regard to the Christian Day School? Let us beware lest we fall into the same lukewarm indifference and be satisfied because we have preached the necessity of the Christian Day School and then do nothing more about it. Shall we not take God at His Word? Has He not promised to provide all things necessary for the carrying out of His will and the work of His kingdom? Why not begin at the beginning in our church work and lay the foundation that God wants? I fear that we have been so busy with the stray sheep that we have neglected the lambs that God has placed within the fold.⁴⁸

The Christian day school yet remains as a legacy belonging to the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod.

The 75th anniversary of the old Synod was observed with the publication of the *Jubilee Souvenir* which highlighted the schools of the synod. Likewise, the 75th anniversary of

the reorganized synod in 1988, began a thankoffering which established an endowment fund for the purpose of furthering Christian education. The *His Truth for Our Youth* Thankoffering had the stated purpose of promoting and maintaining Christian day schools, supporting youth ministry throughout our synod, and advancing the cause of parish education at all levels. Likewise, Christian day school teachers have been honored in the 1928 *Jubilee Souvenir*, in the 1968 anniversary volume *A City Set on a Hill*, and have been formally recognized at the 1988, 2002 and 2003 conventions of the synod.

Christian day schools have continued their existence under the wings of the ELS. In 1957 there were fourteen schools in operation. At that time it was pointed out that 21.5% of our congregations operated a school while at the same time 23% of Wisconsin Synod and 23.35% of Missouri Synod congregations operate schools. The difference arose in that, much like during the days of the old Synod, while the pastors preached the importance of Christian day schools, the cause was not as nobly embraced by the members and only 10% of eligible ELS students attended the schools that did exist.

Today, our synod's congregations, with ninety-five teachers, conduct fifteen Christian day schools in addition to congregations which operate preschools only. Representing 11% of our congregations and educating 1,232 students or at least 28% of our children, this is the largest number of schools and students in our existence! By contrast, Wisconsin Synod conducts 359 schools for 44% of its children and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod conducts 1,031 schools for 27% of its children. At the same time, the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America operate 155 elementary schools and in those schools only 24% of the students are members of that church body.⁴⁹

Christian parents will seek to make use of every means at their disposal to raise their children "in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). They will make use of family devotions, the Sunday School, the Vacation Bible School, Lutheran Youth Association, and also when possible the Christian day school for daily instruction in God's Word. The value of such teaching is evidenced in the faith which is strengthened within the young soul and more importantly when we recall that "...educating for eternity never ends. It continues as children grow to become young adults and until at last they leave their parental home to establish homes of their own. Then father and mother will steadfastly continue their education for eternity, until at last they leave their earthly home to join the family of saints in heaven. The process of educating for eternity never ends this side of the grave."⁵⁰ The Savior has said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). The importance of this was witnessed several years ago while standing in the cemetery next to the grave-site of Ole Brandal who was one of the founding members of our sister-congregation in Avaldsnes, Norway. One of the members said, with tears in her eyes, "He taught many people about Jesus." Nothing more needed to be said. That was the greatest legacy which he could leave and it was not forgotten.

Higher Education

As has been noted, the energy of the Norwegian Synod centered on what we would call a liberal-arts higher education. It is then not surprising that the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod also should see a need for such an institution. It was for such a purpose that Bethany Lutheran College was purchased and the operation of the school assumed by the ELS just over 75 years ago. Its mission is stated in terms which echo the tradition of the past:

Bethany Lutheran College, owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is a private, residential, liberal arts college committed to the teachings of the Bible as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions.... The college serves Lutherans and others by offering a challenging, student-centered approach to education that fosters spiritual development, intellectual and creative growth, self-understanding, and responsible citizenship. In keeping with its heritage, Bethany aspires to produce students with a clear understanding of Christian vocation, which encourages students to make the most of their God-given talents.⁵¹

The importance placed upon higher education also was reflected by the “synod people” with the presence of Bethany Lutheran High School whose doors welcomed students until 1969. Today, that same importance is evidenced by the congregations who are members, together with our sister synod, of eight area-Lutheran high school associations. Here, too, the purpose is “to assist area WELS/ELS congregations and their families in equipping their youth as disciples of Christ by developing their spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional skills and values necessary in order for students to serve their Savior by serving others in their families, congregations and communities.”⁵²

The cause of Christian education was vital to the Norwegian Synod. It yet remains vital to us who are their spiritual successors. It is through Christian education that the Lord has prepared for us sinners a rich banquet of His grace.

In speaking of the present, let it be stated at once that, in spite of what has again and again been said by our enemies concerning our right to call ourselves by the time-honored name, “The Norwegian Synod,” we *are* historically justified in claiming it as our rightful heritage, and not least because of our attitude toward the Christian day-school. Also here we have sought to remain true to our sainted fathers, not because we worship mere man, but because the fathers were in turn bound in the word of God. And in this matter we have a divine injunction to remember them which have had the rule over us, who have spoken unto us the word of God: whose *faith* we should follow, considering the end of their conversation. It would ill become us to rear monuments to the memory of a Dietrichson, a Preus, an Ottesen, a Larsen with our lips while we with our feet were trampling upon the dismembered corpse of their dearest child [emphasis original].⁵³

The Lord yet prepares a Table in the Wilderness for us and our children. When J.W.C.Dietrichson addressed the immigrants under the trees at Koshkonong, he no doubt referred to the Communion Board; but remembering the Norwegian potato famine of five years earlier, he also could have reminded them that the heavenly Father had not forgotten His children but rather had sustained and nourished them to that day. He had fed them from the bounty of the land and He also had fed them from the bounty of His grace. At the Table, the Lord served Christ to them. Their faith was nurtured in the One who said of Himself “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35). The Savior now instructs us: “Feed my lambs” (John 21:15). Such is our responsibility to our Savior. Such is our legacy as the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod.

*O Jesus, gid du vilde
Mit Hjerte danne saa,
Det baade aarle og silde
Dit Tempel være maa!
Du selv min hjerne vende
Fra verdens kloge flok,
Og lær mig dig at kjende,
Saa har jeg visdom nok!*
Thomas H. Kingo (1634-1703)

I pray Thee, dear Lord Jesus,
My heart to keep and train
That I Thy holy temple
From youth to age remain.
Turn Thou my thoughts forever
From worldly wisdom's lore;
If I but learn to know Thee,
I shall not want for more.
translated: N.A.Madson
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary #178

CONCLUSION

As the spiritual successors of the Norwegian Synod, we continue to walk in the “old paths” which teach that a sinner is justified by grace alone through faith in Christ. We today have received a legacy which has not continued among the majority of those who constituted the old Synod. It is we, not they, who have continued in the same path of doctrine and fellowship. It is we who have received a legacy of Christian elementary education and we also continue on the path of Christian liberal-arts higher education. We have received, from our predecessor body, a desire for the work of missions and the spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ before the night comes “when no one can work” (John 9:1). This is our legacy. It is a gift which we have received from a gracious God. Here is the working of His providential hand in our midst.

This legacy also is important as we live in a post-Christian society where truth and morality are relative items. In the melting-pot of America, cultural trends are blending so that there is less-and-less apparent difference between congregations or even denominations. A 1998 article in *The Lutheran Witness* speaks of the importance of maintaining a “folk culture” which is defined as “the traditions, customs and values of different ethnic, regional or national communities.”⁶⁴ It is important for the Christian to maintain these customs because often embedded in them are strong traditions of the faith. We must remember those traditions both at the synodical level and at the congregational level. We are here today because someone else stood up for the faith; because someone else gave the widow’s mite; because someone else instructed the children and carried the gospel message.

When the children of Israel were about to cross the Jordan River, the Lord commanded Joshua to have the people gather twelve stones and set them as a memorial at Gilgal. The Lord said these stones were to serve as a sign for when future generations would ask “What do these stones mean?” (Joshua 4:6). So, today, we remember the oaks of Koshkonong and ask “What do these oaks mean?”

Even though we live in a world which is more than 150 years removed from the Table in the Wilderness which was spread before the immigrants at Koshkonong Prairie, we share a common meal with them. The invitation has not changed. It is yet lost and condemned sinners who are invited to come to the Table with all their fears, concerns, doubts, and transgressions. Here the Lord feeds us of the bounty of His grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Here He strengthens us to rise and go forth to serve Him every day. We also look forward to the Table which our Savior has prepared for us which is not in the wilderness, but which already awaits in heaven. We are on our way to the King’s Banquet Table and there is a place for us there!

*Al verden nu raabe for Herren med fryd,
Lovet være God!
Træd frem for hans ansigt med sang og jubellyd,
Guds menighed love nu Herren!*

*Kom, kjend Gud, din Herre, du intet selv formaar;
Lovet være God!
Han, han har dig gjort til sit folk og fødes faar
Guds menighed love nu Herren!*

*Gaar ind ad hans porte me lov og takkesang,
Lovet være God!
Velsigner; høilover evindeligt hans navn,
Guds menighed love nu Herren!*

*Guds godhed og miskundhed er ny i evighed
Lovet være God!
Pra slegt og til slegt skal hans sandhed være ved
Guds menighed love nu Herren!*

U. Wilhelm Koren (1826-1910)

Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise;
Glory be to God!
O serve Him with joy, in His presence now rejoice;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

Not we, but the Lord is our Maker, our God;
Glory be to God!
His people we are, and the sheep led by His rod;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

O enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise;
Glory be to God!
To bless Him and thank Him, our voices we will raise;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

For good is the Lord and His mercy is sure;
Glory be to God!
To all generations His truth shall still endure;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary #56

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REPORTS AND ACTION

*SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

Resolution 1: Membership Application 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 that the requirements of the Constitution have been met, therefore,

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

1. The Reverend Kurt Kluge, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Tracy, Minnesota.
2. The Reverend Gregory Harstad Schmidt, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida.
3. The Reverend Robert Lawson, Jr., pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Escondido, California.
4. The Reverend Michael Dale, pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Resolution 2: Membership Transfer of Pastor

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. William Kessel has been transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod by officials of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Reverend Dr. William Kessel be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 3: Membership application of Pastor

WHEREAS, The Colloquy Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has approved the Reverend Leslie Lanier for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Reverend Leslie Lanier, pastor of Wayfarers' Chapel, Fillmore, California, be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 4: Membership application of Dr. Dan Bruss

WHEREAS, Dr. Dan Bruss, president of Bethany Lutheran College, has requested permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Dan Bruss declared at the time of his installation his subscription to the Confessions and teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as stated in its Constitution and Bylaws, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Dr. Dan Bruss be admitted into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 5 : Membership application of congregations

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

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

1. Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church, Springboro, Ohio,
2. Apostles Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California, and,
3. Saved by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Medford, Oregon.

Resolution 6 : Constitution Review

WHEREAS, Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Jordan, Utah, has submitted its revised constitution for review and,

WHEREAS, It has been found to be in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Resolution 7: Pastor application for continued membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WHEREAS, The Reverend Carlton Sielaff has requested that his name remain on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, The Reverend Carlton Sielaff continues to do supply preaching in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, The “Guidelines for the Clergy Roster” state that “an ordained clergyman who does not have a current call but desires to remain on the clergy roster and is eligible to perform the duties of the office of the ministry described in Article II, and who is not emeritus may, by action of the president and secretary, be continued on the Clergy Roster for a period not to exceed three years from the beginning of the period of inactivity. Upon the application of the individual and the recommendation of the president and secretary for an extension of such classification, the convention shall determine in each instance, on written ballot, whether the request shall be honored for an additional three year period”, and,

WHEREAS, The Reverend Carlton Sielaff has requested that his name be continued on the Clergy Roster, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that his request be granted.

CREDENTIALS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Excuses of Pastors—Non Attendance

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 2003 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: M. Grubbs, M. Wold, D. McElwain, M. Langlais, J. Dalke, T. Zenda, K. Kuenzel, M. Krentz, H. Larson, B. Leonatti, D. Meyer, M. Luttmann, D. Metzger, J. Krikava, K. Smith and E. Geistfeld, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 2: Excuses of Congregations-Non Attendance

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 2003 Synod Convention has been received from the following congregations: Trinity (Rogers City, Michigan) and Zion (North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 3: Excuses of Pastors—Late Arrival

WHEREAS, Excuses for late arrival from the 2003 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: R. Waters and T. Smuda, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 4: Excuses of Pastors—Early Departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2003 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: J. Abrahamson, R. Holtz, F. Lams, R. Lehmann therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 5: Excuses of Lay Delegates—Early Departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2003 Synod Convention have been received from the following delegates: C. Handberg, J. Ballantyne, H. Fischer, R. Johnson, S. Stake, D. Stern, W. Ahlbrand, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

In the Gospel of John our Lord said to the unbelieving Jews of His day, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." (John 5:39) How important it ought to be that we who confess Christ's holy name continue in those same Scriptures, for they have been written that we might "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" and by that faith have eternal life in His name (John 20:31).

The Holy Scriptures are the standard, or canon, by which all our beliefs, doctrines, and practices are to be measured. We therefore accept the Lutheran Confessions of the Book of Concord because they do measure up to this standard or yardstick of the Sacred Books.

In our continuing life on earth as God's people we seek to confess, proclaim, and practice that which is in accordance with God's will as He has set it forth in His inerrant and life-giving Word. This desire must on the one hand be our individual concern, for the Lord lays hold of us individually, but it is also our joint concern inasmuch as we have banded together in a fellowship that seeks to honor God's name by pure teaching and holy living.

It is also in the interest of this fellowship that the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has a Doctrine Committee, whose purpose, as the guidelines clearly reveal, is to aid that fellowship in the appreciation for and the confession of the Holy Scriptures in word and deed.

Committee Membership

The Doctrine Committee this past August welcomed to its number, the Rev. Thomas Rank. With this addition during the past year the committee consisted of Prof. Juul B. Madson, Dr. Wilhelm Petersen, Mr. Allen Quist, Pres. Gaylin Schmeling, Mr. James Schneek, the Rev. Paul Zager and the Rev. Thomas Rank. Its four regular meetings per year were devoted to consideration of questions and other matters referred to it by the synodical president, the chairman of the committee, and groups or other individuals within the synod.

Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum

Several members of the committee attended the biennial meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum (ELCF), which was held on October 7-8, 2002, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Forum is intended to express the fellowship enjoyed by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and consists of twelve representatives of each synod. The doctrinal division of the Forum (consisting of two members from each synod) naturally discusses primarily doctrinal matters in its divisional session, and then joins the other divisions in a plenary session that gives attention to reports from all the divisions of the Forum.

Doctrine of the Public Ministry

A presidentially appointed committee was established to study the doctrine of the public ministry. This committee has been asked to study the issues before us and to work toward a God-pleasing unity in the development of a future statement. The committee members are: the Rev. Karl Anderson, the Rev. Mark Bartels, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, the Rev. Jerome Gernander, the Rev. Alex Ring and Prof. Erling Teigen. We trust that the prayer of the psalmist prevails in all that we do: "*Direct my footsteps according to Your Word*" (Psalm 119:133).

We note with thanksgiving that our sister church body in Germany, known as the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church, (*Evangelisch-Lutherische Freikirche* [ELFK]) has reached a God-pleasing resolution of the same issues concerning the doctrine of the pub-

lic ministry that we are facing. They have produced a set of theses concerning church and ministry, a translation of which can be found in *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* (Vol. 42:4, December, 2002).

Bible Translations

While the NIV continues to be published, a new Bible translation is being produced with the name *Today's New International Version* (TNIV). Questions are being raised about this translation, such as whether it is a gender neutral Bible. Another translation has recently been published, the *English Standard Version* (ESV), which may be used in the new LC-MS hymnal. Because of the appearance of new Bible translations the Doctrine Committee has again undertaken a review of translations. The Rev. Thomas Rank is leading the committee in this review.

Postmodernism in Society

Postmodernism is effecting every area of our life and society. Textbooks and federal curriculum standards are being influenced by pantheism and postmodern thinking. So that the members of our synod can be made aware of these dangers the Doctrine Committee is studying the pervading influence of postmodernism. This study is led by Mr. Allen Quist.

Other Activities

The Doctrine Committee desires to keep abreast of doctrinal trends and issues within the church at large. Therefore each member of the committee is assigned certain magazines and periodicals which they are to monitor for the committee and keep it informed concerning developments within the various church bodies.

The Lord's injunction to His people is to hold fast to and to teach all things which He has commanded them. Let us therefore continue to pray to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, that His Holy Spirit may lead us into His Word and truth and preserve us therein.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.

(Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary 589 v. 1)

*The Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, chairman
The Rev. Paul Zager, secretary*

DOCTRINE

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Concerning the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum (ELCF)

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum expresses the fellowship enjoyed by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the members of the ELCF for their continuing efforts, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Doctrinal Division (representatives respectively of the ELS Doctrine Committee and the WELS Committee for Interchurch Relations) of the ELCF to continue their efforts to express our doctrinal unity.

Resolution 2: Concerning Bible Translations

WHEREAS, It is necessary to review new Bible translations in order to provide information that pastors and laymen of the synod might use to choose appropriate translations, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee continues to study potentially popular new translations, such as the Today's New International Version (TNIV) and the English Standard Version (ESV), therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be thanked for their effort, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That they be encouraged to continue their study, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That they be encouraged to publish the results of their efforts in a timely fashion.

Resolution 3: Concerning Religious and Philosophical Trends

WHEREAS, Postmodernism, pantheism, panentheism, etc., are affecting every area of our life and society, and,

WHEREAS, the Doctrine Committee is studying these trends, and,

WHEREAS, The membership of the synod should be made aware of the dangers, doctrines, and influence of these trends, and,

WHEREAS, The influence of postmodernism was the topic of the 2001 convention essay, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be thanked for their effort and encouraged to continue their study, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That they be encouraged to publish the results of their efforts in a timely fashion.

Resolution 4: Concerning the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM)

WHEREAS, The Presidium (i.e. the President and the Vice-President) of the ELS appointed the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM), and,

WHEREAS, The Presidium of the ELS has articulated clear and sound guidelines for the PCM, and,

WHEREAS, The PCM is performing a function beneficial to the synod, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Presidium be commended for constituting the Committee and establishing guidelines for it, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the PCM be thanked for their effort to confess clearly the Scriptural doctrine of the ministry, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That they be encouraged to continue their study, and,
- D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the synod be encouraged to read the PCM guidelines and pray that God give the members of the PCM true wisdom, confessional commitment, integrity and an evangelical spirit, so that they might carry out their work to the glory of God and the edification of our synod.

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

BOARD OF REGENTS

Members of the board during the past year: the Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr., Pine River, MN, chairman; Mr. William Overn, Eagan, MN, vice-chairman; the Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, West Bend, WI, secretary; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, MN; the Rev. Klebe W. Brumble, Phoenix, AZ; Mr. Jon C. Bruss, Sr., Hartland, WI; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, WI; Mr. Paul T. Chamberlin, South Chatham, MA; Mr. Lyle Fahning, Burnsville, MN; Mr. Roland Reinholz, Middleton, WI; the Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith, Shawano, WI; and Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, MN.

Advisory Members: the Rev. John A. Moldstad, Mankato, MN, President of the ELS; the Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Louis, MO; and the Rev. Milton Tweit, Mankato, MN.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

Since the Board approved adding baccalaureate degrees in 1996, the faculty has grown significantly in number and expertise. Similar growth has been experienced in administration and staff. We are thankful that we are able to continue to find high quality people who understand the mission of the college as the college grows.

On December 31, 2002, President Marvin G. Meyer retired after twenty years of faithful service in that capacity. Prior to becoming president, he served the college in a number of faculty and administrative positions for an additional twenty-two years.

At their May 2002 meeting the Board of Regents elected Dan R. Bruss as President. He began his duties on January 1, 2003.

During a special service on January 22, 2003 the college observed the following anniversaries:

Mr. Ronald Younge, Vice President for Academic Affairs	35 years
Dr. Steven Reagles, Religious Studies	20 years
Mrs. Joni Wiederhoeft, Assistant Director of Financial Aid	20 years
Mrs. Marge Lillo, Registrar Assistant	15 years
Mr. Jay Roth, Director of Internships & Placement, International Student Director	15 years
Prof. Nancy Wiechmann, Business	15 years
Prof. Peter Bloedel, Theatre	10 years
Mrs. Connie Gullixson, Accounting Clerk	10 years
Mrs. Esther Iverson, Costumer	10 years
Mr. Don Westphal, Dean of Admissions	10 years

This past academic year we had several new faculty and professional personnel join our staff: Tina Hopp, Director of Residential Life; Erik Lee, ESL Instructor; Theodore Manthe, Dean of Student Services; Michael Meyer, Executive Director; Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center; Michael K. Smith, Greek and Religion; David Thompson, Chaplain and Program Director; Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center; and Timothy Tollefson, Music.

EMERITI

Louella Balczak
Arlene Hilding
Norman S. Holte
Rudolph Honsey
Calvin Johnson
Sigurd Lee
Marvin G. Meyer
Bjarne Teigen
Cynthia Weberg

ENROLLMENT

The 2002-2003 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	202	173
Sophomores	149	141
Juniors	49	59
Seniors	41	44
Part-Time	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>
	471	443
FTE	449	427
PSEOP FTE	6.2	10

We are pleased with both the larger incoming class as well as the increased number of students that continue on to take advantage of the majors we now offer.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

The faculty continues to develop programs to provide our students with an outstanding college experience. This year the Board of Regents approved the addition of four new majors: Broad Field Social Science, Elementary Education, History, and Theatre.

Progress toward offering a major in Elementary Education continues. An application for approval from the Minnesota State Licensure Board has been submitted and we await their feedback. Once approved, we will be able to offer the major.

As each program of study matures, additional opportunities are offered to our students including internships and other work related experiences. Each of these help develop skills for our students for success in the workforce.

Bethany was voted into the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) beginning 2004, as the affiliation in the Minnesota Community College Conference (MCCC) will end 2003. An application to join the NCAA Division III Conference has been submitted.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The Marvin G. Meyer Hall of Science and Mathematics officially opened its doors for classes in the fall. The facility provides state of the art laboratories and classrooms for our students to experience hands-on instruction in the natural sciences.

Visitors to our campus continue to comment positively to the high quality of the buildings and grounds. We are pleased to provide a welcoming environment to our students, alumni, and friends.

This is the only time since 1990, that there has not been any new construction on campus. We expect this to be short-lived assuming our enrollment continues to grow.

75th ANNIVERSARY

On July 11-14, 2002 we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the ownership of Bethany by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. More than 1,000 alumni and friends of the college enjoyed the planned programs and the renewing of old friendships. The cast of Bethany students that performed our spring play, *Harvey*, returned to the campus to share that comedy with our weekend visitors for three performances. The faculty recital was a real

treat. The vocalists and instrumentalists entertained everyone. The mini-sessions by our professors on the Ylvisaker letters, the choir years, the creation fresco, and our alumni sessions on “Out of a Glass House” by Kathryn (Schwarz) Bakke and “The Art of Architecture” by Scott Natvig were all superbly done. The Friday Vespers, Saturday Matins, and Sunday morning services clearly articulated once again Bethany’s motto: “One Thing Needful.” At the conclusion of the Sunday Service, we had the privilege of dedicating the Hall of Science and Mathematics. What a wonderful facility! The entire celebration was quite the experience—we thank our gracious Lord for His continued blessings on Bethany Lutheran College.

BOARD OF REGENTS

In 1999 the convention ratified three “type B” appointments to the Board of Regents. The appointees were given staggering terms in order that under ordinary conditions only one position would be up for ratification by the synod each year. The Rev. Klebe Brumble of Scottsdale, Arizona, was approved at the 2000 convention for a three-year term. The board re-elected Rev. Brumble for a three-year term beginning in June at their January meeting. The synod is asked to ratify that election at the 2003 convention.

GRANTS

AAL and Lutheran Brotherhood remain committed to assisting in the developing of the college through challenge-grant opportunities. During the past year more than \$75,000 came from those companies to say nothing about the monies that came from others because of the challenge. In addition both AAL and Lutheran Brotherhood offer scholarships and their local branches do much in support of the college. As most of you know these companies merged and the new company is called Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

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 approximately \$13,800. Many, many thanks to these wonderful ladies.

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation supports the college in a significant way. Grants from the Foundation have supported a number of programs and projects this year. A special thanks for their ongoing support of Bethany Lutheran College.

FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

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 Convention of our Synod (1999), it was resolved to approve a ten-year \$100 million capital campaign—“The Five Talents.” Three years later, with the help of the Lord, the ambitious goal had been reached. Bethany had raised just over \$102 million for the school’s endowment, scholarships, and capital improvements. These “gifts from our Lord” that were given through the hearts of many alumni and friends, will be used for the college’s transition to full-baccalaureate status. Thanks be to God!

The following format that describes the institution financial condition is significantly different than has been used in the past. Due to new requirements for reporting within the process of auditing, the old format is difficult to construct. The following are audited figures for the year ending June 30, 2002.

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Temporarily <u>Restricted</u>	Permanently <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Tuition and fees	\$4,553,404			\$4,553,404
Less: Scholarships and grants	<u>(1,792,893)</u>			<u>(1,792,893)</u>
Net tuition and fees	2,760,511			2,760,511
Government Grants	136,407			136,407
Contributions	3,392,774	\$2,786,153	\$1,634,985	7,813,912
Endowment income	44,870	353,312	1,260	399,442
Endowment gains (losses)	(2,477,011)	(251,472)	(8,702)	(2,737,185)
Sales and services of student activities	100,957			100,957
Other sources	301,517	26,024	42,573	318,066
Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises	2,822,131			2,822,131
Adjustment of actuarial liability	<u>(11,982)</u>	<u>(3,335)</u>	<u>(91,814)</u>	<u>(107,131)</u>
	7,070,174	2,858,634	1,578,302	11,507,110
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>2,390,768</u>	<u>(2,390,768)</u>		
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>9,460,942</u>	<u>467,866</u>	<u>1,578,302</u>	<u>11,507,110</u>
EXPENSES AND LOSSES				
Program expenses				
Instruction	3,513,003			3,513,003
Academic support	473,000			473,000
Student services	2,593,755			2,593,755
Auxiliary enterprises	3,473,122			3,473,122
Support expenses				
Institutional support	2,331,161			2,331,161
Allocable expenses				
Operation and maintenance of plant	876,611			876,611
Depreciation	2,041,861			2,041,861
Amortization	18,580			18,580
Interest	722			722
Less: Allocated expenses	<u>(2,937,774)</u>			<u>2,937,774)</u>
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>12,384,041</u>			<u>12,384,041</u>
 Increase in Net Assets Before Reclassification	(2,923,099)	467,866	1,578,302	(876,931)
Reclassification of net assets	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(2,923,099)	467,866	1,578,302	(876,931)
NET ASSETS – Beginning of Year	<u>25,685,153</u>	<u>32,038,840</u>	<u>15,083,654</u>	<u>72,807,647</u>
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$22,762,054	\$32,506,706	\$16,661,956	\$71,930,716

CONCLUSION

Bethany Lutheran College has seen considerable change in the past few years with the addition of the Bachelor of Arts degree, a number of new buildings and renovations and an increased faculty and staff. We are thankful that God has graciously given us the opportunity to provide additional educational opportunities for the young men and women who attend Bethany Lutheran College. In the midst off these changes we are particularly thankful that the faculty, staff, and administration continue to keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ, One Thing Needful, at the center of the college's mission.

The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr., chairman
The Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, secretary
Dr. Dan R. Bruss, president

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

In Revelation 7 we have John's magnificent vision of heaven. He sees the saints who from their labors rest. They are the ones who died in the Lord by faith in the Savior. John says, "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14) When we were born into this world, we were covered with the filth and stench of sin from head to toe. There was no good in us. We were totally lost in sin and could do nothing to change our situation, as Job says, "Who can bring what is pure from the impure?" (Job 14:4) Only the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, could wash away our sin and make us clean. Though our sins were like scarlet, they are now white as snow, though they were red like crimson, they are now as wool, for in Him we are washed in the blood of the Lamb. In that blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white. This wonderful treasure is offered to us in the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, and is received by faith alone in Him as the Savior which faith is worked, strengthened, and preserved through these same means of grace.

The purpose of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is to prepare men as pastors who proclaim the beautiful message of the Gospel that our sins have been washed away in the blood of the Lamb. Each year we continue to send forth more workers who have been trained to preach the blessed truths of God's Word and to avoid false doctrine. 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 twelve-member Board of Regents is responsible for the operations 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., Pine River, Minnesota; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; the Rev. Klebe Brumble, Scottsdale, Arizona; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin; the Rev. J. Kincaid Smith, Shawano, Wisconsin; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota; Mr. Jon Bruss, Hartland, Wisconsin; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, Massachusetts; Mr. Lyle Fahning, Burnsville, Minnesota; Mr. William Overn, Eagan, Minnesota; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Middleton, Wisconsin; and Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, Minnesota. The Rev. John Moldstad, Mankato, Minnesota; the Rev. Milton Tweit, Mankato, Minnesota; and the Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, Earth City, Missouri; serve as advisory members to the board.

FACULTY

The following professors taught in the seminary during the 2002-03 school year: Adolph Harstad, Michael Smith, Thomas Kuster, Wilhelm Petersen, and Gaylin Schmeling. Professor Harstad leads our Old Testament studies and teaches Church History, Homiletics, and other practical courses. Professor Smith teaches our New Testament courses. President Emeritus Wilhelm Petersen teaches Homiletics, and Professor Kuster teaches Communication. President Schmeling teaches Church History, Dogmatics, Homiletics, and other practical courses.

Prof. Harstad's manuscript was submitted to the Concordia Publishing House and the *Joshua* volume of the Concordia Commentary Series should be published in 2003. This commentary will greatly assist confessional Lutherans in studying this important

book of the Bible.

It also should be mentioned that Prof. John A. Moldstad resigned as a professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary at the end of the 2001-02 school year. He served as the New Testament professor for eight years. We thank our Heavenly Father for giving this His servant the grace and the strength to serve as professor of our seminary for those years. This has been a great blessing for our students. We now wish him the Lord's richest blessing in his important work as president of our synod.

ENROLLMENT

There were 12 students enrolled at the seminary in the 2002-03 academic year. It breaks down as follows: 3 juniors, 2 middlers, 4 seniors, and 3 vicars. Those who served or are serving their vicarages: Christopher Dale (started January, 2003), Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastian, Florida; Andrew Palmquist, Christ Lutheran Church, Windsor, California, and Ukiah, California; and Glenn Smith, Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida.

RECRUITMENT

Our synod is facing a potential shortage of pastors to fill the various vacancies. If there is a shortage of pastors, congregations will remain without a shepherd. Our synod desires to begin new missions but there simply is not the manpower. The seminary is employing various new procedures for recruiting but the support of our congregations and pastors is needed.

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.

The gracious Savior who laid down His life for our salvation is calling for pastors to shepherd and nurture the flock purchased with His own blood. The seminary would like to encourage every young man in our synod—and not merely the young men—to consider this vital work which the Savior has placed before us. There is no greater work!

GRANTS

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is the newly combined organization of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood. It will contribute 50 cents for every dollar members donate to the seminary to a limit of \$200 matching.

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.

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation supports the seminary in a significant way. Grants from the Foundation have provided support for the seminary operations, for our seminarians and their families, and funds to increase our library collection.

ACTIVITIES

The seminary had the opportunity to lead a Lutherland Study Tour during April 11-20, 2002. The tour included the major Luther sites, a visit to our sister church in the Czech Republic, and lectures at the Leipzig Seminary of our sister church in Germany. Most of the seminary students were able to participate in the tour.

The annual senior recognition dinner was held on the evening of May 1, 2002. 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 16, 2002. The returning vicars reported on certain phases of their vicarage. President George Orvick spoke to the

vicars concerning the pastor and his relationship to the synod. Brief presentations were also given on our synod's pension fund, insurance plan, and deferred giving.

A summer institute was held May 30-31, 2002, in The Dalles, Oregon. Professor Harstad led an exegetical/homiletical study of various Old Testament pericopes. President Schmeling gave a presentation on *The Age of Lutheran Orthodoxy*.

President and Mrs. Schmeling conducted a Seminary Retreat at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center on August 10-11, 2002. The purpose of this retreat was to prepare the students and their families for life in the parsonage and in the congregation. This retreat also included a discussion of financial planning for the parsonage.

The annual Reformation Lectures were held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center on October 31 and November 1, 2002. These lectures are sponsored jointly by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. This year there were two presenters. The first lecture was given by Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Dr. Schulz is presently the Chairman of the Pastoral Ministry and Missions Department at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. From 1994-98 Dr. Schulz was a missionary in Serowe, Botswana, for the Lutheran Church Mission of the SELK (Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Germany).

The second presenter was Rev. Professor David Haeuser who vicared on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in East Fork, Arizona, and upon his graduation from the seminary was assigned to the Spanish-speaking congregation San Juan Lutheran Church in El Paso, Texas. For the last 13 years Professor Haeuser has served as a missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Lima, Peru.

The topic of the lecture was "Lutheran Missiology." The first lecture presented by the Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz was entitled "Lutheran Missiology of the 16th and 17th Centuries." In this presentation the essayist summarized the Lutheran stance on missions in the Reformation era and in the age of Lutheran Orthodoxy. The second presenter, the Rev. Professor David Haeuser, explained "Lutheran Missiology for the 21st Century." In this lecture the essayist presented the Lutheran theology of missions in the light of the challenges faced in the modern era.

An invitation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was again extended to our seminary students and staff to attend the annual mission seminar February 4-6, 2003, at Mequon, Wisconsin. The invitation was gratefully accepted and appreciated by the attendees. The theme of the seminar was: *Follow Christ As One: In Mind—Christians Unified, In Message—Christ Crucified, In Mission—God Glorified*. It emphasized the spirit of unity among Christians and that with one heart and voice we glorify our God and Father.

LUTHERAN SYNOD QUARTERLY

The *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* is the theological journal of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The *Quarterly* continues to be favorably received by the subscribers. The subscription price is \$15.00 per year and can be obtained by writing to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. Past issues of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* are to be found on the Bethany Seminary website www.blts.edu and click on LSQ Online.

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. It is our concern that no one desiring to study for the ministry be denied a theological education for lack of funds. The present Scholarship Endowment Funds are: Merle Aasen; Otto and Dorothy Abrams; Herman and Evelyn Anderson; Joey and Trisha Anderson; John, Ethel and Rodney Arends; Robert, Flora, and Charlotte F. Becker; Edmund Bolstad; Kenneth and Audrey Bolstad; Glenn and Dorothy Collins; Mabel

Dahlgren; Robert and Betty Diesing; George and Dorothy Feil; Donald and Opal Hackbarth; Hoiland Family; Lenwick Hoyord; Jens, Jerome, and Laverne Kvam; Ernest W. Larsen; Albin Levorson; George O. Lillegard; Gwenn and Sigfred Lysne; Norman A. Madson, Sr.; Joe and Peggy Moll; Rev. Richard and Hazel Newgard; George Nygaard; Ordal; Richland Lutheran Church; Herbert, Linette and Grace Sahnaw; Edna May Scherzer-Getz; Rev. Ahlert and Clara Strand; Walker-Schneider; Whipple; and James and Carol Williams.

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.

STUDENT HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The seminary has implemented a student housing assistance. This program is a great benefit for our students and their families as they prepare for the public ministry.

SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND

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.

SEMINARY GRADUATES

The Board of Regents submits the following to the synod for consideration:

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has found that its graduates may not have calls offering compensation consistent with the salary scale set forth by the Board for Home Missions, and,

WHEREAS, The inability of a parish to pay adequate compensation to its called workers is of concern, and,

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has many parishes which may be only marginally self-sufficient, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in convention assign to the appropriate board the responsibility to establish a formal program of assisting each parish of the synod to establish a set of development goals and objectives, both spiritual and secular, to assure that each parish is in a position to fully and gainfully employ a pastor who is compensated consistent with the salary scale set forth by the Board for Home Missions.

FINANCES

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$ 55,490.00
Synod: Subsidy	59,629.00
Endowment Income	42,989.00
Gifts and Grants	254,890.00
Other Sources	<u>22,180.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 435,178.00

EXPENDITURES

Education & General	\$ 373,310.00
Maintenance & Utilities	14,600.00
Video Production	<u>46,772.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 434,682.00

Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance \$ 496.00

The Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, president
The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., chairman
The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, secretary

HIGHER EDUCATION
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College Faculty and Staff

WHEREAS, The following anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College faculty and staff members have been observed:

Prof. Ronald Younge, Vice President for Academic Affairs	35 years
Dr. Steven Reagles, Religious Studies	20 years
Mrs. Joni Wiederhoeft, Assistant Director of Financial Aid	20 years
Mrs. Marge Lillo, Registrar Assistant	15 years
Mr. Jay Roth, Director of Internships & Placement, International Student Director	15 years
Prof. Nancy Wiechmann, Business	15 years
Prof. Peter Bloedel, Theatre	10 years
Mrs. Connie Gullixson, Accounting Clerk	10 years
Mrs. Esther Iverson, Costumer	10 years
Mr. Don Westphal, Dean of Admissions	10 years

therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod thank our gracious Lord for the blessings He has bestowed on our college through such faithful, talented and dedicated workers, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod continues to pray that the Lord guide and bless the work of all our Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary staff and faculty.

Resolution 2: 75th Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran College

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed the ELS with a college for 75 years, and,
WHEREAS, Through this institution the Word of God has been taught to many of the young adults of our synod and to others, and,
WHEREAS, The Lord has richly blessed the college materially and spiritually, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank God for these years of His blessing, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we ask God that He continue to bless our synod with a college that is faithful to the Word of God.

Resolution 3: Rev. John Moldstad, Jr.'s service in the Seminary

WHEREAS, The Rev. Moldstad faithfully has served in Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary for eight years, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank him for his service, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we ask the Lord's blessings on his work as president of the ELS.

Resolution 4: Recruitment for the Seminary

WHEREAS, Our synod faces a potential shortage of pastors to fill various vacancies and begin new missions, therefore,

- BE IT RESOLVED, That families, pastors, and congregations of the synod be active in recruiting men to study for the pastoral ministry.

Resolution 5: Evangelism Curriculum for Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary

WHEREAS, In Matthew 28:18-20, our Lord directs his church to make disciples of all nations, and,

WHEREAS, Christian outreach is a foremost task of the ministry and the church, and,
WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has plateaued in membership for some

ten years, and,

WHEREAS, We desire our church workers and congregations to enhance their abilities to do outreach, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents be encouraged to direct Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary to reevaluate their training in evangelism, outreach, and practical experience for future church workers, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the college and seminary work in consultation with the Board for Evangelism, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That a progress report be brought back to the 2004 convention.

Resolution 6: Adopt-a-Seminary-Student

WHEREAS, An Adopt-a-Seminary-Student program exists, and,

WHEREAS, Such a program is beneficial for the student's school and living expenses and,

WHEREAS, This program benefits congregations through such personal contact with a seminary student, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to adopt a student through their various organizations in consultation with the seminary president.

Resolution 7: Financial Support for Our College and Seminary

WHEREAS, Various donors (individuals, foundations, corporations, and Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary) have provided financial support for general needs and scholarships at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, We thank the Lord of the Church for moving their hearts to such support, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we publicly thank these individuals and groups, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we continue to encourage our synodical members to maintain such wonderful support.

Resolution 8: Seminary Graduates

BE IT RESOLVED, That this proposed resolution be sent to the Synod Review Committee for study.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

St. Paul commended those who “*shine like stars in the universe*” as they “*hold out the word of life.*” (Philippians 2:15, 16) The Board for Home Missions joins the entire Evangelical Lutheran Synod in commending our home missionaries. They serve on behalf of all of us, holding out the word of life in communities around our country, establishing congregations which preach and teach God’s life-giving Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

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

GENERAL 2002 WORK HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to regular quarterly board meetings, special meetings at Synod Convention and Pastoral Conference, conference phone calls, visitations 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 2002:

February. Planning began for the 2003 Winter Home Missions Seminar. Resolutions included: a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the Missions Office be located at 4 Browns Court; final distribution of resources at Harbor Trinity, Gig Harbor, WA; a bid on land in Plainfield, IL; approval of expenses for board representation in exploration of South Korea; subsidy approvals at Cottage Grove, WI, Bowling Green, OH, Kissimmee, FL and Irvine, CA; building cost approval in North Mankato, MN. A Divine Call was issued to Rev. Philip Lepak to explore Plainfield, IL. A conference call meeting authorized involvement in placing a vicar in Ukiah, CA in association with Christ, Windsor, CA.

May. \$8000 per year is available to the board from the sale of the dissolved Indian Landing Lutheran Church in Rochester, NY. The board proposed a grant to the Board of Trustees for signage for home mission congregations. Business matters: building plan adjustments were approved for Bowling Green, OH and North Mankato, MN. Rev. Harry Hagedorn, Administrator for WELS Home Missions shared information regarding strategy and planning as well as WELS home mission matters. The board resolved to thank Mr. Les Just for fourteen years of faithful service. At a meeting during the synod convention, subsidy for Peace, Kissimmee, FL was adjusted.

August. The board requested the Board of Trustees to secure capital financing for future construction projects. Partial subsidy for Bethany Seminary student Rev. Jong-In Kim was approved. Subsidy for the Rev. Youn Soo Park was extended. The board began considering possible work in Springboro, OH and Medford, OR.

November. Resolutions included: Housing allowance designations for exploratory missionaries; subsidies at Korean Lutheran Church, Des Moines, WA, Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove, WI, Asian Mission, Irvine CA, Christ, Windsor, CA and Kissimmee, FL. Partial architect’s fees were provided to Christ, Windsor, CA.

In 2002, the Board supervised three exploratory missions:

Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove, WI - Rev. Nathan Krause (through March)

South Lake, Clermont, FL - Rev. Greg Sahlstrom

Plainfield-Oswego Exploratory, Plainfield, IL - Rev. Philip Lepak

These seven established home missions were under the Board’s care:

Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove, WI - Rev. Nathan Krause
Asian Mission Church, Irvine, CA - Rev. Young Ha Kim
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH - Rev. Ken Mellon
Lord of Life, Holland, MI - Rev. Michael Smith
Peace, North Mankato, MN - Rev. Bradley Kerkow
Redeemer, Scottsdale, FL - Rev. Klebe Brumble
Resurrection, Winter Haven, FL - Rev. Mark Wold

Nine congregations received subsidy:

Apostles, Ukiah, CA - Rev. Karl Anderson
Christ, Windsor, CA - Rev. Karl Anderson
Good Shepherd, Indianola, IA - Rev. Robert Harting
Faith, San Antonio, TX - Rev. Matthew Crick
Family of God, Fort Mojave, AZ - Rev. Larry Wentzclaff
Korean Lutheran, Des Moines, WA - Rev. Youn Soo Park
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL - Rev. Norman Pommeranz
Parkland Daughter, Graham, WA - Rev. Glenn Obenberger
Peace, Kissimee, FL - Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch

MISSIONS COUNSELOR

In addition to serving as liaison between the board and missions, the Missions Counselor also worked with *Cross-stitch*, the network of ELS Womens' Missionary Societies, which raised funds in support of Peru: musical instruments and youth programs, furnishings for Tarapoto Chapel/Education Center, educational support for women, restroom improvements; Chile: a worship site in San Jose de Maipo, televised Bible study program; Korea: religious educational material for Young Kang English School, Naju-city; United States: advertising support for exploratory missions in Clermont, FL and Plainfield, IL.

The 2002 ELS Video-links featured Bethany Lutheran College, the work of Deferred Giving Counselor Richard Wiechmann, the Marvin G. Meyer Hall of Mathematics and Science and the new presidents of the ELS and Bethany College.

The Missions Advancement Project (MAP) received and disbursed funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation on behalf of its ELS-related supported organizations, Thoughts of Faith and Helping Hands.

FUTURE PLANS

Plans include one budgeted new mission start in 2003 and other possible areas where work might begin including more cross-cultural efforts. As God has blessed our home mission program in the recent past, it is now time to fund construction of church buildings.

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.

SALARY SCALE FOR 2004

In addition to the following scale, housing and utilities allowance for home missionaries is determined using 135% of the four-bedroom fair market rental value within a specific county according to the 2003 survey of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Federal Register, Part III, 24 CFR Part 888). Increment for years of service and education allowance is provided within the salary scale. Car allowance is paid per mile for actual miles driven based on the Internal Revenue Service rate for mileage. Health insurance is provided at the \$500 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>2004 Base Salary</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>2004 Base Salary</u>
0	25,641	16	30,991
1	25,891	17	31,466
2	26,141	18	31,941
3	26,391	19	32,416
4	26,641	20	32,891
5	26,891	21	33,441
6	27,216	22	33,991
7	27,541	23	34,541
8	27,866	24	35,091
9	28,191	25	35,641
10	28,516	26	36,266
11	28,916	27	36,891
12	29,316	28	37,516
13	29,716	29	38,141
14	30,116	30	38,766
15	30,516		

THANK YOU

During the past year, various individuals, congregations and other organizations have contributed special gifts toward our home mission efforts. We appreciate Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation's Church Extension Grants of \$40,000 which funded special outreach projects among nine congregations of our synod. We thank Aid Association for Lutherans for a Church-wide grant of \$13,600 funding this year's Home Mission Winter Seminar. We are especially grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for continued support of ELS home mission projects.

OPERATING BUDGET

	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2004 Proposed
SUBSIDY - HOME MISSIONS			
Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove	52,000	55,000	46,000
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	16,000	16,000	12,000
Asian Mission, Irvine	50,000	70,500	63,000
Lord of Life, Holland	10,000	5,000	
Peace, North Mankato	45,000	40,000	33,000
Redeemer, Scottsdale	6,000		
Resurrection, Winter Haven	10,000	18,000	12,000
SUBSIDY - CONGREGATIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT			
Apostles, Ukiah	2,000		
Christ, Windsor	9,500	14,000	7,000
Faith, San Antonio	5,000	5,000	5,000
Family of God, Fort Mojave	12,000	6,000	
Good Shepherd, Indianola	16,250	11,250	7,500
Korean Lutheran, Des Moines	20,000	12,600	
Our Savior, Lakeland	5,000		
Parkland, Graham	16,000	10,500	5,500

Peace, Kissimmee	18,000	9,000	4,000
SUBSIDY - EXPLORATORY MISSIONS			
Plainfield Exploratory, Plainfield	50,000	45,000	33,000
South Lake, Clermont	50,000	45,000	33,000
SUBSIDY - CAPITAL INTEREST			
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	37,796	36,959	36,053
Christ, Windsor	35,656	34,867	
Christ the King, Green Bay	9,075	5,781	5,309
Family of God, Ft. Mojave	2,099		
Grace, Hobart	14,328	11,920	10,700
Lord of Life, Holland	10,388	9,709	8,972
New Life, Sebring	2,812	752	
Peace, Kissimmee	12,233	12,046	11,853
Peace, Lakeland	23,431	21,949	20,344
Redeemer, Scottsdale	10,157	8,690	7,970
Resurrection, Winter Haven	12,876	12,716	12,585
Saved By Grace, Gresham	14,583	2,083	
<u>BOARD EXPENSES</u>			
Board expenses	13,300	12,000	12,000
Moving expense	19,300	12,000	12,000

In 2002, the Synod budgeted \$199,000 for the home mission program. The remainder of the money needed to fund the program came from special gifts, Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, estates and earned and accumulated interest.

The Rev. S.P.Petersen, Missions Counselor

HOME MISSIONS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Compensation Package for Home Missionaries for 2004

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has recommended a compensation package for home missionaries for the year 2004, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has taken into account the difficult economic times resulting in budgetary concerns, and although the compensation package contains no cost of living increase, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we recommend adoption of the compensation package for home missionaries for 2004, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions be directed, as the economic conditions improve, to amend the compensation package to reflect increases in the cost of living index.

Resolution 2: Congregational Support for Home Missions

WHEREAS, The development of new congregations is vital for the spreading of the Gospel and for the future of our synod, and,

WHEREAS, The cost of funding new home missions continues to increase, and,

WHEREAS, Including a line item commitment in the congregational budget for the support of the synod is beneficial, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we ask the Board of Stewardship to formulate a plan that encourages congregations to increase financial support of their synod and, thereby, the development of home missions.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

BOARD PERSONNEL

The Board for Foreign Missions is composed of three pastors and four laymen. They are Prof. Adolph Harstad, chairman; Mr. Marlin Goebel, vice chairman; the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, recording secretary and acting field secretary; Mr. Robert Soule treasurer; the Rev. Paul Fries, information officer; Mr. Harmon Anderson, financial consultant; Prof. Silas Born, education consultant. The Rev. Paul Anderson, former chairman, serves as advisory member to the board. The board held two day meetings in January, April, July and October. Usually the meetings are held at the synod building in Mankato. This past January (2003) the meeting was held at Family of God Lutheran Church in Fort Mojave, Arizona. The October meeting was held at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference center, at Trego, Wisconsin. The president of the synod, the Rev. Steven Petersen (missions counselor), and Keith Weiderhoeft (treasurer and business administrator), attend our meetings regularly.

FIELD PERSONNEL

There are four missionaries serving in Peru. They are the Rev. Timothy Erickson, the Rev. David Haeuser, the Rev. Terry Schultz and the Rev. Kurt Smith (who recently arrived there in January of 2003). There are three missionaries serving in Chile. They are the Rev. Oto Rodriguez, the Rev. Karl Kuenzel, and the Rev. David Lillegard (who recently arrived there in January of 2003).

VISITS TO THE MISSION FIELD

Field Secretary Wayne Halvorson and Mission Counselor Steven Petersen visited the Peru and Chile mission fields in March of 2003. They met with the mission teams and visited the places where work is being carried out. The visit was encouraging to the missionaries and the board.

PERU

There are six full time national pastors working in Lima and other areas of the country. There are five vicars soon to be ordained. About 13 others students are studying in the seminary in Lima, with some studying in extension seminaries and training schools in the mountains and Amazon region. The seminary is headed by Missionary David Haeuser. The seminary program in Peru is generally comparable to what is required of the seminary students in the States.

Two elementary schools have been established in the Lima area, in Año Nuevo on the north side of Lima and at Reynoso, on the west side of Lima, in the port city of Callao. These two schools have now celebrated their first year of operation. Both school are adding to their facilities, for the schools last year were filled to capacity. Reynoso is building a new building. These schools will strengthen the national church in Peru. Members of the synod are reminded that the start up for these two schools came from the *2000 Years of Grace* Thank Offering. The schools are nearly self-supporting already.

Another Christian school now has opened and been in operation in the Amazon village of Nueva Barranquita for one year. This is the first school that has ever been in the village. It is a blessing to be able to proclaim the message of Christ Jesus each day to the children.

Work in the mountains has been expanding in recent years, with several national pastors and vicars serving, now about 15 groups scattered in the area of Huaraz and Chiquian. Missionary Tim Erickson has been directing some of the work there, and now teaches some of the seminary classes in this mountain area.

Casa Emanuel a drug rehabilitation Center is now run by one of the vicars, under the direction of the missionaries. It has treated 57 men in its first year. Currently it

has 26 residents who receive spiritual, medical and psychological help. This facility results in touching many families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A number of the residents become part of the church. Nearly all of the cost of operating this facility, are covered by the fees from the residents.

Over 50 groups now meet in the country of Peru for worship and study regularly. Membership has surpassed the 1000 mark. Growth is continuing in numbers and in spiritual understanding. More and more of the churches work is directed by nationals. The Lord continues to bless the work in Peru.

CHILE

The missionaries serve congregations in the greater Santiago area and south in the town of Linares. As of this writing (March) several confirmations have been held, many baptisms have taken place. Worship services and study of the Word of God by members and pre-seminary students continues. In the recent field visit we had the privilege of witnessing many baptisms and confirmations, including an adult baptism. About six young men have begun studying for leadership in the church. Some have expressed interest in becoming pastors to their own people. A plan has been put into place to begin seminary training. Radio broadcasts have been used as a tool for outreach. The numerical and spiritual growth has continued. New mission sites are being explored, and many seem promising. The Lord is blessing the work in Chile.

AUSTRALIA

At present the synodical body in Australia is not receiving support from our board. Pastor Mark Tuffin, who has been serving Redeemer congregation in Kallangur has resigned from his call as pastor, and is pursuing additional studies in Australia. Redeemer congregation, by formal letter has approached the Board For Foreign Missions for a closer working relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Details for such are being worked out with the cooperation of the synod administration.

MISSIONS COUNSELOR

In 2002, Missions Counselor Steven Petersen attended meetings of the Board for Foreign Missions, Thoughts of Faith and Missions Advancement Project. He visited Peru & Chile in March of 2003 along with Field Secretary Wayne Halvorson. Missions Counselor duties have generally included receiving vouchers for expenses from the field and turning them over for payment, arranging furlough schedules in cooperation with the missionaries, serving as pastor for the missionaries and their families, promoting the work of the board throughout the synod through mission presentations at congregations, women's missionary rallies, *Cross-stitch*, and writing for the *Lutheran Sentinel* and *Mission News*. He also assisted in preparations for this year's mission anniversary celebration.

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY

Our thanks to Marlin and Jean Goebel who faithfully publish *Mission News* regularly during the year, and receive special contributions for our mission fields. In 2002 receipts totaled \$59,810.00. About \$26,400.00 was directed to Peru, \$8,400.00 was directed to Chile. Thoughts of Faith has received about \$5,800.00 this year through Faith Mission Society. Other incidental mission endeavors have received funds through Faith Mission Society. It is interesting to note that since its inception in June of 1972, \$962,066.60 has been received and dispersed for mission advancement throughout the world. Next year it could be one million dollars.

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 most of the funding for the missionaries. Last year special gifts were received by *Helping Hands* totaling about, \$34,000. Our special thanks to Robert and Madelyn

Soule for their many hours of volunteer work in taking care of the *Helping Hands* financial matters, along with other financial dealings for the missionaries. Our thanks to all the donors for their generous gifts to the foreign mission program of the synod.

EXPLORATORY MISSION IN KOREA

At present the Board for Foreign Missions is exploring the possibility of mission outreach into South Korea. This was mentioned in last year's report and responded to by resolution of the convention:

WHEREAS, The Church has been blessed with opportunities for potential mission work in South Korea and also in China which was a mission field once served by the old Synodical Conference, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage our Board for Foreign Missions to pursue these avenues carefully and apprise the synod of progress or changes in these two fields.

At present two Bethany Lutheran College Graduates have been teaching at the Young Kang English Pre-School. The Rev. Norman Madson will take up duties this spring [he is there now]. He will be tutoring the pastor and congregation in theology and helping teach English. God willing we shall have a better evaluation of the opportunity for mission work there soon.

BUDGET FOR 2003

The following has been budgeted by the Board for Foreign Missions for 2003, listing here according to general categories:

EXPENDITURE	
Board for Foreign Missions	\$ 36,135
Mission Counselor	4,645
Chile	266,911
Peru	<u>569,345</u>
TOTAL	\$ 877,036

REVENUE	
Synod Budget	\$ 183,378
Schwan Program Designation	150,000
Interest Income	110,000
Corporation Grant	\$ 25,000
Helping Hands Contributions	<u>40,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 708,378

MISSION ANNIVERSARIES

This year the synod observes the 35th anniversary of the mission to Peru, and the 10th anniversary of the mission to Chile. It was in July of 1968 that the first missionary from our synod arrived on the field in Peru. The first worship service was held on Easter Sunday in 1969 at a home in Reynoso. It was in February of 1992 that the first missionary arrived on the field in Chile. Property was purchased for the La Cisterna Church in October of 1992. On October 21st the first baptism was performed at this new church site.

The Lord certainly has blessed the proclaiming of the Gospel message of Christ in these years. May he continue to bless the synod's foreign mission outreach to the four corners of the world.

THOUGHTS OF FAITH

The Lord continues to bless the efforts of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. as the Gospel message is shared with the people of Central and Eastern Europe, specifically the countries of Ukraine, Czech Republic, Latvia and added in 2002, Moldova. Thoughts of Faith is a church related organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Board Of Directors

President: the Rev. Paul Schneider, Midland, MI; vice-president: the Rev. George Orvick, Mankato, MN; secretary: the Rev. John Petersen, Vero Beach, FL; treasurer: Mr. Leroy Meyer, Lombard, IL; directors: Mr. Dan Browning, Minnetonka, MN; Mr. Dave Ewert, North Mankato, MN; Prof. John Lawrenz, Mequon, WI (sabbatical January 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004); Mr. Mark Schwan, Sioux Falls, SD; and Mr. Dick Waldschmidt, Colgate, WI.

Missions Advancement Project

Thoughts of Faith is thankful to the Missions Advancement Project (MAP) for coordinating grants that fund part of the operation of Thoughts of Faith. The MAP Board is appointed by the ELS Board of Trustees and is made up of the following men: Chairman: Mr. Greg Griffin, Madison, WI; Secretary: the Rev. Steve Petersen, Mankato, MN; Treasurer: Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, Mankato, MN; Mr. Allen Borlaug, Waucoma, IA; and Mr. Kermit Traska, Oregon, WI.

Development Director

Thoughts of Faith called Rev. Ronald Muetzel as development director at the December 2001 meeting. The Rev. Muetzel accepted the call and began working for Thoughts of Faith on February 1, 2002.

Ukraine

A. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC)

Fellowship between the ULC, ELS and WELS was formally declared in 2001. In 2002, the ULC was taken into membership with CELC. May God continue to bless the fellowship that has been established.

The Lord's work in Ukraine continues to be conducted in partnership with the ULC. The ULC currently has 25 congregations and 8 mission stations with total membership of about 3,000 souls. The active clergy of the ULC consists of 17 Ukrainian national pastors and 3 American missionaries. Pastor Vyacheslav Horpynchuk serves as the Bishop (President) of the ULC. The church body also operates St. Sophia Lutheran Theological Seminary for the purpose of training men to become pastors in the ULC. The Rector (president) of the seminary is the Rev. David Jay Webber and the Rev. Roger Kovaciny teaches part-time in the pre-seminary preparatory program. Professor John Lawrenz from the WELS seminary in Mequon will serve as a mentor (friendly counselor) to the ULC from March 2003 through July 2004. the Rev. Joel Rakos has accepted a call to return to the Thoughts of Faith office in Oregon to serve as a Pastoral Associate.

Additional work of the ULC includes a radio program *The Lutheran Moment*, a national church newsletter *Styag* (Banner), a correspondence Bible study program, a Ukrainian translation of the *Good News Journal*, a Ukrainian hymnal and other translation projects.

The operating budget for the Ukraine division of Thoughts of Faith, Inc., for 2003 is approximately \$957,100.

B. International Charitable Fund Gift of Life Fund (Formerly Medical Clinics on Wheels)

The Gift of Life Fund encompasses the humanitarian work of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. in Ukraine. This work is managed for Thoughts of Faith, Inc. by contract with WELS Christian Life Resources—Life Resources International Division directed by Larry and Sue Dilgard.

The pediatric dental and medical clinics continue to operate out of Ternopil, traveling to towns and villages throughout Ukraine providing free pediatric medical and dental care to the children of Ukraine. Ukrainian Gift of Life program operates six Life Centers across Ukraine in the cities of Kyiv, Ternopil, Sevastopol, Kremenetz, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia. The staff of these centers provides pro-life Christian counseling, pro-

life presentations, pregnancy counseling and humanitarian assistance.

The operating budget for the Gift of Life division of Thoughts of Faith, Inc., for 2002 is approximately \$629,700.

C. Thoughts of Faith Branch Office – Kyiv, Ukraine

The Thoughts of Faith Branch Office in Kyiv, Ukraine coordinates work and funding between Thoughts of Faith in the US and the ULC. In 2002, the branch office, under the direction of Ukrainian Administrator Volodymyr Cherevko, had to register a new non-profit organization in order to avoid high tax on charitable funds sent to Ukraine. This was accomplished by creating the International Charitable Fund Faith in Action. Funds can now continue to be sent to Ukraine without worry of high tax consequences.

Moldova

Pastor Vladimir Mozer from Tiraspol, Moldova has been attending seminars and meetings in Ukraine for the past several years. He serves four Lutheran congregations in Moldova. Pastor Mozer has worked with the ULC and Rev. David Jay Weber at St. Sophia Seminary in Ternopil to take some courses that he missed in his initial training.

The Thoughts of Faith Board of Directors approved working with Pastor Mozer including an operating budget of \$10,000 for 2003.

Czech Republic

A. St. Paul Lutheran Church of Plzen

The Lord continues to bless the work of this congregation, just as He blesses all work done in His Name. The congregation's current membership is over 130. A weekly English Conversation Club, sponsored by the congregation, continues to generate interest in the church. The congregation publishes a monthly newsletter for its members, *The Sign of Faith* and a publication for its U.S. supporters, *Czech Mates*.

B. Martin Luther School

Enrollment at Martin Luther School for the 2002-2003 school year is 180 in Grades K-9. The children are taught the traditional secular subjects but most importantly, they are taught God's Word. Our American and Czech staff work closely together to ensure that our children are receiving a quality, Christ-centered education.

C. Humanitarian

The mission continues to support the work of Mulac Hospital, the first private hospital in the Czech Republic after the fall of communism. We have also provided periodic support for a local orphanage.

D. Horni Briza

Our Lutheran mission began outreach work in Horni Briza in December 1999. Weekly services have been held in Horni Briza since March 2000 and a small congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, has been formed. In addition to worship services, this congregation also has weekly Bible classes for its members and others in the community interested in learning more about God's Word. The Plzen staff also offers English language classes in Horni Briza.

E. Tlucna

Due to the efforts of one of our Czech school teachers, we have been allowed to rent an historic chapel in the town of Tlucna, located 10 kilometers west of Plzen, for the equivalent of 3 cents a year for 20 years. The town council renovated and the mission was responsible for restoring the interior. The refurbishment took place in late 2001 and there are now weekly services and Bible studies in the church.

F. Additional Outreach Opportunities

In a continuing effort to fulfill the Great Commission on a local level, our Czech mem-

bers have helped identify additional outreach locations. The work in Marianske Lazne was discontinued in 2002.

Plans are underway with WELS Christian Life Resources, Life Resources International to open a Life Center in Plzen in 2003. Volunteers from the Plzen congregation will staff the life center.

The operating budget for the Czech division of Thoughts of Faith, Inc., for 2001 is approximately \$736,000.

Latvia

A. Augsburg Institute

Thoughts of Faith, Inc., continues to support confessional Lutheran work in Latvia. This work is being conducted by the Augsburg Institute, which is an organization dedicated to sharing Confessional Lutheran doctrine with the people of Latvia. The Augsburg Institute is active in publishing a newspaper, *The Latvian Lutheran*, a theological journal, as well as translating the Book of Concord and other Confessional Lutheran writings. These efforts have been very important in helping Latvians understand the differences between Confessional Lutheranism and the liberal Lutheranism of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (LELC), which is a member of Lutheran World Federation.

B. Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia (CLCL)

The Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia consists of eleven Latvian pastors serving thirteen congregations. Egons Mudulis graduated from Bethany Seminary in June 2002. Three senior students left the seminary of the larger Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church for doctrinal reasons to colloquize to the CLCL. Egons and these three men were ordained as pastors of the CLCL in August 2002. This small, but dedicated, group continues to reach out to the people of Latvia with the Gospel message. The CLCL is in fellowship with ELS and WELS and in 2002 was admitted to the CELC.

The Thoughts of Faith operating budget for Latvia for 2003 is \$221,200.

The Lord has greatly blessed the efforts of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. and we are confident that He will continue to do so as we strive to share His Word with the people of Central and Eastern Europe. The Board of Directors serve diligently throughout the year by the Grace of God to make Thoughts of Faith a successful mission organization. We greatly appreciate the encouragement and support we receive from President Moldstad, the Board for Foreign Missions, Mission Counselor Steve Petersen, Rev. Larry Burgdorf and Rev. Keith Boheim of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation and the entire Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

To God Alone Be The Glory.

*The Rev. Wayne Halvorson, Field Secretary
Mr. Kermit Traska, Executive Director, Thoughts of Faith, Inc.*

FOREIGN MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Encouraging the starting of schools on mission fields

WHEREAS, The Lord has greatly blessed the mission schools in Peru, and Czech Republic, and,

WHEREAS, Christian education can be a special help in preserving the teaching of the true faith, and,

WHEREAS, This can lead to the training of national pastors and teachers to further the work, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Foreign Missions be encouraged to seek oppor-

tunities for the starting of schools in other mission fields.

Resolution 2: Contributions to Foreign Mission Work

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

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

WHEREAS, The Cross-stitch organization supports our ELS mission program, and,

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

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod express its appreciation for the opportunity they give our people to be generous, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend these mission organizations for their wise use of resources, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That synod encourage them faithfully to continue in this service of the Lord.

Resolution 3: Special Recognition of Faithful Servants

WHEREAS, Marlin and Jean Goebel have worked with Faith Mission Society for over 30 years, and,

WHEREAS, Robert and Madelyn Soule have tirelessly supported the work of Helping Hands, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks to the Lord of the Church for their faithful service in their support of foreign mission work.

Resolution 4: Foreign Mission Anniversaries

WHEREAS, This year the Synod observes the 35th anniversary of the mission to Peru, and the 10th anniversary of the mission to Chile, and,

WHEREAS, Our Lord has richly blessed these mission fields in many ways, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Lord for blessing the proclamation of the gospel message of Christ in these years.

Resolution 5: Communication to the synod's youth

WHEREAS, Regular reports from the foreign mission fields encourage interest and support of mission work, and,

WHEREAS, There is the need to promote interest in missions on the part of the children of our congregations and schools in the United States, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Foreign Missions be asked to facilitate the sending of regular reports to synod's Christian elementary schools and Sunday Schools, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That school principals and pastors be encouraged to use these reports in their Christian education programs.

Resolution 6: Thoughts of Faith Report

WHEREAS, Thoughts of Faith has presented a detailed report on the work in Eastern Europe, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage Thoughts of Faith to continue its outreach to Eastern Europe.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8 NIV).

BOARD MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

The board met twice since last convention (September, 2002 and March, 2003). The board has five elected members: Pastors: Michael K. Smith (chairman), Bradley Kerkow (secretary), and Nathan Krause (*Evangelism Notes* editor); Laymen: Lloyd Ahlbrand and Maynard Pick. The Rev. Matthew Crick serves as an advisory member. Bruce Peterson, a former board member, has continued as a board consultant. Nathan Krause will retire from the board at this convention due to pressing parish and family responsibilities.

SYNOD EVANGELISM WORKSHOPS

The board continues to present the second synod-wide evangelism workshop entitled, "God's Message—Our Mission." There are four parts to the workshop: 1. Evangelism is defined and the proper motivation discussed; 2. Ideas shared about how pastors, members, and committees are evangelizing; 3. Evangelism skills are sharpened by having the participants see taped scenarios and respond with ways that they might share the Gospel; 4. Various styles of evangelism are described from incidents in the Bible. Workshops have been held in Texas (Circuit 10), Washington (Circuit 12), Minnesota (Circuit 9), Massachusetts (Circuit 2), and Wisconsin (Circuit 5). For future workshops in other circuits, please contact the board chairman.

TRACTS

There are now twenty tracts in the *We're Glad You Asked About...* series. The tracts are available to ELS congregations at no cost. The board encourages churches to use these tracts and other evangelism brochures as a way to help their members understand differences in churches and to help them share God's truths with others. Tracts may be obtained through the board website, www.learnaboutJesus.com, or may be picked up at the synod convention display table. Tracts on other subjects are also available. The board welcomes suggestions for new tracts. Previous board member Rev. Kenneth Mellon has kindly agreed to serve as the distributor of many board materials.

WEBSITE

The board maintains its own website: www.learnaboutJesus.com. On the site you can view the board's evangelism tracts and other materials. Also, it has links to other evangelism resources and to the website of the synod.

EVANGELISM SUNDAYS

The board is offering materials for 2003 which encourage evangelism. The materials may be used by congregations on a quarterly basis during the church season. An evangelism resource book with sermons and Bible studies is available to each pastor of the synod. Artwork for promotion of evangelism is included.

EVANGELISM NOTES

Evangelism Notes is the board's newsletter, published twice each year. Each issue includes ideas for advertising and outreach. Departing board member Rev. Nathan Krause faithfully served as the editor for many years. The board would be glad to receive and print evangelism news from the congregations. Past copies of the *Notes* are available.

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER DEVOTIONS

In order to assist pastors with a monthly newsletter to members and prospective members, the board has made available a monthly outreach devotion. The devotion is distributed to pastors via email and contains appropriate clipart and formatting to facilitate a simple newsletter with a minimum of work. The devotion is geared toward the unchurched and therefore generally consists of a simple Law and Gospel message. Various pastors write the devotions. The devotions are available by contacting the Rev. Bradley Kerkow.

SEMINARY WORKSHOPS

The board held two workshops for students of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary on September 17, 2002 and March 24, 2003. The students were trained in different aspects of evangelism and outreach. Students canvassed a local neighborhood in a fieldwork portion of the workshop. They were urged to include evangelism as a part of their future ministry.

PARISH EVANGELISM ASSISTANCE

Parish Evangelism Assistance funds of \$100,000 are now available to congregations through generous donations for the synod's *2000 Years of Grace* Thank Offering. Parish Evangelism Assistance will help congregations in two ways: 1. with specific evangelism projects, for which partial funding may be needed, and 2. with evaluating and organizing a congregation's long-range outreach efforts. Eleven congregations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, and Illinois are working with trained consultants to explore various types of evangelism outreach for their areas. Any ELS congregation may apply for Parish Evangelism Assistance by contacting the board chairman.

RADIO ADVERTISING

In cooperation with the communications department at Bethany Lutheran College the board has produced radio ads which congregations can use for specific holidays. The ads are available on CD at no cost.

LUTHERAN SENTINEL ARTICLES

In recent years the board has been allowed to produce annual series of articles concerning evangelism and outreach for inclusion in the *Lutheran Sentinel*. The current series concerns door-to-door canvassing. The board appreciates the generous cooperation of the editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the Rev. Theodore Gullixson.

FUTURE PLANNING

The board has several projects at various stages of planning at this time.

1. The board plans to continue to present workshops at Bethany Lutheran College to assist students, faculty, and staff with their outreach efforts.
2. The board plans to develop assistance to youth for service and witnessing opportunities.
3. The board plans to assist ELS members in having "caring and sharing" projects in their congregations.
4. The board plans to continue to add new tracts and other printed materials to its available resources.

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 5:42 NIV).

The Rev. Bradley J. Kerkow, secretary

EVANGELISM

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Membership

WHEREAS, The Rev. Nathan Krause has faithfully served for many years on the Board for Evangelism, and,

WHEREAS, Due to parish duties he will no longer be serving on the Board for Evangelism, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank him for his years of service on the Board for Evangelism and for being editor of *Evangelism Notes*.

Resolution 2: Resources

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has produced numerous tracts for the *We're Glad You Asked About...* series, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism continues to provide *Evangelism Notes*, sermons, and materials, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism continues to maintain the website: *learnaboutJesus.com*, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism produces radio ads to be used in the congregations of our synod, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has produced a series of *Lutheran Sentinel* articles encouraging evangelism in our synod, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend the Board for Evangelism for its diligent work, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board be encouraged to develop further evangelism resources and encourage evangelism in our synod, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod be encouraged to make good use of the resources and materials that the Board for Evangelism has provided.

Resolution 3: Workshops

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism is working with the seminary to help provide evangelism workshops for seminary students, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism is working with the congregations of our synod to conduct workshops and training in the congregations of the circuits, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the board for its continued work in these areas, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the seminary and congregations of our synod be encouraged to make use of the respective workshops.

Resolution 4: Parish Evangelism Assistance

WHEREAS, The *2000 Years of Grace* Thank Offering established money for Parish Evangelism Assistance, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism is distributing this money for various projects among the congregations of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, The money from this offering is being used to broadcast God's Word over radio, and for other various outreach methods, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the board for its work in providing such assistance, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod be encouraged to make use of this assistance that is available by contacting Prof. Michael Smith at mksmith@blc.edu.

Resolution 5: Outreach Devotions

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism produces a new devotion each month to be used in congregations for newsletters, contacting visitors, and such things, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the board for this new resource, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod be encouraged to use this new resource by contacting the Rev. Bradley Kerkow at bkerkow@hotmail.com.

Resolution 6: Evangelism and Outreach

WHEREAS, We believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people as He, Himself said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6), and,

WHEREAS, The apostles taught, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" Acts 4:12), and,

WHEREAS, Evangelism, sharing this Good News, is the chief work of every Christian,

and,
WHEREAS, The time of this world is coming to an end and the fields are white and the harvest is waiting, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That we teach, assist, and urge every member of the synod to fulfill the Church's Great Commission and follow the example of the early Christians who, "Day after day, in the temple courts, and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 5:42).

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION & YOUTH

The Board for Education & Youth has had two meetings since June 2002. The board continues to serve the synod in the areas of Christian Day Schools, Parish Education and Youth work. The board is made up of three subcommittees that specifically deal with these areas. The board seeks to help in making Bible study materials available, assist existing Christian Day Schools and encourage new ones, conduct youth conventions and provide help for regional youth retreats, camps, and much more. The board is continually thankful to the Lord at the financial blessings that continue to flow from the thankoffering gathered several years ago, *His Truth for Our Youth*. The money which the Lord has provided is helping us carry out projects that would otherwise not be possible.

The officers of the BEY include the Rev. Charles Keeler as chairman and the Rev. Jonathan Madson as recording secretary. New members added to the board in 2002 included Mr. Dan Johnson and Mr. Brian Brudvig. Mr. Troy Grooms and the Rev. Mark Wold resigned from the board this year. We thank both of them for the years of service which they provided for the BEY.

The BEY passed a motion to refer *Secondary Educational Opportunities* (2002 Synod Report, page 132, resolution 2) to the Committee for Information and Technology.

We pray that the Lord of the Church continues to bless the efforts of the BEY and our ELS in proclaiming the precious Gospel of Christ and Him crucified.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

The Subcommittee on Christian Day Schools exists so that as a synod we may assist congregations in the establishment and maintenance of Christian Day Schools. Members of the subcommittee are Mr. Curtis Mantey, Prof. Mark Wiechmann, the Rev. Tony Pittenger, and Mr. Brian Brudvig.

Teachers in the ELS work together in teachers' conferences in the Midwest and in the Pacific Northwest. An exchange program between these two conferences has been established to bring the teachers in these two conferences closer together. In addition, teachers in Washington, Florida and Arizona also meet with their brothers and sisters in the WELS. To promote these conferences, each conference may request up to \$150 from the BEY each year for conference expenses.

Teachers serving in a Christian Day School of our synod and who are certified by our synod may apply for up to \$250 per year for continuing education. Non-certified teachers may also apply for this grant to take courses leading to ELS certification. Non-certified teachers may also apply for additional grants of up to \$500 per year to cover travel, lodging, and meal expenses required to take certification courses offered at Bethany Lutheran College, Martin Luther College, or Wisconsin Lutheran College. Grants totaling \$2196 were awarded to fourteen teachers in 2002.

Through this subcommittee, the Board for Education and Youth also awards grants available through *His Truth for Our Youth* and the Program Funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation to help congregations that wish to open a new school

and to assist existing schools with expansion projects. These funds may be used, for example, to purchase materials, to build or remodel facilities, but may not be used to pay salaries or regular budgetary items. Congregations may apply for grants up to \$50,000. Ten grants totaling \$114,000 were awarded in 2002.

Prof. Silas Born continues to serve as an advisor to the board and especially to our subcommittee. He works with students at Bethany Lutheran College who are interested in becoming teachers in the ELS. He also maintains personnel files on all the teachers in our synod and works with President Moldstad, our circuit visitors and their counter-parts in WELS in preparing call lists for our schools.

Because the schools in our synod are growing in size, this subcommittee has also begun working on a sample job description for a full-time principal. Suggestions have also been drawn up for congregations on how much time should be allotted for principals to do administrative work. These are available from the subcommittee upon request.

Teacher Salaries

After consultation with the Board for Home Missions and the WELS salary schedule for 2003-2004, recommendation is made that the base salaries for 2003/2004 be \$22,000 for a teacher with a Bachelor of Science degree; \$23,500 for a teacher with a Masters degree. Each year of experience for the first ten years would add \$300, after that each year would add \$400. For 2004/2005 the base would be \$22,660 for a teacher with a Bachelor of Science degree; \$24,205 for a teacher with a Masters degree. Years of experience increments would remain the same. Congregations are also encouraged to establish a salary cap for 30 years experience and remunerate up to one-half of the self-employed Social Security tax. Current self-employment tax is 15.3%.

It also is suggested that substitute teachers be paid \$70/day (plus for Social Security), plus 30¢/mile for mileage.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARISH EDUCATION

The Rev. Alexander Ring and Mr. Daniel Johnson were added to the Parish Education Subcommittee. The committee also consists of Mr. Glen Hansen, who serves as chairman, and the Rev. Jerry Gernander, who serves as secretary.

The committee completed work on the revised *Catechism Workbook* and a devotional booklet, *I Pray the Catechism*, with production assistance from the Board for Publications. These books will be available at the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore beginning in September 2003. Advent devotions were reproduced from previous years and made available by the Board for Publications. The committee produced a review of Vacation Bible School materials produced by Concordia, Northwestern and Kremer publishing houses. Crossword puzzles on chapters of the Bible are being produced by the Rev. Karl Heck (St. Timothy, Williamsburg, Iowa) and are available at the BLC Bookstore. A Christmas program called *The True Story of Christmas* was distributed to pastors. The committee will not do this again due to lack of interest.

New projects: Beginning in Advent 2003, in addition to the devotions in brochure form that are sent to the churches, the committee will send the new *Advent Devotions For the Family*, a little booklet of devotions written by ELS pastors. The committee plans to do this each Advent and Lent. In addition, the committee will sponsor a new synod-wide Bible study to be completed and distributed to the churches by the fall of 2004. The topic will be the book of Hebrews.

In 1998, the synod in convention requested the board to consider the feasibility of an Evangelical Lutheran Synod-produced Sunday School curriculum. The committee has decided that the production of Sunday School materials in a comprehensive curriculum is not a realistic goal for this committee. However, the committee plans to work on producing a Bible story book for use in our Sunday Schools.

The following materials are available upon request from the board: VBS materials on the Ten Commandments and on the Apostles' Creed; Sunday School teacher certificates of recognition for years of service; and bulletin inserts on the catechism.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH WORK

Members of the committee in this past year include the Rev. Donald Moldstad, chairman; the Rev. Bernt Tweit; Mr. Troy Grooms; and the Rev. Jonathan Madson, secretary. Mr. Troy Grooms resigned following our January 2003 meeting. We thank Troy for his years of service on the BEY. He will continue to be of help to the Youth Subcommittee. The work of the Youth Subcommittee is to train young people in our congregations through camps, retreats, conventions, etc.

The 2002 Youth Convention was held on the campus of South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD on July 25-28, 2002 under the direction of Mr. Alan Labitzky and Mr. Troy Grooms. Bible studies and devotions centered around the theme of *Built on the Rock*. Excursions were made to beautiful spots in the area including Mt. Rushmore. Approximately 230 youth and counselors from throughout our synod attended the convention. The help of the many counselors assists the convention in running very smoothly.

The convention for 2003 will be held on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN on July 24-27. The theme will be *For All the Saints*. The 2004 ELS Youth Convention is scheduled to be held in Florida.

Approximately five or six area youth retreats were held throughout the synod which the Youth subcommittee helps subsidize. We continue to encourage area youth retreats that include at least two or more ELS churches. The BEY does provide financial help for these retreats.

Seven different camps around the country were held in 2002 that included ELS youth. Camps were held in Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas and two in Washington. Congregations are encouraged to promote the summer camps for their youth.

Young Branches continues to be produced throughout the year. The Youth Subcommittee is also working on the production of a songbook that could be used at youth conventions, retreats, camps, Christian Day Schools and other places. The subcommittee is working on this project in conjunction with the Worship Committee of the ELS. We continue to provide some financial assistance for the Youth Honor Choir held at Bethany Lutheran College in June. We hope that the financial assistance makes it affordable for more of our youth to attend.

The Rev. Jonathan Madson, secretary

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Teacher Conferences

WHEREAS, The teachers of the Christian Day Schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have established an exchange program between the Midwest and Pacific Northwest conferences, and,

WHEREAS, Other teachers in other areas have had similar conferences with their WELS colleagues, and,

WHEREAS, The synod recognizes the value of such activity in the improvement and expansion of the Christian Day School program; therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee on Christian Day Schools and Board for Education and Youth be encouraged to continue and expand such conferences, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth continue to provide grants, as resources permit, to help ensure that these important conferences can continue.

Resolution 2: Continuing Education Grants

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee on Christian Day Schools be commended for the grants for synod certification and/or continuing education offered in the past,

and,

- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee on Christian Day Schools be encouraged to consider increasing the annual amount for which teachers may apply from \$250 to \$450 for synod certification and/or continuing education, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That teachers be encouraged to apply for these grants for certification and/or continuing education.

Resolution 3: Director of Christian Education

WHEREAS, Professor Silas Born has faithfully and competently served as an advisor to the Board for Education and Youth and the subcommittee for Christian Day Schools on behalf of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, The need for continued and expanded assistance is needed to ensure that the important work of the Christian Day School education continue as a vital part of synodical work, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod recognize and thank Professor Born for his work on behalf of the synod and its youth, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth review the responsibilities of the synod toward the Christian Day Schools, provide the synod with an analysis of future staff and resource needs, and report at the 2004 convention.

Resolution 4: Work of Principals

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee for Christian Day Schools make available the completed job descriptions for principals (full and part time), and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to use these guidelines and adapt them to their situation, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to allot appropriate time for principals to carry out their administrative duties.

Resolution 5: Teachers' Salary Scale

WHEREAS, The subcommittee for Christian Day Schools, has recommended to the 2003 synod convention a salary scale for 2003-2004, and 2004-2005, and,

WHEREAS, Teachers' housing, utilities, retirement, and healthcare were inadvertently left out of the board's salary recommendation, and,

WHEREAS, The 2001 synod report (page 87) lists these as: pension to be figured at 6% of the above; paid health insurance, synod plan or equivalent; and housing and utilities to be furnished, either a home or cash allowance, and,

WHEREAS, The congregations of our synod with Christian Day Schools should be encouraged to pay their teachers a living wage that is reflective of the value of having a person trained in education and doctrine to instruct the Lord's youngest lambs in His church, and,

WHEREAS, The subcommittee has recommended that \$70 per day plus mileage of \$.30 per mile and Social Security be paid to substitute teachers, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to meet or exceed the recommended salary scale, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommended salary scale include the following benefits: pension to be figured at 6% of the above; paid health insurance, synod plan or equivalent; and housing and utilities to be furnished, either a home or cash allowance based on the average cost in the area according to the Housing & Urban Development fair market value (2001 *Synod Report*, page 87) and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee on the Christian Day Schools be encouraged to evaluate the suggested payment for substitute teachers and consider increasing it.

Resolution 6: Memorial from Redeemer Lutheran Church

WHEREAS, The convention recognizes the worthy purpose and the thoughtful work represented by the Memorial on Christian Day Schools as submitted by Redeemer

Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Arizona, and,
WHEREAS, The suggestions contained in the memorial are deemed to have merit and are deserving of further consideration, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the memorial be referred to the Board for Education and Youth for study to determine the merit and feasibility of the suggestions for possible implementation by the synod as a program for Christian Day Schools, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be encouraged to consult with Redeemer Lutheran Church to clarify the intent and purpose of suggestions made in the memorial, and,
C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be asked to provide the synod with a progress report of their study beginning at the 2004 convention and regularly thereafter until the synod makes a final determination of the worth and feasibility of the suggestions contained in this memorial.

Resolution 7: Memorial from King of Grace Lutheran Church

WHEREAS, The memorial submitted by King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota addresses several important issues regarding the status of male Christian Day School teachers and,
WHEREAS, These issues require careful thought and study to reach a proper conclusion, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That this memorial be referred to the Synod Review Committee for consideration and that the committee report its finding at the 2004 convention.

Resolution 8: Commendation

WHEREAS, Professors Silas Born and Jean Wiechmann and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Ron Younge, have done an exemplary job of developing the new Baccalaureate Degree Program for Elementary Education at Bethany Lutheran College, and,
WHEREAS, This program will greatly benefit our Christian Day Schools in the future, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commend Silas Born, Jean Wiechmann and Ron Younge for their work.

Resolution 9: Expressing Thanks

RESOLVED, That the synod thank Mr. James Schneck for his many years of service to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Youth involvement

WHEREAS, There is an annual Evangelical Lutheran Synod Youth Convention and a number of youth retreats and camps available to our youth, and,
WHEREAS, These are beneficial for the spiritual welfare of our youth, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That pastors and congregations continue to promote attendance at the Lutheran Youth Association Convention, camps, and retreats by the youth of our congregations through advertisements, bulletins, and verbal announcements.

Resolution 2: Educational Materials

WHEREAS, Many congregations and pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have produced educational materials such as Vacation Bible School programs, Children's Christmas programs, and Bible studies for their own use, and,
WHEREAS, These materials could be used by other congregations of our synod, and,
WHEREAS, Most of our congregations do not know what materials have been produced by congregations of our synod, and,

WHEREAS, If congregations knew what materials were available, then congregations could contact each other to obtain these materials, and,

WHEREAS, The 2002 synod convention encouraged the Board for Education and Youth to catalog Vacation Bible School materials produced by Evangelical Lutheran Synod pastors, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be encouraged to continue working toward cataloguing, i.e. listing, Vacation Bible School program materials developed by congregations and pastors of our synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be encouraged to catalogue, i.e. list, other educational materials, which have been developed by congregations and pastors of our synod, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That this catalogue be made available to the congregations of our synod, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That this catalog be readily accessible both electronically and traditionally.

Resolution 3: Thanks

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth continues to do excellent and necessary work for the Christian training of our youth in our congregations and through camps, retreats, and conventions, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth assists with parish education by producing materials for use in our congregations,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Board for Education and Youth for their diligent and faithful work

Resolution 4: Convention Essays

WHEREAS, Our Lord's Great Commission states that we are to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19, 20 NKJV), and,

WHEREAS, Christian education has been an important part of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod from its very beginning both as to elementary and higher education, and,

WHEREAS, In years past when there were two essays each year, every synodical convention featured an essay on some aspect of Christian education,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the president and those who plan for essays each year to include an essay on some aspect of Christian education either in alternate years or have two essays each year with one on Christian education.

ELS School Enrollment 2001-2002

Full-Time Called Staff	Full-Time	Part-Time													Total	Total		
	Hired Staff	Staff	P	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Students K-8	Students per School
AZ, Our Savior's	3		0	5	6	4	5	5	4	3	5	4	5				41	46
FL, Our Savior PreSchool	5		0	50														50
FL, Christ Preschool	1		1	27														27
IL, St. Timothy	2		1	3	2	0	2										4	7
IA, Scarville	1		1		0	4	3	4	2	3	0	2	0				18	18
MI, Holton	2		0		0	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	2				22	22
MN, Heritage Luth. School	2		0	27	5												5	32
MN, King of Grace	11		1	43	25	18	21	20	18	24	20	20	16				182	225
MN, Mt. Olive	8		0		17	20	21	14	15	12	14	19	12				144	144
MN, Princeton	3			11	4	3	3	4	3	4	2	4	2				29	40
UT, Hope Preschool	1		2	18														18
WA, Bethany	6			13	8	5	4	3	8	8	10	4	8				58	71
WA, Lakewood	3		1	8	7	4	5	5	3	3	5	1	0				33	41
WA, Parkland	9		2	16	13	21	21	24	22	19	14	20	18				172	188
WA, Our Redeemer	2		2		5	3	7	1	7	3	4	2	3				35	35
WI, Wstrn. Koshkonong	3		0	10	3	1	4	5	1	1	0	3	2				20	30
WI, Concordia PreSchool	1		0	32														32
WI, Holy Cross	7		7	15	8	11	10	9	14	15	13	13	13				106	121
WI, Holy Trinity	5		6	20	9	5	11	5	4	7	5	7	6				59	79
WI, Trinity	4		2	19	6	6	8	2	11	10	5	5	3				56	75
Total United States:	79	0	26	317	118	108	127	104	115	116	99	107	90				984	1301
Czech Republic, MLS	7	13	7		21	21	20	20	21	20	20	17	14	10			174	184
Peru, Ano Nuevo																		
Peru, Reynoso																		

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

Serving on the Board for Publications are the Rev. Roger Holtz, chairman, the Rev. Brad Homan, Robert Deering, Howard Siewert and Paul Wold. Working with the board are the Rev. Theodore Gullixson, editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, managing editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, Leighton Humphrey, business manager of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, editor of the *Synod Report*, Seminary President the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, editor of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*.

The board is responsible for the publication of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, which is distributed monthly to about 6500 synod members. The magazine consists of Scripturally sound educational articles as well as synod news items.

Other regular material produced under the direction of the board include the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, the *Synod Report*, the *Convention Echo* and about 15 bulletin inserts.

While the board has traditionally been involved in the publishing and distribution of materials via the "print" media, it has recognized, for several years, that much data is now moved digitally, in our synod as well as elsewhere. In 2002 our board brought to the convention a proposal to form a "Technology Committee" which could address all issues pertaining to the use of e-mail, internet and video, within the synod. The convention approved the formation of this committee. The committee reports to the Board for Publications.

The Committee for Information and Technology is currently overseeing the development of several *Video Links* relating to Home Missions, Christian Education and the work of the Publication Board. Plans are underway for the production of an ELS website, when the funds become available.

Plans for 2003 call for devoting one issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, and one issue of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, to the 150th anniversary of the synod. Also in 2003 there will be a revised *Catechism Workbook* and a *Youth Songbook* published.

Mr. Howard L. Siewert, secretary

PUBLICATIONS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Regularly Published Materials

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications directs the publication of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, the *Synod Report*, *Convention Echo*, and bulletin inserts, and,

WHEREAS, These publications faithfully report synodical news and proclaim the Word of God, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend the staff and contributors of these publications for their faithful work.

Resolution 2: 150th Anniversary issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel*

WHEREAS, The *Lutheran Sentinel* has commemorated the 150th anniversary of the old Norwegian Synod by publishing many informative and historical articles, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That the convention thank the editors, staff and contributors for their effort in publishing this commemorative edition.

Resolution 3: Internet website development

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications has recognized the value of the flow of infor-

mation through means other than print, e.g. through the internet, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Board for Publications to continue to develop such resources.

Resolution 4: Production of ELS Video Links

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications is currently overseeing the development of several *Video Links* relating to home missions, Christian education and the work of the Board for Publications, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Board for Publications to continue to develop such resources.

Resolution 5: Truth, Unchanged, Unchanging

WHEREAS, *Truth, Unchanged, Unchanging*, selected sermons, addresses and doctrinal articles by Pastor Ulrik V. Koren is a valuable book for the continued study of our doctrinal heritage, and,

WHEREAS, This book is no longer in print, and,

WHEREAS, There appears to be no copies available for purchase, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this book either be reprinted or made available by electronic media.

Resolution 6: Web-site development

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications has recognized the value of the flow of information through means other than print, e.g. through the internet, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees make web-site development a high priority in their funding.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The board consists of Mr. Don Heiliger, chairman; the Rev. Mark Marozick, secretary; Mr. Stanley Reinholtz, Retired Benefit Coordinator and Term Insurance Coordinator; and Mr. Herb Berg, Widows and Retired Workers Special Needs Coordinator. The Rev. David Hoyord has resigned from the board. The board met three times since the last convention: in June, September, and February.

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

All but seven of the synod's congregations reimbursed the synod for the term insurance premium for their called workers. This left \$603.50 that was not reimbursed to the synod. We encourage the congregations of the synod to continue such support.

WORLD NEEDS FUND

The following amounts were sent to help our fellow believers in their distress:

\$10,000 to help flood victims in Northern Minnesota

\$2,500 to help flood victims at mission in Plzen

\$2,500 to help flood victims at mission in Prague

\$2,000 to help a Christian Day School teacher's family

We continue to need funds for this important work.

TAX SHELTER ANNUITY CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Participation in this program is excellent. The synod's contribution (or match) to the called worker's plan was \$360 this year. The board encourages the congregations of the synod to continue using this matching program and to strive to increase their contributions to their workers' retirement programs.

WELS CARE-LINE

The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (WELS) Care-Line has been discontinued due to a lack of volunteers. Our board is in the process of looking for alternatives to this service.

WIDOW'S SUBSIDIES

There are currently eight widows who are receiving subsidy from this board. We plan to maintain the current level of support.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2004

Widow's subsidy payments	\$ 22,777.20
Pastor's retirement fund	4,146.36
Board expenses	1,000.00
Group Life insurance	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 29,923.56

The Rev. Mark E. Marozick, secretary

CHRISTIAN SERVICE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, All but seven of the synod's congregations reimbursed the synod for the term insurance premiums for their called workers, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That all congregations be encouraged to reimburse the synod for these term life insurance premiums.

Resolution 2: Tax Sheltered Annuity Contribution Plan

WHEREAS, The synod provides matching funds for congregations contributing to the retirement plans of their called workers, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the synod for providing these matching contributions, and thank congregations for making use of this benefit.

Resolution 3: World Needs Fund

WHEREAS, Funds were sent through the World Needs Fund to help flood victims in Northern Minnesota, Plzen, and Prague and to help a Lutheran elementary school teacher's family, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank God for the opportunity to assist those in need, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That synodical members be encouraged to contribute to the World Needs Fund throughout the year.

Resolution 4: Widow's Subsidies

WHEREAS, Our ELS Board for Christian Service has been conscientious in their concern for pastor's widows, and,
WHEREAS, Due to budget constraints the board has been unable to keep up with the cost of living in regard to the subsidies, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend the board for their diligence in showing their concern for the widows, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board be encouraged to investigate ways to enable them to keep current with the cost of living in regard to widow's subsidies.

Resolution 5: The WELS Care Line

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service Care-Line (WELS) has been discontinued due to a lack of volunteers, and,
WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service is presently in the process of looking for alternatives to this service, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the board be encouraged to continue studying alternatives to this service.

Resolution 6: Pastor David Hoyord

WHEREAS, Pastor David Hoyord has resigned from the board after several years of faithful service, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank him for his years of faithful service in the area of Christian service

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR WORSHIP

The expanded (five member) worship committee continues to study matters pertinent to liturgical history and practice. In addition the group is aware of developments and trends within the Christian community which may have an impact on the various worship forms and resources used within the congregations of our synod.

Members of the committee attended the WELS national worship conference last July, and have led workshops for organists and choir directors.

In April the committee met in Mankato. At this meeting the group discussed further development of online resources for congregations, as well as the potential for a collaborative project with the Board for Education and Youth, specifically the development of a worship resource for use at retreats, in schools and in the home which would include material from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* and other sources. This discussion is in the preliminary stages.

The committee welcomes concerns from boards, circuits and congregations pertaining to issues relevant to our worship, and encourages lively and informed discussions as we continue to understand the centrality of our Lutheran liturgical life as a teacher of truth and as an expression of faithful thanksgiving.

The Rev. Dennis Marzolf
The Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux
The Rev. Harry Bartels
Mr. James Olson
Mr. James Baxter

WORSHIP

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: "Sunday Evenings With Bach"

WHEREAS, The Rev. Harry Bartels has prepared several studies on Bach's Sacred Cantatas titled "Sunday Evenings with Bach" which are suitable for congregational Bible Study, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to contact Pastor Bartels regarding the use of these studies in their own congregations, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank Pastor Bartels for his work on this project.

Resolution 2: Musician Shortage in Small Congregations

WHEREAS, Memorials have been submitted to the Synod from congregations requesting audio and digital CD-ROM versions of the complete *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, and,

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee of the ELS has been gathering digital files of the content of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, and,

WHEREAS, Many small congregations cannot obtain or afford musicians to accompany the Liturgy and Hymns used in their worship, and,
 WHEREAS, The Committee for Information and Technology may be able to assist in the assembling and distribution of these digital files, therefore,
 A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the Worship Committee and other contributors for as much as has already been accomplished on this issue, and,
 B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee of the ELS make available both Audio CDs and digital CDs of the entire *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* as quickly as possible, and,
 C. BE IT RESOLVED, That those congregations of the ELS who are having trouble obtaining musicians to accompany their worship services contact the Worship Committee for advice.

Resolution 3: Congregational Aid To The Worship Committee

WHEREAS, According to the web page for the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* the Worship Committee is seeking help in creating and gathering digital versions of the hymns in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, therefore
 BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod knowing individuals with the skills necessary to aid with this process volunteer to help in making these files available as quickly as possible.

Resolution 4: Workshops

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee reported (SR 2002, p. 141, Resolution 2) that it has been considering presenting workshops to aid congregations in their use of music to enhance worship services, therefore,
 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee begin scheduling such workshops for the benefit of the congregations of the synod.

REPORT OF THE LAYMEN'S DELEGATE EQUALIZATION FUND

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 purpose of the fund is to help defray the transportation costs of the laymen delegates. Each congregation needs to carry out its responsibility by responding with a check to the fund so that our committee may render the best possible service to the laymen delegates.

We are submitting a statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the 2002 convention period.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements:

Balance on Hand 3/1/2002		\$ 9,659.86
Receipts:		
Church Assessments Received	\$ 26,275.00	
Interest Income	19.64	
Total Receipts		\$ 26,294.64
Total		\$ 35,954.50
Disbursements:		
Delegates:		
Air Fares and Mileage	\$ 28,801.27	
Printing, Postage, checks, etc.	119.15	
Total Disbursements		\$ 28,920.42
Balance on Hand 2/28/2003		\$ 7,034.08

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. Mileage from the point of departure will be reimbursed at the lesser of the mileage rate or the cost of an airline ticket, as determined by the Equalization Committee.
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.)
7. Maximum reimbursement has been set at \$600.00 per delegate.

Mr. Ralph Miller, chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

Your Board for Stewardship met twice since our last Synodical Convention: September and March. Other business was accomplished through sub-committees and individual board members.

The members of the board are: Mr. Howard Hougan, vice-chairman; Mr. Timothy Peterson, recording secretary; the Rev. David Russow; Mr. Allen Wollenzien; and the Rev. Fred Theiste, chairman. By virtue of his position as treasurer Mr. Keith Wiederhoef is also a member of the board. The Rev. Milton Tweit serves the board as a Resource-Consultant.

The board's responsibilities are to promote Biblical stewardship through programs and materials, using information, inspiration, and system. By "Biblical stewardship" is meant everything we as Christians do in the Name of God and to His glory after we say, "I believe." Through the Means of Grace, Word and Sacrament, the board strives to make faithful disciples of Christ Jesus who are growing in the devoting of their time, talents, possessions, and life to the doing of God's will (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

The board conducted a survey among the congregations of our synod to determine their stewardship participation in our synod. Forty-nine congregations responded indicating an anticipated income of \$414,350 for 2003.

The board has submitted bulletin inserts and article for the *Lutheran Sentinel* in cooperation with the Board for Publications.

The board continues to be concerned over the declining dollar support of our synodical work. The 2002 contributions were over \$80,000 short of our needs. This resulted in significant cuts for our various synodical programs. At this point we are spending our future! Since the work of our synod is of vital importance to all of us, your board encourages the pastors and congregation leaders of our synod to keep the work we do together as a synod before the members of our congregations. Because of this decline the 2003 synodical budget has been reduced over \$54,000 from the adopted budget of last June. In the Lord this pattern can be reversed! To this end, your board is preparing stewardship emphasis materials based on Psalm 78 using the theme: *Tell the Praiseworthy Deeds of the Lord*. Materials will include: a Bible study, sermon helps, brochures, and a video. The materials will promote "nurture-growth-outreach." More information will be

provided at this convention.

Advent and Lenten offering envelopes were distributed at the General Pastoral Conference last Fall for congregations to use to gather an extra offering for the work of our synod during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

The board spent a great deal of time considering the synodical resolution regarding the subject of "Stewardship Counselor" (cf. *Synod Report 2002*, p. 161, #16). The board sees a real need for such a position but because of the decline in contributions, and in consultation with the Board of Trustees, the board has, for the present, combined some of the responsibilities of a Stewardship Counselor with the position of Deferred Giving Counselor. This matter will be periodically reviewed by the board. For the present the board will strengthen and intensify itself in developing an inspiration, information pipeline.

	<u>Communicants</u>	<u>2002 Budget</u>	<u>2002 Thank Offering</u>			
			Total	Per/Comm. (average: \$44.99)	Total	Per/Comm. (average: \$26.64)
Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove, WI	49	\$4,038.00	\$82.41	\$830.00	\$16.94	
Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH	96	\$4,657.00	\$48.51	\$1,055.00	\$10.99	
Asian Mission Church, Irvine, CA	10	\$4,012.00	\$401.20	\$975.21	\$97.52	
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	193	\$4,139.80	\$21.45	\$4,774.25	\$24.74	
Bethany, Ames, IA	31	\$2,125.00	\$68.55	\$1,553.32	\$50.11	
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	57	\$1,767.00	\$31.00	\$1,826.39	\$32.04	
Bethany, Hampton, IA	14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Bethany, Luverne, MN	245	\$9,353.90	\$38.18	\$4,240.00	\$17.31	
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	465	\$11,467.45	\$24.66	\$2,296.75	\$4.94	
Bethany, Princeton, MN	237	\$3,825.50	\$16.14	\$285.00	\$1.20	
Calvary, Ulen, MN	81	\$2,708.00	\$33.43	\$913.00	\$11.27	
Center, Scarville, IA	75	\$4,775.00	\$63.67	\$3,300.00	\$44.00	
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	72	\$1,885.50	\$26.19	\$2,335.00	\$32.43	
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	100	\$6,462.00	\$64.62	\$4,607.50	\$46.08	
Christ, Sutherland, OR	57	\$2,477.25	\$43.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Christ, Windsor, CA	65	\$5,956.67	\$91.64	\$1,255.00	\$19.31	
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	30	\$650.00	\$21.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Christ the King, Green Bay, WI	113	\$1,500.00	\$13.27	\$2,397.60	\$21.22	
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	358	\$3,173.00	\$8.86	\$13,661.21	\$38.16	
Concordia, Hood River, OR	30	\$395.00	\$13.17	\$50.00	\$1.67	
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	39	\$3,602.00	\$92.36	\$97.00	\$2.49	
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
English, Cottonwood, MN	155	\$15,453.01	\$99.70	\$6,321.65	\$40.78	
Faith, Alpena, MI	23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,216.00	\$96.35	
Faith, Carthage, MO	97	\$200.00	\$2.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Faith, Clara City, MN	38	\$6,205.00	\$163.29	\$4,026.00	\$105.95	
Faith, East Jordan, IA	37	\$1,975.30	\$53.39	\$1,140.00	\$30.81	
Faith, Hillman, MI	46	\$1,245.00	\$27.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Faith, Irvine, CA	82	\$3,761.00	\$45.87	\$1,660.00	\$20.24	
Faith, Litchfield, IL	97	\$5,902.20	\$60.85	\$530.00	\$5.46	
Faith, Oregon, WI	128	\$4,075.00	\$31.84	\$4,051.00	\$38.68	
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	88	\$184.12	\$2.09	\$1,230.00	\$13.98	
Faith, San Antonio, TX	39	\$3,084.94	\$79.10	\$5,581.25	\$143.11	
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	55	\$642.00	\$11.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	
First, Suttons Bay, MI	70	\$1,280.00	\$18.29	\$3,689.00	\$52.70	
First American, Mayville, ND	87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,870.00	\$21.49	
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	49	\$330.00	\$6.73	\$142.00	\$2.90	
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	62	\$5,255.00	\$84.76	\$3,355.00	\$54.11	
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	256	\$5,454.00	\$21.30	\$4,424.10	\$17.28	
Forest, Forest City, IA	67	\$1,545.00	\$23.06	\$885.00	\$13.21	
Gloria Dei, Cold Spring, MN	239	\$7,680.60	\$32.14	\$1,370.00	\$5.73	
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	222	\$15,237.81	\$68.64	\$4,983.10	\$22.45	
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	103	\$2,294.00	\$22.27	\$1,640.00	\$15.92	
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	76	\$5,342.64	\$70.30	\$1,481.00	\$19.49	
Good Shepherd, Indianola, IA	39	\$2,537.01	\$65.05	\$1,634.00	\$41.90	
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

Grace, Crookston, MN	38	\$375.00	\$9.87	\$1,683.00	\$44.29
Grace, Hobart, IN	134	\$8,434.99	\$62.95	\$21,601.29	\$161.20
Grace, Madison, WI	77	\$6,635.00	\$86.17	\$6,395.00	\$83.05
Grace, Newton, IA	24	\$1,025.00	\$42.71	\$430.00	\$17.92
Grace, Piedmont, MO	28	\$85.00	\$3.04	\$1,265.00	\$45.18
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	224	\$27,644.00	\$123.41	\$16,892.00	\$75.41
Grace, Weston, OH	87	\$1,866.50	\$21.45	\$463.00	\$5.32
Hartland, Hartland, MN	163	\$2,966.00	\$18.20	\$1,794.00	\$11.01
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	149	\$13,320.00	\$89.40	\$3,855.00	\$25.87
Holton, Holton, MI	293	\$15.00	\$0.05	\$2,091.00	\$7.14
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	1010	\$28,912.56	\$28.63	\$25,140.53	\$24.89
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	219	\$31,182.47	\$142.39	\$5,777.00	\$26.38
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	336	\$40,483.74	\$120.49	\$12,613.69	\$37.54
Hope, Portage, IN	185	\$745.00	\$4.03	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope, West Jordan, UT	75	\$624.96	\$3.33	\$230.00	\$3.07
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	122	\$13,339.00	\$109.34	\$15,037.22	\$123.26
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	125	\$7,532.55	\$60.26	\$500.00	\$4.00
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	525	\$51,272.35	\$97.66	\$23,928.59	\$45.58
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	59	\$1,373.00	\$23.27	\$535.00	\$9.07
Lakewood, Lakewood, WA	69	\$1,662.57	\$24.10	\$1,603.00	\$23.23
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	20	\$840.00	\$42.00	\$1,440.00	\$72.00
Lord of Life, Holland, MI	71	\$6,501.13	\$91.57	\$3,170.00	\$44.65
Manchester, Manchester, MN	39	\$723.00	\$18.54	\$1,021.50	\$26.19
Messiah, Omro, WI	49	\$500.00	\$10.20	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	752	\$45,443.00	\$60.43	\$26,833.92	\$35.68
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	22	\$75.00	\$3.41	\$59.00	\$2.68
Nazareth, Trail, MN	52	\$140.00	\$2.69	\$19.00	\$0.37
New Life, Sebring, FL	59	\$4,940.00	\$83.73	\$9,063.42	\$153.62
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	105	\$2,982.00	\$28.40	\$20.00	\$0.19
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	185	\$20,585.50	\$111.27	\$8,571.15	\$46.33
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	100	\$6,294.25	\$62.94	\$4,314.00	\$43.14
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	105	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,400.00	\$51.43
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	81	\$260.31	\$3.21	\$869.21	\$10.73
Our Saviors, Albert Lea, MN	457	\$10,385.20	\$22.72	\$10,088.29	\$22.08
Our Savior, Amherst Junction, WI	30	\$350.00	\$11.67	\$30.00	\$1.00
Our Saviors, Bagley, MN	119	\$1,722.28	\$14.47	\$1,516.00	\$12.74
Our Savior, Belview, MN	127	\$1,247.00	\$9.82	\$640.00	\$5.04
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	25	\$400.00	\$16.00	\$877.00	\$35.08
Our Saviors, Elderon, WI	67	\$2,150.00	\$32.09	\$2,828.00	\$42.21
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	63	\$743.00	\$11.79	\$300.00	\$4.76
Our Saviors, Hawley, MN	89	\$188.33	\$2.12	\$0.00	\$0.00
Our Saviours, Lake Havasu City, AZ	245	\$12,135.00	\$49.53	\$6,190.50	\$25.27
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	103	\$4,929.52	\$47.86	\$3,901.84	\$37.88
Our Saviours, Madison, WI	302	\$3,224.00	\$10.68	\$0.00	\$0.00
Our Savior, Naples, FL	171	\$11,789.62	\$68.95	\$780.00	\$4.56
Our Saviors, Princeton, MN	164	\$12,696.95	\$77.42	\$2,030.00	\$12.38
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	375	\$6,975.00	\$18.60	\$2,144.00	\$5.72
Peace, Deshler, OH	341	\$7,274.00	\$21.33	\$858.00	\$2.52
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	56	\$8,001.94	\$142.89	\$3,045.00	\$54.38
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	108	\$3,682.00	\$34.09	\$8,639.00	\$79.99
Peace, Lakeland, FL	93	\$12,556.58	\$135.02	\$2,263.91	\$24.34
Peace, North Mankato, MN	48	\$6,414.28	\$133.63	\$8,046.00	\$167.63
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	85	\$565.00	\$6.65	\$770.00	\$9.06
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	175	\$2,079.00	\$11.88	\$5,864.00	\$33.51
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	100	\$6,625.00	\$66.25	\$2,220.00	\$22.20
Redeemer, Iola, WI	39	\$968.00	\$24.82	\$641.60	\$16.45
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	75	\$500.00	\$6.67	\$80.00	\$1.07
Redeemer, Scottsdale, AZ	85	\$11,322.23	\$133.20	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reformation, Hillsboro, OR	142	\$16,550.00	\$116.55	\$11,751.60	\$82.76
Resurrection, Winter Haven, FL	84	\$6,396.00	\$76.14	\$2,995.00	\$35.65
Richland, Thornton, IA	96	\$2,365.00	\$24.64	\$160.00	\$1.67
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	109	\$6,160.00	\$56.51	\$1,385.00	\$12.71
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	123	\$2,431.00	\$19.76	\$1,430.00	\$11.63

Saude, Lawler, IA	120	\$7,228.77	\$60.24	\$350.00	\$2.92
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	108	\$319.10	\$2.95	\$1,176.39	\$10.89
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	77	\$520.00	\$6.75	\$40.00	\$0.52
Somber, Northwood, IA	34	\$1,650.00	\$48.53	\$1,111.84	\$32.70
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.17
St. Marks, Chicago, IL	19	\$100.00	\$5.26	\$1,194.08	\$62.85
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	124	\$17,422.21	\$140.50	\$4,034.00	\$32.53
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	65	\$735.34	\$11.31	\$2,077.00	\$31.95
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$1.53
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	155	\$8,959.00	\$57.80	\$3,793.00	\$24.47
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	52	\$1,333.16	\$25.64	\$915.00	\$17.60
St. Paul, Lengby, MN	98	\$2,464.00	\$25.14	\$954.07	\$9.74
St. Pauls, Portage, WI	99	\$1,436.00	\$14.51	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	128	\$13,384.50	\$104.57	\$15,836.08	\$123.72
St. Timothy, Williamsburg, IA	56	\$5,017.26	\$89.59	\$0.00	\$0.00
Synod, Scarville, IA	74	\$7,424.68	\$100.33	\$3,610.00	\$48.78
Trinity, Brewster, MA	73	\$1,313.00	\$17.99	\$1,312.00	\$17.97
Trinity, Calmar, IA	35	\$220.00	\$6.29	\$740.00	\$21.14
Trinity, Rogers City, MI	48	\$476.60	\$9.93	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	84	\$3,661.00	\$43.58	\$1,653.00	\$19.68
Trinity, West Bend, WI	342	\$12,669.66	\$37.05	\$13,310.19	\$38.92
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	30	\$900.00	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
W. Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	244	\$3,555.00	\$14.57	\$1,375.83	\$5.64
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	21	\$737.50	\$35.12	\$65.00	\$3.10
Zion, North Huntingdon, PA	37	\$675.00	\$18.24	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zion, Thompson, IA	48	\$1,505.70	\$31.37	\$1,548.00	\$32.25
Zion, Tracy, MN	146	\$3,460.95	\$23.71	\$9,564.38	\$65.51

The Lord has certainly blessed the work of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod! Let's show our thanks and praise for these blessings through our support of the work of our ELS! To God alone be the glory!

The Rev. Frederick Theiste, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has met November 11, 2002 and February 10, 2003.

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, and Board of Trustees. There also are three laymen elected to serve on the board: Mr. Dennis Behr, Mr. Dennis Nixon, and Mr. Richard Waldschmidt.

2004 BUDGET

At the autumn meeting, the committee heard reports from the representatives of each board explaining the rationale for their budget requests. At the winter meeting there was a discussion concerning future strategic planning; a recommendation was made to the Board of Trustees recommending a reduction in the 2003 synodical budget; also a proposed 2004 budget was adopted.

A synod-funded budget for the fiscal year 2004 of \$831,968, allocated as follows, is recommended:

	<u>Program Needs</u>	<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Synod Funding</u>
Bethany Lutheran College (subsidy):			
operations	185,740		
maintenance on residences	4,000		
faculty housing allowance	84,000		
less interest applied		<u>(16,000)</u>	
total			257,740
Bethany Lutheran Seminary (subsidy):			
operations	66,600		
maintenance on residences	<u>2,000</u>		
total			68,600
Home Missions:			
total program needs	1,050,281		
less funding sources		(847,281)	
synod funding			203,000
Foreign Missions:			
total program needs	1,064,270		
less funding sources		<u>(867,270)</u>	
synod funding			197,000
Evangelism:			
total program needs	52,340		
less funding sources		<u>(20,000)</u>	
synod funding			32,340
Education and Youth:			
total program needs	94,565		
less funding sources		<u>(60,200)</u>	
synod funding			34,365
Publications:			
total program needs	121,000		
less funding sources		<u>(67,000)</u>	
synod funding			54,000
Christian Service:			
total program needs	75,923		
less funding sources		<u>(50,000)</u>	
synod funding			25,923
Synod Fund:			
total program needs	434,000		
less funding sources		<u>(125,000)</u>	
synod funding			309,000
Total expenditures	<u>3,234,719</u>		
Less funding sources		<u>(2,052,751)</u>	
Total to be funded by the synod			1,181,968
Less Schwan Program Funds			<u>(350,000)</u>
TOTAL SYNOD BUDGET NEED (from congregations)			831,968

“Program needs” are the anticipated expenditures;

“Funding Sources” are resources which are applied to the program needs and consist of endowments, sale of periodicals, partial program funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, and other sources.

“Synod Funding” is the budget need from congregations.

The Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEMBERSHIP:

The Board consists of nine trustees: Mr. Allen Borlaug, Mr. Robert Brown, the Rev. Martin Doepel, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, Mr. Greg Griffin, Mr. Albin Levorson, Mr. Wilbur Lieske, Mr. Leroy Meyer, and the Rev. John A. Moldstad.

The appreciation of the synod is expressed to Albin Levorson who has chosen to retire from the board following twenty-seven years as a trustee of the synod.

MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has met since the last convention for regular quarterly meetings on August 13, November 12, and February 11. The board also will meet in May 2003.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The president of the synod, the Rev. John A. Moldstad, and the secretary of the synod, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, also serve as the chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

STAFF

The Deferred Giving Counselor, the Rev. Richard Wiechmann, and the Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, report regularly to the board. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft is appointed, by the board, as the treasurer of the synod.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

The board receives regular quarterly reports concerning the finances of Bethany Lutheran College and the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center. The board is working with the Board of Regents in preparation for additional student housing.

SYNOD PROPERTIES

Remodeling has been completed for the Ottesen Building at 4 Browns Court. This building houses the synod's Mission Office, Museum Office, Conference Room, and the Ottesen Museum. Dedication of the building will take place on Synod Sunday.

The synod-owned house at 1117 Lori Lane was sold during the past year with the sale of remaining synod-owned houses being considered.

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. During this past year approval was granted for a \$750,000 construction loan for Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, Minnesota; the synod co-signed a building loan with LACE on behalf of Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio; and the synod assumed the loan and title for Saved By Grace Lutheran Church in Medford, Oregon from the WELS Church Extension Fund.

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The Committee of Archives and History meets at least twice annually. Its present members are Prof. N. Holte, Prof. S. Lee, the Rev. J.B. Madson, the Rev. P. Madson, and Mr. N. Werner, and Rev. G. Orvick. Prof. Lee serves as chairman and Rev. J. Madson as secretary. W. Gullixson has retired from his position because of age considerations. Our thanks to him for his many years of valuable service to the archives. N. Holte continues to serve in a lesser role than previously, at his request. P. Madson continues as Archivist

pro-tem. The attempt is made to keep regular hours at the archives from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

During the past year the archives personnel cooperated in the establishment of a separate museum department which is under the direction of the Rev. G.Orvick who serves as the Director of Museum and Archives. G.Orvick was appointed director by the Board of Trustees at its August 2002 meeting. Museum artifacts in the past have been kept in the archives. These now have been transferred to the new museum building, which allows the archives much needed space. The two archive employees continue to process and catalogue materials received. Considerable use of the archives was made this past year, particularly in regard to Bethany Lutheran College's 75th anniversary. The archives are there to preserve a history of the synod and its work. We welcome new accessions. We also encourage the interest and use of this facility by our people.

A new venture in our synod is the reactivation of the synod's museum. It never really had a home before. Now, however, it has a permanent space it can call its own. This is located in the newly remodeled building next to the seminary at 4 Browns Court. The building is also the headquarters of the Department of Missions and contains the offices of the Missions Counselor and the director of the Department of Archives and History. The Museum has been nicely decorated and made very attractive for displaying our history. A special "Museum Committee" has been in charge of the decorating and arranging. They are C.Ferkenstad, N.Holte, D.Norris, Clarice Madson, P.Madson, S.Lee, and G.Orvick. Rachel Anthony served as an advisor. The official opening and dedication of the Missions-Museum building will take place on Synod Sunday.

Why is it called the "Ottesen Museum?" One of the founding fathers of our synod was the Rev. J.A. Ottesen back in 1853. His daughter, Hannah, in 1931 willed her estate (house and furnishings in Decorah, Iowa) to our synod. From the July 12, 1941, issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel* we read, "Sixteen women met at Bethany College June 16, 1941; they realized that the Hannah Ottesen Museum should be put into shape and put on display." That was the beginning. We now have officially named it the Ottesen Museum.

What is in the museum? We have artifacts and materials illustrating the lives of the immigrants who founded our synod. We have pictures of all kinds which tell the story of the organization and development of our church body. We hope it will be a teaching instrument so that visitors, including school children, will learn about our roots. We hope that it will also help to preserve our heritage so that future generations may continue in our footsteps. Scripture tells us, "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16.

GENERAL

The synod received grants in 2002 from:

AAL	\$13,400
Lutheran Brotherhood	\$40,000

WILLS AND ESTATES

The synod gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following estates:

Betty Bliss	\$7,500
Dorothy Abrams (seminary)	\$35,165
Erna Hafemann Estate (seminary)	\$10,089
Grace Sahnov Estate (seminary)	\$44,772

MISSIONS ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

The Missions Advancement Project (MAP) reports regularly to the board. This organization receives funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation Lutheran (1999 *Synod Report*, page 134, resolution 8). The organization has its own Board of Directors. The following serve as members of the Board of Directors: Mr. Greg Griffin (chairman), Mr. Allen Borlaug, the Rev. Steven Petersen (secretary), Mr. Kermit Traska, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft (treasurer). A total of \$2,492,262.00 was distributed to various ELS entities in 2002.

BUDGET REALLOCATION

The Board of Trustees took action to reduce the 2002 synodical budget from \$815,000.00 to \$741,900.00. Unfortunately, once again this past year, we experienced a budget shortfall. Contributions in 2002 totaled \$734,248.56. The Planning and Coordinating Committee recommended, to the Board of Trustees, a reallocation which reflects a three-year-average of income at \$765,000. The Board of Trustees concurred with the recommendation and the following action has been taken in regard to the 2003 Synod Budget:

Bethany Lutheran College	\$249,027
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	65,160
Home Missions	188,963
Foreign Missions	183,378
Evangelism	30,718
Education and Youth	38,165
Publications	43,750
Christian Service	29,136
Synod Fund	<u>286,703</u>
Total to be funded by the synod	\$1,115,000
Less Budget Supplement (Program Funds)	<u>350,000</u>
Total Synod Budget Need (from congregations)	\$765,000

PROGRAM FUNDS

The board is grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for its support in providing \$1,000,000 in Program Funds for synodical use during the past year and again during the current year. The Board of Trustees, according to synodical guidelines, makes recommendation to the synod concerning the distribution of Program Funds. The synod's commitment to the *Five Talents Campaign* of Bethany Lutheran College will conclude in 2005. The board recommends the following allocation of Program Funds for 2004:

<i>Five Talents Campaign</i>	\$200,000
Budget supplement	350,000
Home Missions	150,000
Foreign Missions	150,000
TSA contributions	55,000
CDS match (3%)	30,000
Board of Trustees	<u>65,000</u>
Total	\$1,000,000

In addition to the synodical budget, application can be made to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for additional Special Project Grants. These are to be used for special short-term projects which are not a part of the normal budget of the synod. They are considered by the Foundation upon recommendation of the ELS Board of Trustees. Application is made to the ELS Board of Trustees by August 1 of the previous year. Application forms are available through the secretary. Requests for Special Project Grants for 2003 were made on behalf of the ELS Historical Society, Board for Publications, Board for Education and Youth, and Committee for Information and Technology. Due to various factors, the Foundation found it necessary to reduce the total funds available for grants by nearly one-third. For this reason, the Foundation is unable to provide any Special Project Grants for 2003 or in the immediate future. The "matching funds" program was discontinued by the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation in 1999.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The board has reviewed the report of the ad hoc committee on health insurance and submits the following for consideration:

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has a real concern about the effect of rising health

coverage costs upon our congregations, workers, and synod, and,
WHEREAS, Possibilities include continuing to absorb the rising costs of insurance, increasing deductibles and co-insurance, the development of Section 125 accounts, Medical Savings Accounts, and requiring participation by our workers in premium payments, and,
WHEREAS, There is no single point of authority throughout the synod regarding this matter; individual congregations, the Board for Foreign Missions, the Board for Home Missions, the Board for Education and Youth each have control over this area as it applies to workers within their responsibilities, and,
WHEREAS, Costs are expected to increase further in the near and distant term, and,
WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has received requests from local congregations for synodical financial assistance, and,
WHEREAS, There is no clear agreement between various synodical organizations or local congregations relative to worker participation and responsibility, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That unified guidelines be developed for health insurance coverage for all workers in the synod.

*The Rev. John Moldstad, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary*

REPORT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee meets concurrently with the quarterly meetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board of Trustees.

The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod also serve as the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

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 2002. Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. Wilbur Lieske were elected in 2001. The committee considers and makes recommendations 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. Leroy Meyer, chairman

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL OFFERING COMMITTEE

*"Christ the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever –
Celebrating 2000 Years of Grace"*

When the synod began the *2000 Years of Grace* Thank Offering, the goals were ambitious: (1) to fund the "Parish Evangelism Assistance" program of the Board for Evangelism (\$100,000); (2) to begin two Christian Day Schools in Lima, Peru (\$200,000); and (3) to begin home missions (remainder of offering).

The "Parish Evangelism Assistance" program of the Board for Evangelism has been fully funded! The program has been in place for two years. Through this program, the board is able to provide individualized assistance to parishes seeking help with outreach and evangelism. The board has worked with eleven different parishes, and has also provided funding for projects such as mass media campaigns, local cable access

broadcasts, print and radio ads, flyers, and church signs.

Two new Christian Day Schools have been started in Peru! In Año Nuevo, an elementary school associated with Jesus Redeemer congregation has been started. The new three-story building houses 140 students, eight full-time teachers, one teachers' aide, and three part-time teachers. Six students graduated at the end of the 2002 school year (December). In Reynoso, a preschool/kindergarten was started at Martin Luther congregation. The current building, which was already on the property purchased for the school, is being replaced with a new one. Plans are in place to add elementary grades soon.

Monies have been received for use by the Board for Home Missions to extend the work of the synod in our country! From the special offering, monies are being used to expand the work of Asian Mission Church in Irvine, California. Pastor Young-Ha Kim reaches out with the Gospel to Korean immigrants there.

The *2000 Years of Grace* Special Offering Committee thanks the members of the synod for the generous outpouring of gifts. It is a true blessing to be able to expand the spread of God's Word at home and abroad.

The members of the *2000 Years of Grace* Special Offering Committee are: Mr. Herb Berg (chairman), Pres. em. George Orvick, Prof. Silas Born, the Rev. Erwin Elkhoff, Prof. Adolph Harstad, the Rev. David Lillegard, and Prof. Michael K. Smith (secretary).

God bless the work of the ELS in His Kingdom!

Prof. Michael K. Smith, secretary

FINANCES

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Report of The Board for Stewardship

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Board for Stewardship be accepted.

Resolution 2: Laymen's Delegate Equalization

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Laymen's Delegate Equalization Committee be accepted.

Resolution 3: Special Offering

WHEREAS, The *2000 Years of Grace* Thank Offering completed its planned two-year course in November 2002, funding a synod-wide evangelism assistance program and the founding of two Christian schools in Peru, and,

WHEREAS, The offering will still accept contributions which will support a new home mission, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord for the success of this offering, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod continue to hold this offering before their people as an opportunity to support home mission expansion.

Resolution 4: Report of The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation be accepted.

Resolution 5: Special Blessings

WHEREAS, the synod had occasion to note a number of special blessings in the past year, including

a. the outstanding service of Mr. Albin Levorson, who completed 27 years as a trustee of the synod before retiring, and

b. the outstanding service of the Rev. Walther Gullixson, who recently retired from his dedicated work with the synod archives, and

c. receipt of a number of generous grants, wills, estates, and foundation support,

therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod acknowledge these gifts from the Lord with deep gratitude.

Resolution 6: Report of The Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Board of Trustees be accepted.

Resolution 7: The Ottesen Museum

WHEREAS, The dedication of the Ottesen Museum on Sunday, June 15, 2003, marked the realization of many years of dreams and hard work, and,

WHEREAS, The efforts of George Orvick, Craig Ferkenstad, Norman Holte, David Norris, Clarice Madson, Paul Madson, Sigurd Lee, Rachel Anthony, and many others recently and over many years, have made the museum a reality, and,

WHEREAS, The museum promises to be an important teaching instrument for encouraging future generations to continue along the “old paths” on which the Lord has graciously led us (Jeremiah 6:16), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That synod members be encouraged to visit and support the Ottesen Museum.

Resolution 8: Stewardship Emphasis

WHEREAS, The Lord continues to shower His free blessings upon us daily, and especially has permitted the precious gospel to have free course among us, and,

WHEREAS, There has been a steady downward trend over the past 20 years in the portion of generous congregational offerings that has been sent on to support synodical work (1982 – 18.86% compared with 2002 – 6.25%), and,

WHEREAS, Reallocation of budget amounts was again necessary last year due to contributions falling behind budgetary needs, and,

WHEREAS, the Lord’s work carried out on behalf of all synod members by the various boards and agencies of the synod is more urgent than ever, with many promising initiatives awaiting only needed funding to begin, and,

WHEREAS, the Board for Stewardship is planning to invite all congregations of the synod to join in a solidly Scriptural stewardship emphasis (“Tell the Praiseworthy Deeds of the Lord”), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all pastors and delegates be asked to return home ready to encourage their congregations eagerly and cheerfully to adopt this new stewardship emphasis.

Resolution 9: Budget Adoption

WHEREAS, The planning and coordinating committee has recommended a 2004 synodical budget, and,

WHEREAS, Only once in the history of the synod have we exceeded \$800,000 in congregational contributions, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has had to reallocate the budget approved by the convention in each of the past two years, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees will continue to monitor budgetary receipts as the year passes, and,

WHEREAS, We believe it is important to set forth stewardship challenges before our member congregations, therefore ,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the budget be adopted.

Resolution 10: Program Funds

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendations of the Board of Trustees for the allocation of program funds for 2004 be approved.

Resolution 11: Health Insurance Costs

WHEREAS, The explosion of health insurance costs is causing distress in all corners of

the synod, impacting virtually every congregation, as well as the work of the Boards for Missions, the Board for Education and Youth, the Board for Stewardship, and the Board of Trustees, among others, and,
WHEREAS, Differing conditions preclude the possibility of developing a single unified solution that can best serve everyone, and,
WHEREAS, Coordination of approaches and sharing of information throughout the synod can produce advantages of assistance, efficiency and fairness, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod president ask an appropriate board such as the Board for Christian Service, or a specially appointed ad hoc committee, as soon as possible to create a clearinghouse for sharing information about plans, experiences, and alternatives for addressing the problem of spiraling health insurance costs, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That all synod agencies dealing with this difficult problem be asked to report to this information clearinghouse and make use of its services.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

In 1045A.D., the year Harold Hardrada and Magnus shared the throne of the Kingdom of Norway, Bi Sheng produced the first known moveable type printing press in China. His invention however had little impact on Chinese culture, because the many written languages of China each use thousands of symbols. The great stores of knowledge gathered by the early Chinese were unusable and could not be reproduced.

God had other plans for Northern Europe. In the year 1455, Johannes Gutenberg published the "Forty-two Line Bible," the first book produced by a moveable type printing press in the West, and shortly thereafter, Gutenberg's press was used to its greatest effect by the Lutheran Reformers. Luther's translation of the Word of God became available to the people. The great Gospel passages (such as John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9) were read, and so the Reformation began to restore grace to the people.

Now God has given us technologies capable of doing far more than Gutenberg's wooden blocks. Will we see fit to overcome the obstacles and bend them to the service of the Gospel that by all means some might be saved? Such is the hope of our synod and the reason that resolutions of its 2002 convention created the Committee for Information and Technology (CfIT).

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The four lay members and one clergyman appointed to serve on the Committee for Information and Technology (CfIT) serve under the supervision of the Rev. Glenn Obenburger, Vice President of the synod. They are Mr. Dennis Behr, Chairman, the Rev. Phillip K. Lepak, secretary, Mr. Mark French, Mr. Rod Kuznicki, Mr. Mark Meyer. Pres. John Moldstad and the the Rev. Roger Holtz of the Board of Publications serve as ex officio members.

MEETINGS

CfIT intends to hold two meetings per year. All other committee business is conducted with cost-efficient audio- and/or video-conferencing (AVC), e-mail, and online discussion groups. Regular monthly AVCs are arranged by e-mail. Subcommittees conduct AVCs as needed.

The organizational meeting was held on October 11, 2003 at synod building in Mankato.

SELF ORGANIZATION

Managing technology issues requires technical expertise, long-term strategy, and rapidly changing tactical decisions. For this reason, the 2002 convention resolved to give CfIT the ability to self-organize as appropriate. Currently CfIT operates with two officers and its members generally specialize and participate in initiatives closely related to their own individual expertise. Currently CfIT work has been split into three categories with corresponding initiatives: the Web Presence Initiative, the Educational Technologies Initiative, and the Content Processing Initiative (see below for details).

CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE AND DUTIES

CfIT's charter is found in the 2002 *Synod Report* (Resolution 1, page 164). In order to understand fully the purpose and duties of CfIT we encourage all to carefully review the resolution in its entirety. The stated purpose of CfIT are to assist with technology needs, to enable the use of technology, and most importantly to use technology to disseminate the Gospel message in appropriately creative ways. It is crucial that the various organizations of the synod engage CfIT to assist and enable and not to direct, purchase, procure, or implement. Resolution 1 directs the creation of an internal consulting group which will serve the various organizations of the synod as internal customers. It is for this reason that CfIT has only a minimal budget to pay for travel, internal organization, communication, etc. (currently approximately \$8,000/yr.).

CfIT therefore works with all the other synodical organizations to enable and assist them to spread the Gospel more effectively by technological means. CfIT does not produce the video, it prepares a board or committee to engage a videographer and producer. CfIT does not produce content for web sites, rather it creates the necessary technical foundation upon which the content is built, and it assists content producing boards and committees to produce the content, install the content, etc. CfIT does not typically purchase equipment, but rather recommends equipment according to carefully laid long-term strategies aimed at maximizing technological synergies between all the various projects of which it is aware.

Technology by itself will not help our synod to bring forth the Gospel, but when the various organizations of the synod engage CfIT to enable and assist them in using technology

CURRENT WORK-

Web Presence Initiative

The Web Presence Subcommittee consists of D.Behr, P.Lepak, and M. French. The Web Presence Initiative (WPI) has a wide scope. All internet related technological improvements are coordinated by WPI. When complete it will attain several important, tangible goals:

1. A professional quality synodical web presence replete with many levels of explanation of our confession of faith, including evangelism presentations, catechetical presentations, etc.
2. Standardization, centralization and coordination of information across the entire synod
3. Tools for communication and interaction between far-flung members of the synod, including improved audio- and video- conferencing capabilities and communication with missionaries and fellow CELC members
4. Improved internet advertising capabilities
5. Rapid deployment of mission critical applications for congregations, especially home missions
6. Streaming media service for video and audio productions
7. Aggregation of synod-wide bandwidth expenditures
8. A streamlined process for media production and distribution through the Board of Publications

The attainment of the WPI goals will require significant improvements to our tech-

nological infrastructure. For this reason, part of the work will not necessarily be visible, and may require some time to complete.

The current working specifications for this project are available from CfIT. Feedback and improvements to this working document are appreciated and encouraged.

Educational Technologies Initiative

The Educational Technologies Subcommittee consists of D. Behr, R. Kuznicki, and M. Meyer. The Educational Technologies Initiative (ETI) was begun to address the request for video conferencing between seminaries in mission fields and possibly with Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Currently ETI is advising the Board for Foreign Missions on the technical considerations involved in establishing a video link between the South American seminaries so that resources can be shared between them.

FUTURE ENDEAVORS-

Board of Publications Content Processing Initiative

The Board of Publications Content Processing Initiative Subcommittee has not yet begun its work in earnest for reasons that will shortly be clear. The subcommittee consists of D. Behr and P. Lepak and is preparing a plan for distribution to the Board of Publications and the wider group of synodical organizations detailing the flow of information from content generators (e.g. *Lutheran Sentinel*, Convention, General Pastoral Conference, etc.) through the Board for Publications to the various presentation media (e.g. print, web presence, mass mailing, e-mail, video, etc.). In order to accomplish this task, CfIT will advise the Board of Publications on an internal restructuring plan designed to enable the board to direct the many and varied flows of information. Thus other boards and committees (and the Board of Publications internally) will generate content, which will then be passed to the Board of Publications for formatting and distribution by means of the appropriate medium. CfIT predicts that this process will take fully three years to bring to completion once begun.

RECOMMENDED ACTION-

The following action is recommended to the synod:

Resolution No. 1: Name of Committee

WHEREAS, The stated purposes of the Committee for Information and Technology (CfIT) are "To assist other standing boards, committees and congregation with all technology needs. To enable these entities in the use of technology to better accomplish their respective work. To use technology to disseminate the Gospel message in appropriately creative ways," and,

WHEREAS, Several and various names referring to the committee have been used within official synodical materials, and,

WHEREAS, The current name "Committee for Information and Technology" does not readily convey these purposes, and,

WHEREAS, This resolution is primarily intended to be a clarification, and,

WHEREAS, This clarification does not result in a different acronym, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee be renamed, "Committee for Integrating Technology," and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That all synodical documents be amended appropriately, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That no documents be reprinted solely as a result of the changes necessitated by the acceptance of this resolution.

~~Resolution No. 2: Establishment of operating relationship between CfIT and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod~~

WHEREAS, The Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) is an internal consulting

group, and,
WHEREAS, Many synod organizations have not yet established a working relationship with CfIT, and,
WHEREAS, Such a working relationship will undoubtedly improve the coordination of technology deployment within the Synod, and,
WHEREAS, Many synod organizations have not undertaken a discussion of technological needs with a qualified technologist, and,
WHEREAS, Most of those organizations which have undertaken a discussion of technological needs with a qualified technologist have not yet made their technology strategy and plans known to CfIT, and,
WHEREAS, CfIT must adequately understand the currently deployed technology and the strategic plans for technology deployment within the synod, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED: That, synod organizations arrange for at least one technology planning discussion with a CfIT member through the chairman, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED: That all synod boards and committees undertake its aforementioned discussions once per year beginning in 2003, and,
C. BE IT RESOLVED: That, all synod organizations be strongly encouraged to directly contact the CfIT chairman concerning technological needs and technical plans as soon as possible.

~~Resolution No. 3:~~ Audio/video Conferencing

WHEREAS, Audio- and video-conferencing has proven to be a cost-efficient means of meeting, and,
WHEREAS, The Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) is continually evaluating and compiling a list of suitably cost-efficient conferencing vendors, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That all synod organizations be encouraged to explore with CfIT the possibilities for reducing travel expenditures through the use of audio- and/or video-conferencing.

~~Resolution No. 4:~~ Clarification of internal customer relationships

WHEREAS, The Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) is responsible for enabling and assisting other synod organizations with their technology needs, and,
WHEREAS, The working relationship between CfIT and the other synod organizations has not yet been established, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED: That, the following be added to Article V: Miscellaneous of the Guidelines for the Committee for Integrating Technology:
F. All purchases of synod-wide technological infrastructure improvements shall be made by the Board of Trustees in coordination with the Committee for Integrating Technology.
G. All purchases of board and committee technology infrastructure improvements shall be made by the board or committee in coordination with the Committee for Integrating Technology.
H. All purchases of technology infrastructure improvements by congregational and para-church entities shall be made by these entities respectively.

~~Resolution No. 5:~~ Relationship between the Committee for Integrating Technology and congregations and para-church entities

WHEREAS, A coordinated plan for technology purchases will result in better coordination between congregations and other synod organizations, and,
WHEREAS, Various technologies can be mutually incompatible, and,
WHEREAS, Significant investments in incompatible technologies by two synod organizations is expensive and difficult to reverse once undertaken, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED: That, all member congregations and para-church organizations of the synod be strongly encouraged to consult with the Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) before making technology decisions and purchases.

~~Resolution No. 6: Contractual and non-contractual technological service agreements~~

WHEREAS, A mutual understanding of requirements and specifications is required for all service agreements between the Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT), the purchasing synod organization and potential technological service providers, and,
WHEREAS, Some agreements are made with technological service providers within the body of the synod (e.g. Bethany Lutheran College), while other such agreements are made with external organizations, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED: That, at least one or more memos of understanding delineate the requirements and specifications of the purchase for all services to be purchased from internal service providers, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED: That, at a formal specification of requirements be prepared in coordination with CfIT for all purchases from external service providers.

~~Resolution No. 7: Hiring guidelines for technology positions~~

WHEREAS, The requirements for hiring technology professionals are often esoteric, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED: That all job descriptions for technology professionals be reviewed by the Committee for Integrating Technology.

The Rev. Phillip K. Lepak, secretary

*MISCELLANEOUS AND PUBLICATIONS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

Resolution 1: Name change

WHEREAS, The Committee for Information and Technology is a committee specializing in technology rather than content, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the committee be renamed “Committee for Integrating Technology,” and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That all synodical documents be amended appropriately, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That no documents be reprinted solely as a result of changing the name of the committee.

Resolution 2: Guidelines for Committee for Integrating Technology

WHEREAS, The Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) has begun its work, and,
WHEREAS, The committee has been able to operate with the current guidelines, and,
WHEREAS, Both the Synod Review Committee and CfIT should coordinate the development of the guidelines, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the committees meet jointly to develop new guidelines, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the committees bring the recommended changes to the 2004 Synod Convention, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee for Information and Technology continue its faithful work in the meantime.

Resolution 3: Reporting

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee for Information and Technology report to the Board of Trustees.

Resolution 4: Rules and Regulations for the Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt Article III, I of the “Rules and Regulations for the Board of Trustees” as follows:

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ARTICLE III: DUTIES OF THE BOARD (p.9-C)

- I. The board shall keep itself informed of the work of the Committee for Integrating Technology, examine and approve its projects insofar as the board finds necessary, and approve the committee's budget for inclusion in the Synod Fund request. The board and the committee may jointly prepare additional policies to define their interrelationship and responsibilities.

Secretary's Note: no action was taken regarding proposed resolutions 2,3,4,5,6,7 in the report of the board.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

The members of the committee are Prof. J.B. Madson, chairman, the Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary, the Rev. M.E., Tweit, Robert Brown and Norman Werner. Pres. John Moldstad and Prof. Erling Teigen serve as advisory members.

Since last reporting to the convention in 2002, the committee has met nine days: April 22, July 8 and 9, August 8, October 10, November 14 and December 13, 2002, and January 6 and February 12, 2003. The committee is reporting on the assignments made by the 2002 convention and the synod president.

Generally, italicized page numbers are referring to the *ELS Handbook*, are for information purposes only and are not a part of the guidelines. The following reports and recommendations are for the convention's consideration:

1. MODIFICATION OF ARCHIVAL DEPOSIT SCHEDULES (S.R.2002, Resolution No. 6.B., p. 163) – Following the adoption of the guidelines at the 2002 convention there was an expressed concern about the annual forwarding of material to the archives when there may be material that is required to be in the hands of the board or committee for a longer period of time. The following amendment to the last sentence of General Synodical Rules and Regulations, Article III.C. is recommended:

GENERAL SYNODICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

ARTICLE III: GENERAL POLICIES REGARDING STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (p.11-A)

C. Duties of Board and Committee Secretaries

The secretary shall record all resolutions of the board or committee and keep such minutes as shall be pertinent to its business. He shall supply copies of the minutes to all members of the board or committee, the synod's president, vice president and secretary and others authorized by board or committee resolution. He shall prepare the report of the board or committee for the convention and have the minutes of the previous year available for the convention review committee. In addition, the secretary shall be responsible for annually depositing pertinent documents, or copies, with the archivist of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod which shall include minutes and such other material as the secretary deems necessary.

2. PUBLICATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD HANDBOOK (S.R.2002, Resolution No. 9, p. 163) – The *Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod* was published and distributed in September 2002. Copies are yet available through the synod office.

3. TERM LIMITATIONS FOR OFFICERS, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS (S.R.2002, Resolution No. 2, p. 162) – In preparing a recommendation on this subject, the Synod Review Committee has examined and studied three issues. They are (1) expressions in favor of, or in opposition to, the concept of term limits; (2) a paper pre-

pared by the sainted Rev. Christian Anderson; and (3) a survey of the membership of the offices and of the standing boards and committees of the synod.

Expressions for or against term limits:

There are important viewpoints to be considered when evaluating the merits of establishing limits to the numbers of terms that an individual may serve as an officer or as a member of a board or committee:

Some points expressed in favor of term limits:

1. New expertise may be brought into office resulting in new ideas, thoughts, plans, goals, and direction for the board or committee or for the administration.
2. Limits may encourage participation by people who have different experiences or a wider range of experience.
3. Limits may encourage a wider geographical representation.
4. Individuals who are removed from office by term limits may be elected to other boards, thus transferring their experience and expanding their value to the synod as a whole.
5. Without term limits, nominating committees are more likely to renominate existing board and committee members rather than searching for new candidates.

Some points expressed against limiting the number of terms are:

1. Under present rules the length of terms is limited to three years (board and committee members) or four years (officers). Thus the nominating committees have frequent opportunities to introduce new people to the various offices each time there are elections.
2. Limiting the number of terms is a self-imposed restriction to the democratic process that we enjoy in this country and in this synod; thus the process of unlimited terms that currently is in use and is commonly understood in the nation and the synod and is commonly accepted. Term limits are a restriction on the authority of future voters.
3. Election should be geared to the selection of the most qualified person for each office. With term limits, the most qualified person is likely to be the one who has reached the limit of his terms. A given number of terms or years of service is not a valid determinant of the person's ability to serve or of the quality of service.
4. Term limits, by their nature, eliminate the people most experienced in the work of the board or committee, in the history and work of the synod, and in intersynodical relations.
5. It takes time for an individual to learn the work of a board; therefore term limits eliminate those who might be the most efficient people on the committee. By efficient is meant those who are best able to carry out the ongoing work of the organization.
6. There may be a smaller number of people who are qualified to fill some of the offices; thus term limits may not permit the most qualified people to serve.

In a paper prepared by the Rev. Christian Anderson entitled *Underlying Causes of the Deterioration and Breakdown of the Old Norwegian Synod*, he discussed four reasons for the breakdown. The fourth reason was the centralization of "power and influence in a few," and, in that light, two distinct elements: (1) the establishment of the Church Council and (2) the lengthy service on the Council by Dr. U. V. Koren (49 years). Rev. Anderson writes:

The custom of continuing the same men in office for a long time helped to centralize power and influence in a few. It is no doubt an advantage to let those who have proven their ability continue at the head of the organization, rather than have frequent changes. Experience surely counts for much in carrying out the duties of the office. But on the other hand there is the grave danger that the prestige connected with holding office a long time may be abused when a crisis arises. After all, even the best among us are only human. Because of the experience we

had in the formation of the late merger, there was a gentlemen's agreement among us, when we reorganized the Synod, that the term of office of the President was to be only two years, and that no one was to be re-elected more than once. We have hereby no doubt lost some of the valuable service of experienced men, but this loss has been offset by the safeguard against anyone wrongfully usurping power which this arrangement has given us.

An institution in the Old Synod often mentioned was the so-called Church Council (*Kirkeraad*). It is sometimes spoken of as the root of all evil in the Synod. We have virtually the same thing in many of our congregations today. At first the members of this Council were elected directly to this office by the convention. It was composed of three pastors and three laymen; but after the Synod was divided into districts it was composed of the general and district presidents, a layman elected from each district and one lay member at large. The duty of this council was chiefly to look after the interests of the Synod between the conventions. Many matters which required investigation and special study were usually referred to it. This Council no doubt became an important factor in promoting the best interest of the Synod. Especially in the controversy in the eighties did it perform yeoman work in defending the truth against the propagandist of error.

For a long time, reports of the meetings of the Church Council were published in the official organ of the church. This kept the membership informed on its work, gave them an opportunity to offer criticism, and in general helped to stimulate their interest in the work of the Synod. It is unfortunate that this practice gradually died out after the presidents became the leading element in the Council, so that their deliberations were carried on more or less in secret. While there was frequent rotation among the lay members, the office of the president practically became one held by the incumbent for the rest of his life. Dr. Koren was a member of the Church Council from 1861 to his death in 1910...¹

Survey:

A survey of the memberships of the various synodical offices, boards and committees was undertaken by the Synod Review Committee. The survey was performed by studying the tables found in the synod reports from 1953 to 2002 showing the officers, board and committee members and their service. There may be inconsistencies, especially in the matter of resignations and appointments between synod conventions. There is no guarantee of accuracy regarding the information collected, although great care was used in assembling it.

The current board and committee structure is the guideline that was used for the offices that were studied. Because it has only the current year history, the Committee for Information and Technology, approved at the 2002 convention, was not included. A number of boards and committees currently not in existence were not used, e.g. the former Transportation (Railroad) Secretaries, the Pension Board, the Committee on Fraternal Organizations, the Synodical Conference Delegates, and the Synodical Conference Mission Board.

This survey reports on the memberships for those who served during the fifty years from the convention of 1953 to the convention of 2003, including those who were elected at the 2002 convention. A summary of the data that was collected is shown on the table entitled "Summary of the Years of Service and Number of Officers and Board and Committee Members." During the fifty years of the study, there were 573 people who served a total of 3,754 years, an average of 6.55 years of service for each individual. The 101 members currently serving as officers and on the synod's boards and committees total 966 years of service, an average of 9.6 years.

¹ Delivered at the General Pastoral Conference of the Norwegian Synod held July 27th to July 31st, 1953, at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, and published in *The Clergy Bulletin* for September 1953, Volume 13, pp.3,4.

There are various thoughts about why the average terms of the incumbents are longer than the terms of those calculated for the fifty-year average. One idea is that there were fewer people to serve in the earlier years of the study, therefore, there were more people serving in more than one position at a given time. Another thought is that the work of the boards and committees is more complex now than it was in the earlier years; therefore, the learning curve on a given board is longer, and experience on the board is more important, thus experienced people are urged to accept re-nomination. A third reason may be that there are more retired people currently serving on boards and committees, people who have fewer competing interests.

A subsidiary study comparing service by clergymen and service by laymen showed the total average service of each to be very similar (average 6.4 years for clergymen and 6.7 years for laymen) to the table shown (6.55 Years). The same was true for incumbents, 9.3 years for clergymen and 9.8 years for laymen vs. 9.6 years for the combined membership.

Discussion:

How pertinent are the concerns expressed by Rev. Anderson about the nineteenth century synod when the needs of the synod in the twenty-first century are being considered?

At this time the synod does not have a church council that would relate to the organization of the old Norwegian Synod. The annual convention conducts the affairs of the corporation. (*Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, Article VII, *Handbook* p. 4-B; *The Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, Chapter IV, *Handbook* p. 6-A) Between conventions "the general management and control of this corporation shall be vested in a board of nine trustees..." (*Articles of Incorporation*, Article VIII *Handbook* p. 4-B; *Constitution*, Chapter V, Paragraph 1; *Handbook* p. 6-A). Also, between conventions the work not under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees is carried on by the other standing boards and committees (*Constitution*, Chapter V, Paragraph 3 and *Bylaws*, Chapter III, *Handbook* pp. 6-B and -C). The conventions have the ultimate responsibility for all synod affairs and should be diligent in exercising that authority, especially in reviewing the work of the boards and committees (*Bylaws*, Chapter V, Paragraph 1 a), *Handbook* p. 6-D).

There may be some thought that the Planning and Coordinating Committee, made up of the synod officers, the chairmen of most of the standing boards and committees and three laymen elected by the convention, acts as the Church Council of old. However, the committee has no authority to take any action and makes recommendations only to the conventions. Likewise, the Synod Review Committee, which is usually assigned special studies, has no authority to take any action, and reports only to the conventions. Investigations are often performed by ad hoc committees, which will report to the entity which established them. (See the *Handbook* for the duties and responsibilities of each individual board and committee.)

Term limits may be appropriate in situations where the average voter has a limited knowledge of the talents, abilities and integrity of the candidates. A limitation on the number of terms that an individual may serve in an office is also a limitation on the right of future conventions to select whom they wish. People should be selected on the basis of their God-given talents, on their service interests and on their availability to serve. The nominating committee's process should be in a positive direction, seeking out the best candidates for the work that is to be performed; term limits provide a negative direction, removing those with experience from office regardless of their abilities. A person who has done a good job and loves the work should not be punished by removal from office because he has spent too many years in the service of the Lord.

SUMMARY OF THE YEARS OF SERVICE AND NUMBER OF
OFFICERS AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Office	<u>Total</u>			<u>Incumbents</u>		
	Years of Service	Number of Members	Average	Years of Service	Number of Members	Average
President ²	50	9	5.6	1	1	1
Vice President	50	14	3.6	5	1	5
Secretary	50	3	16.7	7	1	7
Treasurer	50	3	16.7	2	1	2
Trustees	304	38	8.0	96	7	13.7
Regents	456	51	8.9	155	12	12.9
Doctrine	281	44	6.4	59	6	9.8
Missions	487	63	7.7	F-82	7	11.7
				H-66	7	9.4
Evangelism	111	26	4.3	21	5	4.2
Education and Youth	651	116	5.6	114	13	8.8
Publications ³	292	48	6.1	69	6	11.5
Christian Service	263	35	7.5	49	5	9.8
Worship ⁴	151	24	6.3	44	5	8.8
Stewardship	176	33	5.3	46	5	9.2
Equalization	147	33	4.5	15	3	5.0
Planning & Coordinating	48	11	4.4	6	3	2.0
Synod Review	83	10	8.3	57	5	11.4
Archives and History	104	12	8.7	72	8	9.0
Total	3,754	573	6.55	966	101	9.6

The work of the synod and its committees is best done if a long-term view is taken of the work—five, ten or more years. Term limits work against that because there is no incentive for a member to view the work beyond the limit that he can serve. “Lame ducks” usually are not interested in the long term view of the organization’s work, thus making decisions based on the short term, without being concerned with the impact that current decisions may have on future activities. With term limitations, everyone is a “lame duck” as soon as he enters office.

One of the concerns of Rev. Anderson was the demise of the regular reports of the business conducted by the Church Council. The *Lutheran Sentinel* is certainly the appropriate vehicle for public reporting of all synod business. The specificity, amount and frequency of such information are matters within the jurisdiction of the editorial staff of the *Sentinel* and of the individual boards and committees.

Currently, there are no limitations to the number of terms of office that an individual may hold, except that Nominating Committee members may not immediately succeed themselves. Each Nominating Committee serves for only one year. “No member of a board or committee whose term expires at the next annual convention shall be a member of the committee.” (*Convention Guidelines*, Article VIII. A. 2.,3., *Handbook* p.21-C)

The matter of improper entrenchment in office is very subjective, both as to definition and as to time.

² If the data for President Orvick is removed, the average years for eight presidents are 2.75.

³ Two of the board members are professional printers with a total of 50 years of service. If their data is removed, the average years for the remaining 46 members is 5.3 and for incumbents is 4.75.

⁴ Two members were added to the committee in 2002. If their years of service are removed, the average for the incumbents is 14 years.

Recommendation:

The Nominating Committee should take the time to be aggressive in determining the quality of the members on the boards and committees, including people who are knowledgeable in the functions of the synod, and in searching for replacements in those instances where the current members are not performing to the standards that are needed for the synod's work. The key to securing names of replacement nominees rests in the hands of the pastors and congregations who suggest candidates to the Nominating Committee.

Because there has been an expressed concern about the lack of information on the nominees, the nominating committee should prepare biographies of everyone accepting a nomination.

The Synod Review Committee does not recommend restrictions on the terms of the board and committee members other than those that are currently in place. It does recommend a three-term limitation for the president and vice president. These term limits are to be effective with the next regular election (2006) of the president and vice president.

The following amendments to the bylaws and guidelines are recommended. An amendment to the Constitution's Bylaws requires a two-thirds majority vote (*Bylaws*, Chapter VIII, Handbook p. 6-F).

~~BYLAWS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD~~

~~Chapter VI — Election of Officers and Trustees (p.6-D)~~

~~Paragraph 1~~

The president, vice president and secretary of the synod shall be nominated and elected by ballot for a term of four (4) years and shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices on the first day of the second month following the conclusion of the convention at which they are elected. At the regular convention at which these bylaws are ratified, the president and the vice president shall be elected for terms of four (4) years and the secretary for a term of two (2) years. Thereafter all officers shall be elected for four (4) year terms as their terms expire. The president and vice president shall not be elected to more than three consecutive terms. To the office of president and vice president only such men who are ordained members of the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and who have served in the parish ministry of the synod may be elected and may serve. To the office of secretary only such men may be elected and may serve as are members of a congregation holding membership in the synod.

**~~RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD~~**

~~ARTICLE I: GOVERNANCE (p.9-A)~~

- B. The president and the secretary shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. The remaining trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms. Officers and trustees shall be elected as their terms expire. At the same time the president is elected, a vice president, who shall be an advisory member of the board, unless he succeeds to the office of president, shall be elected for a four (4) year term. The president and vice president shall not be elected to more than three consecutive terms. (*cf. Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, Article VIII, Handbook p. 4-B)

**~~GUIDELINES FOR THE SYNOD'S RELATIONSHIP TO ITS
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS~~**

~~ARTICLE I: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (p.10-A)~~

- E. Terms and Conditions if the Office of President is Vacated

1. In the case of resignation, or the incumbent declining renomination, or the incumbent being in his third consecutive elected term of office:

CONVENTION GUIDELINES

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (p.21-C)

B. Duties of the Committee on Nominations

1. At least two candidates shall be nominated for each board or committee position that will become vacant at the next convention of the synod.
 - a. Names of potential candidates may be solicited from congregations of the synod, from circuit visitors, from chairmen of standing boards and committees, from synodical officers and from other sources.
 - b. Ordinarily, no person should serve on more than one synod board or committee.
2. The slate, including the qualifications of each candidate, and their biographical sketches, shall be submitted to the secretary of the synod for publication in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. The biographical sketch should include education and service that may be relevant to the office for which the candidate has been nominated, his home congregation, the number of years as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the age of the nominee, and the number of current consecutive terms that a nominated incumbent has held that office.
3. ~~Nominations to be made from the floor of the convention must be referred to the Nominating Committee on the first day of the convention along with the same biographical information. The Nominating Committee will see to the distribution of that information to the convention at the time of the election.~~

4. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING A SYNOD PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, (S.R.2002, Guidelines p. 157; Resolution No. 12, p. 161) – The resolution adopted by the convention directed the Synod Review Committee “to consider alternate methods of nominating and electing the synodical president.” However, the committee determined that it would be difficult to have one election process for the president and another for the vice president. Therefore, it is more consistent to review the process for nominating and electing both officers.

Currently the process consists of a nominating ballot that is distributed and collected during the Tuesday morning session. The nominating ballot is tabulated immediately following and the list of nominees are posted. Immediately after the posting, the election for that office follows. It is required that the election be held with no break in the process until the office is filled. There is an expressed concern that the person elected as the president of the synod has approximately only two days of convention time to consult with his family and his congregation and examine other factors that may be pertinent to his decision to accept or reject election.

Discussion:

The process may be improved if there is an earlier period for nominations that would permit the nominee to prepare to take office if he is so elected, or to withdraw his name if that is his choice.

It is recommended that each congregation have the authority to nominate one or two men for the office of president. Those not elected as president would be the nominees for vice president. There would be no nominations from the floor of the convention. The following amendments to the guidelines are recommended:

CONVENTION GUIDELINES

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS (p.21-B)

- A. By January 1 in the years in which presidents and vice presidents are to be elected, the synod secretary shall notify the congregations individually and by publication in the *Lutheran Sentinel* of the officers that are to be elected at the next convention. By March 1 the congregations shall forward the names of not more than

two (2) nominees to the synod secretary. The congregation must obtain acceptance from the persons nominated. Nominations will be accepted in the name of the congregation only and shall be certified by the congregation's secretary. The names of the nominees shall be published in the April issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel*. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted. Nominations for synod secretary will be made from the floor of the convention as at present. (cf. *Constitution and Bylaws, Chapter VI, Paragraphs 1 and 3, p. 6-D*,

- B. The synod secretary will prepare biographies of the nominees for distribution prior to voting at the convention.
- C. In the years in which officers are elected, the session after morning recess of the second working day of the convention, following the first report of the convention committee on Synodical Membership, is to be set aside for the election of the synod's officers.
- D. The election shall consist of as many ballots as necessary. Those nominees for the position of president who are not elected to that office will be nominees for the position of vice president. Once balloting for an office has begun, the convention shall remain in session without interruption until the office has been filled.

5. STUDY THE MATTER OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE THE SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE APPEAL WHEN THE SYNOD PRESIDENT IS A PARTY TO A DISPUTE. (S.R.2002, Resolution #3, p. 162; Commission on the Appeal memorandum, #1, p. 45) – It is most likely that the president will always be involved in a dispute that continues to the extent that a commission on appeal is required. The concern is that the president and the Board of Trustees (who now prepare the slate) may be too involved in the specific situation and are not disinterested parties. A suggested alternative was that the circuit visitors prepare the slate of nominees.

Discussion:

The slate presented by the Board of Trustees must be prepared with great care because the convention must approve the slate prior to its election of the five people to the commission. If any one person (of the fourteen who are nominated) is not acceptable to the convention, the slate may be rejected and the board must propose a new slate immediately and report back. Thus the board is likely to be very careful in the selection of people for the slate. Inasmuch as the circuit visitors are an arm of the president, the visitors are as likely to be interested parties to an issue as are the Board of Trustees. The board is responsible for the business of the synod between conventions (*Articles of Incorporation*, Article VIII, Handbook p. 4-B; *Constitution*, Chapter V; Handbook p. 6-A) and meets at least quarterly; this issue appears to fit best within the responsibilities of the board. A guideline revision is recommended:

GUIDELINES FOR SYNODICAL DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

ARTICLE V: GUIDELINES FOR APPEALS TO THE SYNOD (p.22-B)

- D. The commission on the appeal shall be elected by ballot from a slate of nominees submitted by the Board of Trustees and ratified by the convention. In the situation wherein the president has suspended the appealing party, the president and vice president shall absent themselves from the meeting room when the slate is being prepared. The secretary shall chair the board while it goes about selecting the slate. The board shall nominate eight (8) clergymen and six (6) laymen. If the slate is not ratified by the convention, the Board of Trustees shall prepare another slate and submit it to the convention. From the approved slate the convention shall elect three (3) clergymen and two (2) laymen to the commission on the appeal. No member of the commission shall be a party involved in the case. The president of the synod shall NOT be an advisory member of the commission on the appeal. The commission shall organize itself by electing a chairman and secretary and shall proceed in a timely fashion.

6. REVISE GUIDELINES FOR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS SEEKING REDRESS (S.R.2002, Resolution #3, p. 162, Commission on the Appeal memorandum, #2, p. 45) – There has been an expressed concern that pastors and congregations may be wronged but there is no way for them to seek a resolution other than taking an action which causes their suspension.

Discussion:

The committee studied and discussed this matter over several meetings but was unable to find an alternative to the existing guidelines that would be an improvement. Anyone who believes that he has been aggrieved should first seek resolution with the other party. If this does not yield a satisfactory solution, he should seek guidance from the circuit visitor. A congregation should proceed in a like manner. It is the responsibility of the visitor to “[p]rovide counsel to congregations and pastors in difficult cases” (*Guidelines for the Circuit Visitors and Visitations*, Article III.C., Handbook p. 15-A). Missionaries, mission congregations and faculty members also have access to assistance through their respective field secretaries or institutional presidents, with recourse to their supervisory boards.

7. ENCOURAGE SYNOD OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS OF THEIR VISITS TO CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS (S.R.2002, Resolution #3, p. 162; Commission on the Appeal memorandum #3, p. 45) – When the Commission on the Appeal considered the matter before it, there were times when it was unclear about the specific advice that had been given to, or provided by, the various persons involved. There was also a lack of written reports of specific actions that had taken place. The following paragraph is recommended for addition to the guidelines:

GENERAL SYNODICAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**ARTICLE III: GENERAL POLICIES REGARDING
STANDING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES** (p.11-A)

- E. Circuit visitors should make a report to the president soon after each visit. When dealing with matters of unusual importance, it is essential that pastors, congregations, circuit visitors and synod officers prepare written minutes, notes or reports of the events that have taken place. Such events may include specific action, counsel or advice, charges, counter charges and defending statements. This is especially important when it is possible that there will be a repercussion. It is not possible to prepare guidelines that will define specific situations which do, and those which do not, require reports. Therefore, it behooves those involved to be alert to the necessity for keeping adequate records. These reports and notes should be kept in the confidential files of the president.

GUIDELINES FOR CIRCUIT VISITORS AND VISITATIONS

ARTICLE II: VISITORS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD
(p.15-A)

- B. Since the visitors are responsible to the president of the synod, it is their duty to make a full report of all their activity as visitors to the president in March of each year. The president will, in turn, include a report of the visitor's activities in his report to the synod. No confidential information that might militate against Christian love or could in any way give offense should be included in these reports. Circuit visitors should make a report to the president soon after each visit. When dealing with matters of unusual importance, it is essential that pastors, congregations, circuit visitors and synod officers prepare written minutes, notes or reports of the events that have taken place. Such events may include specific action, counsel or advice, charges, counter charges and defending statements. This is especially important when it is possible that there will be a repercussion. It is not possible to prepare guidelines that will define specific situations that do, and those that do not, require reports. Therefore, it behooves those involved to be alert to the necessity for keeping adequate records. These reports and notes should be kept in the

confidential files of the president.

8. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES BY WHICH SYNOD CIRCUIT VISITORS AND PASTORS MAY BETTER KNOW THE GUIDELINES ON DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS. (S.R.2002, Resolution #3, p. 162; Commission on the Appeal memorandum #4, p. 45) – The Synod Review Committee is not prepared to provide seminars or other formal opportunities to provide education in regard to the guidelines. However, individual members of the committee may be invited to assist in the discussion of the guidelines. It is incumbent upon the office of the president to encourage, and the circuits, “winkels” and other discussion groups to schedule regular examinations of all of the guidelines, not only those concerned with discipline and appeals. The guidelines are readable and can be readily reviewed without any outside expert advice. It is especially important that the amendments that are adopted at the annual conventions be reviewed so that the changes can be recognized by the individual board and committee members. A recommended amendment to the guidelines follows:

GUIDELINES FOR THE CIRCUIT VISITORS AND VISITATIONS

ARTICLE II: VISITORS’ RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD (p.15-A)

C. The president of the synod shall arrange a workshop for the visitors each year, if possible, preferably in the fall of the year after new personnel may have been elected by the convention. The program for each meeting shall include a review of the synod’s work on the circuit level as well as on the synodical level. The theme shall be: “Are you carrying out the work that the synod has resolved to do?” A review of the synod’s guidelines shall be included, especially reflecting any amendments that were adopted at the most recent convention. The secretary of the synod shall serve as the secretary of the visitor’s workshop.-

9. COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY (S.R.2002, Resolution No. 1, p. 164, and Resolution No. 4, p. 165) – The Synod Review Committee has reviewed these guidelines for inclusion in the existing guidelines of the synod as directed by the 2002 convention. The committee believes that the establishment of a committee concerned with technology and its application to the work of the Lord is highly appropriate and timely, and it extends its thanks to those who prepared the guidelines.

The existing requirement that this committee report to the office of the vice president is not consistent with the duties of the vice president as defined in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Bylaws, Chapter VII, Paragraph 2 (*Handbook* p. 6-E). The Synod Review Committee believes that the duties as defined in the *Handbook* to be a correct statement of the role of the person who is “a heart beat away from the presidency.”

Inasmuch as the mission of the committee under review is to develop and coordinate the technology of the synod and its congregations, it is more appropriate that it establish a relationship with the Board of Trustees. This relationship may include a joint sub-committee that would coordinate the work of the two organizations. If such a sub-committee is formed, the board and the committee should prepare internal guidelines to establish a working relationship.

Secretary’s note: The Synod Review Committee submitted guidelines which were considered as a working document and, for lack of confusion in this published report, were withdrawn following the convention as new guidelines will be prepared.

10. GUIDELINES FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT (S.R.2002, Resolution No. 3, Guidelines for the vice president, p. 165) – With the removal of the office of the vice president from the Guidelines for the Committee for Informational Technologies as proposed, there is no purpose for Article IV of the Guidelines for the

Synod's Relationship to Its Executive Officers (*Handbook* p. 10-B). Therefore, the Synod Review Committee recommends its removal.

11. SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE WAYS THAT RECORDS OF DISCIPLINE CASES CAN BE UNSEALED (S.R.2002, Resolution #3, p. 162; Commission of the Appeal memorandum #5, p. 45) – The committee recommends that the provision for sealing the report of a commission on an appeal remain unchanged unless there is evidence of collusion on the part of the members of the commission that may have influenced the decision. Therefore, it is recommended that the existing paragraph in the Guidelines for Synodical Discipline and Appeals, Article VI., be designated as paragraph A. and a new paragraph B. be added as follows:

GUIDELINES FOR SYNODICAL DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS (p.22-C)

ARTICLE VI: REPORTS AND RECORDS OF DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

- A. The reports and records concerning discipline and reports and records of a commission on an appeal shall be deposited with the archivist of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod not later than five years after the final actions have been taken, and shall be considered sealed materials for 50 years after the date of the report. After 50 years, the Committee on Archives and History, or its successor, may authorize research using those reports and records. (*cf. Guidelines for the Department of Archives and History, Article VI*)
- ~~B. If, at some time in the future, there is further evidence that there is pertinent information that was not available at the time of the commission's deliberation, or that there was collusion, and that such missing information or collusion may have influenced the decision that was rendered, the matter shall be brought before the convention and it shall determine if the record should be opened and referred to a committee for study and report, and any other action that is warranted.~~

12. TELECONFERENCING AUTHORITY FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS –

As a follow-up to the revised guidelines adopted previously, there was a concern expressed that there is a conflict between Article I.G. and Article II.C.1. (*Handbook* p. 35-A) in the Bylaws of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. It was noted that Article I. applies to the corporate membership, i.e. the synod convention, and that Article II. refers to the Board of Regents. To clarify, it is recommended that the title of Article I. be amended as follows:

BYLAWS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INC.

ARTICLE I: CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS (p.35-A)

Mr. Norman Werner, secretary, pro tem

MISCELLANEOUS

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: General Synodical Rules and Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept changes of Article III Section C (General Policies Regarding Standing Boards and Committees, page 11-A).

Resolution 2: Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod-Term Limits

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod decline the recommendation of the Synod Review Committee to incorporate term limits for President and Vice President.

Resolution 3: Convention Guidelines on Nominations

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the changes to the Convention guide-

lines, Article III; Section B. Paragraph 2 (Committee on Nominations, page 21-C), and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED that we decline to add paragraph 3 as recommended by the Synod Review Committee.

Resolution 4: Convention Guidelines Article VI: Election of Officers

BE IT RESOLVED, That the entire section of Article VI: Election of Officers be reconsidered by the Synod Review Committee and especially the guidelines pertaining to the office of the president.

Resolution 5: Guidelines for Synodical Discipline and Appeals

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed revisions on Article V, Section D: "Guidelines for Appeals to the Synod"

Resolution 6: Proposed Revision of Guidelines for Pastors and Congregations Seeking Redress

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod acknowledge that the Synod Review Committee fulfilled its obligation (See S.R. 2002 Resolution #3, P. 162) to review the section on Article II. Section C, *Handbook* of the ELS, (page 15-A) and has found no need for any changes.

Resolution 7: Written Reports of Visits to Congregations

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the proposed additions to Article III: Section E (General Policies Regarding Standing Boards and Committees, *ELS Handbook*, page 11-A) and Article II; Section B (Guidelines for Circuit Visitors and Visitations, *ELS Handbook*, p. 15-A)

Resolution 8: Guidelines for the Circuit Visitors and Visitations

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept these changes as proposed in Article II; Section C (Visitors' Relationship to the President of the Synod, page 15-A).

Resolution 9: Guidelines for Synodical Discipline and Appeals

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod decline to accept the proposed additions to the Guidelines for Synodical Discipline and Appeals, Article VI, Section B (Reports and Records of Discipline and Appeals, page 22-C).

Resolution 10: Bylaws of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the addition of the word "Corporate" so that the title of Article I will then read, "Corporate Membership Meetings".

Resolution 11: Guidelines for Vice President

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the recommendation to drop Article IV, Section B (Guidelines for the Vice President) from the *Handbook* for the ELS (page 10-B).

Resolution 12: Synodical Name Change

WHEREAS, The Miscellaneous Committee has thoughtfully discussed the various reasons for and against a synodical name change, and,

WHEREAS, There seems to be no compelling reason to change the Synod's name, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod respectfully decline the memorial for a proposed name change.

Resolution 13: Convention Date

BE IT RESOLVED, That the ELS Convention be held June 20-24, 2004 at Bethany Lutheran College, in Mankato, Minnesota.

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

Resolution 1

WHEREAS, The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Jr., has faithfully served his first years as full-time president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, President Moldstad has performed the duties of his office faithfully with the Lord's blessing, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord for this faithful leader, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we remember him and our synod in our prayers.

Resolution 2:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President's Message and Report be accepted and printed in the 2003 Synod Report.

*SECRETARY'S 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 15, 2003, as well as, the Monday (June 16, 2003) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts 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 17, 2003) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts 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 18, 2003) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts 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 19, 2003, morning and afternoon sessions.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Pastoral Conference Minutes

WHEREAS, Conference minutes from Circuits 1, 2, 7 and 12 and the Great Lakes Conference (Circuits 3, 4, 5, 6) have been received and reviewed, along with several conference papers, and,

WHEREAS, These minutes give evidence that pastors of these conferences are devoting time and effort to continuing in Scriptural doctrine and practice, and,

WHEREAS, Such pastoral conferences help to strengthen and encourage the brethren in their service to the Lord in their various fields of labor, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend those conferences which have submitted their minutes and papers, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage all pastors to attend these conferences wherever possible, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That all conference secretaries consider it their obligation to submit records of their conferences for review at each synod convention.

RESOLUTIONS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

A. BE IT RESOLVED That letters acknowledging receipt of greetings to the 86th annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be sent to the following:

Rev. Kurt Smith, Missionary, Lima Peru

Rev. Larry Burgdorf, Trustee, Marvin Schwan Charitable Foundation

Rev. Norman A. Madson

Rev. Terry Schultz, Missionary, Lima Peru

Rev. Tor Jakob Welde

Rev. Egil Edvardsen, chairman, the Lutheran Confessional Church

Rev. Armin Panning, President, Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference

Bishop Vyacheslav Horpynchuk, Ukrainian Lutheran Church

and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of condolence be sent to the spouse and/or families of the following, whose souls were translated into the kingdom of heaven since our 85th convention:

Rev. Richard MacKain

Mrs. Olaila Vangen

Rev. Hugo Warnke

Rev. Arthur Schmitt

Mrs. Vita Deibert Kuster

Mrs. Marian Larson

Mrs. Karen Schneck

Rev. James Larson

NOMINATIONS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Ratification of Type B Appointment

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents reelected the Rev. Klebe Brumble to serve on the Board of Regents as a Type B appointment, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the election of Rev. Klebe Brumble be ratified.

MEMORIALS

Subject: Truth, Unchanged, Unchanging

WHEREAS, *Truth Unchanged, Unchanging*, selected sermons, addresses and doctrinal articles by Ulrik V. Koren is a valuable book for the continued study of our doctrinal heritage, and,

WHEREAS, This book is no longer in print, and,

WHEREAS, There appear to be no copies available for purchase, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this book either be reprinted or made available by electronic media.

*Submitted by
Michael Dale
Richard Fyffe
Herbert Huhnerkoch
Charles Keeler
John Petersen
Greg Sahlstrom
Gregory Schmidt
Joel Willitz*

Subject: Christian Education of Children

WHEREAS, It is the primary purpose and function of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to preach and teach salvation, and,

WHEREAS, Such gospel proclamation should be done as forcefully, convincingly, efficiently, effectively, and fittingly as possible, and,

WHEREAS, The proclamation of salvation to children must take into account their unique experience and maturity levels, and,

WHEREAS, Today's children are the Church's congregations of tomorrow, which will exist in a period of cultural decline, and,

WHEREAS, The Church's future survival (humanly speaking) lies in the hands of the children of today, and,

WHEREAS, children are in the formative, most malleable years of their lives, when the character of adult behavior and belief is molded, and,

WHEREAS, We are enjoined by God to "Train up a child in the way he should go," so that "when he is old, he will not depart from it," and,

WHEREAS Secular schools do not train up our children to go in the "way", and,

WHEREAS, Our children in the secular schools are, in fact, daily exposed to and conditioned by the philosophies, beliefs, and behaviors of atheism, materialism, and hedonism, and,

WHEREAS, Such beliefs, and behaviors imperil precious souls, and,

WHEREAS, Our fathers and mothers seek and need effective support in meeting their sacred obligations to rear their children to fear and love God, and,

WHEREAS, The ELS needs to accept an expanded role in making a Christian education available to its children everywhere, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the ELS declare the elementary school education of its children to be its second highest operational priority, after the preaching of salvation, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod undertake an aggressive program to raise the expectations for and commitment to the Christian education of all its children, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That, to this end, the synod commit itself to establish and operate parish elementary schools at a minimum rate of ten (10) per five-year period for the next fifty (50) years, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the ELS immediately establish an educational foundation to solicit, receive, manage and dispense funds for this mission for children, and,

- E. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod in convention instruct Bethany Lutheran College to formulate educational programs, curricula, and instructional materials, and to train and provide teachers and administrators for this endeavor, and,
F. BE IT RESOLVED That we invoke our Lord's blessing on this effort and move forward, confident of our success under His guiding hand.

*Submitted by:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Scottsdale, Arizona*

Subject: *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*

- WHEREAS, It could be beneficial to have the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* available on CD Rom, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee consider the possibility of putting the *ELH* on a CD Rom-Disk.

*Submitted by
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Myrtle Creek, Oregon*

Subject: *Digitization of the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*

- WHEREAS, It is getting more difficult to find organists in smaller and rural congregations, and,
WHEREAS, The music of the hymns and the liturgy is a vital part of confessional Lutheran worship, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That we ask the synod to produce the hymns and liturgy from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* in digital, downloadable, or other electronic form so that, with a computer, even the smallest congregations could benefit from the use of the entire hymnary, and,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the final product of this endeavor be made available to the congregations of our fellowship at a nominal cost.

*Submitted by:
First Shell Rock Lutheran Church, Northwood, Iowa
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Riceville, Iowa
Lake Mills Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa
Lime Creek Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa
Somber Lutheran Church, Northwood, Iowa*

Subject: *Synodical Name Change*

- WHEREAS, Our ELS was given the name Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,
WHEREAS, We are so commonly confused with the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), and,
WHEREAS, Our churches are so often placed in publications such as newspapers and telephone directories together. and,
WHEREAS, The ELCA cannot be considered confessional Lutheran because they no longer profess the scriptures to be the inerrant, inspired Word of God, and,
WHEREAS, The ELCA is on the threshold of accepting homosexual members and clergy as the norm in the church body, and,
WHEREAS, We oppose the homosexual lifestyle as being sinful as is stated in both the Old and New Testaments (Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, Leviticus 18:22, and Leviticus 20:13), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That so we are not confused with the ELCA, the word “The” be included in our synod name to state “The Evangelical Lutheran Synod” (TELS).

*Submitted by
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Cold Spring, MN*

Subject: Inclusion of Male Teachers in the ELS Convention Business

WHEREAS, The Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Article VIII (*Handbook*, p. 4-B) state that, “...At such meetings, the lay delegates of the congregations of this synod and every pastor of such congregations and such other persons as the corporation’s constitution and bylaws may determine shall be entitled to vote...” and,

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Chapter II (p.6-A) states that, “The synod consists of those congregations and individuals who subscribe to this constitution and have been accepted into membership,” and,

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Chapter II, Paragraph 2, a), 4) (p.6-C), state that, “An individual wishing to join the synod shall make application to the president. The application shall be accompanied by a declaration of unconditional subscription to the synod’s confessions and teachings, and to its constitution and bylaws. Such application shall be made by male teachers who serve schools of member congregations,” and,

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Chapter IV, Paragraph 2 (p. 6-C) state that, “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. That the pastors serving member congregations who are in attendance at the convention and the properly seated delegates constitute the voting membership of the convention...” and,

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Chapter VI, Paragraph 4 (p. 6-D) state that, “Male members holding individual membership in the synod are advisory to the convention and may serve on its committees...” and,

WHEREAS, The Guidelines for Equalization of Expenses for the Annual Convention and General Pastoral Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Article II, A, 2, f (p. 12-A) state that, “If they request, the following may be included in equalization for both the convention and the conference: f. Exception: Male teachers serving schools of member congregations shall be included for the convention only,” and,

WHEREAS, The aforementioned Guidelines for Equalization, Article II, B, 1 (p. 12-A) state that, “Each congregation is expected to pay the equalization for its pastor(s) and male teacher(s), and,

WHEREAS, Presently not all the male teachers serving member congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, have made application for synodical membership, and,

WHEREAS, Past conventions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod demonstrate that many of the male teachers serving in member congregations are in attendance at the conventions, and,

WHEREAS, Presently the male teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod serving member congregations do not receive convention information and registration forms, and,

WHEREAS, Presently the male teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod serving member congregations are not appointed to convention committees, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president of our synod invite the male teachers serving member congregations of our synod to apply for synodical membership, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the male teachers serving member congregations of our synod be encouraged by their president, circuit visitors, pastors and congregations to be in attendance, if at all possible, at synod conventions, and,

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That male teachers serving member congregations of our synod who are in attendance at the synod convention be assigned to serve on a convention committee by input and vote, and,
- D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the equalization provisions be applied to the male teachers who are in attendance at the synod convention.

*Submitted by:
King of Grace Lutheran Church
Golden Valley, Minnesota*



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATISTICS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Review**

December 31, 2002

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Accountants' Review Report	1
Statements of Financial Position	2
Statements of Activities	3 – 4
Statements of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6 – 10



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Phone: 507.388.1641

ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

Board of Trustees
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Mankato, Minnesota

We have reviewed the accompanying Statement of Financial Position of Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related Statement of Activities and Cash Flows for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

A review consists principally of inquiries of synod personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, with the exception of the matter described in the following paragraph, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements, management has elected to include with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod property, plant, and equipment, certain land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, which have also been recorded in the College and Seminary financial statements. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the financial statements would reduce property, plant, and equipment and permanently restricted net assets by approximately \$42,000,000.


Certified Public Accountants

Mankato, Minnesota
May 9, 2003

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31,

2002 2001

ASSETS

Cash	\$204,756	\$251,693
Accounts receivable	12,383	20,249
Interest receivable	16,850	8,273
Inventory of publications	90,241	99,000
Prepaid expenses	67,228	18,983
Current portion of loans receivable	1,199,194	194,621
Loans receivable	2,805,331	3,268,375
Investments	9,508,484	11,673,414
Property, plant, and equipment, net	<u>42,873,974</u>	<u>31,652,183</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$56,778,441</u></u>	<u><u>\$47,186,791</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$111,153	\$83,310
Interest payable	10,251	5,862
Other liabilities	65,120	29,004
Notes payable	1,119,114	1,139,803
Charitable gift annuity	156,027	161,670
Current portion of mortgages payable	53,028	46,299
Mortgages payable	<u>681,394</u>	<u>731,554</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>2,196,087</u>	<u>2,197,502</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted		
Designated	2,560,784	3,227,855
Undesignated	324,264	371,643
Temporarily restricted	5,259,039	6,020,029
Permanently restricted	<u>46,438,267</u>	<u>35,369,762</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>54,582,354</u>	<u>44,989,289</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>\$56,778,441</u></u>	<u><u>\$47,186,791</u></u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$921,078	\$180,045		\$1,101,123
Estate, trusts, and memorials	68,938			68,938
Aid Association for Lutherans	13,400			13,400
Lutheran Brotherhood	40,000			40,000
Helping Hands	301,653			301,653
Schwan funds	1,075,000			1,075,000
Others	18,035			18,035
Interest	5,245	255,275		260,520
Investment income	77,876	251,627		329,503
Rent and royalties	83			83
Publications	29,813			29,813
Registration fees	38,085			38,085
Subscriptions	48,985			48,985
Sale of real property	105,991			105,991
Unrealized losses on long-term investments	(390,605)	(1,155,190)		(1,545,795)
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>292,747</u>	<u>(292,747)</u>		
	<u>2,646,324</u>	<u>(760,990)</u>		<u>1,885,334</u>
EXPENSES				
Bethany Lutheran College	455,900			455,900
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	61,200			61,200
Christian services	89,428			89,428
Church extension	264,737			264,737
Education and youth	173,723			173,723
Evangelism	18,154			18,154
Foreign missions	870,318			870,318
Home missions	649,582			649,582
Publications	116,425			116,425
Synod Fund	554,194			554,194
Other programs and costs	88,799			88,799
Depreciation	<u>18,314</u>			<u>18,314</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>3,360,774</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>3,360,774</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(714,450)	(760,990)	\$0	(1,475,440)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	<u>3,599,498</u>	<u>6,020,029</u>	<u>35,369,762</u>	<u>44,989,289</u>
Additions and Improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, funded by gifts and grants to the College, net of depreciation, disposals, and the Schwan Retreat Center			<u>11,068,505</u>	<u>11,068,505</u>
NET ASSETS, END	<u>\$2,885,048</u>	<u>\$5,259,039</u>	<u>\$46,438,267</u>	<u>\$54,582,354</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2001

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$907,549	\$321,614		\$1,229,163
Estate, trusts, and memorials	15,970	11,839		27,809
Aid Association for Lutherans	25,000			25,000
Lutheran Brotherhood	31,900			31,900
Helping Hands	352,524			352,524
Schwan funds	1,090,000	20,000		1,110,000
Interest	4,371	243,882		248,253
Investment income	87,234	263,912		351,146
Rent and royalties	15,454			15,454
Publications	31,127			31,127
Subscriptions	44,733			44,733
Unrealized losses on long-term investments	(194,731)	(588,198)		(782,929)
Net assets released from restrictions	978,417	(978,417)		
	<u>3,389,548</u>	<u>(705,368)</u>		<u>2,684,180</u>
EXPENSES				
Bethany Lutheran College	589,168			589,168
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	78,746			78,746
Christian services	122,127			122,127
Church extension	132,957			132,957
Education and youth	86,794			86,794
Evangelism	32,582			32,582
Foreign missions	874,792			874,792
Home missions	694,701			694,701
Publications	103,274			103,274
Synod Fund	563,130			563,130
Other programs and costs	72,747			72,747
Depreciation	13,284			13,284
	<u>3,364,312</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>3,364,312</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>3,364,312</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>3,364,312</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	25,236	(705,368)	\$0	(680,132)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	<u>969,170</u>	<u>8,488,119</u>	<u>43,252,230</u>	<u>52,709,519</u>
Additions and improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, funded by gifts and grants to the College, net of depreciation, disposals, and the Schwan Retreat Center				
			(6,835,895)	(6,835,895)
Prior years unrecorded depreciation	(201,102)			(201,102)
Fixed assets unrecorded in prior years	198,830			198,830
Reclassify charitable gift annuity to liability		(171,259)		(171,259)
Agency Fund balance reclassified to payables	(27,117)	30,886		3,769
Due to accounts reclassified to payables		(34,441)		(34,441)
Reclassified to temporarily restricted		2,056,573	(2,056,573)	
Reclassified to permanently restricted		(1,010,000)	1,010,000	
Reclassified to unrestricted	2,634,481	(2,634,481)		
	<u>2,634,481</u>	<u>(2,634,481)</u>		
NET ASSETS, END	<u>\$3,599,498</u>	<u>\$6,020,029</u>	<u>\$35,369,762</u>	<u>\$44,989,289</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	For the Year Ended December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(\$1,475,440)	(\$680,132)
<i>Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities</i>		
Depreciation	18,314	13,284
Gain on sale of building	(106,968)	
Bad debt expense	140,000	
Amortization of discount on charitable gift annuities	15,132	11,328
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	1,545,795	782,929
<i>(Increase) decrease in</i>		
Accounts receivable	7,866	86,522
Interest receivable	(8,577)	(8,273)
Inventory of publications	8,759	(43,878)
Prepaid expenses	(48,245)	(18,983)
Investments	(230,865)	(266,652)
<i>Increase (decrease) in</i>		
Accounts payable	27,843	(40,679)
Interest payable	4,389	2,261
Other liabilities	36,116	4,485
NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>(65,881)</u>	<u>(157,788)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds of investments	850,000	452,000
Loans to congregations	(860,911)	(594,000)
Repayment of loans	179,382	
Purchase of furniture and vehicle	(34,790)	
Purchase of building improvements	(197,842)	
Proceeds from sale of building	168,000	
Reduction of notes receivable		164,306
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>103,839</u>	<u>22,306</u>
CASH USED FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of mortgages and notes	(70,304)	(67,476)
Payments of charitable gift annuities	(20,775)	(20,916)
Additional notes and accumulated interest	6,148	7,898
Accumulated interest on life loans	36	33
Proceeds from mortgages		180,000
Lapse of life loans		(40,000)
Withdrawal of loan		(1,500)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR) FINANCING ACTIVITIES	<u>(84,895)</u>	<u>58,039</u>
DECREASE IN CASH	(46,937)	(77,443)
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>251,693</u>	<u>329,136</u>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$204,756</u>	<u>\$251,693</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION		
Cash paid for interest	\$128,830	\$139,833
Noncash acquisition of property, plant, and equipment	11,068,505	6,835,895

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
Mankato, Minnesota

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant accounting policies -

Organization - The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Synod) is a national nonprofit organization of Lutheran congregations. The Synod exists to carry out the command of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20), to contend for the faith (Jude 3), and to promote the development of Christian life (Galatians 5:22-25) within its membership. This is accomplished by providing programs and support for various church purposes and responsibilities such as evangelism, foreign and home missions, education, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Related organizations include Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Basis of accounting - The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting conforming to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America applicable to not-for-profit organizations except:

- 1) The Synod has elected to include in their financial statements certain land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- 2) The Synod has classified the land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary as part of permanently restricted net assets.

Basis of representation - Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in its Statement of Financial Standards (SFAS) No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Under SFAS No. 117, the Synod is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following three classes of net assets:

Unrestricted net assets represent the portion of expendable funds that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations and are available for support of operations of the Synod.

Temporarily restricted net assets are subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met, either by actions of the Synod and/or the passage of time when a restriction expires. Temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets are released from restrictions.

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions that have been restricted by the donor that stipulate the resources be maintained permanently by the Synod. Generally, the donor's permit the Synod to use all or part of the income derived from the donated assets for either specified or unspecified purposes. Also, certain land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary have been included as noted above in basis of accounting.

Cash and cash equivalents - For purposes of the Statements of Cash Flows, the Synod considers all highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. At December 31, 2002 and 2001, the Synod had cash deposits of \$486,210 and \$151,493, respectively, in excess of federal insurance limits.

Charitable gift annuity agreements - The Synod has agreements with donors classified as charitable gift annuities. In general, under these agreements the Synod receives a gift from a donor in which it has a remainder interest and agrees to pay the donor stipulated amounts over the donor's life. The Synod invests and administers the related assets and makes distributions to the beneficiaries as required. Upon the death of the donor, remaining assets are retained by the Synod as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted net assets.

The Synod records these charitable gift annuities at market value with a corresponding liability recorded for the actuarially determined present value of payments to be made to the donor. The actuarial liability is adjusted annually using the IRS life expectancy tables based on the donor's age.

Assets held by the Synod under the charitable gift agreements as of December 31, 2002 and 2001 total \$354,510 and \$332,060, respectively, and are included in investments on the statements of financial position.

Income tax status - The Synod is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Inventory - Inventories consist of publications held for sale and are reported at lower of cost or market.

Investments - Generally, marketable securities and fixed rate investments are recorded at fair value. Lutheran Association Church Extension certificates are stated at cost as market value is not determinable. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets in the accompanying Statement of Activities.

Certain investment accounts are pooled and maintained by the Synod. Realized and unrealized gains and losses from securities in the pooled investment accounts are allocated annually to the individual funds based on the relationship of the market value of each individual investment account to the total market value of the pooled investment accounts.

Property and equipment - Acquisitions of property, equipment, and improvements that materially prolong the useful lives of assets are capitalized and carried at cost. Depreciation is computed using primarily the straight-line method.

The Synod has vested ownership rights in the real estate held by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. For a nominal fee, the Synod leases the real estate to Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Seminary under a long-term capital lease with initial duration of 99 years.

Use of estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Investments

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
U.S. Treasury instruments and funds	\$51,469	\$111,202
Corporate bonds and bond funds	2,975,335	2,491,822
Domestic equity and equity funds	4,190,495	6,388,606
Foreign equity funds	568,750	693,661
Real estate funds	799,575	792,000
Short-term money funds and other	660,200	991,123
Lutheran Association for Church Extension, Inc., certificates	205,000	205,000
Mutual funds	57,032	
Corporate stock	628	
	<u>628</u>	
	<u>\$9,508,484</u>	<u>\$11,673,414</u>

Investment return is summarized as follows:

Realized gains	\$329,503	\$351,146
Unrealized losses	<u>(1,545,795)</u>	<u>(782,929)</u>
Total	<u>(\$1,216,292)</u>	<u>(\$431,783)</u>

3. Loans and notes receivable -

Loans receivable consist of various secured and unsecured loans advanced to member congregations primarily for land, construction, or building purchase. Interest rates are from 1-10% per annum. The Synod subsidized 25% to 90% of the interest on loans to mission congregations.

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Beginning balance	\$3,462,996	\$3,005,014
Additions	860,911	622,289
Payments received	<u>(179,382)</u>	<u>(164,307)</u>
Ending balance	4,144,525	3,462,996
Current portion	(1,199,194)	(194,621)
Allowance for bad debts	<u>(140,000)</u>	
	<u>\$2,805,331</u>	<u>\$3,268,375</u>

Loan receivables of approximately \$18,000 and \$6,500 were over 90 days past due at December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. There were no outstanding receivable balances accruing interest.

An allowance for uncollectible accounts is estimated by management based on an assessment of receivable aging, credit worthiness of customers, and historical bad debts. However, if the financial condition of any customer was to deteriorate and their ability to make required payments is impaired, increases in the allowance may be required.

4. Property, plant, and equipment -

	For the Year Ended			Total
	12/31/02	6/30/02	6/30/02	
	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Bethany Lutheran College	Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	
Land and land improvements	\$421,531	\$6,783,459	\$11,500	\$7,216,490
Buildings	644,095	40,627,691	2,718,902	43,990,688
Equipment	34,789			34,789
	<u>1,100,415</u>	<u>47,411,150</u>	<u>2,730,402</u>	<u>51,241,967</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	(188,731)	(8,173,259)		(8,361,990)
Debt secured by real estate		(6,003)		(6,003)
	<u>\$911,684</u>	<u>\$39,231,888</u>	<u>\$2,730,402</u>	<u>\$42,873,974</u>

	For the Year Ended			Total
	12/31/01	6/30/01	6/30/01	
Land and land improvements	\$193,910	\$6,108,058	\$11,500	\$6,313,468
Buildings	778,873	29,174,548	2,718,902	32,672,323
	<u>972,783</u>	<u>35,282,606</u>	<u>2,730,402</u>	<u>38,985,791</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	(214,385)	(7,106,508)		(7,320,893)
Debt secured by real estate		(12,715)		(12,715)
	<u>\$758,398</u>	<u>\$28,163,383</u>	<u>\$2,730,402</u>	<u>\$31,652,183</u>

5. Notes payable -

	December 31,	
	2002	2001
Demand promissory notes payable to the Marvin Schwan Foundation; interest rate 7% per annum	\$537,770	\$564,643
Unsecured working capital demand loan from a congregation; interest rate 6% per annum	100,000	100,000
Investment program notes, unsecured, amounts loaned by individuals, congregations, and organizations for varying periods; interest rates at 0 - 6% per annum	474,183	468,035
Life Loan Plan notes, unsecured, amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from 5 - 6% per annum	<u>7,161</u>	<u>7,125</u>
	<u>\$1,119,114</u>	<u>\$1,139,803</u>

6. Mortgages payable -

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
<i>Payable to Aid Association for Lutherans</i>		
8.125% mortgage, due in monthly installments of \$2,723, including interest through September 1, 2013, secured by a Deed of Trust on the land	\$233,676	\$246,782
8% mortgage, due in monthly installments of \$2,384, including interest through May 2010, secured by real estate and other property	196,188	207,565
<i>Payable to Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation</i>		
8% mortgage, due in monthly installments of \$3,823 including interest through May 15, 2012, secured by a mortgage deed on real estate	<u>304,558</u>	<u>323,506</u>
	734,422	777,853
Less current portion	<u>(53,028)</u>	<u>(46,299)</u>
	<u>\$681,394</u>	<u>\$731,554</u>

Future schedule maturities of the above debt are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	
2003	\$53,028
2004	54,342
2005	58,873
2006	63,782
2007	69,100
Thereafter	<u>435,297</u>
	<u>\$734,422</u>

7. Contingencies -

As of December 31, 2002, the Synod is contingently liable to the extent of \$1,126,000 as guarantor of the indebtedness for the following congregations: Bethany - Port Orchard, Washington; Christ - Windsor, California; Our Savior - Lakeland, Florida; and Parkland - Tacoma, Washington.

8. Subsequent event -

Subsequent to December 31, 2002, the Synod has been named in a lawsuit which involves an Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation in Florida. Because the Synod has received no direct benefit; the Synod's attorney is seeking dismissal of this lawsuit.

9. Designations and restrictions on net asset balances -

Designation of unrestricted funds consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Home Missions	\$96,289	\$16,520
Foreign Missions	853,832	1,479,459
Property, plant, and equipment	717,775	564,489
ELS Foundation	356,355	424,166
Projects and Grants	37,191	184,303
Christian Day School	86,302	131,075
Evangelism	120,494	115,785
Youth	84,786	67,676
Seminary, special tax assessment	54,112	67,208
Pension Plan	53,165	47,525
Christian Service	47,374	45,893
Book of Family Prayer	21,323	34,388
Parish Education	40,036	21,614
Publications	6,298	17,562
World Needs	5,384	10,154
Board for Education and Youth	68	38
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	<u>\$2,560,784</u>	<u>\$3,227,855</u>

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Church Extension	\$279,703	\$426,407
Merle R. Aasen Estate	10,968	12,475
President's Office	56,226	179,981
Marvin and Delores Schwan		111,963
Partners in the Gospel	72,053	155,550
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment		19,245
Foreign Mission Seminary	1,736	208,711
General Foreign Mission	484,521	83,980
Charitable Gift Annuity	74,268	46,175
Home Mission Reserve	192,449	216,381
Home Mission Expansion	3,236,845	3,717,298
His Truth for Our Youth		37,180
PreSchool		11
Celebrate 2000	191,015	11,896
ELS Foundation	659,255	792,776
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	<u>\$5,259,039</u>	<u>\$6,020,029</u>

Permanently restricted net assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
President's Office	\$600,000	\$600,000
Marvin and Delores Schwan	600,000	600,000
Partners in the Gospel	1,755,977	1,755,977
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	100,000	100,000
Foreign Mission Seminary	1,000,000	1,000,000
His Truth for Our Youth	410,000	410,000
PreSchool	10,000	10,000
Bethany Lutheran College Property	39,231,888	28,163,383
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	2,730,402	2,730,402
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	<u>\$46,438,267</u>	<u>\$35,369,762</u>

TREASURER'S SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Management Representation Letter	1-2
Balance Sheet (Exhibit I)	3-4
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance -Operating Funds (Exhibit II)	5-6
Summary of Financial Activities (Exhibit III)	7-10
Summary of Financial Activities by Fund (Exhibit IV)	11-16
Notes to Financial Statements (Exhibit V)	17-19
Fund Descriptions For ELS Foundation (Exhibit VI)	20-21
Loans Receivable (Schedule A)	22
Balance Sheet & Changes in Fund Balance -Foundation Funds (Schedule B)	23-24
Mortgages Payable (Schedule C)	25



**Evangelical
Lutheran Synod**

www.evluhsyn.org

OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/TREASURER
Keith D. Wiederhoeft

6 Browns Court Mankato, MN 56001 507/344-7395 Fax 507/344-7426 Keithw@blc.edu

May 9, 2003

Peterson & Company, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
209 South Second Street Suite 407
Mankato, MN 56001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In connection with your reviews of the financial statements of Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the years then ended for the purpose of expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America except for including in the Synod's financial statements certain land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and for classifying these assets as permanently restricted net assets as disclosed in Note 1 of the financial statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your review.

1. The financial statements referred to above present the financial position, results of operations, and cash flows of Evangelical Lutheran Synod in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America except for the matters described above and in Note 1 of the financial statements. In that connection, we specifically confirm that—
 - a. The Synod's accounting principles, and the practices and methods followed in applying them, are as disclosed in the financial statements.
 - b. There have been no changes during the year in the Synod's accounting principles and practices.
 - c. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
 - d. There are no material transactions that have not been properly reflected in the financial statements.
 - e. There are no violations or possible violations of laws or regulations whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, and there are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed.
 - f. The Synod has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged.
 - g. There are no related party transactions, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements.
 - h. We have compiled with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
 - i. No events have occurred subsequent to the balance sheet date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
 - j. There are no unasserted claims or assessments that lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5.

- k. There are no guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the company is contingently liable that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements.
 - l. We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions underlying those estimates, and we believe the estimates are reasonable in the circumstances.
 - m. There are no such estimates that may be subject to material change in the near-term that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements. We understand that *near-term* means the period within one year of the date of the financial statements. In addition, we have no knowledge of concentrations existing at the date of the financial statements that make the company vulnerable to the risk of a near-term severe impact that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements.
2. We have advised you of all actions taken at meetings of directors and committees of the board of directors that may affect the financial statements.
 3. We have responded fully to all inquiries made to us by you during your review.

Name: Keith Wiedenhaupt

Title: Business Adm./Treasurer

BALANCE SHEETEvangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002**EXHIBIT I**

Page 1 of 2

	GENERAL FUND (1)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND (2)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE (3)	BETHANY LUTH. THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (4)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE (5)	HOME MISSIONS (6)	FOREIGN MISSIONS (7)	AGENCY (9)
ASSETS								
Cash - checking account	\$12,292.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,075.95
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	2,383.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Receivable	0.00	2,534.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory of publications	90,240.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prepaid expenses	10,994.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,018.30	47,215.89	0.00
Investments:								
Investment management accounts	873,802.54	54,679.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,785.08	831,672.19	0.00
Loans receivable from congregations (Sched A)	0.00	1,979,198.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	99,814.32	0.00	22,616.99
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)	0.00	0.00	47,405,147.09	2,730,402.00	906,505.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accumulated Depreciation	0.00	0.00	(8,173,259.16)	0.00	(188,730.74)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	989,713.22	2,036,413.38	39,231,887.93	2,730,402.00	717,774.95	116,617.70	878,888.08	24,692.94
Due from (to) other funds	136,268.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total assets	\$1,125,981.59	\$2,036,413.38	\$39,231,887.93	\$2,730,402.00	\$717,774.95	\$116,617.70	\$878,888.08	\$24,692.94
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES								
Liabilities:								
Notes payable: (Note D)								
Working capital	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investment program	0.00	474,183.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Life Loan Plan	7,161.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounts payable	81,735.35	83.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,057.08	24,555.96	24,692.94
Accrued interest payable	0.00	10,250.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,600.00	0.00	0.00
Charity Gift Annuity Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mortgages payable (Sched C)	0.00	1,272,192.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities	24,048.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Total liabilities	212,944.92	1,756,709.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,657.08	25,055.96	24,692.94
Fund balances:								
Unrestricted - Designated (Note E)	536,534.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95,960.62	438,676.32	0.00
Unrestricted (Note F)	376,502.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	717,774.95	0.00	415,155.80	0.00
Permanently Restricted (Note G)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily Restricted (Note H)	0.00	279,704.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net investment in real estate and buildings	0.00	0.00	39,231,887.93	2,730,402.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total fund balances	913,036.67	279,704.08	39,231,887.93	2,730,402.00	717,774.95	95,960.62	853,832.12	0.00
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$1,125,981.59	\$2,036,413.38	\$39,231,887.93	\$2,730,402.00	\$717,774.95	\$116,617.70	\$878,888.08	\$24,692.94

BALANCE SHEETEvangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002**EXHIBIT**

Page 2 of 2

<u>ASSETS</u>	CELBRATE 2000 FUND (32)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Cash - checking account	\$190,387.33	\$0.00	\$204,755.99
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	0.00	10,000.00	12,383.19
Interest Receivable	0.00	14,314.15	16,848.98
Inventory of publications	0.00	0.00	90,240.62
Prepaid expenses	0.00	0.00	67,228.35
Investments:			
Investment management accounts	627.17	7,718,917.30	9,487,483.93
Loans receivable from congregations (Sched A)	0.00	1,902,895.45	4,004,525.66
Notes receivable	0.00	21,000.00	21,000.00
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)	0.00	193,909.51	51,235,964.29
Accumulated Depreciation	0.00	0.00	(8,361,989.90)
	<u>191,014.50</u>	<u>9,861,036.41</u>	<u>56,778,441.11</u>
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	(136,268.37)	0.00
Total assets	<u>\$191,014.50</u>	<u>\$9,724,768.04</u>	<u>\$56,778,441.11</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>			
Liabilities:			
Notes payable: (Note D)			
Working capital	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Investment program	0.00	0.00	474,183.26
Life Loan Plan	0.00	0.00	7,161.25
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00	138,124.55
Accrued interest payable	0.00	0.00	10,250.50
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	13,600.00
Charity Gift Annuity Payable	0.00	156,026.93	156,026.93
Mortgages payable (Sched C)	0.00	0.00	1,272,192.32
Other Liabilities	0.00	0.00	24,548.32
Total liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>156,026.93</u>	<u>2,196,087.13</u>
Fund balances:			
Unrestricted - Designated (Note E)	0.00	0.00	1,071,171.41
Unrestricted (Note F)	0.00	304,443.93	1,813,876.88
Permanently Restricted (Note G)	0.00	4,475,976.41	4,475,976.41
Temporarily Restricted (Note H)	191,014.50	4,788,320.77	5,259,039.35
Net investment in real estate and buildings	0.00	0.00	41,962,289.93
Total fund balances	<u>191,014.50</u>	<u>9,568,741.11</u>	<u>54,582,353.98</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	<u>\$191,014.50</u>	<u>\$9,724,768.04</u>	<u>\$56,778,441.11</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT II

Page 1 of 2

	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	HOME MISSIONS (6)	FOREIGN MISSIONS (7)	AGENCY (9)
Balance 12/31/2001								
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	28,176,098.22	2,395,086.53	528,484.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily Restricted		426,407.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted	371,643.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,143.00	1,089,377.58	0.00
Unrestricted - Designated	743,221.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,623.01)	390,081.72	0.00
TOTAL	1,114,864.41	426,407.07	28,176,098.22	2,395,086.53	528,484.00	16,519.99	1,479,459.30	
ADD:								
Contributions - Net	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Services	(11,718.63)	(1,100.20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(282.31)	(8,872.93)	0.00
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reclassification of Fixed Assets								
Sale of Lori Lane House	103,390.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reclassify Equipment & Construction								
Browns Court House	(224,181.68)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions								
Market value gains (losses)	(186,480.09)	(17,507.64)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,492.47)	(141,196.04)	0.00
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	117,162.91	(128,095.15)	0.00	0.00	(18,314.12)	84,215.41	(467,108.21)	0.00
	(201,826.74)	(146,702.99)	0.00	0.00	(18,314.12)	79,440.63	(617,177.18)	0.00
	913,037.67	279,704.08	28,176,098.22	2,395,086.53	510,169.88	95,960.62	862,282.12	0.00
DEDUCT:								
Ajustment	0.00	0.00	(11,061,792.71)	(335,315.47)	(207,605.07)	0.00	8,450.00	0.00
Debt Secured by Real Estate	0.00	0.00	6,003.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	(11,055,789.71)	(335,315.47)	(207,605.07)	0.00	8,450.00	0.00
Balance 12/31/2002								
Permanently Restricted	0.00	0.00	\$39,231,887.93	\$2,730,402.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily Restricted	\$0.00	\$279,704.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted	376,502.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	717,774.95	\$95,960.62	\$438,676.32	\$0.00
Unrestricted - Designated	536,534.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	415,155.80	0.00
Total	\$913,036.67	\$279,704.08	\$39,231,887.93	\$2,730,402.00	\$717,774.95	\$95,960.62	\$853,832.12	\$0.00

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCESEvangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002**EXHIBIT II**

Page 2 of 2

	CELBRATE 2000 FUND (32)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Balance 12/31/2001			
Permanently Restricted	0.00	4,475,976.41	35,575,645.16
Temporarily Restricted	11,895.91	5,581,725.81	6,020,028.79
Unrestricted	0.00	424,166.43	1,903,330.09
Unrestricted - Designated	0.00	0.00	1,131,680.04
TOTAL	11,895.91	10,481,868.65	44,630,684.08
ADD:			
Contributions - Net	0.00	472,589.19	472,589.19
Income	0.00	383,309.13	383,309.13
Investment Services	0.00	(77,174.87)	(99,148.94)
Annuity amortization	0.00	(15,131.73)	(15,131.73)
Reclassification of Fixed Assets			
Sale of Lori Lane House	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reclassify Equipment & Construction			
Browns Court House	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions		(480,484.38)	(480,484.38)
Market value gains (losses)	115.98	(1,196,234.88)	(1,545,795.14)
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	179,002.61	0.00	(233,136.55)
	179,118.59	(913,127.54)	(1,517,798.42)
	191,014.50	9,568,741.11	43,112,885.66
DEDUCT:			
Adjustment	0.00	0.00	(11,596,263.25)
Debt Secured by Real Estate	0.00	0.00	6,003.00
	0.00	0.00	(11,590,260.25)
Balance 12/31/2002			
Permanently Restricted	0.00	\$4,475,976.41	46,438,266.34
Temporarily Restricted	191,014.50	\$4,788,320.77	5,259,039.35
Unrestricted	\$0.00	\$304,443.93	1,933,358.02
Unrestricted - Designated	0.00	0.00	951,690.27
Total	\$191,014.50	\$9,568,741.11	54,582,353.98

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIESEvangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002**EXHIBIT III**

Page 1 of 3

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Statement of Activities
12/31/2002****INCOME**

4001 General	919,685.69
4002 Designated	21,697.92
4051 Organization General	112,210.44
4052 Organization Designated	15,933.06
4090 Investment Portfolio Income	329,503.23
4092 Interest	260,519.74
4093 Rent	0.00
4095 Gen/Individual Gifts & Bequests	25,621.81
4096 Designated/Individual Gifts	5,974.27
4099 Miscellaneous	4,043.86
4201 Schwan Program	1,000,000.00
4202 Schwan Projects	75,000.00
4301 AAL	13,400.00
4302 Lutheran Brotherhood	40,000.00
4500 Estates/Trusts	18,600.00
4501 Estates/Trusts Designated	44,777.71
4600 Gen/Memorials	5,485.00
4601 Designated/Memorials	75.00
4700 Gen/Helping Hands	289,652.76
4701 Designated/Helping Hands	12,000.00
4920 Registration/Fees	38,085.00
4921 Subscriptions	48,985.35
4922 Sale of Publications	29,813.38
4923 Sale of Real Property	105,990.75
4927 Royalties	83.17
4928 FM Vehicle Use	3,990.96
4930 Seminary Salary Reimbursement	10,000.00
4999 Unrealized loss	<u>(1,545,795.14)</u>
Total Income	1,885,333.96

EXPENSES

5110 Salaries/Admin/Sup	(497,538.65)
5120 Salaries/Clerical	(28,135.06)
5205 Moving Expenses	(27,796.83)
5210 Housing & Furnishing Allow.	(101,909.21)
5211 Furlough Expense	(20,770.52)
5214 Student Travel	(2,417.50)
5215 School Tuition	(8,290.08)
5216 Language/Culture Study	(8,244.08)
5220 FICA/Medicare	(5,272.60)
5225 Health/Disability Insurance	(85,092.23)
5230 Life Insurance	(1,169.10)
5232 Dental Insurance	(959.68)
5240 Tax Sheltered Annuities	(23,260.50)
5245 Workers Compensation	(2,645.00)
5250 Other Employee Benefits	(1,054.70)
5305 Investment Services	(99,148.94)
5307 Secretarial/Office Services	(9,600.00)
5310 Auditor Services	(13,453.34)
5312 Architecture Services	0.00

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

EXPENSES (cont.)

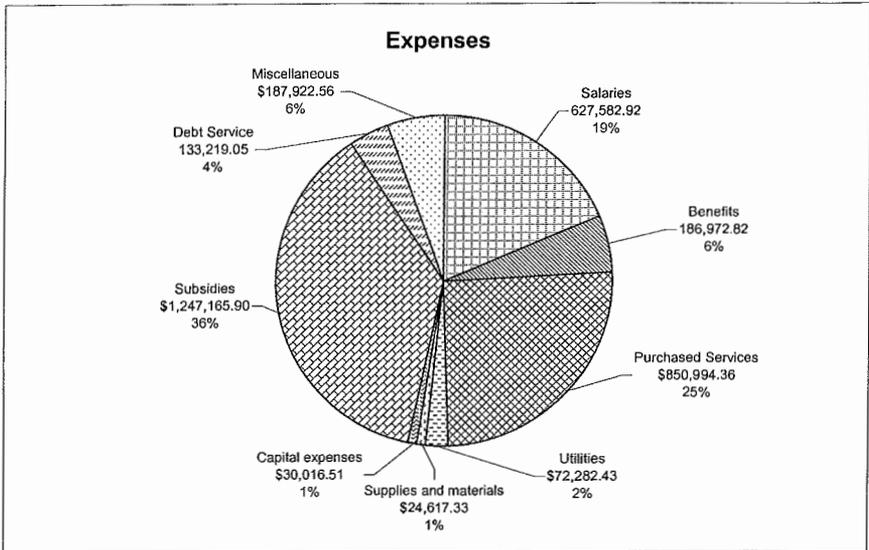
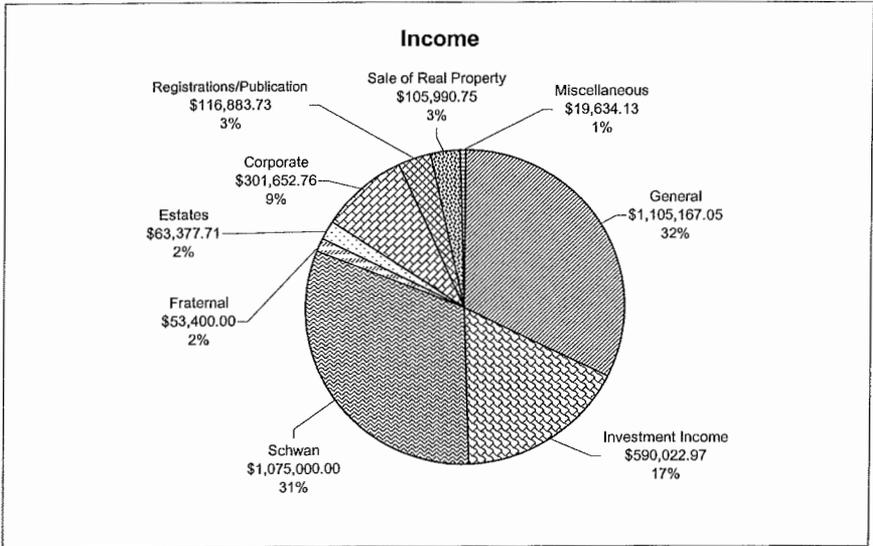
5315 Legal Services	(21,797.74)
5317 Other Professional Services	(13,358.72)
5320 Printing & Publishing	(130,250.63)
5321 Printing & Publishing/Book of Family Prayer	(1,844.13)
5330 Communication Services	(4,486.58)
5335 Postage & Parcel Services	(30,903.54)
5345 Workers Compensation Ins	(2,192.00)
5346 Commercial Multi-Peril	(3,843.00)
5347 Umbrella Liability	(283.34)
5350 Repairs & Maintenance	(11,605.60)
5351 Maintenance Contracts	(1,174.19)
5354 Travel/Meals/Lodging	0.00
5355 Travel/Meals/Lodging	(223,143.63)
5356 Travel/Meals/Lodging	(171.01)
5356 Auto Expenses	(19,092.00)
5360 Registration Fees	(601.00)
5365 Leases or Rentals	(43,395.00)
5370 Advertising	(953.26)
5380 Stipend	(17,850.00)
5390 Payment to Others	(84,468.87)
5391 Payment to Others Designated	(117,377.84)
5340 Combined Utilities	(66,036.34)
5341 Heat	(2,392.62)
5342 Light	(2,690.42)
5343 Cable	(342.92)
5344 Water/Sewer/Garbage	(820.13)
5405 Supplies & Materials	(18,321.15)
5406 Supplies & Materials	0.00
5440 Auto Expenses	(1,826.53)
5460 Publications/Subscriptions	(1,841.22)
5470 Books	(1,548.43)
5471 Books	(1,080.00)
5530 Equipment/Furniture	(4,355.01)
5531 Equipment/Furniture Spec Project	(378.60)
5540 Software/Upgrade Purchases	(282.90)
5550 Vehicle Purchases	(25,000.00)
5605 Advertising Support	(4,975.02)
5610 Operating Support	(485,724.90)
5611 Excess Schwam Program Funds	0.00
5612 Five Talents Campaign	(200,000.00)
5614 Faculty Housing Allowance Support	(84,000.00)
5620 Interest Support	(112,410.38)
5630 Maintenance Support	(72,749.88)
5635 Christian Education Support	(10,031.00)
5640 Parish Support	(20,400.00)
5650 National Pastors Support	(51,192.66)
5655 Seminary Support	(49,159.34)
5656 Vicarage Support	(6,818.18)
5660 LYA Travel Support	(5,750.00)
5661 Yourth Retreat Grant	(3,050.00)
5662 Continuing Education Grant	(2,196.00)
5663 Christian Day School	(114,100.00)
5670 Widow Support	(21,417.20)
5671 Pastor Retirement Support	(4,146.36)
5672 Group Term Insurance Support	955.02
5740 Interest	(133,219.05)

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT III
Page 3 of 3

<u>EXPENSES (cont.)</u>	
5820 Dues & Membership	(90.00)
5830 Property Taxes/Assessments	(14,400.44)
5889 Depreciation	(18,314.12)
5899 Miscellaneous	13.73
5989 Bad Debt	(140,000.00)
5999 Change in Charitable Gift Annuity	<u>(15,131.73)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>(3,360,773.88)</u>
Net Income	<u>(1,475,439.92)</u>

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Statement of Activities



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Menkaato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT IV
 Page 2 of 6

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 Statement of Activities
 12/31/02**

Number	Expenses (cont.)	Total	General	Church	Residences	Home	Foreign	Merit Assen	President's	Schwan	Partners	Whipple	Foreign
			1	Extension	& Real Estate	Missions	Missions	Estate	Office	Farewell	In the Gospel	Olson	Missionary
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5330	Printing & Publishing	(130,250.63)	(91,759.48)										
5321	Printing & Publishing/Book of Family Prayer	(1,844.13)	(1,844.13)										
5330	Communication Services	(4,486.58)	(3,915.61)				(101.64)						
5335	Postage & Parcel Services	(30,503.54)	(29,850.98)				(217.55)						
5345	Workers Compensation Ins	(2,192.00)											
5345	Commercial Multi-Peril	(3,843.00)											
5347	Umbrella Liability	(283.34)	(283.34)										
5350	Repairs & Maintenance	(11,605.60)	(5,712.94)										(5,892.66)
5351	Maintenance Contracts	(1,174.19)	(1,174.19)										
5354	Travel/Meals/Lodging	0.00											
5355	Travel/Meals/Lodging	(223,143.63)	(123,468.37)				(18,533.31)						(81,121.95)
5356	Travel/Meals/Lodging	(171.01)	(171.01)										
5356	Auto Expenses	(19,090.00)											(19,092.00)
5360	Registration Fees	(901.00)	(516.00)										(40.00)
5365	Leases of Rentals	(43,395.00)											(43,395.00)
5370	Advertising	(953.26)											(953.25)
5380	Slipend	(17,850.00)	(17,850.00)										
5390	Payment to Others	(84,468.87)	(82,263.87)										
5391	Payment to Others Designated	(117,377.84)	(4,845.19)					(1,530.00)					
5340	Combined Utilities	(86,036.34)						(40,600.00)					(71,932.65)
5341	Heat	(2,392.62)	(2,392.62)										(66,036.34)
5342	Light	(2,630.42)	(2,630.42)										
5343	Cable	(342.92)	(342.92)										
5344	Water/Sewer/Garbage	(820.13)	(820.13)										
5405	Supplies & Materials	(16,321.15)	(5,115.16)				(16.70)						(9,189.29)
5405	Supplies & Materials	0.00											
5440	Auto Expenses	(1,826.53)											(1,826.53)
5460	Publications/Subscriptions	(1,841.22)	(1,422.25)				(206.00)						(210.97)
5470	Books	(1,548.43)	(1,428.54)				(25.00)						(94.89)
5471	Books	(1,060.00)	(1,060.00)										
5530	Equipment/Furniture	(4,355.01)	(1,733.39)				(435.51)						(2,185.51)
5531	Equipment/Furniture Spec Project	(378.60)	(378.60)										
5540	Software/Upgrade Purchases	(266.30)	(195.00)										(67.90)
5550	Vehicle Purchases	(25,000.00)											(25,000.00)
5605	Advertising Support	(4,975.02)						(4,975.02)					
5810	Operating Support	(485,724.30)	(233,100.00)					(252,624.90)					
5811	Excess Schwan Program Funds	0.00											
5812	Five Talents Campaign	(200,000.00)	(200,000.00)										
5814	Faculty Housing Allowance Support	(84,000.00)	(84,000.00)										
5820	Interest Support	(112,410.38)					(112,410.38)						
5830	Maintenance Support	(72,749.88)						(72,749.88)					
5835	Christian Education Support	(10,031.00)											(10,031.00)
5840	Parish Support	(20,400.00)	(2,400.00)										
5850	National Pastors Support	(51,192.66)											(16,000.00)
5855	Seminary Support	(49,159.34)											(51,192.66)
5856	Vicarage Support	(6,818.18)											(49,159.34)
5860	LYA Travel Support	(5,750.00)	(5,750.00)				(6,818.18)						
5861	Youth Retreat Grant	(3,050.00)	(3,050.00)										
5862	Continuing Education Grant	(2,196.00)	(2,196.00)										
5863	Christian Day School	(114,100.00)											(114,100.00)
5870	Widow Support	(21,417.20)											(21,417.20)
5871	Pastor Retirement Support	(4,146.36)	(4,146.36)										
5872	Group Term Insurance Support	955.02	955.02										
5740	Interest	(133,219.05)	(5,585.53)		(123,636.53)								
5820	Dues & Membership	(90.00)	(90.00)										
5830	Property Taxes/Assessments	(14,400.44)	(13,252.80)										(1,107.64)
5889	Depreciation	(16,314.12)											
5899	Miscellaneous	13.73	(529.39)			(16,314.12)							
5910	Transfers	(948,491.55)	(703.37)					1,530.48					(732.26)
5889	Bad Debt	(1,000.00)			(140,000.00)			(1,234.99)					(467,008.51)

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Statement of Activities
12/31/02

Number	Expenses (cont.)	Total	General	Church	Residences	Home	Foreign	Merle Aasen	President's	Schwan	Partners	Whipple	Foreign
		(16,131.73)	1	Extension	& Real Estate	Missions	Missions	Estate	Office	Foreign	In the Gospel	Olson	Missionary
6900	Change in Charitable Gift Annuity			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Total Expenses	(4,310,265)	(1,496,055.37)	(264,737)	(18,314)	(650,877)	(1,337,327)	(110)	(45,324)	(44,289)	(50,060)	(7,418)	(75,190)
	Net Income	(1,475,439)	(38,677)	(145,703)	(16,314)	79,441	(617,177)	(1,507)	(123,755)	(121,913)	(83,497)	(20,419)	(206,574)

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT IV
 Page 4 of 6

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 Statement of Activities
 12/31/02**

Account Number	INCOME	Gen	Foreign	Charitable	Mission	Mission	75th	Pre	Celebrate	Donated	Trustees
		Mission	Gift	Reserve	Expansion	Anniversary	School	2,000	Designated		
		21	22	23	24	25	26	31	22	40	42
4001	Contributions										
4002	General							298.09	177,014.17		
4002	Designated										
4011	Chargeback										
4100	Board Designated										
4101	Synod Fund										
4200	Schwan Program/Designated										
4051	Organization General								1,302.25		
4052	Organization Designated										
4080	Investment Portfolio Income	14,306.97	15,889.41	4,498.70	80,289.20	12,141.22	274.59			21,263.58	11,650.78
4092	Interest		550.00	3,521.45	55,580.10					500.00	
4093	Rent										
4095	Gen/Individual Gifts & Bequests										
4096	Designated/Individual Gifts								606.19		
4099	Miscellaneous										
4201	Schwan Program										
4202	Schwan Projects										
4301	AAL										
4302	Lutheran Brotherhood										
4500	Estate/Trusts										5,000.00
4501	Estate/Trusts Designated										
4600	Gen/Memorials										
4601	Designated/Memorials										
4700	Gen/Helping Hands										
4701	Designated/Helping Hands										
4920	Registration/Fees										
4921	Subscriptions										
4922	Sale of Publications										
4923	Sale of Real Property										
4927	Royalties										
4928	PM Vehicle Use										
4930	Seminary Salary Reimbursement										
4948	Permanent Transfers Unrestricted	467,008.81									
4949	Permanent Transfers Designated										
4999	Unrealized loss	(71,759.65)	27,086.28	(22,564.17)	(402,707.43)	(60,896.55)	(1,377.27)		115.98	(106,601.82)	(56,436.97)
		409,556.13	43,524.69	(14,544.02)	(266,838.13)	(49,755.63)	(604.59)	179,116.59		(84,848.24)	(41,786.19)
	EXPENSES										
5110	Salaries/Admin/Sup										
5120	Salaries/Clerical										
5205	Moving Expenses										
5210	Housing & Furnishing Allow.										
5211	Furlough Expense										
5214	Student Travel										
5215	School Tuition										
5216	Language/Culture Study										
5220	FICA/Medicare										
5225	Health/Disability Insurance										
5230	Life Insurance										
5232	Dental Insurance										
5240	Tax Sheltered Annuities										
5245	Workers Compensation										
5250	Other Employee Benefits										
5305	Investment Services	(4,509.46)	(300.00)	(1,417.96)	(25,306.61)	(3,826.83)	(86.55)			(6,898.96)	(3,672.25)
5307	Secretarial/Office Services										
5310	Auditor Services										
5312	Architectural Services										
5315	Legal Services										
5317	Other Professional Services										

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT IV
 Page 5 of 8

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 Statement of Activities
 12/31/02**

Number	Expenses (cont.)	Gen	Foreign	Charitable	Mission	Mission	75th	Pre	Celebrate	Donated	Trustees
		Mission	Gift	Reserve	Expansion	Anniversary	School	2,000	40	45	
5320	Printing & Publishing	24	25	26	28	30	31	32	40	45	
5321	Printing & Publishing/Book of Family Prayer										
5330	Communication Services										
5335	Postage & Parcel Services										
5345	Workers Compensation Ins										
5348	Commercial Mail-Frank										
5347	Umbrella Liability										
5350	Repairs & Maintenance										
5351	Maintenance Contracts										
5354	Travel/Meals/Lodging										
5355	Travel/Meals/Lodging										
5356	Travel/Meals/Lodging										
5356	Auto Expenses										
5360	Registration Fees										
5365	Leases or Rentals										
5370	Advertising										
5380	Stipend										
5390	Payment to Others										
5391	Payment to Others Designated										
5340	Combined Utilities										
5341	Heat										
5342	Light										
5343	Cable										
5344	Water/Sewer/Garbage										
5405	Supplies & Materials										
5406	Supplies & Materials										
5440	Auto Expenses										
5460	Publications/Subscriptions										
5470	Books										
5471	Books										
5530	Equipment/Furniture										
5531	Equipment/Furniture Spec Project										
5540	Software/Upgrade Purchases										
5550	Vehicle Purchases										
5605	Advertising Support										
5610	Operating Support										
5611	Excess Schwan Program Funds										
5612	Five Talents Campaign										
5614	Faculty Housing Allowance Support										
5620	Interest Support										
5630	Maintenance Support										
5635	Christian Education Support										
5640	Parish Support										
5650	National Pastors Support										
5655	Seminary Support										
5656	Vicarage Support										
5660	LVA Travel Support										
5661	Youth Retreat Grant										
5662	Continuing Education Grant										
5663	Christian Day School										
5670	Widow Support										
5671	Pastor Retirement Support										
5672	Group Term Insurance Support										
5740	Interest										
5820	Dues & Membership										
5830	Property Taxes/Assessments										
5839	Depreciation										
5899	Miscellaneous										
5910	Transfers	(4,505.40)			(7,970.40)	(188,308.86)	(23,990.64)	(512.64)		(41,973.96)	(22,353.24)
5989	Bad Debt										

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND (cont.)
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2002

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 Statement of Activities
 12/31/02

Number	Expenses (cont.)	Gen	Foreign	Charitable	Mission	Mission	75th	Pre	Celebrate	Donated	Trustees
		Mission		Gift	Reserve	Expansion	Anniversary	School	2,000		Designated
5999	Change in Charitable Gift Annuity	24		25	26	28	30	31	32	40	48
				(15,131.73)							
	Total Expenses		(9,015)	(15,432)	(9,388)	(213,615)	(27,817)	(999)	4,000	(48,673)	(26,025)
	Net Income	400,541	28,093	(23,932)	(480,454)	(76,673)	(1,404)	183,119	(123,621)	(67,812)	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002

EXHIBIT V
(Page 1 of 3)

(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, Home Mission Fund and the Foreign Mission 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 Agency Fund represents a formal agreement to receive money and distribute it according to the agreement.

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.

(B) The value reported for Bethany Lutheran College is based on the net investment in plant assets as shown in the College's audit report as of June 30, 2002, excluding current endowment and reserve funds, library books, equipment, computers and the Schwan Retreat Center to which the college holds title to.

(C) Residences and real estate have been stated at cost or acquisition.

(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 Unrestricted - Designated:

Special Property Assessment	\$54,112.24	
Christian Service	\$47,374.03	
Pension Plan	\$53,165.00	
World Needs	\$5,384.41	
Evangelism	\$120,493.68	
Publications	\$6,298.69	
BEY Board	\$68.03	
Christian Day School	\$66,302.58	
Parish Education	\$40,036.49	
Youth	\$84,785.70	
Book of Family Prayer	\$21,322.56	
Project/Grants		
Deferred Giving	\$7,648.99	
Kessel Book	\$4,590.93	
4 Browns Court - Archives	\$25,075.07	
4 Browns Court	(\$27,089.02)	
Large Print Sentinel	\$25,357.61	
Pre-School Endowment	<u>\$1,607.48</u>	
		\$536,534.47
Home Missions		\$95,980.62
Foreign Missions		<u>438,676.32</u>
		<u>\$1,071,171.41</u>

(F) Unrestricted

General Fund		\$376,502.28
Residences & Real Estate		\$717,774.95
Foreign Missions		\$415,155.81
Board of Trustees		
Designated	356,354.75	
Marvin & Delores Schwan Foreign		
Mission Trust Fund	(9,950.61)	
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	(1,173.87)	
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	(39,393.61)	
Pre-School Endowment Fund	<u>(1,392.73)</u>	
		<u>\$304,443.93</u>
		<u>\$1,813,876.97</u>

(G) Permanently Restricted - Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

President's Office Endowment	\$600,000.00	
Marvin & Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	\$600,000.00	
Partners in the Gospel Home Mission Fund	\$1,755,976.41	
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	\$100,000.00	
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment	\$1,000,000.00	
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	\$410,000.00	
Pre-School Endowment Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>	
		<u>\$4,475,976.41</u>
		<u><u>\$4,475,976.41</u></u>

(H) Temporarily Restricted -

Church Extension & loan Fund	\$279,704.08	
Celebrate 2000 Thank Offering	<u>\$191,014.50</u>	
		\$470,718.58
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation		
Merle R. Aasen Estate	\$10,967.63	
President's Office Endowment	\$56,226.39	
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	\$72,052.56	
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	\$0.00	
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment	\$1,736.75	
General Foreign Mission Fund	\$484,521.34	
Charitable Gift Annuity	\$74,267.56	
Home Mission Reserve Fund	\$192,448.83	
Home Mission Expansion Fund	\$3,236,844.52	
Donated	<u>\$659,255.19</u>	
		<u>\$4,788,320.77</u>
		<u><u>\$5,259,039.35</u></u>

Fund Description for ELS Foundation

17	Merle R. Aasen Estate Letter in Trustee file dated March 11, 1975. \$10,000 for Mission \$10,000 Bethany Reserve \$5,000 to Bethany Scholarship.	Principal restricted – income only for home and foreign missions. Letter in Trustee file stipulates: \$25,000 given to Synod from the Estate of Merle Aasen. \$10,000 for Mission, to be invested and only income used for first 25 years; \$10,000 for Bethany Reserve Fund, and \$5,000 for the Merle Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund, to be invested and only the income to be used for the first 15 years.
19	Pres. Office Endowment	Original principal donated by Dorothy Arbury. \$600,000 Restricted – income only to be used to support full-time president's office.
20	M & D Schwan FM Trust \$600,000 Permanently Restricted	First funds received by Synod from M. Schwan. Restricted. Income only to support Helping Hands program – Income to go to Helping Hands limited to amount of other donations received. e.g. – Income \$40,000; donation \$50,000 – all income to Helping Hands; Income \$40,000; donations \$30,000 – only \$30,000 to Helping Hands
21	Partners in the Gospel \$1,755,977 Permanently Restricted	Principal from special offering to be used as endowment for Home Missions – restricted – income only for Home Missions.
22	Whipple – Eleanor Wilson \$100,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated as endowment for Foreign Missions. Restricted – only income to be used.
23	Foreign Mission Sem Endowment \$1,000,000 Permanently Restricted	From Schwan as endowment to support seminary in South America – restricted – income only available.
24	General Foreign Missions	Principal from estates for Foreign Missions. Principle not restricted. “Fund functioning as endowment” income for Foreign Missions.
25	Charitable gift annuities	Fund established to account for charitable gift annuities of which the beneficiaries are Synod programs when the donor dies.
26	Home Mission Reserve	Original principle of \$100,000 from Schwan to serve as contingency for use by Home Missions if deficits occur. Principal can be used but never has been. Deficits have been funded from estates and other available sources.
28	Home Mission Expansion	Origin principal from Schwan and annual “match” allocation added (e.g.\$300,000). To be used for expansion program. Principal not restricted. Income and principal used to absorb annual deficits in Home Mission program. Also used for capital purposes in form of loans.
30	Truth for Youth \$410,000 Permanently Restricted	Proceeds of offering to be used as endowment for youth programs. Restricted – income only available.

Fund Description for ELS Foundation

32	Pre-School Endowment \$10,000 Permanently Restricted	Donated as endowment by John Arends Restricted. Income to be used for pre-school development in missions; 1/2 for Bethany, Luverne and 1/2 ELS pre-schools. The following is taken from a letter dated June 11, 1999: "If Bethany Church does not have a pre-school in operation after ten years (2009 AD.) then all of the annual earnings from the \$10,000 will go to the schools of the ELS nationwide."
40	Donated	Endowment. Principal from estates designated for ELS without program identification. Restricted with income for general purposes.
45	Designated	"Functioning as endowment" Board of Trustees established policy of applying 2/3 of estates (given to general purposes for ELS) to "endowment" – unrestricted – income goes to general synod purposes with principal available for use at discretion of Board of Trustees.

LOANS RECEIVABLEEvangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2002**SCHEDULE A****Church Extension and Loan Fund**

	TOTAL LOANS	BALANCE 12/31/01	RECLASSIFICATIONS/ NEW LOANS 2002	PAID 2002	TOTAL PAID	BALANCE 12/31/02
CONGREGATION						
Bethany, Port Orchard, Washington (Construction)	\$450,000.00	\$259,000.00	\$191,000.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$450,000.00
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:						
Church	\$155,500.62	97,967.72	\$0.00	689.59	\$58,222.48	97,278.14
Parsonage	65,143.02	17,237.70	0.00	1,054.48	\$48,959.80	16,183.22
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas	384,977.59	139,999.28	0.00	0.00	\$244,878.31	139,999.28
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas (Bad debt allowance)	(139,999.28)				\$0.00	(139,999.28)
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota	63,946.76	29,164.87	0.00	479.84	\$35,261.73	28,685.03
Grace - Hobart, Indiana	250,000.00	217,547.11	0.00	24,496.33	\$56,949.22	193,050.78
Hope - West Jordan, Utah	186,203.42	156,150.84	0.00	5,381.64	\$35,434.22	150,769.20
Peace - Kissimmee, Florida	414,408.72	308,110.98	0.00	4,486.19	\$110,783.93	303,624.79
Redeemer - Scottsdale, Arizona (Construction)	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	12,000.00	\$12,000.00	10,000.00
Resurrection - Wintler Haven, Florida	479,322.97	328,673.54	0.00	3,885.90	\$154,535.23	324,787.74
Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	326,853.69	235,622.84	0.00	2,176.59	\$93,507.44	233,446.25
Trinity - Sebastian, Florida	180,000.00	177,205.77	0.00	5,832.02	\$8,626.25	171,373.75
	\$2,838,457.51	\$1,966,680.65	\$213,000.00	\$60,482.48	\$859,258.61	\$1,979,198.90

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation**Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund**

Abiding Word - Bowling Green, Ohio (Construction)	\$217,487.00	\$0.00	\$217,487.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$217,487.00
Christ - Windsor, California	\$70,000.00	\$66,052.98	\$0.00	\$2,476.05	\$6,423.07	\$63,576.93
Family of God - Riviera, Arizona	127,800.00	66,438.52	0.00	\$8,017.41	\$69,377.89	58,422.11
Good Shepherd - Brownsburg, Indiana	74,500.00	23,281.39	0.00	\$5,642.44	\$56,861.05	17,638.95
Peace Lutheran - North Mankato, Minnesota:						
Land	325,000.00	320,692.94		\$26,492.12	\$30,799.18	294,200.82
Construction	330,609.62	0.00	330,609.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	330,609.62
Redeemer - Scottsdale, Arizona	308,062.44	241,104.14	0.00	\$16,024.05	\$82,982.95	225,080.00
	\$1,453,458.06	\$717,570.97	\$548,096.62	\$56,652.07	\$246,443.54	\$1,207,015.52

Home Mission Reserve Fund

Saved by Grace - Gresham, Oregon	\$97,500.00	\$56,265.91	\$0.00	\$4,597.01	\$45,831.10	\$51,668.90
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Home Mission Expansion Fund

Abiding Word - Bowling Green, Ohio	\$130,000.00	\$84,736.86	\$0.00	\$8,994.86	\$54,258.00	\$75,742.00
Christ the King, Green Bay, Wisconsin	200,000.00	159,759.51	0.00	\$10,219.09	\$50,459.58	149,540.42
Lord of Life, Holland, Michigan	180,000.00	148,441.80	0.00	\$9,038.09	\$40,598.29	139,403.71
Peace - Lakeland, Florida	407,131.00	301,252.13	0.00	\$21,727.23	\$127,806.10	279,524.90
	\$917,131.00	\$694,190.30	\$0.00	\$49,979.27	\$272,919.97	\$644,211.03

Agency Fund

Now Covenant	\$80,000.00	\$28,288.55	\$0.00	\$5,671.56	\$57,383.01	\$22,616.99
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Home Missions

Lighthouse Bible Baptist	\$99,814.32	\$0.00	\$99,814.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$99,814.32
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Total Loans Receivable

	\$5,486,361.89	\$3,462,996.38	\$860,910.94	\$179,382.39	\$1,481,836.23	\$4,004,525.66
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**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
December 31, 2002

	MERLE R. AASEN ESTATE(17)	PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENDOWMENT FUND(19)	MARVIN AND DELORES SCHWAN FOREIGN MISSION TRUST FUND(20)	PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL HOME MISSIONS FUND(21)	WHIPPLE - OLSON - WILSON ENDOWMENT FUND(22)	FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND(23)	GENERAL FOREIGN MISSION FUND(24)	CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY FUND(25)	HOME MISSION RESERVE FUND(26)
ASSETS									
Investment management accounts	\$10,967.63	\$656,226.39	\$590,049.39	\$522,581.32	\$98,826.13	\$1,001,736.75	\$484,521.34	\$354,509.83	\$140,779.93
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,207,015.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,668.90
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00	0.00
Interest receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,205.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	183.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	81,097.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>10,967.63</u>	<u>656,226.39</u>	<u>590,049.39</u>	<u>1,828,899.00</u>	<u>98,826.13</u>	<u>1,001,736.75</u>	<u>484,521.34</u>	<u>365,692.83</u>	<u>192,448.83</u>
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	(870.03)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(135,398.34)	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$10,967.63</u>	<u>\$656,226.39</u>	<u>\$590,049.39</u>	<u>\$1,828,028.97</u>	<u>\$98,826.13</u>	<u>\$1,001,736.75</u>	<u>\$484,521.34</u>	<u>\$230,294.49</u>	<u>\$192,448.83</u>
LIABILITIES									
Charity Gift Annuity Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$156,026.93	\$0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$156,026.93</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
FUND BALANCES									
Balance 12/31/2001									
Permanently Restricted	0.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	1,755,976.41	100,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily Restricted	12,474.95	179,981.33	111,962.79	155,549.48	19,245.12	208,711.23	83,980.07	46,174.60	216,381.21
Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	<u>12,474.95</u>	<u>779,981.33</u>	<u>711,962.79</u>	<u>1,911,525.89</u>	<u>119,245.12</u>	<u>1,208,711.23</u>	<u>83,980.07</u>	<u>46,174.60</u>	<u>216,381.21</u>
Add:									
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	580.38	0.00	0.00	467,008.81	0.00	0.00
Income	348.04	23,504.86	19,330.26	83,316.99	3,237.58	32,817.31	14,306.97	16,439.41	8,020.15
Investment Services	(109.70)	(6,405.76)	(6,092.77)	(7,383.75)	(1,020.46)	(10,343.79)	(4,509.46)	(300.00)	(1,417.96)
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(15,131.73)	0.00
Distributions	0.00	(38,918.28)	(38,195.88)	(42,511.92)	(6,397.32)	(64,845.84)	(4,505.40)	0.00	(7,970.40)
Market value gains (losses)	(1,745.66)	(101,935.76)	(96,955.01)	(117,498.62)	(16,238.79)	(164,602.16)	(71,759.65)	27,085.28	(22,564.17)
	<u>(1,507.32)</u>	<u>(123,754.94)</u>	<u>(121,913.40)</u>	<u>(83,496.92)</u>	<u>(20,418.99)</u>	<u>(206,974.48)</u>	<u>400,541.27</u>	<u>28,092.96</u>	<u>(23,932.38)</u>
Balance 12/31/2002									
Permanently Restricted	0.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	1,755,976.41	100,000.00	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Temporarily Restricted	10,967.63	56,226.39	0.00	72,052.56	0.00	1,736.75	484,521.34	74,267.56	192,448.83
Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	(9,950.61)	0.00	(1,173.87)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	<u>10,967.63</u>	<u>656,226.39</u>	<u>590,049.39</u>	<u>1,828,028.97</u>	<u>98,826.13</u>	<u>1,001,736.75</u>	<u>484,521.34</u>	<u>74,267.56</u>	<u>192,448.83</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	<u>\$10,967.63</u>	<u>\$656,226.39</u>	<u>\$590,049.39</u>	<u>\$1,828,028.97</u>	<u>\$98,826.13</u>	<u>\$1,001,736.75</u>	<u>\$484,521.34</u>	<u>\$230,294.49</u>	<u>\$192,448.83</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (cont.)**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
December 31, 2002

SCHEDULE B
Page 2 of 2

<u>ASSETS</u>	HOME MISSION EXPANSION FUND(28)	75TH ANNIVERSARY TRUTH FOR OUR YOUTH FUND(30)	PRE-SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND(31)	DONATED(40)	BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATED(45)	TOTAL - ALL FUNDS
Investment management accounts	\$2,473,957.99	\$370,606.39	\$8,607.27	\$649,192.19	\$356,354.75	\$7,118,917.90
Loans receivable from congregations	644,211.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,902,895.45
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,000.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	\$21,000.00
Interest receivable	5,862.99	0.00	0.00	63.00	0.00	\$14,314.15
Land	112,812.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$193,909.51
	<u>3,236,844.52</u>	<u>370,606.39</u>	<u>8,607.27</u>	<u>659,255.19</u>	<u>356,354.75</u>	<u>\$9,861,036.41</u>
Due from (to) other funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(136,268.37)
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$3,236,844.52</u>	<u>\$370,606.39</u>	<u>\$8,607.27</u>	<u>\$659,255.19</u>	<u>\$356,354.75</u>	<u>\$9,724,768.04</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Charity Gift Annuity Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$156,026.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$156,026.93</u>
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
Balance 12/31/2001						
Permanently Restricted	0.00	410,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	\$4,475,976.41
Temporarily Restricted	3,717,298.12	37,179.49	11.05	792,776.37	0.00	\$5,581,725.81
Unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	424,166.43	424,166.43
TOTAL	<u>3,717,298.12</u>	<u>447,179.49</u>	<u>10,011.05</u>	<u>792,776.37</u>	<u>424,166.43</u>	<u>10,481,868.65</u>
Add:						
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	\$472,589.19
Income	135,869.30	12,141.22	572.68	21,753.58	11,650.78	\$383,309.13
Investment Services	(25,306.61)	(3,826.83)	(86.55)	(6,698.98)	(3,672.25)	(\$77,174.87)
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(\$15,131.73)
Distributions	(188,308.86)	(23,990.64)	(512.64)	(41,973.96)	(22,353.24)	(\$480,484.38)
Market value gains (losses)	(402,707.43)	(60,896.85)	(1,377.27)	(106,601.82)	(58,436.97)	(1,196,234.88)
	<u>(480,453.60)</u>	<u>(76,573.10)</u>	<u>(1,403.78)</u>	<u>(133,521.18)</u>	<u>(67,811.68)</u>	<u>(\$913,127.54)</u>
Balance 12/31/2002						
Permanently Restricted	0.00	410,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	\$4,475,976.41
Temporarily Restricted	3,236,844.52	0.00	0.00	659,255.19	0.00	\$4,788,320.77
Unrestricted	0.00	(39,393.61)	(1,392.73)	0.00	356,354.75	\$304,443.93
TOTAL	<u>3,236,844.52</u>	<u>370,606.39</u>	<u>8,607.27</u>	<u>659,255.19</u>	<u>356,354.75</u>	<u>9,568,741.11</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	<u>\$3,236,844.52</u>	<u>\$370,606.39</u>	<u>\$8,607.27</u>	<u>\$659,255.19</u>	<u>\$356,354.75</u>	<u>\$9,724,768.04</u>

MORTGAGES PAYABLE

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, MN
December 31, 2002

SCHEDULE C

		Type of Note	Secured	Total	Current	L-T	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Thereafter
Payable to Thrivent	Saved by Grace Peace	Long term	Land	233,676.49	14,211.28	219,465.21	14,211.28	15,409.91	16,709.69	18,119.05	19,647.31	149,579.25
Payable to Thrivent		Long term	Land	196,187.53	14,562.56	181,625.07	14,562.56	14,605.83	15,818.12	17,131.00	18,552.87	115,517.25
Payable to Schwan Foundation	Resurrection	Long term	Land	304,558.12	24,254.03	280,304.09	24,254.03	24,326.13	26,345.17	28,531.79	30,899.94	170,201.06
			Subtotal	734,422.24	53,027.87	681,394.37	53,027.87	54,341.87	58,872.98	63,781.84	69,100.12	435,297.56
Payable to Schwan Foundation	Grace Hobart	Demand Promissory	No	220,433.70								
Payable to Schwan Foundation	Hope W Jordan	Demand Promissory	No	145,032.03								
Payable to Schwan Foundation	Trinity Sebastian	Demand Promissory	No	172,304.36								
			Subtotal	537,770.09								
			Total	1,272,192.33								

Foreign Missions 2002

CONGREGATION			MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS						SERVICES				EDUCATION						Value of Property						
No	Congregación	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	Sunday School	Bible Study	Teachers		VBS	Camp	Lutheran High School/College	College Students		
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru:																												
Cono Sur de Lima																												
1	San Gabriel Norte-Dios es Mi Rey	A. Robles (p)	57	37	4			2	584				35	41					37	19	1	30						3,000
2	San Gabriel Sur-Jesus mi Salvador	G. Ocrospoma (v)	27	21	9				211				48	15					8	11	3	35					5,000	
3	Villa Solidaridad	A. Robles (p)	17	9	4			2	122				48	23						15		30						
4	Villa El Salvador	S. Melendez (v)	9	4	2	3							49	14						8		10						
5	Comunidad Terapèutica "Emmanuel"	F. Liñan (v)	2	4		1	1						25	64														
	Otros		33	16									32	7					9	8		9						
Cono Norte de Lima																												
6	Año Nuevo - Jesús Redentor	G. Ocrospoma (v)	93	58	6	1		2	2	340			48	37	2	88			41	24	6	98					25,000	
7	Tahuantinsuyo	A. Rosario (p)	28	20	5					146			48	14					13	13	2	25						
	Otros		11	8	3								24	8	1	79			24	39	1	48						
Callao																												
8	Reynoso	R. Berrospid (p)	95	51	25	2		2	1441				48	62	2	83			25	16	3	65					15,000	
	Otros		0	0																								
Lima																												
9	Santa Beatriz	Misioneros	26	18	5	1		1	337	1			48	28	5	358				17							60,000	
10	San Martín de Porres	A. Vilchez (v)	14	7	4								48	16					12	15	1	23						
	Otros		27	17									10	6														
Panamericana Norte																												
11	Ancón-Cristo	B. Capulían (v)	26	17	3					138			49	20					35	12	2	40					1,600	



DIRECTORIES

CHURCH BODIES IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

OFFICERS

President: Prof. Armin J. Panning
11812N Seminary Drive 65W
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panninga@wis.wels.net

Vice President: Prof. Adolph L. Harstad

Secretary: Prof. Forrest Bivens

Treasurer: Mr. Eugene G. Schulz

Planning Committee Members at Large:
The Rev. Daniel Koelpin,
The Rev. John Moldstad

MEMBER CHURCHES

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)
Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia
Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church
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
Ukrainian Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53222
(414) 256-3888

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD

President: Rev. Karl R. Gurgel
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222.....(414) 256-3201
First Vice President: Rev. Wayne D. Mueller
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222..... (414) 256-3204
Second Vice President: Rev. Jon M. Mahnke
5828 Santa Teresa Blvd., San Jose, CA 95123.....(408) 225-0107
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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH OF GERMANY

www.elfk.de

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President: Rev. Rolf Borszik
Vice President: Rev. Michael Herbst
Rev. Werner Stoehr
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LUTHERAN CONFSSIONAL CHURCH

Sweden <http://lbk.cc>
Norway <http://luthersk-kirke.no>

CHURCH BOARD

Egil Edvardsen (Chairman)
Alvar Svenson (Vice Chr/Sec.)
Otto Brandal
Peter Öhma
Harde Johannessen (alt.)
Stefan Sjöqvist (alt.)

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

Stefan Hedkvist (Chairman)
Egil Edvardsen
Hermann Pihlajamaa

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL CHURCH

(Finland)

CHURCH BOARD

Chairman: Juhani Viitala

Treasurer: Tilitoimisto
Ajoksenmäki

Other Board Members:

Aarne Erkkilä
Jukka Söderström
Jan-Erik Tiri
Hans Wasserman

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

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37769 State Hwy 22, St. Peter, MN 56082
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6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001
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Fax 507-344-7426, E-mail keithw@blc.edu

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Allen Borlaug	Mr. Robert Brown	Rev. Martin Doepel
Rev. Craig Ferkenstad	Mr. Greg Griffin	Mr. Wayne Anderson
Mr. Wilbur Lieske		Rev. John Moldstad
Mr. Leroy Meyer		

Advisory Members: The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Vice-President
Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, treasurer

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INCORPORATED

GENERAL OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice-President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Rev. John Moldstad	Rev. Glenn Obenberger	Rev. Craig Ferkenstad

BOARD OF REGENTS

Type A members

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Rev. Mark Bartels	Mr. Jon Bruss	Mr. Paul Chamberlin
Mr. William Overn	Mr. Harold Theiste	Rev. John Moldstad Sr.
Rev. Kenneth Schmidt	Mr. Roland Reinholtz	Rev. J. Kincaid Smith

Type B members

2004
Dr. Willis Anthony

2005
Mr. Lyle Fahning

2006
Rev. Klebe Brumble

Advisory Members: Rev. John Moldstad
Rev. Milton Tweit
Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

THE SYNOD'S VISITORS

(2004)

- Circuit 1The Rev. Joel Willitz
Alt. The Rev. Charles Keeler
- Circuit 2The Rev. Thomas Fox
Alt. The Rev. Michael Langlais
- Circuit 3The Rev. Paul Schneider
Alt. The Rev. Kenneth Mellon
- Circuit 4The Rev. Frederic Lams
Alt. Rev. Stephen Schmidt
- Circuit 5The Rev. Jonathan Madson
Alt. The Rev. Nathan Krause
- Circuit 6The Rev. Frederick Theiste
Alt. The Rev. Harold Vetter
- Circuit 7The Rev. Wayne Halvorson
Alt. The Rev. Thomas Rank
- Circuit 8The Rev. Ernest Geistfeld
Alt. The Rev. Rolf Preus
- Circuit 9The Rev. Erwin Ekhooff
Alt. The Rev. John Smith
- Circuit 10The Rev. Erik Gernander
Alt. The Rev. Richard Waters
- Circuit 11The Rev. William Stehr
Alt. The Rev. Klebe Brumble
- Circuit 12The Rev. James Braun
Alt. The Rev. Alex Ring

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

2004
Rev. Juul Madson
Rev. Paul Zager

2005
Mr. Paul Tweit
Rev. Thomas Rank

2006
Rev. Wilhelm Petersen
Mr. Allen Quist

By virtue of office: President of Bethany Lutheran Seminary

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

2004
Rev. Daniel Basel
Mr. John Merseth Sr.

2005
Mr. Keith Duin
Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ
Rev. Rodney Flohr

2006
Mr. Robert Smith
Rev. R. Wiechmann

BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

2004
Rev. Wayne Halvorson
Mr. Robert Soule

2005
Rev. Adolph Harstad
Mr. Marlin Goebel
Mr. Silas Born

2006
Mr. Harmon Anderson
Rev. Paul Fries

BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

2004
Mr. Maynard Pick
Rev. Michael Smith

2005
Rev. Bradley Kerkow

2006
Mr. Lloyd Ahlbrand
Rev. Matthew Crick

BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

2004
Vacant
Rev. Charles Keeler
Rev. Donald Moldstad
Mr. Mark Wiechmann

2005
Mr. Brian Brudvig
Rev. Jerome Gernander
Mr. Daniel Johnson
Rev. Jonathan Madson
Rev. Anthony Pittinger

2006
Mr. Glen Hansen
Mr. Curtis Mantey
Rev. Alexander Ring
Rev. Bernt Tweit

BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

2004
Mr. Robert Deering
Mr. Paul Wold

2005
Rev. Erik Gernander
Rev. Roger Holtz

2006
Rev. Bradley Homan
Mr. Howard Siewert

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

2004
Rev. Richard Fyffe
Mr. Stanley Reinholtz

2005
Mr. Donald Heiliger
Rev. Mark Marozick

2006
Mr. Herb Berg

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

2004
Rev. Dennis Marzolf
Mr. James Olson

2005
Rev. Harry Bartels
Mr. James Baxter

2006
Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux

BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Timothy Peterson	Mr. Howard Hougan Rev. David Russow	Mr. Jon Natvig Rev. John E. Smith

By virtue of office: Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Ralph Miller	Rev. Roger Holtz	Mr. Bryan Hayes

COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY Appointed by the synod president

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Dennis Behr Mr. Mark French	Rev. Phillip Lepak Mr. Mark Meyer	Mr. Rod Kuznicki

By virtue of office: Vice-president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Chairman of the Board for Publications

PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The officers of the synod

The chairman (or his representative) of the following boards:

Board of Regents	Board for Education and Youth
Board for Home Missions	Board for Publications
Board for Foreign Missions	Board for Christian Service
Board for Evangelism	Board for Stewardship
	Three (3) laymen:

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Dennis Nixon	Mr. Richard Waldschmidt	Mr. Dennis Behr

SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elected Positions:

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Robert Brown	Rev. Juul Madson	--

Appointed by the synod president:

<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Mr. Norman Werner	Rev. Alf Merseth	Rev. Milton Tweit

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2004 CONVENTION

Rev. Klebe Brumble
Rev. H.Huhnerkoch
Mr. Sigurd Lee

Rev. Glenn Obenberger
Rev. Steven Sparley
Mr. Jeff Tillman

Mr. Paul Tweit
Mr. Norman Werner

COMMITTEE ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

507-344-7854

Elected by the Board of Trustees:

2004
Mr. Norman Holte
Rev. Alf Merseth

2005
Rev. Walther Gullixson
Rev. Juul Madson

2006
Mr. Sigurd Lee
Mr. Norman Werner

Archivist (pro tem): The Rev. Paul Madson
Museum Director: The Rev. George Orvick

Administration:

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
Denise Luehmann	507-344-7848
Melvina Aaberg	507-344-7354
Mary Jane Tweit	507-344-7849

years indicate expiration of current term

FOREIGN MISSIONS

MISSION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD IN PERU (Peru, South America)

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The Rev. Terry Schultz
The Rev. Kurt Smith

National Pastors:

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The Rev. Fidel Convercio
The Rev. Oswaldo Fernández
The Rev. Segundo Gutierrez
The Rev. Andres Robles
The Rev. Abraham Rosario

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P.O. Box 025285
Miami, FL 33102-5285

Missionaries:

The Rev. Karl Kuenzel
The Rev. David Lillegard
The Rev. Othoniel Rodriguez

THOUGHTS OF FAITH

(a church related organization of the ELS)

MAILING ADDRESS:

900 Market Street
Oregon, Wisconsin 53575
Tel: 608-835-3375
877-892-4718
Fax 608-835-3372
e-mail: contact@tof.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Kermit Traska

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:

Rev. Ronald Muetzel

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Mailing Address:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and The
School of Martin Luther
Skolni Namesti 1
31805 Plzen
Czech Republic
Tel/Fax: 011-420-37-738-0754

Pastors:

The Rev. Mark Grubbs
The Rev. Matthew Luttman

Teachers:

Mrs. Mary Grubbs
Mr. Paul Kelm
Ms. Susannah Lawrenz
Mrs. Nancy Luttman
Ms. Talia Malenke

LATVIA:

Mailing Address:

Augsburg Institute
Miesnieku 12
Riga LV-1050
Latvia
Tel. 011-371-722-4410
011-371-722-3956
Fax 011-371-722-4031
Email: aai@latnet.lv

Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia:

The Rev. Uldis Alpe
The Rev. Gundars Bakulis
The Rev. Karlis Bush
The Rev. Aigars Dabolins
The Rev. Uldis Fandejevs
The Rev. Janis Gaisins
The Rev. Didzia Melkis
The Rev. Egons Mudulis
The Rev. Ilars Plume
The Rev. Ivo Sildegs
The Rev. Ugis Sildegs

UKRAINE: (continued)

UKRAINE:**Mailing Addresses:****Kyiv:**

Professor John Lawrenz
46/48 O. Honchara str.
Kv #4
03034 Kyiv
Ukraine
Tel./Fax 011-380-44-234-2749
E-mail lawrenzj@wls.wels.net

Ukrainian Lutheran Church
14 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
Kv #15
01004 Kiev
Ukraine
Tel. 011-380-44-234-0800
Fax 011-380-44-235-7721

Ternopil:

The Rev. David Jay Webber
The Rev. Roger Kovaciny
St. Sophia Seminary
Lyuterans'ka Bohoslovs'ka
Seminariya
Vul. Abaraz'ka 29A
46002 Ternopil
Ukraine
Tel. 011-380-35-225-7613
Fax 011-380-35-222-8567

Gift of Life
Nickolas & Kerry Laper
Yaremchuka St. 6
46000 Ukraine
Tel. 011-380-35-233-1323
Fax 011-380-35-222-8303

National Pastors in Ukraine:

The Rev. V'yacheslav Horpynchuk
The Rev. Vladyslav Baydak
The Rev. Pavlo Bohmat
The Rev. Serhiy Borsch
The Rev. Olexander Dich
The Rev. Yuriy Fizer
The Rev. Andriy Honcharuk
The Rev. Taras Kokovskiy
The Rev. Vadim Kolesnyk
The Rev. Oleh Okruhin
The Rev. Ihor Ratushnyi
The Rev. Olexandr Simashko
The Rev. Serhiy Somin
The Rev. Olexandr Sonne
The Rev. Oleh Stetsiuk
The Rev. Oleh Yukhymenko
The Rev. Serhiy Zuyev

MOLDOVA:**Mailing Address:**

The Rev. Vladimir Moser
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in the Republic of Moldova
(ELCRM)
Str. Fedico 36, ap. 13
Tiraspol
Moldova
Phone: 011-373-33-52-630
Email: info@elcrm.com

OTHER ADDRESSES

CROSS STITCH

Contact: The Rev. Steven Petersen

ELS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Contact: The Rev. Erling Teigen

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

Contact: The Rev. Richard Wiechmann

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY

Contact: Mr. Marlin Goebel (989) 842-4505
24885 Morrow Rd, Hillman, MI 49746
Video Library: Kathy Huxford (810) 798-8684
16387 Marr Road, Allenton, MI 48002

HELPING HANDS

Contact: Mr. Robert Soule (763) 662-2147
16600 313 Ave., Princeton, MN 55371

MARVIN M. SCHWAN RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

N10884 Hoinville Road, Trego, Wisconsin 54888
Contact: (715) 446-6300 or (800) 577-4848
fax: (715) 466-6306 www.schwancenter.org

MISSIONS ADVANCEMENT PROJECT (MAP)

Contact: Mr. Greg Griffin (608) 249-6760,
1415 Burning Wood Way, Madison, WI 53704

AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

ARIZONA LUTHERAN ACADEMY

6036 S 27th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85041-5200 (602) 268-8686

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

31970 Central Ave, P.O. Box 1570, Wildomar, CA 92525 (909) 678-7000

EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

2021 S 260th St, Des Moines, WA 98198 (253) 946-4488

KETTLE MORAINÉ LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

3399 Division Rd, Jackson, WI 53037 (262) 677-4051

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

231 Woodland Beach Rd, Lake Mills, WI 53551 (920) 648-2321

MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

45638 561st Ave, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073 (507) 354-6851

SAINT CROIX LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

1200 Oakdale Ave, St. Paul, MN 52118 (651) 455-1521

WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

3350 Harbor Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55447 (763) 509-9378

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS and PRESCHOOLS

June 20, 2003

Secretary of Schools (Board for Education and Youth).....Curtis Mantey
2985 Royalwood Place S.E., Port Orchard, WA 98366
Tel. 360-876-0813, e-mail: cmantey@hotmail.com

Director of Christian Education (Bethany Lutheran College)Silas Born
700 Luther Drive, Mankato, MN 56001
Home: 507-388-6963, Office: 507-344-7432, 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
Barb Mantey
Curtis Mantey*
Carol Olsen
Lucy Rinehart
Cathy Sharett

Christ Ev. Lutheran Preschool
(Preschool Only)
1592 S.E. Floresta Dr.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
Tel 772-879-1353
Marcella Lowry *

Concordia Preschool
(Preschool Only)
3715 London Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701-7813
Tel 715-834-9097
E-mail: concordi@execpc.com
Lynda Krueger*

**Heritage Lutheran Little Lambs
Preschool and Kindergarten**
(Preschool and Kindergarten)
13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Road
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Tel. 952-431-6225
Cheryl Streckert*
Stacy Kiecker

Holton Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
6655 Marvin Road
Holton, MI 49425
Tel. 231-821-0032
Becky Martin
Kim Riley-McCleran

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
Rebecca Clevin
Camilla Dashcund
Ione Ibeling
Elizabeth Krause
Barbara Pape (PT)
Ryan Rathje
Timothy Ristow*
Shelly Schoenherr (PT)

Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
PO Box 44
35181 Wisconsin Avenue
Okauchee, WI 53069
Tel. 262-567-0669
Fax 262-567-0669
Susan Callaway
Erin Ekhoft
Patricia Hoelt
Fred Pahmeier*
Dawn Sauer

**Hope Lutheran Academic
Christian School**
(Preschool Only)
2930 W. 9000 S.
West Jordan, UT 84088
Tel 801-569-1111
Cindy Heinecke*

King of Grace Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
6000 Duluth Street
Golden Valley, MN 55422
Tel. 763-546-3131
Fax 763-540-0028
Shiela Degner
Joshua Gregovich
Allen Labitzky*
William Lubansky
Judy Luxford
Karen Madson
Jonathan Matzke
Cinda Meitner
Karen Merseeth
Aaron Olmanson
Carol Robison
Kay Russow

Lakewood Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
10202 112th Street SW
Tacoma, WA 98498
Tel. 253-584-6024
Fax 253-584-4615
Sharon Holter
Laura Lai
Shu-Ting Lai*
Nathan Radichel

Mt. Olive Lutheran School
(Kindergarten through Eighth
Grade)
1123 Marsh Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Tel. 507-345-7927
Marie Aaberg
Steven Beilke*
Susan Beilke
Mary Born
Alissa Griebel
Richard Holz
Kari Sehloff
LuAnn Sting

Our Redeemer Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
805 East Yelm Ave.
Yelm, WA 98297-9424
Tel. 360-458-7310
E-mail: orlyelm@juno.com
Nancy Loomis
Dennis Morrison*
Dolores Morrison

Our Savior Lutheran Preschool
(Preschool only)
10,000 Airport Road North
Naples, FL 34109
Tel. 941-597-6009
Fax 941-597-8846
Karen Klug*
Dorothy Voegeli

Our Saviour's Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
3163 Maricopa Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406
Tel. 928-855-8811
Stacey Mantey
Timothy Schubkegel*

Parkland Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
12309 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98444
Tel. 253-537-1901
Fax 253-537-0172
Laurie Barnes
Connie Davis
Sue Jankens
Valerie Juergens
Sharon King
Jolene McClung
Linda Perry
John Staab
Alex Ring
Chris Rogich
Larry Rude*

Princeton Ev. Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
7401 Alpha Road
Princeton, MN 55371
Tel. 763-389-0704
Tamara Heinks
Linda Larson
Kathleen Sutton*

Scarville Lutheran School
(Kindergarten through Eighth
Grade)
Box 20
Scarville, IA 50473
Tel. 641-568-3372
Laura Vetteson

St. Timothy Ev. Lutheran
(Preschool through Second Grade)
547 N. Main Street
Lombard, IL 60148-1632
Tel. 630-627-6790
Beverly Frick
Kim Gruen
Edward Bryant*

Trinity Lutheran School
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
1268 Pleasant Valley Road
West Bend, WI 53095
Tel. 262-675-6627
E-mail: trinpvwb@nconnect.net
Diana Borman
Richard Brei*
Jeanine Heller
Erin Koschnitzke
Judy Larabell
Barbara Speerschneider

**Western Koshkonong Lutheran
School**
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)
2632 Church Street
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
Tel. 608-873-6011
Linda Marozick
Deborah Saeger*
vacancy

The School of Martin Luther
(Kindergarten through Ninth
Grade)
Skolni namesti
131805 Plzen, Czech Republic
Tel. 011-420-19-28-1097
Mary Grubbs
Robert Hill*
Marlene Hill
Paul Kelm
Susannah Lawrence
Nancy Luttmann
Talia Malenke

* indicates school administrator/
principal/director

CONGREGATIONS

CIRCUIT 1

FLORIDA

Clermont-South Lake
Clermont, FL
G. Sahlstrom
2535 Rollins Ave; 34711

Kissimmee-Peace
10:00
H. Huhnerkoch
3249 Windmill Point Blvd.

Lakeland-Our Savior
9:30
A. Palmquist
6920 North Socrum Loop Rd.; 33809

Lakeland-Peace
10:30
J. Willitz
5970 Lakeland Highlands Rd.; 33813
www.geocities.com/peacelutheranlakeland

Naples-Our Savior
9:00
G. Schmidt
10,000 Airport Pulling Rd. N. 34109

Port St. Lucie-Christ
10:00
M. Dale
1592 S.E. Floresta Dr.; 34983

Sebastian-Trinity
10:00
J. Petersen
611 Schumann Dr.; 32958

Sebring-New Life
10:00
R. Pyffe
3725 Hammock Rd; 33872

Vero Beach-Grace
10:00
J. Petersen
1150 41st Ave.; 32960

Winter Haven-Resurrection
10:30
C. Keeler
4620 Cypress Gardens Rd.; 33884

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
www.pinewoodlutheran.com

CIRCUIT 3

MICHIGAN

Alpena-Faith

9:00
B. Schwark
233 Cavanaugh; 49707

Detroit-St. Matthew

10:30 (S 9:30)
L. Vinton
4430 St. James Street; 48210

East Jordan-Faith

10:00
J. Londgren
02148 S. Wilson Rd.; 49727

Hillman-Faith

11:00
B. Schwark
24640 Veterans Memorial Hwy
Mail: Box 358; 49746

Holland-Lord of Life

9:00
D. McQuality
290 E. 18th St; 49423

Holton-Holton

10:00
P. Zager
6655 Marvin Rd.; 49425
Mail: PO Box 181, Twin Lake; 49457

Midland-Holy Scripture

9:00
P. Schneider
4525 West Main St.; 48640

Rogers City-Trinity

10:00
Vacant
6134 US 23 North
Mail: 678940 Mile Pointe Road; 49779

Saginaw-Gloria Dei

8:00; 10:45 (S 9:00)
H. Mosley Jr.
5250 Mackinaw
Mail: 3718 Mannion Rd; 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.; 43402

Weston-Grace

10:00
Vacant
20425 Taylor St. Box 304; 43569

Deshler-Peace

9:30
T. Smuda
5039 County Road G; 43516

PENNSYLVANIA

Irwin-Zion

10:30
B. Leonatti
351 Robbins-Station Rd.; 15642

CIRCUIT 4

ILLINOIS

Chicago-Emmaus
10:45
Vacant
5440 W. Gladys Ave; 60644
Chicago-St. Marks
9:30
Vacant
3101 Parkside Ave.
Mail: 1928 S. 7th Ave; Maywood;
60153

Litchfield-Faith
9:00
S.Schmidt
10415 Niemanville Tr.
Mail: P.O. Box 562; 62056
www.faithlitchfield.com
Lombard-St. Timothy
10:15 (S 9:00)
E. Bryant
547 N. Main St.; 60148
Plainfield/Oswego-
Exploratory Mission*
10:00
P. Lepak
305 West Lockport Road
Mail: 540 Chestnut Dr
Oswego IL 60543

INDIANA

Brownsburg-Good Shepherd
10:15
G. Lilienthal
204 E. Main St

Hobart-Grace
9:00
F. Lams
6240 Grand Blvd
Mail: 1031 Hickey St., Hobart; 46342
Portage-Hope
10:30
R. Flohr
6322 Portage Ave. 46368

OHIO

Springboro-Beautiful Saviour
9:30
G. Smith
Hampton Inn and Suites-25
Greenwood Lane
Mail: 8283 North State Route 48,
Waynesville 45068

CIRCUIT 5

WISCONSIN

Cottage Grove-Abiding Shepherd

9:00
N. Krause
535 Southing Grange-#300; 53527
www.abidingshepherd.org

Cottage Grove-Western Koshkonong

9:30
M. Marozick
2633 Church St; 53527

Madison-Grace

10:00 (S 9:00)
J. Jacobsen
1 South Rosa Rd.; 53705
www.grace-els.org

Madison-Holy Cross

8:00 & 10:30, Mon. 6:30
(S 8:00 & 10:00, Mon. 6:30)
M. Bartels, B. Tweit
2670 Milwaukee St.; 53704

Madison-Our Saviour's

9:15, Sat. 5:30
(S 9:15, Thu. 6:45)
B. Homan
1201 Droster Rd.; 53716

Okauchee-Holy Trinity

7:45; 10:15 (S 8:30, Thu. 7:00)
J. Madson
35181 Wisconsin Ave.
Mail: PO Box 146; 53069
www.holytrinityokauchee.org

Oregon-Faith

9:00 (S: 9:00, Thu. 7:00)
R. Lehmann
143 Washington St.; 53575

Portage-St. Paul's

9:00
Vacant
W11355 Hwy. 127 (6 miles NW)
Mail: 212 Volk St.; 53901

West Bend-Trinity

8:00, 10:00, Mon. 7:15
K. Schmidt
1268 Pleasant Valley Rd.; 53095

Wisconsin Dells-Newport

10:30
Vacant
N8794 Peterson Rd., (4 miles E)
Mail: 212 Volk, Portage; 53901

CIRCUIT 6

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

9:00
R. Otto
1504 Vine St.; 54724

Clintonville-St. Paul

10:00; Wed 7:00 (S: 9:00, Wed 7:00)
Vacant
31 N. Park St
Mail: P.O. Box 115; 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.; 54701-7813
www.execpc.com/~concori

Eau Claire-Pinehurst

9:00; Mon. 6:30
M. Rogers
3304 Fern Ct.; 54703
Lkd. from:
www.aroundyourtown.net

Elderon-Our Savior's

9:00
T. Skaaland
Hwy. 49 N. 54429

Green Bay-Christ the King

9:00; Thu 6:30 (Apr-Nov)
9:00; Sat 5:00 (Dec-Mar)
L. Buelow
1700 Cardinal Lane; 54313

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
H.B. Patch Elem. School
607 Tyler Ave.
Mail: 1232 Snowdon Dr, Oshkosh,
54904

Shawano-St. Martin

9:00
J.K. Smith
W8302 Belle Plaine Ave.; 54166

CIRCUIT 7

IOWA

Ames-Bethany

Sat. 7:30
M. Hoesch
3113 Diamond St; 50010

Calmar-Trinity

9:30
H. Abrahamson
306 Clark St.
Mail: 611 W. Court St.,
New Hampton; 50659

Forest City-Forest

9:00
T.Gullixson
546 West M. St., 50436

Indianola-Good Shepherd

9:00
R. Harting
202 North Kenwood; 50125
www.goodshepherds.org

Lake Mills-Lake Mills *

K. Hermanson
107 N. 1st Avenue E
Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood;
50459

Lake Mills-Lime Creek *

K. Hermanson
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
 8:00
 H. Abrahamson
 West Court & North Sherman
 Mail: 611 West Court St.; 50659
www.redeemernewhampton.org

Newton-Grace
 9:00
 M.Hoesch
 814 1st Ave. E.
 Mail: 3109 Diamond St., Ames,
 50010

Northwood-First Shell Rock *
 K. Hermanson
 1406 Central
 Mail: 106 13th St. S.; 50459

Northwood-Somber *
 K. Hermanson
 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 *
 6:00 pm
 K. Hermanson
 Main St.
 Mail: 106 13th St. S., Northwood;
 50459

Scarville-Center *
 T. Rank
 5 miles S.
 Mail: PO Box 105; 50473

Scarville-Scarville Synod *
 T. Rank
 411 Logan St.
 Mail: PO Box 105; 50473

Thompson-Zion
 10:30
 T.Gullixson
 226 Monroe St., 50478

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
www.lutheransonline.com/lo/

Waterville-East Paint Creek
 11:15
 H. Abrahamson
 1151 Gronna Dr.
 Mail: 611 W. Court St;
 New Hampton 50659

Waukon-West Paint Creek
 11:15
 H. Abrahamson
 1351 Maud Rd.
 Mail: 611 W. Court St;
 New Hampton, IA 50659

Williamsburg-St. Timothy
 9:00
 K. Heck
 113 WRM Drive
 Mail: P.O. Box 766; 52361

MINNESOTA

Albert Lea-Our Savior's
 9:00
 W. Halvorson
 320 W. College St.; 56007

Hartland-Hartland
 10:45 (S 9:00)
 D. Schmidt
 414 Broadway
 Mail: PO Box 188; 56042

Manchester-Manchester
 9:00 (S 10:30)
 D. Schmidt
 101 McKinley
 Mail: PO Box 188, Hartland; 56042

CIRCUIT 8

MINNESOTA

Audubon-Immanuel

9:30
E. Geistfeld
180 E. Swan Drive
Mail: Box 187; 56511

Bagley-Our Savior's

9:00
S. Stafford
5 miles W. on Hwy 2
Mail: PO Box 26, Lengby; 56651

Crookston-Grace

10:45
W. Grimm
1221 Barette St.; 56716

East Grand Forks-River Heights

11:00 (S 9:00)
R. Preus
2214 10th Ave. NW; 56721

Fertile-First Evanger

9:00
W. Grimm
405 Washington
Mail: Box 477; 56540

Grygla-St. Petri

8:00
J. Abrahamson
3 miles E, 1 mile N
Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee
56742

Hawley-Our Savior's

11:00 (S 10:30)
vacant
Sixth & Joseph
Mail: Box 326, Ulen; 56585

Lengby-St. Paul

10:30
S. Stafford
Mail: PO Box 26; 56651

Oklee-Oak Park

10:00 (S 11:00)
J. Abrahamson
8 miles N. 4 miles E
Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee
56742

Trail-Mt. Olive

Sat 8:30
J. Abrahamson
Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee
56742

Trail-Nazareth

1:00 pm (S 9:45 am)
J. Abrahamson
11 miles N. 2 miles E
Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee
56742

Ulen-Calvary

9:00
vacant
207 First Street NW
Mail: PO Box 326; 56585

NORTH DAKOTA

Mayville-First American

10:00
A. Dethlefsen
214 3rd Ave NE
PO Box 541; 58257

CIRCUIT 9

MINNESOTA

Apple Valley-Heritage

10:00 (S 9:30)
K. Anderson
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

8:45
C. Wosje
4015 SE 115th Ave.
PO Box 796; 56222

Cold Spring-Gloria Dei

10:00 (S 9:00)
C. Howley
601 Red River Ave. S; 56320

Cottonwood-English

9:30 (S 9:00)
J. Smith
110 East Main St.
Mail: PO Box 37; 56229

Gaylord-Norwegian Grove

9:00 or 10:30* (S: 8:30 or 10:00*)
C. Ferkenstad
33879 State Highway 22
Mail: 37777 State Hwy 22,
St. Peter; 56082

Golden Valley-King of Grace

8:15; 10:45, Wed. 7:00
(S 8:15; 10:00, Wed 7:00)
E. Ekhoﬀ, D.Russow
6000 Duluth St; 55422
www.kog.org

Luverne-Bethany

10:15
P. Fries
720 N. Kniss Ave.
Mail: PO Box 506; 56156
www.blc-luverne.org

Mankato-Mt. Olive

8:30 & 10:45, Mon. 7:00
(S 8:30 & 10:00, Mon 7:00)
D. Moldstad, D. Basel,
1123 Marsh St.; 56001

North Mankato- Peace

10:00 (S: 9:00)
B. Kerkow
2090 Commerce Drive; 56003

Princeton-Bethany

9:00
R. Lawson
801 South Sixth St.; 55371

Princeton-Our Savior's

9:00
T. Zenda
18977 17th St.; 55371

St. Peter-Norseland

9:00 or 10:30* (S: 8:30 or 10:00*)
C. Ferkenstad
37777 State Highway 22; 56082

Tracy-Zion

10:15
K.Kluge
2nd & Emory
Mail: Box 1172; 56175

CIRCUIT 10

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau-Scriptural
10:00
H. Gieschen
3587 County Rd. 635; 63701
Carthage-Faith
10:30
R. Waters
2134 South Grand; 64836

Jefferson City-Peace
8:30
M. Brooks
7808 New Church Rd.; 65101
Piedmont-Grace
10:30
Vacant
114 E. Green St.; 63957

Richardson-Good Shepherd
10:30
E. Gernander
650 W. Campbell Rd.; 75080

TEXAS

San Antonio-Faith
10:30
M. Crick
14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd.; 78247

CIRCUIT 11

ARIZONA

Fort Mojave-Family of God
10:15
L. Wentzloff
1863 Pandaro Rd.
Mail: PO Box 10949; 86427
Lake Havasu City-Our Saviour
8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:00, Apr-Dec)
T. Hartwig
3163 Maricopa Ave.; 86406

Scottsdale-Redeemer
9:00
K. Brumble
7670 E. Jomax Rd.; 85262
www.redeemer.vze.com

CALIFORNIA

Bell Gardens-Christ the King
10:45
E. Zimdars
6541 Eastern Ave.; 90201
Bishop-Our Savior
9:30
vacant
162 Sneden St.; 93514
Escondido-St. Paul
10:00
R. Lawson Jr.
1418 Bear Valley Pkwy.; 92027
www.ourchurch.com/member/s/stpaulsescondido/
Fillmore-Wayfarers'
9:30
L. Lanier
461 3rd St.; 93015

Irvine-Faith
9:30
W. Stehr
13955 Yale Ave.; 92620
Irvine-Asian Mission
12:00 (Korean)
Y. Kim
13955 Yale Ave.; 92620
Ukiah-Apostles
10:15
vacant
710-E S State
Mail: PO Box 1511; 95482
Windsor-Christ
10:15
vacant
125 Shiloh Rd.; 95492

CIRCUIT 12

OREGON

Grants Pass-Our Savior

9:00
S.Sparley
230 Buysman Way; 97526

Gresham-Saved By Grace

9:30
T. Bartels
2010 NE Division St.; 97030

Hillsboro-Reformation

10:00
S.Brockdorf
4435 SE Tualatin Valley Hwy; 97123

Hood River-Concordia

9:00
C. Hahnke
1107 Pine St.; 97031

Klamath Falls-Christ

9:30
J. Braun
127 N. Spring St.; 97601

Medford-Saved by Grace

11:00
S. Sparley
1773 S Columbus Ave; 97501-3929

Myrtle Creek-St. Matthew

11:00
F. Fiedler III
436 Old North Pacific Hwy; 97457

Sutherlin-Christ

8:30
F. Fiedler III
161 2nd St
Mail: Box R; 97470

The Dalles-Bethany

11:00
C. Hahnke
2323 East 12th St.; 97058

UTAH

West Jordan-Hope

9:00
A.Hamilton
2930 W. 9000 S.; 84088

WASHINGTON

Lakewood-Lakewood

11:00 (S 10:00)
J.Schmidt
10202 112th St. SW; 98498

Mt. Vernon-St. Luke

9:00
J. Dalke
1524 E. Blackburn Rd.; 98274

Port Orchard-Bethany

8:15 & 11:00, Mon 7:00
A. Pittenger
151 Tremont W.; 98366

Tacoma-Parkland

8:15; 11:00, Mon. 6:30
South Mission Service 9:30
G. Obenberger, A. Ring; H. Bartels
12309 Pacific Ave.; 98444

Yelm-Our Redeemer

10:00; Wed. 7:00 (S: 9:00, Wed. 7:00)
V. Settje
805 Yelm Ave. E
Mail: PO Box 2169; 98597

* Consult pastor for Service time

INDEX

Archives and History, Report of the Committee.....	118
Bethany Lutheran College, Report of the Board of Regents	77
Bethany Lutheran Seminary, Report of the Board of Regents.....	81
Christian Service, Report of the Board	109
Congregations admitted into membership.....	72
Convention Committees	17
Convention, Day-by-Day	4
Convention, Date of the 2004 Convention	141
Credentials Committee, Action of the synod	73
Directories:	
Bethany Lutheran College.....	210
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	214
Christian Day Schools.....	215
Christian Day School Teachers.....	218
Clergy	233
Church bodies in fellowship with the ELS	192
Congregations	223
Foreign Missions:	
Chile	206
Peru	206
Thoughts of Faith	207
High Schools	209
Officers of the synod.....	198
Other Addresses	209
Doctrine, Report of the Board	74
Education and Youth, Report of the Board	101
Essay	44
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, Report of the Board	121
Evangelism, Report of the Board.....	97
Excuses	73
Finances:	
Action of the Synod	122
Budget, 2003	120
Budget, 2004	116
Financial Statements	147
Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund	112
Program Funds, 2004	120
Integrating Technology, Report of the Committee.....	124
Membership, Action of the Synod.....	72
Memorials:	
Christian Education of Children	143
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary.....	144
Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary.....	144
Truth Unchanged, Unchanging	142
Inclusion of Male Teachers in the ELS Convention Business	145
Synodical Name Change	143
Minutes, Action of the synod.....	141
Miscellaneous, Action of the synod.....	139
Missions:	
Foreign Missions, Report of the Board.....	91
Home Missions, Report of the Board.....	87
Offering Committee, Report of.....	121
Pastoral Conference Records, Action of the synod.....	142

Permanent Members admitted into membership.....	72
Pictures:	
Abiding Shepherd (Bowling Green, Ohio).....	30
Branstad, Raymond.....	31
Bruss, Dan	32
Concordia (Eau Claire, Wisconsin)	31
Dale, Michael	32
Ferkenstad, Craig	44
Gerhardt, Lewis	31
Kessel, William	32
Kluge, Kurt	32
Lanier, Leslie	32
Lawson, Robert Jr.	32
Peace (Jefferson City, Missouri).....	30
St. Matthew (Detroit, Michigan)	31
Saved by Grace (Medford, Oregon).....	32
Schmidt, Gregory.....	32
Planning and Coordinating Committee, Report of.....	116
President's Message	22
President's Report	27
Publications, Report of the Board.....	108
Representatives eligible to vote.....	13
Resolutions, Action of the synod	142
Roll Call.....	11
Stewardship, Report of the Board	113
Synodical Membership, Action of the synod	72
Synod Review, Report of the Committee.....	129
Thoughts of Faith, Report of.....	93
Trustees, Report of the Board.....	116
Worship, Report of the Committee	111

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The Foundation is ready to serve those who are concerned about their responsibility to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as those who are concerned about the needs of our church. It stands ready to serve as no other agency can.

A. GIFTS AND DONATIONS OF MONEY

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of money designated for the general work of our church or any specific phase of its activities. Such gifts may be designated for any purpose the donor may desire, and they may be divided in any way.

In keeping with the donor's wishes, the principal may be used for the purpose designated, or the principal may be held intact while the income alone is used for the work of the church.

B. GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY

The Foundation is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of real estate, securities, or other property designated for the general work of our church or for any specific phase of its activities (including local congregations). If desired the Foundation is ready to make arrangements whereby the donor will receive a gift annuity agreement income for life or a life income agreement income.

C. BEQUESTS THROUGH WILLS

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The E.L.S. Foundation urgently appeals to you: Make a will, and make your will a "Christian" will by remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in it.

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I give, devise and bequeath to the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Parochial Report for the year 2002:

Congregation	CONGREGATION			MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS					SERVICES				EDUCATION							FINANCES										
	State	Location	Circuit	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communion	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	11	Family of God	L.Wentzlaff	80	62	24	4	2	2	3	411	1	52	51	13	31			12	4	14	28			76,342			58,616			
2	AZ	Lake Havasu City	11	Our Saviour	T.Hartwig	217	176	77	3	1	3	1,427	3	64	130	18	70	45	3	13	2	35	55		1	327,500	11,830	850,000	295,000				
3	AZ	Scottsdale	11	Redeemer	K. Brumble	103	88	32	1	1	1	3	1,619	2	52	69	16	39			6	4	40			114,000	11,882	1,200,000	245,354				
4	CA	Bell Gardens	11	Christ the King	E. Zimdars	40	28	8	1	1	1			3	52	27	14	14			11	2	12	12		6	35,869	260	180,000				
5	CA	Bishop	11	Our Saviour	vacant	29	26	6					223	2	52	14	14	13			12	1	11	11		3	32,793	2,350	425,000	25,564			
6	CA	Escondido	11	St. Paul	R.Lawson Jr.	59	41	14	5	1	1		260	1	52	46	15	18			5	2	14										
7	CA	Fillmore	11	Wayfarers' Chapel	L.Lanier	40	34	6	1				329	1	51	28	13	16				1	15	10		1							
8	CA	Irvine	11	Asian Mission Church*	Y.Kim	8	10	4													3	1	10	5	1	3			3,000				
9	CA	Irvine	11	Faith*	W. Stehr	93	82	28					521	1	4	52	65	12	27			10	4	20	27	1	1	7	164,518	4,552	30,000		
10	CA	Windsor	11	Christ	K. Anderson	73	60	17	1					5	52	54	17	26			9	2	21	31		6	76,644		800,000	124,000			
11	FL	Kissimmee	1	Peace	H. Huhnerkoch	147	117	44	6	2	1	5	1,533	3	1	52	88	14	52			24	3	20	26		6	65,531	4,925	498,435	303,552	10,000	
12	FL	Lakeland	1	Our Saviour	N. Pommeranz	78	75	29					592	5	52	49	19	30			3	1	12					77,202	1,744	325,000	24,519	8,135	
13	FL	Lakeland	1	Peace	J. Willitz	145	105	35	2	3		11	604	1	2	52	70	17	42			20	4	20	20	9	1	14	73,000	10,000	500,000	290,000	501,000
14	FL	Naples	1	Our Saviour	G. Schmidt	220	176	38	4			3		2	2	52	133	17	67			21	5	20	31	4	11	201,982	1,710	1,700,000	445,684		
15	FL	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	M.Dale	143	105	19	3	1			1,274	1	1	52	87	8	62			28	6	17	62	4	4	104,624	7,320	600,000	93,889		
16	FL	Sebastian	1	Trinity	D. Lillegard	97	88	18				2	2	1,405	2	52	66	12	48			7	2	35	22	2	2	74,910	4,763	500,000	162,000		
17	FL	Sebring	1	New Life	R. Fyffe	68	64	22	1				1,150	1	5	64	38	17	38					18			76,397	12,000	350,000	64,872	100,000		
18	FL	Vero Beach	1	Grace	J. Petersen	251	214	40	4			3		2,705	3	4	52	147	12	70			30	7	30	48	20	138,787	37,144	922,721			
19	FL	Winter Haven	1	Resurrection	C.Keeler	90	84	21							5	52	54	15	44			7	2	30	20		2	76,581	6,417	420,000			
20	IL	Chicago	4	Emmaus*	vacant	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*	vacant	19	19	6																				11,620	2,560				
22	IL	Litchfield	4	Faith	S. Schmidt	134	99	20	3	1	3	2	1,100	2	52	66	17	59			32	8	18	36		12	109,167	5,902	750,000	58,747			
23	IL	Lombard	4	St. Timothy*	E. Bryant	178	128	21	5		8	2	1,240	1	63	63	16	33			7	2	20	13	18	1	1	11	140,025	20,887	900,000	76,685	
24	IN	Brownsburg	4	Good Shepherd	G. Lienthal	107	78	16	5			4	981	2	52	51	15	37			5		14	4	15	17		4	68,249	6,737	173,000	17,000	
25	IN	Hobart	4	Grace	F. Lams	181	146	23	6		5	4	2,851	3	3	52	121	13	93			11	1	4	72	53	2	27	121,500	20,639	750,000	193,026	
26	IN	Portage	#	Hope	R. Flohr	243	190	185	11	1	2	5	1,503	1	7	52	84	12	44			40	10	12	88			108,846	3,000	2,300,000			
27	IA	Arnes	7	Bethany	M. Hoesch	43	34	11					443	1	52	27	16	21				7	3	12	7			37,888					
28	IA	Calmar	7	Trinity	H. Abrahamson	36	31	5					280	2	50	21	9	15				2	1	10	8			34,207	295				
29	IA	Forest City	7	Forest*	T.Gullixson	69	67	13	1				360	3	49	27	14	32				11	1				5	21,691	131	92,000		153,059	
30	IA	Indianola	7	Good Shepherd	R. Harting	61	43	18	4		2	2	749	1	52	46	15	35				13	4	24	40		6	74,618	6,311	90,000	49,159		
31	IA	Lake Mills	7	Lake Mills	K. Hermanson	66	57		1				239	2	52	22						5		7									
32	IA	Lake Mills	7	Lime Creek	K. Hermanson	20	20						122																				
33	IA	Lawler	7	Saunder	K. Dethlefsen	140	110	70	2					1	3	95						20	6	10	35								
34	IA	New Hampton	7	Jerico	K. Dethlefsen	140	120	75	1		4	1		1	1	75						20	4	10	30								
35	IA	New Hampton	7	Redeemer	H. Abrahamson	76	74	20		1	2			1	50	44	9	36				6	2	12	14	3	3	43,778	270				
36	IA	Newton	7	Grace	M. Hoesch	27	26	6					239		52	16	14	17					7				1	23,702					
37	IA	Northwood	7	First Shell Rock	K. Hermanson	71	61		1	2			237	1	1	52	22					4		7									
38	IA	Northwood	7	Somber	K. Hermanson	33	30						192	1	26	31																	
39	IA	Parkersburg	7	Faith	D. Larson	90	75	15	2				480	2	52	37	10	31				10	2		8			44,000			230,000		
40	IA	Riceville	7	Immanuel	K. Hermanson	20	20						92		44	10																	
41	IA	Scarville	7	Center	T. Rank	92	69	29					522	1	2	50	23	6	36				2	1	22		4	31,695	5,470				
42	IA	Scarville	7	Scarville	T. Rank	102	76	29	1		3		957	1	50	56	9	55			18	1	12	5	20	3	3	10	67,100	7,904			
43	IA	Thompson	7	Zion*	T.Gullixson	50	48	19		2			370	1	49	30	14	32				4	2					15,967	2,541	31,000			
44	IA	Thornton	7	Richland	J. Gernander	92	89	28	1		1		600	2	51	37	13	24				3	2	11	2		3	45,951	2,900				
45	IA	Waterville	7	Pilgrim	G. Haugen	117	85	23	2		1		501		52	55	12	29				22	5	17	21		7	45,574	680	575,000			
46	IA	Waterville	7	East Paint Creek	H. Abrahamson	44	37	17					211		25	32	4	16				6	2	7	14		3	15,385	3,602				
47	IA	Waukon	7	West Paint Creek	H. Abrahamson	21	19	9					173	2	25	32	5	16				2	1	7				8,687	1,552				
48	IA	Williamsburg	7	St. Timothy	K. Heck	74	58	13			2	1	1,022	1	2	52	56	18	38			13	5	24	15	5	12	93,500	15,000	500,000	118,200		
49	MA	Brewster	2	Trinity	M. Langlais	86	65	13	1		3		1,180	1	52	40	12	24				10	3	15	9			69,605	1,881	300,000			
50	MA	Burlington	2	Pinewood	T. Fox	140	102	33	4																								

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