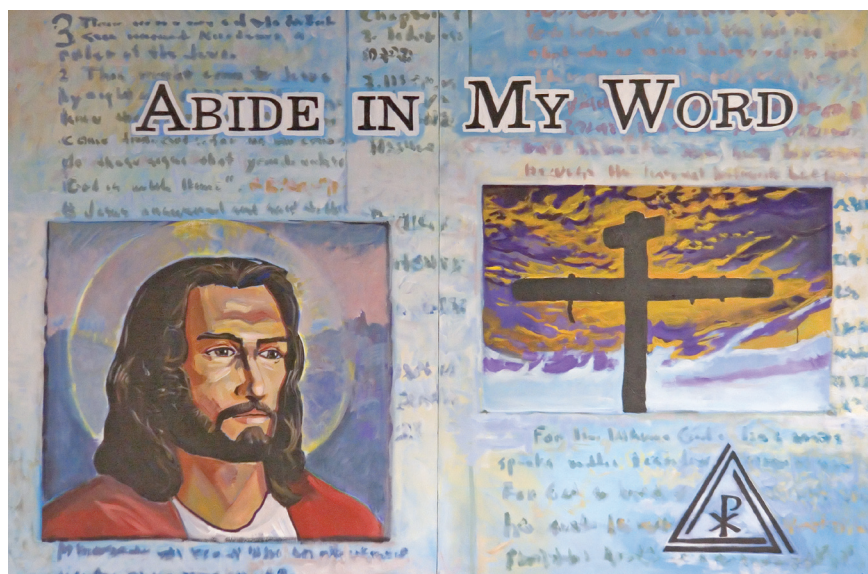


2005



**88th Annual Convention  
of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Bethany Lutheran College  
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

Mankato, Minnesota  
June 19-23, 2005



**88<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR CONVENTION**  
**OF THE**  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

**and the**  
**49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE**  
**CORPORATION**

Convention Theme:  
**“Abide in My Word”**

Essayist:  
Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch

Compiled by  
Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, Secretary

Held at  
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE  
and  
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mankato, Minnesota  
June 19-23, 2005



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Convention Day by Day.....	5
Roll Call	
Representatives	
Convention Committees	
President's Message and Report.....	19
Essay.....	33
Reports and Action	
Synodical Membership.....	62
Credentials.....	63
Doctrine, Report of the Committee.....	64
Presidium's Committee on Ministry, Report from the President.....	66
Bethany Lutheran College, Report of the Board.....	73
Bethany Lutheran Seminary, Report of the Board.....	76
Home Missions, Report of the Board.....	81
Foreign Missions, Report of the Board.....	86
Evangelism, Report of the Board.....	95
Education & Youth, Report of the Board.....	98
Lutheran Schools Initiative, Report of the Committee.....	103
Publications, Report of the Board.....	105
Christian Service, Report of the Board.....	107
Worship, Report of the Committee.....	108
Laymen's Delegates Equalization, Report of the Committee.....	112
Stewardship, Report of the Board.....	113
Planning & Coordinating, Report of the Committee.....	117
Trustees, Report of the Board.....	118
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, Report of the Board.....	125
Synod Review, Report of the Committee.....	127
Miscellaneous Action.....	130
Memorials.....	134
Financial Statements.....	145
Directories	
Church Bodies in fellowship with the ELS.....	192
Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Officers.....	194
Board and Committee Members, Addresses.....	198
Foreign Missions.....	202
Other Addresses.....	205
Area Lutheran High Schools.....	205
Bethany Lutheran College.....	206
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.....	208
Lutheran Elementary Schools and Preschools.....	209
Lutheran Elementary School Teachers.....	212
Congregations.....	219
Clergy.....	229
Periodicals.....	241





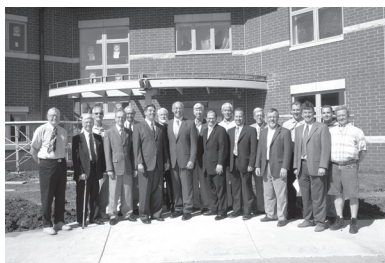
# **THE CONVENTION**

## **DAY BY DAY**

# THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

## SYNOD SUNDAY, June 19, 2005

The 88<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation began with a Festival Synod Sunday Service in Trinity Chapel beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. Mark Bartels (Madison, Wisconsin) preached the sermon based upon John 8:31-32 under the theme *Abide in My Word*. The Rev. Daniel Basel (Mankato, Minnesota) served as liturgist. The Rite of Dedication for the new Bethany Lutheran College residence facility (Edgewood Place) followed.



*Board of Regents and Board of Trustees*

At 7:00 p.m. the assembly gathered again in Trinity Chapel for the Graduation Service for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Three students graduated from the seminary. President Schmeling based the sermon on Ephesians 3:8 with the theme *The Pearl of Salvation*. The pearl of salvation is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ who became poor and lowly to raise us to his divine glory, eternal life in heaven. He

conquered sin, death and all our foes and made us partakers in the divine nature as the sons of God with an eternal existence. This pearl of great price our pastors will dispense in our world engulfed in the spiritual poverty of sin and death. Only this pearl of salvation can give peace and purpose in this life and the blessed hope for the life to come in Jesus Christ our Savior. The Rev. M. Smith served as liturgist and the Rev. J.K. Smith represented the Board of Regents.



*Seminary Graduates: Samuel Schmeling, Daniel Finn and S. Piet Van Kampen*

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

## MONDAY, June 20, 2005

The first working day of the 88<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation was opened with a devotion conducted in Trinity Chapel. The chaplain, the Rev. Donald Moldstad (Mankato, Minnesota) was the speaker who based his sermon upon John 8:31-32 under the theme *Living in His Truth Alone*. The Office of Matins was used which included the hymns "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word" and "God's Word is Our Great Heritage."

At 9:50 a.m. President Moldstad welcomed the delegates, pastors and visitors to the 88<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Secretary Ferkenstad announced that the roll had been gathered at the credentials desk. Seventy-three permanent voting members and twenty-nine permanent advisory members either responded to the gathering of the roll or were present at the end of the first working day. The Credentials Committee reported that 133 men had been certified by their congregations as representatives to this convention. By the conclusion of the convention there were ninety-four permanent voting members and 154 delegates who had registered. There also were two advisory members in attendance.

President Moldstad declared the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 49<sup>th</sup> 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" to the synod. The convention gathers under the theme of *Abide in My Word* as the Savior directs in John 8:31-32.

The theme of this convention reminds us that we, as the Lutheran confessors, are to take a stand on all of the doctrines in Holy Writ; take seriously the way God's Word is transmitted to future generations; be stalwart confessors of Christian doctrine; and have a determination to share the Word with others so they too can dwell in its safety.

A written greeting was read on behalf of the Lutheran congregations in Peru; and an oral greeting was brought by Professor Thomas Nass (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod).

The convention elected its working committees, committee work was assigned and the convention recessed at 1:25 p.m. so that the Convention Committees could meet to prepare resolutions for consideration.

## **TUESDAY, June 21, 2005**

The Tuesday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. John Petersen (Vero Beach, Florida) using Matthew 13:18-23 as the sermon text. The devotion also included the singing of the hymns *Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast* and *Almighty Father, Bless the Word*.

Following the normal preliminaries, the Synodical Membership Committee reported. Four pastors, one teacher, and one congregation were received into membership. The new members were invited to the stage and welcomed by President Moldstad.

President Moldstad then introduced the essayist, the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch (Kissimmee, Florida). The essayist began reading the essay *Abide in My Word*. He read Part I: *It's the home where our Christian faith was born*, and Part II: *It's the perfect home for our discipline to thrive*.

The afternoon devotion consisted of the singing of the hymn *Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth*.

After the normal preliminaries, presentations were made on behalf of the Board for Stewardship, Circuit #7 Evangelistic Outreach, and Thoughts of Faith.

The convention then began the lengthy discussion of the report of the Doctrine Committee which included the recommendation to adopt the "Doctrine of the Public Ministry" as prepared by the Presidium's Committee on Ministry.

The report was then received from the Elementary Education Committee. Mr. Michael Butterfield was introduced as the president of Lutheran Schools of America and addressed the assembly. He stated that the objective of the LSA is education; the goal is the gospel and evangelism.



Mr. Michael  
Butterfield

A Home Mission Presentation was made by the Rev. Kenneth Mellon concerning the work in Bowling Green, Ohio and the Home Missions Committee made its report.

The convention then recessed to Trinity Chapel where the Anniversary Service was held at 5:00 p.m. Under the theme *Honoring those who teach and preach*, and using 1 Timothy 5:17 as his text, the Rev. David Lillegard (Sebastian, Florida) said thirteen men are being honored today, who have served a total of 485 years in the ministry of God's Word. What a tremendous blessing they have been in many ways and in many places to many people. They have been faithful preachers and teachers of the Word of God. Therefore we honor them. But we remember to give to God alone the thanks, the praise, the credit, and the glory, for what they have done. He created, redeemed, and sanctified them so that their work has born good, eternal fruit. Our sinful nature would like to take the credit for what is done in God's name. Therefore, like the men of God in the Bible, we need to continually repent and turn to God with faith in his redeeming work in Jesus Christ. In this way servants of God are kept as fitting vessels and instruments for God's service. To God alone be the praise and the glory. The service included the singing of the hymn *God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons*.

An evening presentation concerning the work of the Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India was held in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center.



## WEDNESDAY, June 22, 2005

The Wednesday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. Joseph Abrahamson (Oklee, Minnesota) using Luke 16:19-21 as the sermon text under the theme *The Word Alone Creates the Church*. The devotion included the singing of the hymn *Thou, whose Almighty Word*.

After the normal preliminaries and nominations for the 2006 Nominating Committee, discussion continued on the “Doctrine of the Public Ministry” until the time came for the essay.

The reading of the essay, *Abide in My Word*, was continued at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch read Part III: *It's the home where we grow in knowledge of the truth* and Part IV: *It's the home where we live in freedom*. Discussion followed and thanks was extended to the essayist.

The afternoon devotion consisted of the singing of the hymn *How precious is the Book Divine*, the reading of Psalm 119:49-52, and a selection by the ELS Youth Honors Choir.

Following a presentation on behalf of the Board for Foreign Missions, the convention took up the report of the Foreign Missions Committee which recommended that the Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India be considered as a new mission field of the synod under the supervision of the Board for Foreign Missions and also encouraged the board to continue exploratory work in South Korea. At this time, the Rev. Eugene Kaufeld, the Rev. Solomon Mamidi and the Rev. Ananda Raju (Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India) were invited to the stage and addressed the convention.



*The Rev. Solomon Mamidi and  
the Rev. Ananda Raju*

The reports of the Finance Committee and Publications Committee were received before returning to a discussion of the report of the Doctrine Committee and the “Office of the Public Ministry.” Following a lengthy discussion, the statement was adopted on a written ballot with 131 in favor and 79 opposed. The president then addressed the convention urging patience toward those with an opposing viewpoint and making a plea to work together toward unity. He reminded the assembly that the Lord uses all things for the well-being of His kingdom. A expression of thanks was made to the PCM and also to Vice-President Obenberger. He stated that we must realize there is much before us and we can go forward doing the work of the ministry in a world filled with souls who need to know Christ as the only Savior.

The convention recessed to Trinity Chapel where the Memorial Service was held beginning at 5:15 p.m. The Rev. Wayne Halvorson (Albert Lea, Minnesota) based his sermon upon Romans 8:31-32 under the theme *Christian Mourner's Comfort*. The service included the singing of the hymns *If God Himself be for Me* and *Jerusalem, the Golden*.

The Communion Service was conducted in Trinity Chapel beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Thomas Fox (Burlington, Massachusetts) was the speaker basing the sermon upon Luke 2:10-11 and Matthew 28:5-6 under the theme *Do not be afraid!—This Truth Will Set You Free!* The Rev. Mark Harstad (Mankato, Minnesota) was the liturgist.

## THURSDAY, June 23, 2005

The morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. Seven Schmidt (Litchfield, Illinois). The sermon was based upon John 6:60-63 with the theme *The Word Alone Gives Eternal Life*. The devotion included the singing of the hymn *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*.

President-emeritus George Orvick addressed the convention saying that we have reached an important point in our synod's life. Each pastor and layperson must think very carefully about what they will say and do in the coming months. He quoted Sigurd Ylvisaker who said at another similar occasion: “we must butter ourselves with patience.”

He concluded by saying: please, out of love for each other and what the Lord has done for this little synod, be circumspect about what is said and done in the coming weeks.

After the normal preliminaries, a presentation on behalf of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary was made by President Gaylin Schmeling. President Dan Bruss spoke on behalf of Bethany Lutheran College; he noted that the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center has not achieved its goals to the extent which had been desired and the Board of Regents is in the process of identifying a broker to assist with the sale of the Center.

The convention then considered the reports of the committees on Higher Education and Miscellaneous matters, spending considerable time discussion the proposed guidelines for Colloquies and the Colloquy Committee.

President Karl Gurgel (WELS) also addressed the convention prior to the noon recess.

The afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Ronald Pederson (Suttons Bay, Michigan). The devotion consisted of the reading of 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 prayer, and the singing of the hymn *Thy Strong Word*.

The convention then returned to the discussion of the report of the Doctrine Committee prior to receiving the reports from the committees on Evangelism, Youth & Parish Education, Christian Service, Worship, President's Message and Report, Resolutions, and Pastoral Conference Records.

At 3:56 p.m. the president declared the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 49<sup>th</sup> 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 chaplain concluded the convention with prayer.

# ROLL CALL OF PERMANENT MEMBERS

## Active Membership:

### 1. Pastors serving member congregations:

*Members having the right to vote*

Present: H.Abrahamson, J. Abrahamson, K.Anderson, H.Bartels, M.Bartels, T.Bartels, D.Basel, J.Braun, S.Brockdorf, M.Brooks, E.Bryant, L.Buelow, M.Dale, J.Dalke, A.Dethlefsen, K.Dethlefsen, E.Ekhoff, D.Faugstad, C.Ferkenstad, F.Fiedler III, R.Flohr, T.Fox, P.Fries, R.Fyffe, E.Geistfeld, E.Gernander, J.Gernander, H.Gieschen, W.Grimm, T.Gullixson, C.Hahnke, W.Halvorsen, A.Hamilton, R.Harting, T.Hartwig, G.Haugen, K.Heck, K.Hermanson, M.Hoesch, R.Holtz, B.Homan, H.Huhnerkoch, J.Jacobsen, C.Keeler, B.Kerkow, J.Kim, K.Kluge, N.Krause, F.Lams, L.Lanier, D.Larson, R.Lawson Jr, R.Lawson Sr, G.Lilienthal, D.Lillegard, J.Londgren, W.Mack, J.Madson, M.Marozick, D.McQuality, K.Mellon, H.Mosley, G.Obenberger, R.Otto, A.Palmquist, R.Pederson, J.Petersen, A.Pittenger, R.Preus, T.Rank, A.Ring, M.Rogers, D.Russow, D.Schmidt, G.Schmidt, K.Schmidt, S.Schmidt, P.Schneider, B.Schwark, T.Skaaland, J.Smith, S.Sparley, S.Stafford, P.Sullivan, F.Theiste, B.Tweit, L.Vinton, L.Wentzlaff, T.Westendorf, J.Willitz, P.Zager, T.Zenda

Absent: D.Bakke, M.Crick, C.Dale, M.Langlais, B.Leonatti, J.Schmidt, V.Settje, G.Smith, W.Stehr, E.Stubenvoll Jr, M.Thompson, R.Waters

### 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: 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, A.Harstad, M.Harstad, D.Metzger, D.Moldstad, G.Schmeling, M.Smith, E.Teigen, D.Thompson

Absent: W.Kessel, T.Kuster, D.Marzolf, S.Reagles

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

*Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote*

Present: J.Moldstad, 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: P.Lepak, G.Sahlstrom, D.Webber

Absent: T.Erickson, M.Grubbs, D.Hauser, Y.Kim, K.Kuenzel, M.Luttman, O.Rodriguez, T.Schultz

7. Pastors emeriti:

*Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote*

Present: P.Anderson, W.Anderson, R.Carter, W.Frick, W.Gullixson, R.Honsey, J.Madson, N.Madson, P.Madson, J.Moldstad Sr, G.Orvick, W.Petersen, J.K.Smith, C.Wosje

Absent: R.Branstad, M.Doepel, L.Gerbhardt, J.Krueger, A.Kuster, H.Larson, P.Lehenbauer, D.McElwain, F.Schmugge, E.Stubenvoll Sr, O.Trebelhorn, H.Vetter

Teachers serving in schools of member congregations:

*Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote*

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

Absent: J.Gregovich, F.Pahmeier

### **Inactive Membership:**

*Advisory Membership: Not having the right to vote*

Present: R.Dale, C.Howley

Absent: K.Brumble, D.Hoyord, M.Krentz, D.Meyer, C.Sielaff, K.Smith, M.Wold

### **Individuals:**

Present: D.Bruss, N.Holte, M.Meyer

### **To be received into Membership at this convention:**

1. Pastors serving member congregation:

Present: W.Borgwardt, E.Hoeft, J.Merseth, S.P.Van Kampen, C.Zibrowski

## 2005 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
Abiding Shepherd	Cottage Grove, WI	Bart Stubblefield Bob Mickelson
Abiding Word	Bowling Green, OH	
Apostles	Ukiah, CA	
Ascension	Eau Claire, WI	Leo Sommer Dean Williams Sam Lee
Asian Mission	Irvine, CA	Shane Donley
Beautiful Saviour	Springboro, OH	Brian Laughlin Don Schumann Robert McMullen
Bethany	Ames, IA	Eugene Mann LaVern Kafka
Bethany	Luverne, MN	Dick Vagts Glen W. Hansen
Bethany	Princeton, MN	Terry Nelson
Bethany	The Dalles, OR	Nate Carlson
Bethany	Port Orchard, WA	Curt Mantey Lyle Manthe
Calvary	Ulen, MN	
Center	Scarville, IA	
Christ	Windsor, CA	Herb J. Fischer
Christ	Port St. Lucie, FL	Patrick Sladky Keith Duin
Christ	Klamath Falls, OR	Virgil Teigland
Christ	Sutherlin, OR	Larry Brown
Christ the King	Bell Gardens, CA	
Christ the King	Green Bay, WI	Jonathan Brodhagen
Concordia	Hood River, OR	
Concordia	Eau Claire, WI	Frederick Kapanke Larry Wittwer
English	Cottonwood, MN	Ray Pederson Dwayne Boerner Harold Loe (alt.)
Faith	Irvine, CA	Robert F. Schneider
Faith	Litchfield, IL	Richard Kreis David Rovey
Faith	Parkersburg, IA	
Faith	Alpena, MI	
Faith	East Jordan, MI	Robert Carter Donald Sell
Faith	Hillman, MI	Marlin Goebel Walter Eric Erickson
Faith	Clara City, MN	Wayne Spieker
Faith	Carthage, MO	
Faith	Medford, OR	Al Schoennauer
Faith	San Antonio, TX	Chet Williams Kenneth Welkener
Faith	Oregon, WI	Sean Steak
Family of God	Fort Mohave, AZ	
First	Suttons Bay, MI	Ron Johnson

First American	Mayville, ND	Michael S. Carr David Flitter
First Evanger	Fertile, MN	
First Shell Rock	Northwood, IA	
First Trinity	Marinette, WI	
Forest	Forest City, IA	
Gloria Dei	Saginaw, MI	Les Appold Robert Kain Arnold H. Hamann Maynard Pick
Gloria Dei	Cold Spring, MN	
Good Shepherd	Brownsburg, IN	
Good Shepherd	Indianola, IA	
Good Shepherd	Bloomer, WI	Eugene Lueck
Grace	Vero Beach, FL	Johnny Johnson
Grace	Hobart, IN	
Grace	Newton, IA	Jon Henning Bruce Hayden
Grace	Crookston, MN	
Grace	Piedmont, MO	
Grace	Weston, OH	Joel D. Godwin Robert T. Fouts Bruce Gee Edward Schneider Don Jordahl Larry Becker Kent Olmanson (alt.) Wayne B. Karlsrud Bill Overn Mark Theiste (alt.) Ed Cregg Joe Powers Jim Baxter Norm Marozick Gregory Bovid Ed Finlay Dan Neumann Robert Brown
Grace	Madison, WI	
Hartland	Hartland, MN	
Heritage	Apple Valley, MN	
Holton	Holton, MI	
Holy Cross	Madison, WI	
Holy Scripture	Midland, MI	
Holy Trinity	Okauchee, WI	
Hope	Portage, IN	
Hope	West Jordan, UT	Christopher Hoffman
Immanuel	Riceville, IA	
Immanuel	Audubon, MN	Jon Tibbetts Samuel Skaaland
Jerico	New Hampton, IA	
King of Grace	Waukon, IA	Dennis Benzing Greg Gilbertson John Kantorowicz Channing Handberg, Sr. Norman Werner (alt.) Harlan Levorson Leighton Humphrey William Humphrey (alt.)
King of Grace	Golden Valley, MN	
Lake Mills	Lake Mills, IA	
Lakewood	Lakewood, WA	
Lime Creek	Lake Mills, IA	
Lord of Life	Holland, MI	Joshua Pohlmann Rodney Kuznicki
Manchester	Manchester, MN	

Messiah	Omro, WI	Michael Muehlenhardt
Mt. Olive	Mankato, MN	Wilbur Lieske
Mt. Olive	Trail, MN	
Nazareth	Trail, MN	
New Life	Sebring, FL	
Newport	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Dennis Korth
Norseland	St. Peter, MN	Lydell Struck
		Willis E. Anthony
Norwegian Grove	Gaylord, MN	Ty Landon
		David Laabs
Oak Park	Oklee, MN	
Our Redeemer	Yelm, WA	Dennis D. Morrison
		Paul Nielsen
Our Savior	Bishop, CA	Robert Rurup
Our Savior	Lakeland, FL	Don Wienke
Our Savior	Naples, FL	
Our Savior	Grants Pass, OR	George F. Wyckhuysen
Our Savior's	Albert Lea, MN	Richard Bjelland
		Benjamin Anderson
Our Savior's	Bagley, MN	
Our Savior's	Belview, MN	James Bavier
Our Savior's	Hawley, MN	
Our Savior's	Princeton, MN	Lambert Beckers
		Robert Soule
Our Savior's	Amherst Jct., WI	
Our Savior's	Elderon, WI	Roger Duberonski
Our Saviour	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Timothy Schubkegel
		Donald Heiliger
Our Saviour's	Madison, WI	Jon Homm
		Jim Sannes
Parkland	Tacoma, WA	David Harris
		Herb Berg
Peace	Kissimmee, FL	Bill Dumke
Peace	Lakeland, FL	Luke Willitz
		Kincaid Smith
Peace	North Mankato, MN	Wilhelm Petersen
Peace	Jefferson City, MO	
Pilgrim	Waterloo, IA	
Pinehurst	Eau Claire, WI	Neil Leatherberry
Pinewood	Burlington, MA	
Redeemer	Scottsdale, AZ	Wayne Anderson
		Harmon Anderson
Redeemer	New Hampton, IA	Ron Underwood
		Wally Knutson
Redeemer	Iola, WI	Brian Schultz
Reformation	Hillsboro, OR	Matthew Paine
		Randy Carlson
Resurrection	Winter Haven, FL	Dick Maginnis
Richland	Thornton, IA	Glenn Frederick
		Ryan Dee
River Heights	East Grand Forks, MN	Albert Holman
Rock Dell	Belview, MN	
Saude	Lawler, IA	Paul Swenumson
		Rick Johnson

Saved By Grace	Gresham, OR	Gary Norman
Scarville Synod	Scarville, IA	Jeremy Bartels
Scriptural Somber	Cape Girardeau, MO Northwood, IA	Erling Brudvig Peter Faugstad
St. Luke	Mount Vernon, WA	Albin Levorson, Jr. Harold Halvorson
St. Martin	Shawano, WI	Kurt Meyer
St. Matthew	Detroit, MI	Gary H. Meyer
St. Matthew	Myrtle Creek, OR	Todd Teske
St. Paul	Escondido, CA	
St. Paul	Lengby, MN	Dennis Ray Davis
St. Paul	Clintonville, WI	Scott Markel
St. Paul's	Portage, WI	Walt Wandschneider
St. Timothy	Lombard, IL	Wendell Hall
St. Timothy	Williamsburg, IA	Harold Routhieaux
Trinity	Sebastian, FL	Andrew Das
Trinity	Calmar, IA	Paul Rawlings
Trinity	Brewster, MA	Joshua T. Oswald
Trinity	Rogers City, MI	Robert Schlesselman
Trinity	West Bend, WI	George Lillegard
Wayfarers' Chapel	Fillmore, CA	Paul Chamberlin
Western Koshkonong	Cottage Grove, WI	Robert Brietzke
Zion	Thompson, IA	Ellsworth Butt
Zion	Tracy, MN	Ralph Seidensticker
Zion	Irwin, PA	Whit Ulrich
		Luke Ulrich
		Norman Thede
		Stephen Bovee
		Gene Erickson
		Norman Skogen
		Bernie Holm



# CONVENTION COMMITTEES

## 1. President's Message and Report

Rev. M. Dale  
Rev. D. Schmidt  
Mr. Albin Levorson

## 2. Nominating Committee

Rev. Rolf Preus  
Rev. Alex Ring  
Rev. Paul Schneider  
Rev. Michael Smith  
Mr. Dennis Behr  
Mr. Channing Handberg  
Mr. Oakleigh Natvig  
Mr. Maynard Pick

## 3. Credentials

Rev. K. Heck  
Rev. D. Schmidt  
Mr. M. Muehlenhardt

## 4. Program

Rev. B. Kerkow  
Rev. K. Mellon

## 5. Minutes

Rev. B. Tweit  
Mr. Keith Duin  
Mr. Todd Teske

## 6. Doctrine

Rev. H. Abrahamson  
Rev. D. Basel  
Rev. J. Braun  
Rev. T. Fox  
Rev. C. Hahnke  
Rev. R. Harting  
Rev. T. Hartwig  
Rev. M. Hoesch  
Rev. H. Huhnerkoch  
Rev. D. Lillegard  
Rev. H. Mosley  
Rev. M. Rogers  
Rev. K. Schmidt  
Rev. P. Schneider  
Rev. M. Smith  
Rev. T. Westendorf  
Mr. Harmon Anderson  
Mr. Stephen Bovee  
Mr. Larry Brown  
Mr. Robert Brown  
Mr. Bruce Gee  
Mr. David Harris  
Mr. Bernie Holm  
Mr. Jack Kantorowicz

Mr. Dick Maginnis  
Mr. Scott Markel  
Mr. Bob Schneider  
Mr. Don Sell  
Mr. Sean Stake  
Mr. Paul Swenumson  
Mr. Dick Vagts

## 7. Finances

Rev. W. Halvorson  
Rev. C. Keeler  
Rev. P. Lepak  
Rev. J. Londgren  
Rev. W. Mack  
Rev. D. McQuality  
Rev. R. Pederson  
Rev. J. Willitz  
Rev. C. Wosje  
Mr. Gregory Bovid  
Mr. Paul Chamberlin  
Mr. Keith Duin  
Mr. Ed Finlay  
Mr. Wayne Karlsrud  
Mr. Bob Mickelson  
Mr. Wayne Spieker  
Mr. Bart Stubblefield

## 8. Higher Education

Rev. J. Abrahamson  
Rev. W. Anderson  
Rev. W. Borgwardt  
Rev. S. Brockdorf  
Rev. L. Buelow  
Rev. A. Dethlefsen  
Rev. G. Lilienthal  
Rev. J. Madson  
Rev. G. Obenberger  
Rev. R. Preus  
Rev. T. Rank  
Rev. G. Sahlstrom  
Mr. Jim Baxter  
Mr. Erling Brudvig  
Mr. Nate Carlson  
Rev. Dr. Andrew Das  
Mr. Harold Halvorson  
Mr. Jonathan Homan  
Mr. Robert Kain  
Mr. Wilbur Lieske  
Mr. Terry Nelson  
Mr. Matthew Paine  
Mr. Timothy Schubkegel  
Mr. Norman Thede

## **9. Home Missions**

Rev. M. Brooks  
Rev. R. Carter  
Rev. D. Faugstad  
Rev. K. Heck  
Rev. A. Ring  
Rev. D. Russow  
Mr. Les Appold  
Mr. Ellsworth Butt  
Mr. Roger Duberowski  
Mr. Glenn Frederick  
Mr. Greg Gilbertson  
Mr. Bruce Hayden  
Mr. Donald Heiliger  
Mr. Donald Jordahl  
Mr. Wally Knutson  
Mr. Ty Landon  
Mr. William Overn  
Mr. Harold Routhieux  
Mr. Robert Schlesselman  
Mr. Virgil Teigland  
Mr. Dean Williams  
Mr. Larry Wittwer

## **10. Foreign Missions**

Rev. R. Dale  
Rev. J. Dalke  
Rev. J. Gernander  
Rev. D. Moldstad  
Rev. G. Schmeling  
Rev. B. Schwark  
Rev. T. Skaaland  
Rev. R. Wiechmann  
Rev. P. Zager  
Mr. Wayne Anderson  
Mr. Bill Dumke  
Mr. David Flitter  
Mr. Mark French  
Mr. Channing Handberg  
Mr. Glen Hansen  
Mr. Mike Muehlenhardt  
Mr. Paul Nielsen  
Mr. Larry Rude  
Mr. Robert Rurup  
Mr. Patrick Sladky  
Mr. Leo Sommer  
Mr. Lydell Struck  
Mr. Walt Wandschneider  
Mr. Luke Willitz  
Mr. George Wyckhuysen

## **11. Evangelism**

Rev. M. Ernst  
Rev. W. Frick  
Rev. T. Gullixson  
Rev. E. Gernander

Rev. L. Lanier  
Rev. J. Smith  
Rev. T. Smuda  
Rev. B. Tweit  
Rev. L. Wentzlaff  
Mr. Jeremy Bartels  
Mr. Dennis Benzing  
Mr. Richard Brei  
Mr. Mike Carr  
Mr. Peter Faugstad  
Mr. Bob Fouts  
Mr. W.L. Hall  
Mr. Arnie Hamann  
Mr. Frederic Kapanke  
Mr. Dennis Korth  
Mr. Brian Laughlin  
Mr. Ed Schneider  
Mr. Todd Teske  
Mr. Ron Underwood

## **12. Elementary Education**

Rev. K. Anderson  
Rev. M. Bartels  
Rev. E. Geistfeld  
Rev. J. Jacobsen  
Rev. N. Krause  
Rev. D. Metzger  
Rev. J. Petersen  
Rev. S. Petersen  
Rev. G. Schmidt  
Rev. J.K. Smith  
Rev. S. Sparley  
Rev. S. Stafford  
Rev. F. Theiste  
Mr. Willis Anthony  
Mr. Herb Berg  
Mr. Shane Donley  
Mr. E. Erickson  
Mr. Joel Godwin  
Mr. Robb McMullen  
Mr. Kurt Meyeer  
Mr. Paul Rawlings  
Mr. Jim Sannes  
Mr. B. Schultz  
Mr. Ralph Seidensticker

## **13. Youth & Parish Education**

Rev. R. Flohr  
Rev. R. Fyffe  
Rev. R. Lawson Jr  
Rev. P. Sullivan  
Rev. S.P. Van Kampen  
Mr. Jonathan Brodhagen  
Mr. Al Holman  
Mr. Leighton Humphrey  
Mr. Harlan Levorson

Mr. Gary Norman  
Mr. Ray Pederson  
Mr. Joe Powers  
Mr. John Tibbetts

**14. Publications**

Rev. E. Bryant  
Rev. C. Howley  
Rev. F. Lams  
Rev. D. Larson  
Mr. Lampert Bekes  
Mr. Randy Calson  
Mr. Ryan Dee  
Mr. Marlin Goebel  
Mr. LaVern Kafka  
Mr. Alan Labitsky

**15. Christian Service**

Rev. P. Madson  
Rev. J. Merseth  
Rev. A. Pittenger  
Mr. Richard Bjelland  
Mr. Dwayne Boerner  
Mr. Ed Cregg  
Mr. Walter Erickson  
Mr. Eugene Lueck  
Mr. Joshua Oswald  
Mr. David Rovey  
Mr. Don Schumann  
Mr. Don Wienke

**16. Worship**

Rev. F. Fiedler  
Rev. W. Grimm  
Rev. B. Kerkow  
Rev. R. Lawson  
Rev. N. Madson  
Rev. D. Webber  
Mr. John Henning  
Mr. George Lillegard  
Mr. Eugene Mann  
Mr. Curtis Mantey  
Mr. Dennis Morrison

**17. Synodical Membership**

Rev. R. Holtz  
Rev. M. Marozick  
Rev. W. Petersen  
Mr. Benjamin Anderson  
Mr. Herb Fischer  
Mr. Norm Marozick  
Mr. Maynard Pick  
Mr. Norman Skogen

**18. Miscellaneous**

Rev. T. Bartels  
Rev. E. Ekhoﬀ  
Rev. M. Harstad  
Rev. B. Homan  
Rev. J. Madson  
Rev. K. Mellon  
Rev. J. Moldstad Sr.  
Rev. S. Schmidt  
Rev. T. Zenda  
Mr. Dennis Davis  
Mr. Ron Johnson  
Mr. Rick Kreis  
Mr. David Laabs  
Mr. Neil Leatherberry  
Mr. Gary Meyer  
Mr. Dan Nuemann  
Mr. Al Schoennauer  
Mr. Sam Skaaland

**19. Pastoral Conference Records**

Rev. H. Bartels  
Rev. L. Vinton

**20. Resolutions**

Rev. G. Orvick  
Rev. J. Petersen

**21. Tellers**

Rev. E. Hoeft  
Rev. J. Merseth  
Rev. S.P. Van Kampen  
Candidate D. Finn  
Candidate S. Schmeling

**22. Chaplain**

Rev. D. Moldstad

**23. Head Ushers**

Rev. M. Ernst  
Rev. R. Holtz

**24. Parliamentary**

Rev. G. Orvick  
Rev. J. Madson

**25. Assistant Secretary**

Rev. M. Smith



# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & REPORT**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Redeemer, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Since the last time we gathered in convention momentous national and world events have captured our attention. In August and September of 2004 members of our Floridian congregations were rocked with serial hurricanes. The rest of us watched the live footage helplessly as one storm after another pounded the Sunshine State. Who will forget the Christmas-time tsunami in Southeast Asia? Research now appearing in the journal *Nature* informs us that the Indian Ocean earthquake that caused the devastating December tsunami was much more intense than first thought. It is now regarded as the second-largest quake in recorded history. The staggering tsunami death toll of 174,000 dwarfed the 8.7 earthquake that struck the same Indonesian region only three months later and killed 1,000 people. More recently, we have observed the death of a popular pope and the secretive process of electing his successor. The news media appeared fixated on not letting us escape the cardinal importance of such an event.



These items here mentioned, not least of which included a step in the perpetual succession of the Antichrist, reinforce for us how our Lord's signs of the End Times in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, are coming to fruition. We could also add that the subtle and not-so subtle persecution endured by today's Christians who contend for morality in a decadent world and who proclaim Christ exclusively as the way to eternal life provides further evidence of the accuracy of Jesus' predictions. When our Lord told his first-century disciples, and by Matthew's record tells all of us today, "See, I have told you ahead of time" (verse 25), he wants us not to be frightened but to be alert. He has given us his holy Word that will abide forever, though all else is ephemeral (verse 35).

We have chosen for our convention theme this year: *Abide in My Word*. We think of Jesus' words in John 8:31, 32: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Only the Word of God, which clearly sets forth the way of salvation by faith in Christ, conveys the truth for our spiritual lives that frees us from our natural bondage to sin, Satan and damnation. It tells of our eternal redemption through the atoning sacrifice of God's Son. Fully redeemed by the death of the substitute lamb, the holy Lamb, in the place of all of us strays who have more than simply wandered from the sheep pen, we by faith are now free to live our lives for the supreme goal that Luther summarized when he wrote: "[I]n order that I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom and serve him with everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness" (Third Article, meaning).

*Abide In My Word* serves to remind us that our Lutheran confessors took a stand on all of the doctrines in Holy Writ, but especially trumpeting a clear sound on the teaching of how sinners are justified. Our prayer is that we would do the same in our and every succeeding generation. Our synod truly has been blessed to have pastors, teachers, lay leaders, congregations, institutions of higher learning and conventions that are committed to making the study of God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions a priority in all that we do.

This year marks the 475th anniversary of the signing of the Augsburg Confession. Twenty-five years ago when our synod took note of the 450th anniversary of the same, our essayist drew attention to this foremost confession of the Lutheran Church. Referring primarily to its clear attestation to the scriptural teaching of justification by grace through faith in Christ, Rev. Harold Vetter wrote: "Such a beautiful reflection of the Truth of Scripture is the Augsburg Confession. It teaches not only the form of Scriptural doctrine (and, indeed, reflects this doctrine purely and accurately), but breathes the very spirit and beauty of the Gospel" (*Synod Report*, 1980, page 46). In a letter dated shortly after the signing of the Augsburg Confession, Dr. Luther wrote to his co-worker and dear

friend Justus Jonas: "The greatest thing at this Council has been that Christ has been proclaimed in a public and glorious Confession; he has been confessed in the light and to their [the Romanists'] face, so that they cannot boast that we fled, or that we feared, or concealed our faith" (cited in *The Conservation Reformation and Its Theology* by C. P. Krauth, Augsburg Pub. House reprint, 1963, p. 236).

So staunchly does the Augsburg Confession refute Rome's work-righteous teaching of salvation in its faith + works paradigm, that a prominent Reformation scholar of early American Lutheranism boldly contended: "If there be those who would forgive Rome her unrepented sins, they must do it in the face of the Augsburg Confession" (Krauth, p. 259). Whether it is the system of Rome and a new pope or whether it is the prevalent decision theology of the Arminian/Reformed and a methodology disparaging sacramental forgiveness, the Augsburg Confession especially stands as a timeless rampart for the Scriptural doctrine of justification.

In honor of its anniversary we cite here its familiar Article IV of the Augsburg Confession as we find it translated on page 9 in the front of our *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*:

We teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who by his death made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God accounts as righteousness in his sight. Rom. 3 and 4.

But our theme, *Abide In My Word*, also means taking seriously the way God's Word is transmitted to future generations. To this end, one of the avenues we are pursuing aggressively is the Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI). Last year we decided as a synod to encourage and authorize what we may soon identify as the "Lutheran Schools of America" (LSA). The vision behind this new endeavor is to establish a substantial fund/foundation that will empower our synod to target, motivate and assist established congregations in developing Lutheran elementary schools; to encourage the start of preschools simultaneously with exploratory missions; and to select demographically communities around our country to erect synod-run schools where churches will be formed. The Board for Education and Youth, the Board for Stewardship and the ad hoc committee for LSI, are bringing a number of recommendations to this year's convention. A two-year synod-wide offering is being proposed, beginning in 2006. There will also be the need to do some restructuring. A new board no doubt will have to be formed whose duties would encompass but greatly expand what currently is assigned to a subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth.

Think of what this vision and project is all about. We are committing ourselves to the great task of training young souls for eternity. We want them not only to have a dose of God's Word here and there, but to be immersed in the Word, to abide in Christ's Word for their constant refuge and strength. The Rev. Justin Petersen in 1926 concluded an essay on the value of Lutheran elementary schools by stating:

Oh, the glory of it! To minister in true love to Christ's lambs, our own children, to feed their souls with 'the bread of life come down from heaven,' to guide them on the perilous way to the promised land, to train them in the skillful use of the 'sword of the Spirit,' that they might vanquish all their dread enemies with the victorious watchword, 'It is written,' and then, at last, to meet with them at the golden gates of the heavenly fold, where we can joyfully deliver them over into the loving hands of the Chief Shepherd with the exclamation of triumph, 'Here am I, and the lambs which thou givest me to feed!' What a meeting that will be! [1926 *Beretning* (Synod Report), page 68]

The convention theme this year, *Abide In My Word*, also reminds us to be stalwart confessors of Christian doctrine. We are to stay only with the Word of God and profess and teach its truth in every point of doctrine. To this end, it is our sincere prayer for this 2005 convention that we find ourselves to be in agreement on the long-debated subject of the Public Ministry and be able to adopt a statement for our synod to use in its profession

of faith before our own membership, before our wider fellowship, before other Lutherans and before Christianity in general.

Together as a synod we have been studying and discussing the doctrine of the Public Ministry for a good many years. Maybe it would be helpful to recall some of the more recent history of this discussion in our synod. Eleven years ago the following resolution was adopted: “Whereas, The Doctrine Committee is studying the matter of ordination and the public ministry, be it resolved, that the synod encourages the Doctrine Committee to continue its study and report to the synod when its report is complete” (*Synod Report*, 1994, page 85). In 1999 the Doctrine Committee announced that it had distributed to the members of the clergy the results of its study and then in 2001 asked for adoption of its seven theses. The theses were not adopted; the convention instructed that antithetical statements be added to the study document. Following the 2001 convention, a number of revisions were made to the Doctrine Committee’s seven theses, as various suggestions were entertained from individual pastors and especially from an appointed “Conciliation Committee” at that year’s General Pastoral Conference.

As most will recall, the 2002 convention was filled with some tension. The Doctrine Committee’s theses now containing antithetical statements and some revisions were brought in once again for adoption. After hearing a speech or two from the floor on how certain delegates did not want to vote *for* or *against* the theses but desired to continue the discussion, the question was called. When the question was called late on Wednesday afternoon, the theses failed to be adopted. Despite the divided vote and despite the deep emotions, bitterness did not appear evident, even as a new president now had to wrestle with how to lead the synod in further study on the office of the Public Ministry.

The president, in consultation with the vice president, appointed a special committee to work toward the development of a ministry document that could unify us while still confessing clearly the teaching of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Members who served on the committee were: the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ and Prof. Erling Teigen as co-chairs, the Rev. Karl Anderson, the Rev. Mark Bartels, the Rev. Jerome Gernander, and the Rev. Alex Ring. The Presidium’s Committee on Ministry (PCM) received encouragement to leave behind much of the past verbiage on both sides of the debate and to go back to the Scriptures and the Confessions to determine what can and cannot be said on the basis of those sources. The committee is to be commended for having conscientiously adhered to this course of action.

On February 2, 2004, the PCM turned over its initial draft to the president. At that time it was decided, after conferring with the committee, that a joint meeting be arranged between the PCM and our synod’s officially elected Doctrine Committee. A cordial and fraternal meeting occurred between these two groups on March 22, 2004. The day was dedicated to a point-by-point discussion of the PCM’s statement. Following the joint meeting, the PCM was asked to hone and edit its February 2 draft and prepare it for general distribution to our synod’s pastors and their congregations.

The first edition of this document appeared in May of 2004. On October 6-8, 2004, the ELS General Pastoral Conference met at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center, where a major item on the agenda was the PCM’s document entitled “The Public Ministry of the Word.” While a number of concerns were voiced, it appeared that a large majority of our pastors were pleased with the statement. The synod president and vice president then worked together in editing the original document, consulting with the special committee, as well as our synod’s standing Doctrine Committee. This edited version, which is now presented for adoption at this year’s convention, is dated February 10, 2005.

As president, I have listed a number of reasons why the document entitled “The Public Ministry of the Word” should be adopted at this year’s convention and not delayed or postponed indefinitely. You can find these reasons enumerated in an expanded format in this year’s *Convention Workbook*, but permit me to restate them here for emphasis:

- For the sake of confessional integrity toward the Word of God.
- For the sake of unity among ourselves.

- For the sake of letting the church bodies of our fellowship (CELC) know where we stand.
- For the sake of letting pastors and congregations outside of our fellowship know where we stand.
- For the sake of conducting future colloquies.
- For the sake of instructing our seminarians.

A distinguishing mark of Lutheranism, as well as of our own synod, has been that confession of the truth is essential to determine where we stand on the doctrines of God's unchanging, inspired and inerrant Word. We do not wish to be like church bodies today who refuse to take a stand when confronted with doctrinal challenges simply because they wish to appeal to a wider audience. In our synod's *We Believe, Teach and Confess* (adopted in 1992) we find this important remark: "We confess that it is possible both to know the truth of God's Word and to profess it, and that God requires us to do both. Taking one's stand on the Word in matters of doctrine, after diligent study of Scriptures, is an act not of human pride but of humble submission to God's authority." Have we not as a synod already put a considerable amount of time and energy into the study of the doctrine of the Public Ministry? Can we not say that what the PCM has produced would well serve our synod in making a sound confession for our church body? The statement is in keeping with God's Word as it provides copious references to show that a presiding office is indispensable for the church while at the same time showing from Scripture that the Public Ministry exists in a wider sense than simply that of a presiding office. Is it not time then to adopt this scriptural and confessional document this year even as we devote attention to our theme *Abide In My Word*? The Bible says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Such unity is always and only found in and based upon God's holy Word.

Another aspect to *Abide in My Word* is zeal for missions – the determination to share the Word with others so they too can dwell in its safety. More souls still need to hear of Christ the Redeemer. At this year's convention we are proposing that Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India (LMSI) be a new mission field for our synod. Extra-budgetary funding already has been committed for the support of LMSI.

Over 1 billion people live in the country of India. There are 31 cities in India that have populations over 1 million. Bombay is the largest, around 18 million. It is my understanding that about 80% of India's population is Hindu, 12% Muslim, while only 2% register as Christian. Here is a field patently ripe unto harvest. We urge our members to give prayerful support and encouragement to the preaching of the Gospel taking place in the regions of Hyderabad and Rajahmundry and Jabalpur. We hope all of you will be able to attend the special presentation on the mission work in India scheduled for Tuesday evening. We are excited to extend a warm welcome to the Indian delegation that is visiting our convention.

None of us knows the amount of time God gives for the continuance of life in this world. There are world events that stream in almost daily unwittingly giving testimony to our Lord's description of the Last Days. Many souls surround us still in need of knowing the pure Gospel as it was presented so plainly by the Lutheran confessors at Augsburg. We live on earth for no other purpose than to direct sinners to Christ, the crucified and risen Redeemer. But as we go about our task, may we do so with great joy, for we have the blessed Word of God to guide and direct us. "Abiding in the Word" means to have a joy beyond all measure! We conclude with this fitting assessment by Dr. Luther: "There is no solid joy in this world except the joy which the Word affords the man who believes it" (E. Plass, *What Luther Says*, #2142).

*John A. Moldstad, president*



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS

Candidate of Theology Erich J. Hoeft was ordained and installed as pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota, on June 27, 2004. The Reverend Donald Moldstad preached the sermon; the Reverend John Smith was liturgist; and Circuit Visitor, the Reverend Erwin Ekhoft, performed the rites of ordination and installation. Other pastors participating were the Reverends Daniel Faugstad, Kurt Kluge, Juul Madson, Michael Smith, and Candidate of Theology John Merseth, Sr.

Mr. Daniel Finn was installed as vicar of Norseland Lutheran Church, St. Peter, and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, Gaylord, Minnesota, on June 27, 2004. The Reverend Craig Ferkenstad preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

Mr. Samuel Schmeling was installed as vicar of Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida, on July 4, 2004. His father, Seminary President Gaylin Schmeling, preached the sermon and the Reverend John Petersen performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology John Merseth, Sr. was ordained and installed as pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Weston, Ohio, on July 11, 2004. Seminary President, the Reverend Gaylin Schmeling, preached the sermon; the Reverend Paul Lehenbauer was lector; and Alternate Circuit Visitor, the Reverend Kenneth Mellon, served as liturgist and performed the rites of ordination and installation. Other area pastors who participated in the service were the Reverends Larry Vinton, Thomas Smuda, Paul Lehenbauer, and Glenn Smith of the ELS and the Reverends Robert J. Krueger, Jeffrey Mittelstadt, Nile Merseth, and Andre Frandle, Sr. (WELS).

The Reverend Matthew Thompson was installed as pastor of Apostles Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California, on July 11, 2004. Circuit Visitor, the Reverend William Stehr, performed the rite of installation.

The Reverend Matthew Brooks was installed as the youth pastor of King of Grace, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on August 8, 2004. The Reverend Brad Kerkow preached the sermon; the Reverend Erwin Ekoff served as liturgist; the Reverend David Russow served as lector; and President John A. Moldstad performed the rite of installation. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Erich Hoeft, Karl Anderson, Paul Sullivan, David Russow, Arnold Kuster, Juul Madson, and Phillip Mischke (WELS).

The Reverend Carl Wosje was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bishop, California, on August 29, 2004. The Reverend William Stehr preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Reverend Leslie Lanier served as liturgist.

The Reverend John Smith was installed as pastor of St. Martin Lutheran Church, Shawano, Wisconsin, on September 19, 2004. The Reverend E.C. Frederick Stubenvoll, Jr. preached the sermon; the Reverend William Mack served as liturgist; and the Reverend Frederick Theiste performed the rite of installation. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Martin Doepel, Tosten Skaaland, Leonard Pankow (WELS), Mark Rogers, Leonard Beulow, Paul Sullivan, James Naumann (WELS), and Paul Anderson.

The Reverend Roger Holtz was installed as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iola, Wisconsin, on November 14, 2004. The Reverend Steve Schlicht (WELS) preached the sermon; the Reverend Tosten Skaaland served as liturgist; and the Reverend John Smith performed the rite of installation.

The Reverend Erik Gernander was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri, on January 2, 2005. The Reverend Steve Schmidt preached the sermon and the Reverend Richard Waters served as liturgist and performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology S. Piet Van Kampen was ordained and installed at English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, Minnesota, on January 2, 2005. President John A. Moldstad preached the sermon and performed the rites of ordination and installation. The Reverend Erich Hoeft served as liturgist.

The Reverend Cory Hahnke was installed as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cold Spring, Minnesota, on March 13, 2005. The Reverend Timothy Zenda preached the sermon and the Reverend Erwin Ekhoﬀ served as liturgist.

The Reverend Young Ha Kim was commissioned as an exploratory missionary to South Korea on April 10, 2005. The Reverend Adolph Harstad preached the sermon. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Daniel Wagenknecht (WELS), Robert Lawson Jr., Leslie Lanier, William Stehr, and Steven Petersen.

The Reverend Jong In Kim was installed as the pastor of Asian Mission Church on April 10, 2005. The Reverend Adolph Harstad preached the sermon. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Daniel Wagenknecht (WELS), Robert Lawson Jr., Leslie Lanier, William Stehr, and Steven Petersen.

The Rev. William Mack was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran in Oregon, Wisconsin, on April 17, 2005. The Reverend Bradley Homan preached the sermon and the Reverend Jonathan Madson performed the rite of installation. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Mark Marozick, William Grimm, Mark Bartels, Jesse Jacobson, Richard Lehmann (WELS) and Bernt Tweit.

## **DEDICATIONS**

Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Hampton, Iowa, dedicated new facilities, including the pastor's oﬃce, a youth room, and kitchen expansion on September 12, 2004. President John A. Moldstad preached for the occasion.

## **GROUNDBREAKING**

The members of Hartland Lutheran, Hartland, Minnesota, broke ground for a new addition to be located on the north side of the present worship facility on April 24, 2005. The addition includes an enclosed "lift" to make the entire facility handicapped accessible. There will also be three classrooms, a conference room, pastor's oﬃce and storage areas in the two-story building project.



*Hartland Lutheran Church*

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

On September 12, 2004, Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, celebrated the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first communion service "under the oaks" which had been held on September 2, 1844. President Emeritus George Orvick preached for this special event.

Faith Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota, observed its tenth anniversary of ELS membership on September 3, 2004. The Rev. Erich Hoeft preached the sermon.

Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, celebrated the eighty-fifth anniversary of the congregation with a special service on September 19, 2004. President Emeritus George Orvick preached for the occasion.

King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its Christian Day School on September 26, 2004. President John A. Moldstad preached for the service.

Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, Washington, celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary on September 26, 2004. The Reverend Glenn Obenberger preached for the festival service.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its congregation and the tenth anniversary of its school on September 19, 2004.



*King of Grace Lutheran Church & School*

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, Minnesota, celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a special service and dinner on October 3, 2004. Former pastor of the congregation the Reverend Rodney Flohr preached for the occasion. The Reverends Charles Howley and Matthew Thompson also participated in the service.

Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, Gaylord, Minnesota, celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its church building on October 24, 2004, with a special service and program. Greetings and congratulations were received from President Moldstad and former pastors of the parish Milton Tweit, Tosten Skaaland, and Norman Madson.



*Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church*

Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, Florida, celebrated the tenth anniversary of its church building on November 21, 2004. The Reverend Herb Huhnerkoch preached on the text used for the original dedication of the building ten years ago, 1 Corinthians 3:5-11, under the theme "We've Moved On." Members of the church council did many of the Scripture readings, which had also been used in the original dedication service. A light luncheon followed the service.



*Peace Lutheran Church*

Bethany Lutheran Church in The Dalles, Oregon, observed its twentieth anniversary on February 20, 2005. Vice-President Obenberger preached for the service and addressed the group after lunch.

Faith Lutheran Church in Oregon, Wisconsin, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on April 3, 2005. Former pastors and friends of the congregation were invited and encouraged to attend. Participating in the service were President John A. Moldstad and the Reverends Craig Ferkenstad, James Korthals (WELS), and Richard Lehmann (WELS).



*Faith Lutheran Church*

#### **THE FOLLOWING ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION ARE BEING OBSERVED THIS YEAR:**

The Rev. Walther Gullixson	65 years
The Rev. Paul Anderson	60 years
The Rev. Juul Madson	60 years
The Rev. Harry Bartels	50 years
The Rev. Leonard Buelow	50 years
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad	25 years
The Rev. Martin Hoesch	25 years
The Rev. Matthew Luttmann	25 years
The Rev. William Mack	25 years
The Rev. Daniel Metzger	25 years
The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr.	25 years
The Rev. David Russow	25 years
The Rev. Thomas Smuda	25 years

## MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

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

Hope Lutheran, Portage, Indiana, the Rev. Rodney Flohr, pastor.

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

The Reverend Wayne Borgwardt, pastoral mentor to the Ukranian Lutheran Church, by transfer from the WELS.

The Reverend Erich Hoeft, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota.

The Reverend John Merseth, Sr., pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Weston, Ohio.

The Reverend S. Piet Van Kampen, pastor of English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, Minnesota.

Mr. Craig Zibrowski, teacher at Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Mankato, Minnesota.



*Hope Lutheran Church*



*Rev. Wayne  
Borgwardt*



*Rev. Erich  
Hoeft*

## CLOSINGS

Holton Lutheran School, Holton, Michigan, closed its doors with the end of the 2003-04 school year.

The last Service of East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa, was held on December 19, 2004.

The last Service of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Richardson, Texas, was held on December 12, 2004.



*Rev. John  
Merseth, Sr.*



*Rev. S. Piet  
Van Kampen*

## RESIGNATIONS, RETIREMENTS, APPOINTMENTS, AND TRANSFERS

The Reverend Klebe Brumble retired from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Arizona, on July 4, 2004.

The Reverend Dr. J. Kincaid Smith retired from the active ministry on August 31, 2004.

The Reverend Ronald Muetzel was transferred to the WELS, September 17, 2004.

The Reverend Charles Howley resigned from his pastorate at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cold Spring, Minnesota, on November 7, 2004.

The Reverend Milton Tweit resigned from the Synod Review Committee in October 2004 after putting in many years of faithful service. The Reverend Ernest Geistfeld was appointed for the remaining two years of a three-year term.

The Reverend Roger Kovaciny resigned from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Mr. Jeff Nelson resigned from the Planning and Coordinating Committee in October 2004.

Mr. Lloyd Ahlbrand resigned from the Board for Evangelism in February 2005.

## DEATHS

The Reverend Dr. Bjarne W. Teigen was called to his heavenly home on July 11, 2004. Christian burial service was held on July 16 at Trinity Chapel on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College. The Reverend Donald Moldstad preached the sermon. The committal service was at Woodland Hills Memorial Park.

The Reverend El Roy Buhr was called to his heavenly home on July 24, 2004. The funeral service was held on July 28 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa. The

Reverend Gregory Haugen preached the sermon. Interment was at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Sumner, Iowa.

### **PRESIDIUM'S COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (PCM)**

A committee specially appointed by the synod president in 2002 has produced a scripturally sound document on the doctrine of the Public Ministry. The first edition of this document appeared in May 2004. On October 6-8, 2004, the ELS General Pastoral Conference met at the Schwan Retreat Center, where a major item on the agenda was the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM) document entitled "The Public Ministry of the Word." While a number of concerns were voiced, it appeared that a large majority of our pastors were pleased with the statement.

The synod's president and vice president then worked together on some editing of the original document, consulting with the special committee, as well as our synod's standing Doctrine Committee. The edited version is dated February 10, 2005, and can be found on our new website <evangelicallutheransynod.org>.

During the last two years we have had considerable harmony in our study of the Public Ministry under the guidance of the PCM. At this year's convention we hope that our synod will adopt the PCM statement.

*Abide In My Word*, our theme for the 2005 convention, means staying only with the Word of God and confessing the truth in all matters of doctrine. We are convinced from our study that what is stated in the document is in complete conformity with God's Word and also our study of the Lutheran Confessions. As pastors, teachers and lay people who are deeply concerned about confessing God's Word in its truth and purity on all points of doctrine, it is important to make a clear confession on this subject of the Public Ministry – a subject long debated over the years.

### **LUTHERAN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (LSI)**

Our 2004 convention resolved that "the ad hoc committee appointed by our synod president now be authorized and encouraged to continue its work." In the course of this past year the ad hoc LSI Committee met regularly with the intention of carrying out the directives set forth in Resolution #1 found in the *Synod Report* 2004, p. 109. The report from the appointed ad hoc committee is contained in this year's report to the convention.

The LSI or LSA, since the committee is suggesting a name change to **Lutheran Schools of America**, is a plan for our synod to develop substantial resources to establish Lutheran elementary schools in conjunction and cooperation with local congregations. The goal of this venture is a noble one but also a very aggressive one. We hope to impact the lives of more young people with the Word of God and provide for them a solid spiritual foundation as they meet the challenges in a society progressively more hostile to the Christian faith. The LSA project will dovetail well with the new Elementary Education major at our Bethany Lutheran College. God willing, LSA will also strengthen the congregations within our synod. Students from our Lutheran elementary schools can be expected to be among our synod's future leaders, as they are encouraged from early on to one day attend our synod's institutions of higher learning.

The goal of Lutheran Schools of America may appear unrealistic. How can we as a small church body start two new schools in our synod each year? Yet, if we agree that the end result of erecting more Lutheran schools is a top priority wherever feasible, we can and ought to move ahead with prayerful confidence that the Lord will bless our efforts. LSA hopes to achieve its purpose by setting up an educational endowment combining the resources of local congregations with the resources of other congregations in the synod, of individual donors, of foundations and other entities favorable to sound Christian education. There is, of course, the need to hire or call a person in order to accomplish the solicitation of such funds. The Board of Trustees has been authorized to fill this position and also has been charged with the responsibility of investing and monitoring the funds that are gathered. Our synod's Board for Education and Youth (BEY), or a newly created board (see the LSI Committee's report), will oversee the application for



and distribution of the monies for establishing and building the schools. This newly created or restructured board also will develop guidelines for starting and maintaining the new schools. A two-year synod-wide offering is being planned for 2006-2008 in order to facilitate the beginning of the LSA endeavor.

God places upon all of us believers, not just those who are parents, the responsibility to educate thoroughly with his Word our present generation and the succeeding generations of precious souls. We are to “proclaim the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord” (Psalm 78:4) so that the “the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children” (v. 6). Dr. C.F. W. Walther, a real champion of Lutheran schools, once wrote: “May God preserve to our Lutheran Church its gem, the Christian Day School. For upon it depends, humanly speaking, the future of our church; for as all church denominations, from the time that they permitted the State to take over the education of their children, have labored at their own dissolution, so the maintenance of our Christian Day School is and remains, next to the public ministry, the one foremost factor fundamental to our future existence.”

Are there any members of our synod who might consider making a contribution toward LSA? Especially we ask that your prayers be offered to our gracious Lord as we move ahead with this commendable project.

### **WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD (WELS)**

The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum met in October 2004 at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center. Our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) had twelve representatives present; twelve men also represented our ELS and its various areas of work. Topics that were discussed included joint concerns over recent trends in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; the future of the CELC; items pertaining to the role of women in the church; the ministry discussions in the ELS; in the area of missions, daughtering congregations and tent ministries; and in the realm of education, schools used for outreach and the funding of education on all levels.

In September 2005 our Doctrine Committee is scheduled to meet with the WELS Committee on Inter-Church Relations (CICR). These two groups regularly meet during the off year of the biennial meetings of the Forum.

The next biennial convention of the WELS will be July 25-29, 2005, at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. President Moldstad will bring greetings from the ELS on Tuesday, July 26.

We are truly appreciative of our fellowship with WELS, welcoming the chance to visit fraternally about common concerns and challenges, and also sharing the same commitment to have God’s Word proclaimed in its truth and purity. Our prayers also go with our brothers and sisters in the WELS as they prioritize in times of fiscal constraints. May the Lord continue to strengthen the ties that unite us and preserve us steadfast in the one true faith as we make our confession to the world around us.

### **CONFESSONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE (CELC)**

Tokyo, Japan, will serve as the next host site for the fifth triennial convention of the CELC. The dates are May 31 – June 2, 2005. Five essays are planned around the theme, *Eagerly Await the Savior*. Philippians 3:20-21 will serve as the basis for the presentations on eschatology. The addition of Gereja Lutheran-Indonesia will bring the number of church bodies in the CELC to twenty. Five men from the ELS are making plans to attend the meeting in Japan.

The financial support for the CELC comes from annual contributions of the member churches. This past year our synod contributed \$3,000 for the work of the CELC.

We thank the Lord for the excellent fellowship that has been established on the basis of doctrinal agreement with our fellow Christians in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. We entreat our Lord to continue showering his blessings upon this valuable organization, even as he has done so since its inception in 1993.

## **MISSION WORK IN INDIA (LMSI)**

The Lutheran Mission of Salvation–India (LMSI) began over twenty years ago when the Rev. Einar Bach, a pastor from the LC-MS, produced a tract called “The Little Bible of Salvation” and distributed it in the region of Rajahmundry. Many souls were brought under his care during those years of 1974-1994, including a number who already were of Lutheran background. When Pastor Bach’s health began to fail, he looked for one who could continue the work. The Rev. Eugene Kauffeld was asked to do this in 1994. Pastor Kauffeld’s father and mother had served as missionaries in India for a period of twenty-five years.

LMSI (or, as it was then known, The Little Bible of Salvation) was then divided into seven areas of work and directors were assigned respectively. The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation granted funding for LMSI to set up a budget for the years of 1995-1997. Biennial workshops were established in order to train future workers in sound Lutheran doctrine.

In 1997 the LMSI was turned over to the WELS and became part of the WELS Lutheran Mission in India, along with the Bible Faith Lutheran Church (BFLC) in Guntur under the late Pastor Dasari and a small group in Nyadupeta. In December of 2002 LMSI ceased being served and supervised by WELS. The discontinuance of WELS supervision was not for any doctrinal reasons or for matters involving church discipline. In the fall of 2003 representatives from the WELS Board for World Missions (BWM) met with our Board for Foreign Missions and presented a list of “talking points,” as our synod explored the possibility of taking on the supervision and support of LMSI. The WELS BWM stated: “It is our prayer and confidence that if the ELS desires to assume responsibility for the support and administration of the LMSI these ‘talking points’ can be resolved in a God-pleasing way and the saving work of the Gospel can continue in India in a fraternal spirit.” Our synod’s Board for Foreign Missions has remained in contact with WELS as it patiently but resolutely has worked on the joint concerns.

Three men now serve as presidents of the areas represented in India: Elder V. J. Sidney, LMSI Jabalpur; Pastor G. J. Ananda Raju, LMSI Rajahmundry; and Pastor Mimadi Solomon, LMSI Hyderabad. Approximately 17,000 souls are now under the care of Lutheran Mission of Salvation–India.

Our Board for Foreign Missions is urging this year’s convention to declare Lutheran Mission of Salvation–India (LMSI) to be a new mission field for our synod. Extra-budgetary funding has been committed for the support of LMSI. A delegation from India will be visiting our convention, and there are plans to have a special presentation on the Indian mission on Tuesday evening, June 21, 2005.

As we think of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Lutheran Mission of Salvation–India, may our prayer be that of the Apostle Paul. In his letter to the Ephesians he stated: “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

## **KOREAN MISSION WORK**

The Board for Foreign Missions, at its January 2005 meeting, extended a call to the Rev. Young Ha Kim to serve as an exploratory missionary to South Korea; he has accepted this call. The board continues to evaluate South Korea as a potential new mission field for our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We ask the Lord’s blessings to rest upon Pastor Kim and his wife, Margaret, and family as they proclaim the crucified and risen Savior to the people of their native land.

## **IOWA OUTREACH**

As a result of resolutions from the 2004 Synod Convention regarding outreach and evangelism in rural areas (see 2004 *Synod Report*, pages 95, 105), several pastors of Circuit 7 were asked to discuss outreach procedures which could be put into place in their

circuit and throughout the synod. The Rev. Harvey Abrahamson has helped coordinate this effort.

Pastors and members of several Circuit 7 congregations began meeting in August 2004 to discuss small congregations and rural outreach. At its first meeting the group compiled a booklet containing different ideas for creating awareness in the community of our churches and teachings. The group also formed two committees: one to establish a database of information to be shared with other congregations and the other to help congregations with outreach work (similar to the WELS Kingdom Workers).

The second meeting of this group was focused on strategy. At this meeting the group made plans for a brochure for the churches of Circuit 7 which would have a small map showing the location of each congregation and directions to it as well as service times, etc. The Rev. Ted Gullixson also started to produce mission/outreach bulletin inserts that have suggestions for outreach and will be distributed to Circuit 7 pastors.

The group met in January 2005 and discussed how to get more churches involved in these outreach efforts. It was decided to organize a group from among those attending who would visit the congregations of the circuit that were not involved. Beginning in April, this group gave a brief presentation to each congregation after their services.

### **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: The Rev. Rodger Dale, The Rev. Michael Krentz and The Rev. David Meyer. With the approval of the president and the secretary, the convention is being asked to extend the clergy roster status for the Rev. David Meyer and the Rev. Rodger Dale according to their requests.

### **CONGREGATIONS VISITED DURING THE PAST YEAR**

St. Martin, Shawano, WI; King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN; Redeemer, New Hampton, IA; Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN; Lord of Life, Holland, MI; St. Paul, Clintonville, WI; Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI; Trinity, West Bend, WI; Zion, Tracy, MN; Our Savior, Naples, FL; Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI; Bethany, Ames, IA; Grace, Newton, IA; Zion, Irwin, PA; Hope, Portage, IN; Faith, Oregon, WI; Christ, Windsor, CA.

### **PASTORAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

Circuit Visitors’ Conference; General Pastoral Conference at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center; Circuit #8, Audubon, MN; Great Lakes Pastoral Conference, Lombard, IL; Pastoral Conference, Circuits #11 & #12, Windsor, CA; Pastoral Conference, Circuit #9, North Mankato, MN.

*The Rev. John A. Moldstad, president*







# CONVENTION ESSAY



# Abide in My Word

The Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

“You will know the truth and the truth will make you mad” proclaims Atlanta’s “Mouth of the South”, Neal Boortz, as he begins his daily radio political talk show, calling himself the “high priest of the church of the painful truth.”

“And the truth will set you free,” screams defense attorney Jim Carrey jubilantly in the movie *Liar, Liar*, when he discovers that he can actually win a case by telling the truth! It was a liberating experience forced on him when his little boy’s birthday wish came true, that his dad had to tell the truth for an entire day.

“The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable,” quipped the 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, James A. Garfield.



Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch

Here we have three references to John 8:32, and not a one gives us a clue to the actual source or the real meaning of the passage, namely that the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is what sets us free from slavery to sin, Satan, death and hell. Consider this: of the 11,400 hits on a “google” search for the phrase “the truth will set you free” over half have nothing to do with the gospel of Christ. They deal with everything from awareness of homeland security issues, to facing the truth about software glitches, to achieving psychological health.

Gary Baumlmer wrote in *The People’s Bible*:

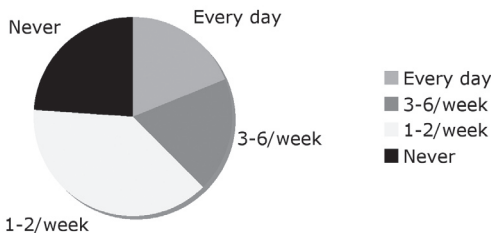
We see the words on libraries and as college mottoes. We hear them on the lips of intellectual and political leaders. But we don’t hear whose Word reveals the truth that sets us free. We don’t hear whose disciples have that truth and the freedom that comes with it. We don’t hear about Jesus.<sup>1</sup>

What a strange disconnect there seems to be today between the number of Bibles available and the existence of actual Bible knowledge. It would be hard to imagine any time since the fall into sin, when the word of God has been more available to more people than it is at this very moment. It is spoken and printed almost everywhere. It appears on VHS and DVD, on audio tapes and CDs, and in digital format. It is disseminated in 2,233 languages<sup>2</sup>, and in the case of some languages like English in numerous versions. Still, the average person today may know as little about the actual content of the Bible as at any time in history.

“Nine out of ten adults own a Bible. Most adults read the Bible during the year and a huge majority claims they know all of the basic teachings of the Bible. How, then, can most people say Satan does not exist, that the Holy Spirit is merely a symbol, that eternal peace with God can be earned through good works, and that truth can only be understood through the lens of reason and experience? How can a plurality of our citizens contend that Jesus committed sins and that the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon all teach the same truths?”<sup>3</sup> wonders George Barna of Barna Research.

Partly the answer lies in this, that even among those who claim to hold to the Christian faith, there is not much Bible reading happening. The majority of all professing

Christians read the Bible once or twice a week, or not at all. Only 18% of all Christians say they read the Word every day, while another 18% read the Bible between three and six days a week, 37% read it once or twice a week, and 23% say they do not read the Bible at all.<sup>4</sup>



Among younger Christians the problem is even worse. "Bible reading levels are about 33% less among twentysomethings than among older adults. Overall, only 30% of twentysomethings have read the Bible in the past week, compared to 37% of those in their 30s; 44% of fortysomethings; 47% of adults in their 50s; and 55% of those age 60 and above."<sup>5</sup>

Pollster George Gallup comments: "We revere the Bible, but we don't read it."<sup>6</sup>

Although surveys may not always paint a true picture, the occasional blank stare I see when I ask a teen, or even an adult for that matter, to give a few details of a well-known Bible story, seems to confirm the findings. Either the Bible is not being widely read, or isn't registering, or both. This is sad, because God's Word is a great treasure. Imagine, it is the only book on earth authored by God. It is designed to bring great happiness to mankind. It is a treasure that was eagerly mined by the hungry Christians of Berea. <sup>NIV</sup> Acts 17:11 *They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.* Yet, apparently today it is a treasure largely ignored.

Our convention theme brings with it the hope that somehow the people in our circles will be more like the Bereans. Perhaps among us we can fan into flame the kind of love for the word of God, which was evidenced in the Scripture among the first Christians in Jerusalem. No one commanded them to "*devote themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*" (Acts 2:42) They were compelled from within by their Spirit-given love for Christ to continue in the Word. Perhaps we can actually get back the kind of enthusiasm there was on the streets of Germany when Luther's German Bible first became available and was snatched up so quickly that another printing needed to be done almost immediately. Perhaps we can urge and help each other to use more of the vast amount of leisure time available today to meditate on the Scripture. Perhaps we can help our young people remember more Scripture by sitting down to remember it with them. Let's take seriously Jesus' gentle reminder to "abide in my Word." Let's see God's Word as our wonderful, secure home, where our Christian life is lived and from which we go out into the world to live in true freedom.

There are great Scriptural images which encourage us to remain in the Word. Psalm 1:3 pictures Christians as people planted near an endless supply of water: "*He is like a tree planted by streams of water.*" John 15:5 paints the image of Christians being like branches connected to the Word: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*"

Two verses from John's Gospel will be our focus for this essay. In them Jesus speaks of our ongoing connection to his Word. I offer you here five English versions:

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (*New King James Version*)

Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (*New American Bible*)

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (*New Revised Standard Version*)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (*New International Version*)

To the Jews who believed in him Jesus said: "If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples; you will come to know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (*The New Jerusalem Bible*)

All these passages remind us that God, who first attached us to his Word by giving birth to our Christian faith through it, wants us to remain attached to this divine source of our Christian faith and life. We cooperate in this ongoing attachment by making Spirit-empowered choices each day to settle down in or take up residence in the word of Christ. As we abide in the Word, we will remain painfully aware of the truth about

ourselves, that the law condemns us and shows us how enslaved to sin, Satan, death and hell we truly are by nature. This truth will make us mad! Nevertheless, the same Word will always be the source of new vitality as the gospel reassures us that Jesus' perfect life for us and his death as our Substitute for sin has set us free from every enemy. Who would not want this kind of ongoing, liberating experience?

There is so much which could be said about how God gave us his Word through the apostles and prophets by "verbal inspiration," how he preserved his Word to us through the ages, and how he saw to it that it would be available in our language. However, this will not be the focus of this essay. Instead, we will dwell on the beauty and effectiveness of the word of God in our lives. We will see how it first gave birth to our Christian life through baptism and why it is such a marvelous permanent residence. We will see that faithful use of the Word brings us to know the Lord better every day as we experience him as our dear Savior and friend. We will learn how the faithful use of the Scripture liberates us from all our enemies, so that we can live a life of service in the kingdom of Christ.

## **"Abide in My Word"** **(Be at Home in My Word)**

### **Part I. It's the home where our Christian faith was born**

*"If you abide in My word..."*

It is obvious that we need to get somewhere before we can stay there. When Jesus says, "Abide in my word," he clearly intimates that we first arrived there. The word of God is our home because it was the birthplace of our Christian faith and life. <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Peter 1:23 *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

The Apostle John records how some people were reborn into the Christian faith that very day, when Jesus spoke his Word to them. <sup>NIV</sup> John 8:30 *Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.* They may not have been aware that his Word was so powerful. They could have mistakenly thought that they had chosen to believe in him, as do *synergists* still today, who believe they must "decide for Jesus." They may not have realized the unique role of the Holy Spirit, who used the Scripture, the word of Christ, as the means to produce their rebirth into the Christian faith. They may not have been aware how totally dead in sin and "homeless" they were by nature. Thus, Jesus set out to teach them, and us.

He taught them that they were even worse than homeless by nature. They were on the run from God, getting farther away from him every day. They did not want to live anywhere near God, nor would God have accepted them as they were. They were slaves to Satan who was their Lord (the devil). They were slaves to the majority opinion of the sinners around them (the world). They were slaves to their own sinful appetites (the flesh). They were slaves to a way of life handed down to them from their forefathers (original sin) [1 Peter 1:18]. They were enslaved to sinful life on the dark and shameful streets of godlessness (actual sin). They were slaves to a life that was going nowhere except to a permanent cell in hell.

We can see how desperate spiritual homelessness is by observing those who did not come to believe in Jesus that day. They resented that Jesus called them slaves. They said, <sup>NIV</sup> John 8:33 *"We have never been slaves of anyone."* They were wrong about this. They ignored past slavery in Egypt and Babylon and present slavery to Rome. Even worse, they ignored Jesus' warning that they were slaves to Satan and sin and its horrible consequences. <sup>NIV</sup> John 8:34 *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."*

From this we see that the first great function of God's Word is to cause us to come to grips with our desperate spiritual homelessness. God's law is designed to make us face the facts about ourselves. It makes us realize we are wandering the dark streets of sin and moves us to cry out for help. <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 3:20 *Through the law we become conscious of sin.* Then, when our situation seems most desperate, help arrives in the person of Jesus

Christ. Through the good news of the gospel, God gives us new birth into the Christian faith and gives us his Word as our new home. Luther writes:

The word of God has this character that it is made known and comes when man is most desperate over everything, when he thinks that nothing is less likely to happen than what the word of God says most certainly will happen... These also finally receive it in such a way that all human boasting vanishes and nothing is credited to our own strength and energies, but all to God alone.<sup>7</sup>

The uterus and womb of God is the divine Word, by which we are fashioned and born... Therefore we must strive with a single heart that we abide in the Word. The Lord will reject no one, however weak, if only we cling to the Word, the womb of God. Thus, then, we must believe in our weakness that we are born in the womb of God, who will care for us with supreme devotion and will never reject us.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, it is clear that the solution to spiritual homelessness is Christ, who comes to us through his Word. <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 10:17 *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.* The word of God is the only birthplace of faith. There is no other womb. It is not the Koran, Book of Mormon, or some other book or teaching by which Christian faith comes. Nor does rebirth occur without any means, as our Lutheran Confessions correctly say:

It is good to extol the ministry of the Word with every possible kind of praise in opposition to the fanatics who dream that the Holy Spirit does not come through the Word but because of their own preparations. They sit in a dark corner doing and saying nothing, but only waiting for illumination, as the enthusiasts taught formerly and the Anabaptists teach now.<sup>9</sup>

The enthusiasts of our day condemn the external Word, yet they do not remain silent but fill the world with their chattering and scribbling, as if the Spirit could not come through the Scriptures or the spoken word of the apostles but must come through their own writings and words. Why do they not stop preaching and writing until the Spirit himself comes to the people without and before their writings since they boast that the Spirit came upon them without the testimony of the Scriptures?<sup>10</sup>

And Luther writes, “Outside his Word and without his Word we know of no Christ, much less of Christ’s teaching. For the ‘Christ’ who pretends to bring his teaching without his Word is the abominable devil out of hell, who uses Christ’s holy name and under it is peddling his infernal venom.”<sup>11</sup>

Thus, faith comes and is sustained through the word of God. For this reason the apostles and prophets always directed people to the life-giving word of God and to nothing else. “It has been suggested that if Peter had been a *Schwärmer*, or an enthusiast, he would have spent the rest of his life talking about the wonderful experience and that good feeling which he had up there on the mount [of Transfiguration]. Instead he directs his reader to the external Word which he describes as ‘more sure.’”<sup>12</sup>

When Jesus tells us to “abide in my word,” then, it is clear that he is reminding us that the Word is the birthplace of our Christian faith and it is the only place where that faith can continue to live. Shall we now abandon the very Word that regenerated us? No! We are to take up residence in the home in which we were born.

In the movie *The Trip to Bountiful* an elderly woman Carrie Watts was living the twilight of her life trapped in an apartment in 1940’s Houston, Texas, with her controlling daughter-in-law and hen-pecked son. Her fondest wish – just once before she died – was to revisit Bountiful, the small Texas town of her youth, which she still referred to as “home.” The trouble was her son, Ludie, was too concerned for her health to allow her to travel alone and her petty daughter-in-law, Jessie Mae, insisted they didn’t have money to squander on bus tickets. After Carrie had failed in many previous escape attempts, which coincided with the arrival of her monthly Social Security check, she finally succeeded in getting as far as the Bountiful police station. There worried Ludie caught up with her and reluctantly agreed to take her the rest of the way to her childhood home. She enjoyed being back, but honestly home was not what she remembered from her

youth. The house was abandoned. The windows were gone. The paint had weathered away. The place was uninhabitable.

Most of us would have the Carrie Watts' experience if we tried to go back to recapture life in our childhood home. We could not really find that life again. The saying "You can't go home again" would come true. We would be disappointed by all the changes. The people we remembered would not be the people we would find. Our favorite spots would have been torn down or remodeled. Businesses we once frequented would be full of total strangers.

But such is not our experience as we return each day to the word of God, our spiritual birthplace. We are not disappointed at all by going home. When we "take up residence in the Word" we have a home that never fails us. We will never want to leave behind the home, which gave us our spiritual rebirth. In fact, it is the home in which all our spiritual ancestors were also born and lived. Adam and Eve were reborn spiritually and lived in the Word. So did Noah and Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.<sup>13</sup> So did Ruth and Rebekah. So did the Apostles and Prophets. So did the church fathers. So did Luther. So did Koren, Ottesen, and Preus. So do we. God's Word is always the same, wonderful home. It always welcomes us with doors wide open. It will never lose this attractiveness.

<sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.* Let us, then, appreciate this wonderful home in the Word as our special home and never think poorly of it!

I can still recall an experience from my vicar year, while I was in Mexico learning Spanish. I was on a long, overnight bus ride to the U.S. border to renew my tourist card. The sun was coming up as we were crossing the mesquite-dotted countryside near Saltillo. I could see women out in the cool morning air, sweeping dirt off the dirt landings in front of their homes. This was after they had swept the dirt off their dirt floors. It did not matter that their floors and landings were just dirt. These were their homes. They loved them and cared for them.

The word of God is no shack with a dirt floor. It is the mansion of our rebirth in Christ. The Lord wants us to love it. As we shall see, it is a home like no other.

## **Part II. It's the perfect home for our discipleship to thrive**

*... you are My disciples indeed ...*

"Dream homes" usually remain just that – dreams – because they are unaffordable or nonexistent. Perhaps you picture your dream home on a beach somewhere in Florida or in the mountains of Colorado or on a lake in the north woods. What if someone were willing to give you your dream home at no cost to you? There it was waiting for you, everything you had hoped for—beauty, conveniences, plush furnishings, grandeur, a great view, and lots of space for family and friends! Would you accept it? I think you would move in, in a flash!

How many of us realize that the word of God is our perfectly satisfying dream home? The Lord has given it to us for our entire Christian life on earth. There is no other home that offers greater security, is more solidly built, or provides a more refreshing and relaxing atmosphere than the word of the Lord. There is no other home to which we can so easily invite friends, family or strangers than the dream home of God's Word. It is so grand and spacious that no one is turned away by a "no vacancy" sign. If only we would think of the word of God in this way, it would be our dearest dwelling place in life and death. <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 91:1 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Let's consider some of the great qualities of our Scriptural home.



A. A home with the perfect, and sure foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
(TLH 473, v1; ELH 486, v1)

Every home is only as good as its foundation. A home must rest on well-compacted soil with a sufficiently deep footing. In some places, this is not easy to accomplish. In central Florida it is difficult to establish a good foundation, because the soil is so sandy. Occasionally cavities develop in the limestone lying deep beneath the sand, leaving a "sink hole" which swallows whatever rests on it. It soon becomes clear that a good and solid foundation is indispensable to the structure of a reliable home.

If we appreciate the solid foundation of the homes in which we live, even more will we appreciate how the Scripture and the Savior whom it proclaims are the solid foundation for our Christian faith and life. <sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 2:19,20 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Scriptures), with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.* <sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 7:24,25 *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* <sup>25</sup> *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:11 *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."* The one who builds life on Jesus and the Word has a sure foundation.

Too many today ignorantly continue to build their lives on shaky foundations, just as the people were doing whom Jesus was addressing in John 8. Some of these people were relying on the unstable foundation of their ancestry. <sup>NIV</sup> John 8:33 *They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants."* Is there any kind of solid ground to be found by building on family connections? Certainly not! In the history of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod there have been many great Christians, who laid a foundation for the work we are doing today. We remember the big three pictured on the cover of the 1993 Yearbook commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our synod – Koren, Preus, and Ottesen. We celebrate their steadfastness, but we cannot simply build on their reputation. We must in our generation continue to build solidly on Christ and the Scripture.

Too much of the visible church today is building on a foundation of inferior material. In some cases it is trying to build on Scripture, yes, but also on tradition and the proclamations of mere human leaders. In other cases it is mixing the foundation mortar partly of Scripture and partly of what makes sense to reason, thereby effectively destroying the Scriptural foundation. "Neither the Papists (Roman Catholics) nor the Enthusiasts (Reformed) really base their doctrine and practice on the Scriptures, but both claim that the Holy Spirit teaches the church without the necessity of a scriptural norm."<sup>14</sup> In some popular churches today, experience and personal revelation are considered more valuable than Scripture. However, whenever something else is added to the foundation of faith besides Scripture, the building is insecure. Luther wrote:

We cannot learn enough about this Cornerstone, Christ. I, Martin Luther, am constantly working on this foundation. Once the foundation has been firmly laid, the superstructure will be very easy to build. The Enthusiasts and would-be-wise want to build the tower and put a roof on before the foundation has been laid. I wanted to attach a tile or two myself, but where is the foundation?<sup>15</sup>

When life is founded firmly on Christ, the rest of life's structure has a greater hope of having lasting integrity. Think of the home in which you live. When the foundation is good, the walls don't crack. The walls can be attached firmly to the base so that they go nowhere when the wind blows. The roof in turn can be connected firmly to the structure so that it resists the wind and rain.

The storm comes, the waters rise, the winds howl, the hail and the rain 'sweep away the refuge of lies,' and the dwellers in these frail and foundationless houses are hurrying in wild confusion from one peak to another, before the steadily rising



tide. But he that builds on that Foundation (Christ and the Word) 'shall not make haste,' as Isaiah has it; shall not need to hurry to shift his quarters before the flood overtakes him, shall look out serene upon all the hurtling fury of the wild storm, and the rise of the sullen waters.<sup>16</sup>

If you will not build on the sure Foundation, do not wonder if the rotten one gives way. If you will not lean on the strong Stay, complain not when the weak one crumbles to dust beneath your feet.<sup>17</sup>

Foundations are not very beautiful. They remain out of sight in the earth under our homes. Yet they are the most important single element of the structure of our homes. So also is the word of God to our Christian faith and life. It is the invisible yet single most important element of a secure and sustained Christian faith. But the foundation is not the only important and perfect element of our dream home.

### *B. A home with solid and secure walls*

Abide, our only safety, Thy people's sure defense;  
No power can withstand Thee Divine Omnipotence!  
(ELH 579, v5)

Solid concrete block and steel-reinforced walls were very important last year for those who endured category 4 hurricane winds. There is today many a resident of a southern state who is grateful that building codes were beefed up after the experience of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

We Christians are grateful that God's Word is such a secure structure for the church militant. In every constitution governing our congregations, one of the first articles reads something like this, "This congregation accepts and confesses all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired and inerrant word of God and submits to this Word as the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life." These words are to be upheld in our teaching and practice. It is clear that the Scripture, because it is the word of God, sets the standards for everything we believe, teach and confess, and is the only reliable standard for building our Christian faith, confession and life. Within the sure word of God we have every reason to live securely. <sup>NIV</sup> Proverbs 14:26 *He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.*

Contrast this certainty to the following assessment of current thinking:

Almost everyone in the United States believes that truth exists. However, a large majority of both adults and teenagers, Christian and non-Christian, contends that there is no absolute moral truth. More than two out of three adults and more than four out of five teenagers argue that truth is always relative to the individual and the circumstances. While most of these people describe themselves as followers of Christ and say that the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings, they nevertheless believe that truth is based on feelings, experience or emotion.<sup>18</sup>

Are we going to join those who think this way, or will we continue to be faithful to the Scripture? This is a critical question for us. Too often lip service to the veracity of the Scriptures is accompanied by a feeling that certain unpopular teachings of the Scripture can be ignored, downplayed, or reconfigured to fit our thinking. Let us remember, it was the failure of Adam and Eve to trust one simple command of the Lord which brought about the demise of the entire human race.

If we are careful home buyers, we will not simply buy a home because it looks good on the outside. We will be concerned about the kind of construction employed underneath the surface of the beautiful paint. It would be pretty terrifying to have bought a home on appearances, only to discover that the wall structure was actually composed of cardboard.

In spiritual things too, anyone who builds life with insecure material, human opinion for example, will never be safe. But whoever builds life with the perfect word of God will live in safety. <sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 32:18 *My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.*

### C. A home with an endless power supply

It fills the soul with sweet delight The heart with living faith empow'rs;  
It sets our wand'ring footsteps right, Displays Thy love, and kindles ours.  
(ELH 231, v3)

Homes today are really terrific with their connections to the internet, cable TV, cell towers, standard phone service and electric power. Who would ever want to go back to living in the “good old days” of kerosene lamps and wood stoves?

The self-contained power supply of the home called God's Word is even more terrific. <sup>NIV</sup> Acts 19:20 *The word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.* <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 4:12 *The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* It is God the Holy Spirit who so empowers the word of God, that it has the miraculous ability to overcome the absolute darkness of unbelief.

Even as the gospel has creative power in itself to make me a believer and to inscribe the law of God upon my heart, so it also has divine power to sustain me in that new life of faith, yea, even unto the end.<sup>19</sup>

Being at home in the Word is truly an opportunity to be plugged into power. It is power that on the one hand condemns and destroys. <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 3:19 *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.* <sup>NIV</sup> Jeremiah 23:29 *“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”* Just as the electrical outlets in our homes are dangerous to little fingers and careless homeowners, so the law in the word of God has the power to terrify and destroy—eternally.

But the real power of the Word is not to destroy, but to save. In the word of God we plug into the gospel. <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.* The word of God has the power to create disciples of Jesus and keep them alive. <sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 1:3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*

Hearing and handling the Word is always good and useful. For although the Word does not always strike home, our heart nonetheless remembers what it has heard and perhaps in an hour and at a time when we need it will begin really to understand it and feel its power and comfort. In like manner, embers which have lain under the ashes for a while will start burning again and give fire when one stirs them up and blows on them. Therefore the Word should not be considered powerless. One should not think that it has been preached in vain. Neither should another word be sought in case fruit does not appear immediately.<sup>20</sup>

### D. A home with an abundant supply of food and water

Lord, Thy words are waters living where I quench my thirsty need;  
Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving, On Thy words my soul doth feed.  
Lord, Thy words shall be my light through death's vale and dreary night;  
Yea, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unfailing.

(TLH 296, v3; ELH 230, v3)

The recent case of withholding feeding and hydration from Terri Schiavo certainly underscores how vital is a constant supply of water and food to our physical wellbeing. Constant nourishment is also critical for our spiritual wellbeing.

When I was first in the ministry in Miami, I was making door-to-door visits to homes around the church and was invited into the home of a middle-aged couple. We sat and talked for a while. In the course of the conversation it became apparent that they had not worshiped God for a long time, even though they still claimed to be Christians. I asked them how long it had been since they had been in church or read their Bible. They

thought for a moment and then estimated that it had been 22 years. I then remarked how marvelous it was that they were still Christians after so long a time without the nourishment of the Word, because certainly if they had stopped going to the refrigerator 22 years earlier, they would have been lying in their caskets already for more than 21 years.

It is not surprising that the Scripture is called food and water for our faith. After all, faith is a living thing. It is nurtured and sustained by spiritual food, which is found nowhere but in Word and Sacrament. <sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 55:1,2 *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare”* <sup>NIV</sup> Joel 3:18 *In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD’s house and will water the valley of acacias.* <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 36:8,9 *They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. <sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life.*

There is a diversity of souls on earth and each has its own need and requirement.

Yet the word of God satisfies the needs of all and of each individually. If the food of all kings who ever lived and who ever will live were gathered in one heap, it could not in the least be compared with the smallest word of God. Therefore Christ in the gospel likens this to a marriage feast, etc. [Matthew 22:1–10], and Isaiah to a costly, choice, and magnificent banquet [Isaiah 25:6].<sup>21</sup>

Many of us derive great pleasure from eating. We don’t just eat to live. We live to eat! The many potluck dinners and picnics we enjoy in our congregations testify to our love for good food. God made our bodies to crave nourishing food which sustains us through life. This desire for food is good, since without enough food or water we would die.

Our Christian faith is also a living thing. It craves to be fed with spiritual food and drink. <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Peter 2:2,3 *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.* If we are not hungry for the word of God, something is wrong. Let’s spend a lot of time in the kitchen in this great home of God’s Word. Let’s raid the refrigerator full of spiritual food. Our Christian faith loves spiritual potlucks, feasting on the many truths of God’s Word.

### E. A home with a restful and refreshing environment

“Come unto me, ye weary, And **I will give you rest.**”

O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, Of **pardon, grace, and peace,**

Of joy that hath no ending, Of love which cannot cease.

(TLH 276, v1; ELH 413, v1)

A home is such a wonderful place. What is the question we hear from the back seat as we head home from a long road trip? “Are we home yet?” “Home” is a comfortable and familiar place – a place where we can raid the refrigerator, sleep in a comfortable bed, settle into our favorite easy chair, use our own computer, stroll through our own back yard, play with our children and channel surf at will. It is not surprising to see the little sign “Home Sweet Home” at the entrance to many a house.

No matter how many problems we may have had growing up, still we have fond memories of our childhood home. We recall the safe feeling we had knowing that mom and dad were in the house. We felt secure and cozy as we were tucked into bed beneath warm covers on a cold winter night when the wind was howling outside.

The Scripture is “home sweet home” for our Christian faith. It is a comfortable, relaxing place for the child of God. Jesus said, <sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 11:28 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* The word of the living God is a place to find rest and as time goes by we find more and more comfort in it. <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 85:8 *I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints.* <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 4:8 *I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell*

in safety. <sup>NIV</sup> Acts 10:36 *You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

Because the word of God brings such rest and refreshment to us, the place where we hear and learn it becomes a restful place by association. We want our churches to be restful places for God's people. Even if there is a lot going on and we have many duties to perform at church, we must never come to see our church as a tiring place to go. It is a great concern when people get so tired out doing "church work" that they begin to skip worship. This is not good. We will want to say with the Psalmist, <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 84:1 *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!*

A great home is a place of rest and refreshment. The word of God is all of this and more.

F. A home with lots of room for family, friends and strangers

Oh, make Thy Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold

To bear before the nations Thy true light as of old!

Oh, teach, Thy wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace

Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see Thee face to face!

(TLH 294, v4; ELH 171, v3)

Is it not true that one of the greatest joys of home is when it is the place the family gathers? This is why we so love our church home too, or ought to. It is the place where our dear brothers and sisters in Christ gather. It is so wonderful to be around family and enjoy the word of the Lord together.

Jesus alludes to this family experience, when he says in <sup>NIV</sup> John 8:35 *"Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever."* We are indeed all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ and therefore not slaves, but children who feel at home in the Word.

Some parents prefer that their children feel free to bring their friends home to socialize, rather than run around with them out there somewhere. These parents help make this happen by making their children's friends feel welcome in their home. I conducted a graveside service recently for a woman whose children remembered with special fondness how their mom used to sit at the table with their high school friends, drink a Coke with them, and converse about anything and everything. They loved her, because she showed love and concern for them.

The word of God is a home like this. God our Father wants us to invite our family, friends, and strangers to enjoy the home with us. It welcomes all in the hope that they will repent and trust in Jesus as their Savior. There is plenty of space to accommodate the whole world in the home of the Word and still have excess capacity.

That God's Word is such a spacious home reassures our synod this year that it is good to continue our world mission outreach to South America and Europe and even look to expand mission work to India and South Korea and perhaps eventually into China. The love of God for all people reminds us to reach out to the people of many cultures and ethnic groups in and around our own communities in America. The family of God is composed of many blood-bought souls from around the world. John wrote in the final book of Scripture, <sup>NIV</sup> Revelation 7:9,10 *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.<sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

G. A home built with unchanging standards

O word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,

O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky---

We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page,

A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

(TLH 294, v1; ELH 171, v1)

The General Electric “Carousel of Progress” at Disneyworld’s Magic Kingdom is beginning to show its age. My wife and I rode it twice last year. It broke down for a few minutes each time. It is clearly suffering the ravages of time. Strange, isn’t it, that a ride designed to show change over time, is wearing out.

What a great concept Walt Disney had many years ago, though, when he decided to seat his guests in a theater revolving around a stationary center stage, so that they could move through four stages in an American family’s life—1900, 1920, 1940 and 2000 (originally 1980, but time has moved on). It is noteworthy that not only the home appliances and furnishings change dramatically, but the family members’ values also. Women go from doing laborious housekeeping chores in 1900 to working outside the home in 2000. All family members have much more leisure time. In the fourth scene, even grandma is playing video games.

In such a rapidly changing world it is especially sad to see many human relationships not lasting. Although neighborhoods with row after row of homes look really nice on the outside, on the inside too many families are disintegrating, leaving scores of victimized and traumatized children in their wake.

When asked the basis on which they form their moral choices, nearly half of all adults (44%) cited their desire to do whatever will bring them the most pleasing or satisfying results. Roughly one-sixth of the adult public (17%) bases its moral decisions on what they believe will make other people happy or minimize interpersonal conflict. The same percentage (17%) credits the values they were taught by their family as the dominant influence on their moral considerations. About one out of four adults (24%) lean primarily upon religious principles and teaching or Bible content when making moral decisions.<sup>22</sup>

The results of this study caused George Barna to remark:

Americans are correct in suggesting that the moral state of the country is in decline, but they may be looking in the wrong place to find the genesis of the problem. Almost half of the population—47%—holds a non-biblical moral view on at least four of the eight core behaviors we tested, suggesting that perhaps the moral problems of the nation are not always attributable to other people but often relate to our own attitudes and actions.<sup>23</sup>

In the midst of all this change, much of it not positive, there is hope in the unchanging and liberating truth of the word of Christ. <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 90:1 *Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.*

God never changes. <sup>NIV</sup> James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.* <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* Just like the God who gave it, the word of the Lord does not change either. The law of God still demands perfection. The wonderful gospel still offers full and free forgiveness through faith in Christ. <sup>NIV</sup> Numbers 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*

On Saturday, June 25, 2005, we will be celebrating the 475<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Augsburg Confession. Why do we celebrate the anniversary of such an ancient document? It’s because the Augsburg Confession is still true and timely! It is because the truths confessed in 1530 are none other than the doctrines of the unchanging word of God, the truths we still confess. As we listen to the introduction to the Augsburg Confession as first presented to Emperor Charles V, we can hear our own voices:

In dutiful obedience to Your Imperial Majesty, we offer and present a confession of our pastors’ and preachers’ teaching and of our own faith, setting forth how and in what manner, on the basis of the Holy Scriptures, these things are preached, taught, communicated, and embraced in our lands, principalities, dominions, cities and territories.<sup>24</sup>

We see truths in the Augsburg Confession that we still hold dear. We still confess the Triune God, original sin, Jesus as true God and true man, justification by faith alone, the holy ministry, the Christian life, one holy Christian Church, the Word and Sacraments

as the Means of Grace, good works as the fruit of faith, and Christ's return to judge. We still reject the errors condemned in the document. If the Lord waits another 475 years or more before returning in judgment, the Augsburg Confession will still be right up to date, because God's Word does not change.

#### H. A home built to last forever

Some of the new building materials available to homeowners today are designed to last longer than ever before. They are made to last longer than their inhabitants. Of course, neither a home nor its inhabitants last forever on the earth.

There are no U-haul trailers behind hearses. We can never take our earthly homes with us into eternity. However, we can and will take with us the word of God, which has been our home throughout life. The word of God will outlast every attempt to destroy it. "The word of God abides forever. No amount of raging, blustering, blasphemy, or cursing will change this."<sup>25</sup> NIV 1 Peter 1:24,25 *All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,* <sup>25</sup> *but the word of the Lord stands forever.*"

There have been many attempts through the years on the part of Christ's enemies to tear down the dream home of God's Word. None of the efforts has succeeded, nor will they.

Christ's gospel prospered most where it was least tolerated. For when the hour struck, the tyrants perished, and the Word carried the day. Jerusalem and Rome serve to illustrate that. And also today, where princes and bishops oppose the gospel most vehemently, there it must take root and flourish most.<sup>26</sup>

We have seen that the word of God is the perfect home for us disciples to grow in faith and thrive in our discipleship. It is a strong, secure, nourishing and restful place. It is a home we love to share. It never changes and it lasts forever.

God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.  
(TLH 283; ELH 583)

### **Part III. It's the home where we grow in knowledge of the truth**

*... And you shall know the truth ...*

Being at home in the word of God is never just a case of using the Word, but using it properly. Jesus said, "If you abide in my Word, you are *really* my disciples and *you will know the truth*." The word of God has a single saving purpose. It exists to create disciples of Jesus and sustain them through saving knowledge of the truth. NIV 2 Timothy 3:15 *From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Using the word of God well means finding Jesus in it and, by doing so, finding our salvation. NKJ John 5:39 *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."* We will want to study the Word always looking for Jesus and asking ourselves, "Where is Jesus in the verses I am reading and where is his promise of salvation?" In fact, it is extremely important to focus on the good news of forgiveness, because it is possible to study the Bible intently and yet not be saved.

While studying in the Holy Lands, a seminary professor... met a man who claimed to have memorized the Old Testament—in Hebrew! Needless to say, the astonished professor asked for a demonstration. A few days later they sat together in the man's home.

"Where shall we begin?" asked the man.

"Psalm 1," replied my professor, who was an avid student of the psalms.



Beginning with Psalm 1:1, the man began to recite from memory, while my professor followed along in his Hebrew Bible. For two hours the man continued word for word without a mistake as the professor sat in stunned silence. When the demonstration was over, my professor discovered something even more astonishing about the man—he was an atheist! Here was someone who knew the Scriptures better than most Christians ever will, and yet he didn't even believe in God.<sup>27</sup>

Even though the Bible can be used without the proper outcome, we will not want to be afraid to use the Scriptures often. We grow in personal, saving knowledge of Christ only through our use of the Word – in worship, Bible Study, Christian education, devotional life, and personal Bible reading. None of these are distinct ventures. They are all facets of the one great endeavor to... *NIV 2 Peter 3:18 grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* Let's find a wonderful home in the Word.

### *A. Growing through worship around the Word*

For many Christians one hour of worship each week is their only time at home in the Word. The rest of the time they are on the road, as it were, not returning home again for days. For far too many Christians, there is not even one hour a week in worship. Perhaps there is one hour per month, or less. In our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, for example, only 46% of baptized members actually gather in our congregations to worship God each week.<sup>28</sup> (The number does not even account for a certain number of visitors each week.) Similar numbers would certainly exist in the congregations of our sister synod, the Wisconsin Synod. According to a survey by George Barna, those percentages are pretty much true across all denominations:

From the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties, church attendance was on a roller coaster ride. In 1986, 42% of adults attended a church service during a typical week in January. Attendance rose steadily, reaching a peak of 49% in 1991, before beginning a very slow but steady descent back to 43% in January, 2004.<sup>29</sup>

Apparently, a typical Bible-belt church may do a little better than others. However, since its worship services often tend to focus on experience, testimony, personal revelation and other more subjective activities rather than on God's Word as the means of grace, we might properly wonder how effectively they really keep people at home in the Word.

The real challenge facing our congregations may not be getting large crowds to church on Sunday mornings, but getting them there for the right reason. Do the people love the word of God so much that they want to hear it and grow in their Christian faith? Luther's simple explanation to the Third Commandment is still the best summary of what we will want our attitude toward worship to be. "We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

Worship is of supreme importance. It is the key to the rest of our Christian life. When our worship habits are healthy, we tend to manage our resources more diligently. We tend to love the Word and take a firmer confessional stand on its unchanging truth when we worship often. General spiritual health and wellbeing are directly proportional to worship attendance. After all, "Satan's greatest victories do not lie in getting unbelievers to heap vice upon vice, but in lulling believers into taking God's Word lightly."<sup>30</sup>

This (the third) commandment is violated not only by those who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, like those who in their greed or frivolity neglect to hear God's Word or lie around in taverns dead drunk like swine, but also by that multitude of others who listen to God's Word as they would to any other entertainment, who only from force of habit go to hear preaching and depart again with as little knowledge of the Word at the end of the year as at the beginning.<sup>31</sup>

Since Christ has fulfilled God's law for us, setting us free from the curse of the law, we are not bound by any hard-and-fast rule to keep a particular Sabbath day. In his sermon "How Christians Should Regard Moses" Luther wrote:

Isaiah says in the last chapter, "When the Savior comes, then such will be the time, one sabbath after the other, one month after the other," [Isaiah 66:23] etc. This is as though he were trying to say, "It will be the sabbath every day, and the people will be such that they make no distinction between days. For in the New

Testament the sabbath is annihilated as regards the crude external observance, for every day is a holy day,” etc.<sup>32</sup>

Luther wrote also in the Large Catechism: “We keep holy days so that people may have time and opportunity, which otherwise would not be available, to participate in public worship, that is, that they may assemble to hear and discuss God’s Word and then praise God with song and prayer.”<sup>33</sup> Yes, the Lord still wants us to establish times for worship, so that we may come together regularly for our spiritual strengthening. <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 10:24,25 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*<sup>25</sup> *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* At the 1989 synod convention Pastor Gaylin Schmeling reminded us, “The life-giving Word, which creates faith in us, also strengthens faith and preserves us in that faith. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit is given in all His fullness with all His many gifts. Here the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are offered and bestowed.”<sup>34</sup>

Of course, our old sinful nature will have none of this. It does not desire to build anything on the word of God. It battles within us to get us to move away from Christ. It wants to live anywhere but in the Scripture. Our sinful nature wants to build on the best of human intelligence. It keeps on complaining just as did the people to whom Jesus was speaking, “I have never been a slave to anyone.” It sees any attempt to build on Scripture as the equivalent to being put into prison.

It is our new nature in Christ that loves the word of God. It loves the beauty of the mansion of God’s Word. It loves nothing more than the certainty of that sure foundation of the Apostles and Prophets with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. It loves the flawless construction of all the teachings of the Bible, each being an important part of the unit. It loves to be refreshed by the Water and Bread of Life. It loves the lasting security and assurance of eternal life in Christ. The new nature of the child of God simply loves the Word and wants to abide in it.

The truth is, then, that we can say what we will about the word of God and what a wonderful home it is, but if we fail to spend time there, it is evidence that our Christian faith is dangerously weak and in need of an immediate feeding.

Remember, then, that you must be concerned not only about hearing the Word but also about learning and retaining it. Do not regard it as an optional or unimportant matter. It is the commandment of God, and he will require of you an accounting of how you have heard and learned and honored his Word.<sup>35</sup>

### B. Growing through Bible Study – Public and Private

There are so many great opportunities for Bible study these days that we would do well to search out and make use of as much of this study material as we can. Our own synod will soon provide a Bible study on the book of Hebrews to be used synod-wide. It will only be helpful if it is actually used.

For many years the WELS synod magazine *Forward in Christ* has offered Bible study as a regular feature. These days it is in the form of a brief interactive study. I recall those days in the old *Northwestern Lutheran* it was called “Mining the Treasures of God’s Word”<sup>36</sup> and was excellent as well. Our own *Lutheran Sentinel* has had recent series of studies on Isaiah and the Psalms.

Of course, the greatest opportunity for Bible study remains in the local congregation on Sunday morning or during the week. Growing percentages of our members are seeing the value in this kind of corporate Bible study. A quick review of the Synod Reports shows that from 1988 to 2003 the number of people in Bible class as a percentage of the number who worship on a Sunday has gone from 20% in 1988 to 27% in 2003. (1988, 20%; 1993, 21%; 1998, 26%; 2003, 27%) The improvement is good, but the actual percentage is still very low, with only slightly better than one in four benefiting from both Bible class and worship. It would certainly be great to get that number up to 30%, 50%, and even beyond. The sooner, the better.

Keep in mind, too, that only 46% of our members are in worship on a given Sunday and it is 25% of those 46% who are in Bible class. This means that overall only 11-12% of all





our adult members are in Bible class any week. It should not surprise us that there will be Scriptural ignorance and corresponding weakness in the Christian faith and life of those who do not study the Word. Nor will it surprise us that almost inevitably the one person in ten who is in Bible class is also among the most active in the life of the congregation and most vividly displays the fruit of the Christian faith in daily life!

We see, then, this cycle in the Christian's life. Those who immerse themselves in the word of the Lord grow in grace and demonstrate

their increased faith through works of Christian service. Those who grow in grace and demonstrate their increased faith through works of Christian service immerse themselves in the word of the Lord even more.

It is the intention of Paul that we should be rich in the word of God (1 Corinthians 1:5), because our adversary, the devil, prowls around (1 Peter 5:8). Therefore it is not only pleasing to God but also necessary for us that we abide in the word of God, and we have no other weapons (Ephesians 6:10–17). Lest we become lazy, then, we want to devote ourselves to our food, and while we have the light, we want to give attention to the light; because the time will come when we would be glad to study if we could.<sup>37</sup>

### C. *Growing through Christian Education*

According to Pastor Ted Aaberg in his history of the Norwegian Synod (*A City Set on a Hill*), our forefathers in the old Norwegian Synod had greater success establishing institutions of higher learning than elementary schools. In 1861 they founded Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Afterward, in 1876 a seminary was founded in Madison, Wisconsin. Academies (more or less high schools) sprang up and flourished in many places. All of these were important institutions where “young people, with their Christian training, became a source of spiritual strength in home and church.”<sup>38</sup> He goes on to say:

Parochial schools flourished from the beginning, but they were not of the kind established, for example, by the Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Synod, which covered the whole field of education. The Synod's parochial schools generally were conducted alongside public school, with the children attending both schools, public and parochial during the year... the Christian Day School never really “caught on” in the Norwegian Synod, due largely, no doubt, to the mistaken notion among many Norwegians that such a school was not quite “American.”<sup>39</sup>

Nonetheless, a noble goal of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was and is to help parents teach their children the wonders of God by providing for solid Christian education.

Today, after 88 years of the ELS, we are continuing to put money behind our effort to encourage our congregations to begin preschool or elementary education. Congregations can receive financial assistance through the Board for Education and Youth for startup costs. The annual proceeds of the “His Truth for Our Youth” fund make available up to \$50,000 to a new school over a period of years. At this convention, we are hearing about the progress of the new “Lutheran Schools Initiative” (Lutheran Schools of America). LSI (LSA) is an effort to assist congregations with more than just the startup costs. Both programs are designed to help more congregations establish schools for their children – children who will then be more at home in the word of God.

Although the circumstances were not quite the same in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Luther strongly encouraged Christian schools:

Now I have preached and written a great deal urging that good schools should be established in the cities in order that we might produce educated men and women, whence good Christian pastors and preachers might come forth so that the word of God might continue to flourish richly. But people take such an indifferent attitude toward the matter, pretending that it might cost them their whole livelihood and temporal possessions, that I fear the time will come when schoolmasters, pastors, and preachers alike will have to quit, let the word go, and turn to a trade or some other means of stilling the pangs of hunger; just as the Levites had to abandon the worship of God to till the fields, as Nehemiah writes [Nehemiah 13:10].<sup>40</sup>

Often congregations may be reluctant to begin Lutheran schools or preschools because they perceive them to be too costly. But there is a great cost in not having Lutheran schools too. The cost is just measured differently. Not having a school may leave an entire generation less prepared to face the tempter in a world where he has far too many cohorts already. Not having Lutheran schools may mean having adult members not as well-trained as they otherwise may have been. Not having a school deprives many Christians of the opportunity to witness what great sponges for the word of God children truly are when given the daily opportunity to learn.

In our schools children absorb the wonders of their Creator as they see him in their math, science, English, and geography classes. They soak up the good news that Jesus loves them and gave himself for them. They absorb and then recount Bible stories with such ease and beauty that church members, parents and grandparents often need sponges to soak up their tears of joy and amazement.

Christian education for children in schools operated by our congregations is a fantastic way to keep them abiding at home with their Lord and his Word, so that they come to know with conviction the truth about the Savior who loves them.<sup>41</sup>

#### *D. Growing through private and family devotion*

It is good that people are being encouraged to have family or private devotions. It is good that each year our synod's Board for Education and Youth produces Advent and Lenten devotions for the family. It is good that our sister synod the WELS continues to publish *Meditations*. It is good that there are daily devotions online at the WELS website. It is good that God has moved faithful Christians, past and present, to use their talents to write many other fine devotional books, some of which are listed in Appendix A of this essay.

The real value of these devotional books is that they keep us in the Scripture on a regular basis and help us apply it to our lives. Our private devotions are often the place where we learn to pray to the Lord from the heart – our half of a wonderful conversation with God. He speaks to us in his Word. We speak to him in our prayers. Devotions clearly improve our listening life and our prayer life.

A strong, private, devotional life is important even for our pastors, or perhaps especially for our pastors. We might think that since they work with the word of God so much in their daily preparation for sermons and Bible class they do not need to think too much about their personal devotional life. Wrong! As pastors prepare classes and sermons, counsel the sick and dying, and stay abreast of the challenges facing God's people daily, they will find themselves frustrated and emptied of strength, unless they spend time with their Lord in Scripture and lay before him their fervent prayers for themselves and their flock.

It is sometimes said of certain carpenters that while they give attention to the carpentry needs of others, the carpentry needs in their own home are the last to be tended to, that they readily take care of the carpentry needs of others, and thus let their own house fall into disrepair. God forbid that a similar thing should be the case as far as the devotional life of pastors is concerned... If (pastors) do not tend to their own devotional life, they themselves suffer spiritually on account thereof, and what is more, their congregations will suffer.<sup>42</sup>

For all of us—pastors, teachers and laity—living at home in the Word, in many respects begins or ends in the home. Pastor Luther Vangen made these remarks to the synod convention in 1966....

Educating for eternity begins in the home. Here is where we first learn the only wisdom and knowledge which really matters for time and eternity. Here we first learn to utter the name of Jesus.... In the home we first learn to pray to our Triune God. In the home we first learn that God's law is an "absolute" according to which every member of the family strives to live and please God. In the home we first learn a Christian outlook on life.... In the home we first learn a Christian sense of values and begin to understand which things in life come first and are most important. Here we first learn to treasure and love God's Word and to gladly hear and learn it.

All these things we learn first in the home—in a Christian home, that is. For in a home that is not Christian we might just as easily learn to curse and swear from hearing father and mother... In such a home we might first be filled with a materialistic outlook on life... that the really important things in life are having a good time, getting on in the world, money, and all the things that money can buy. We might also learn that church and Sunday School are a sort of burden that comes with each Sunday.... We might never learn to know what alone really matters for time and eternity, that is, we might never learn to know the way that leads to life.<sup>43</sup>

#### *E. Growing through personal Bible reading and prayer*

When a certain son left for his freshman year at Duke University, his parents gave him a Bible, assuring him it would be a great help. Later, as he began sending them letters asking for money, they would write back telling him to read his Bible, citing chapter and verse. He would reply that he was reading the Bible—but he still needed money. When he came home for a semester break, his parents told him they knew he had not been reading his Bible. How? They had tucked \$10 and \$20 bills by the verses they had cited in their letters.<sup>44</sup>

Charles Spurgeon presumably said, "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone whose life isn't!"

In the Scripture we learn that in the first days of the Christian church following Pentecost, no one needed to tell the new believers that it was time for them to engage in Bible reading and worship. <sup>NIV</sup> Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* Later Paul encountered the Bereans who were more faithful than the Thessalonians for they studied the Scripture daily, to see whether what Paul had said was true (Acts 17:11). It is when spiritual coldness and apathy begin to make inroads into Christendom that Bible reading and worship begin to deteriorate in quality and quantity. The Apostles warned Christians about the dangers of neglect of the Word. (Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:12-14; Revelation 2 & 3)

Concerning the letters of princes it is stated in a proverb that they should be read three times; but surely the letters of God...should be read seven times three, yes, seventy times seven or, to say even more, countless times. For they are divine wisdom, which cannot be grasped immediately at the first glance. If someone reads them superficially like familiar and easy material, he deceives himself.<sup>45</sup>

So read the Word, and don't get tired of it, for satiety, getting tired of the Word is about the worst thing that can happen. It's more dangerous than the troublesome heretics.<sup>46</sup>

I am glad to have warned you against satiety and surfeit; for if any danger threatens our doctrine, it comes from this vice. Although heretics and sects work much harm, they nevertheless force us to search the Holy Scriptures diligently. But this pest, satiety for the Word, is born in us, and its danger is the greater the less we are able to note it. When we begin to snore and to be secure and surfeited, Satan is sure of victory.<sup>47</sup>

Our fathers came to America with the love of truth enshrined in their hearts and the beloved Bible in their hands. Faced with the tremendous and consuming task of building a church of the pure Word and of wresting a living from the wilderness, they yet found time to transform their mean (lowly) dwellings into veritable houses of God with daily Bible reading and prayer. Does the same love for God and for His precious Word still move us Christians to diligent observance of family devotion? Are we worthy successors of our fathers? Let each one answer this question for himself.<sup>48</sup>

Theodore Laetsch also analyzes the reasons people give for not reading the Bible at home. Why is the Bible a forgotten book even in many Lutheran homes?<sup>49</sup>

- 1) There is no time. "Such an excuse is convenient, comfortable, but it is neither valid nor truthful." Is there time for eating and drinking?
- 2) There are parents who never developed the habit, and therefore do not pass it on to their children.
- 3) There is "unfamiliarity with the content and divine power of the Bible."
- 4) There is a loathing of Scripture, resulting from coercion during childhood, real or imagined, which turned them off to Bible reading.
- 5) There is a sense of being unable to read the Bible.
- 6) There is indifference.

Bible reading plans have become very popular in recent years. Appendix B lists an unusual source of such plans for the person who likes to use cyberspace. There are certainly many other plans available that may fit our tastes.

#### **Part IV. It's the home which gives perfect freedom**

*... and the truth shall make you free."*

##### A. Freedom from all the enemies which assailed us

It is never any fun for people to head to the "big house" because of their crimes. In prison they don't have freedom anymore. Instead, every moment of life is dictated by the warden and watched over by the prison guards.

Contrast that to our lives in our wonderful homes in our fabulously free country. We get up in the morning and we are free to walk outside, read our Bible, get our breakfast, check on the children, watch TV, do exercises, go to church, or almost anything our heart desires. Our homes are living evidence of our freedoms.

Without Christ as our Savior we live in the "big house" of sin, Satan, death and hell. <sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 107:10-12 *Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains,<sup>11</sup> for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.<sup>12</sup> So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.* <sup>NIV</sup> Galatians 3:23 *Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.* In John's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that we remain slaves to sin unless and until, by faith in Christ, we are set free.

In the *People's Bible* on the book of Proverbs, Roland Cap Ehlke, makes the following comment about Proverbs 21:16:

(<sup>NIV</sup> Proverbs 21:16 *A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.*) We might drive our car off the road and get stuck in a ditch. We could even have a serious or fatal accident. Straying from God's road is much more serious. The devil might tempt us to think that rejecting the Bible is the road to a full and free life. The fact is that the disobedient man gets the opposite of what he expects. Instead of freedom of movement, he "comes to rest." Instead of fuller life, he ends up "in the company of the dead." This is not just physical death but spiritual death and unless repented of, eternal death.<sup>50</sup>

Imprisonment is particularly terrible when it enslaves a person who once tasted freedom. In our day and age, so many people are being enticed into Reformed<sup>51</sup> churches, which appear to offer freedom in Christ, but instead focus on the law of God rather than the gospel. Imprisoned are those who want to free themselves by works of the law, rather than trust the simple gospel.

“Do something,” said the devil to Eve, “if you want to be free from the ignorance in which a jealous God wants to keep you by forbidding you to eat from a tree whose fruit can make you wise.” “Do something,” said the medieval theologian, “if you want to be free from the dominion and the consequences of sin.” “Take a vow of celibacy, if you want to be free from the evils of sex and a vow of poverty to set yourself free from the love of money which is the root of all evil.”

And the modern theologian still operates with the same principle. “Do something,” he says, or she says, “if you want to be free from male domination.” “Do something, if you want to be free to sit at any lunch counter or in the front of the bus.” “Do something if you want to be free from pollution and the threat of nuclear war.”

Or, if you can’t do something yourself, pass another law that will force others to do something. Pass a law to make the rich set the poor free from poverty with their tax dollars. Pass a law that will free men from the effects of pollution.<sup>52</sup>

But the law never sets free. It only enslaves. The gospel alone sets free from all our enemies—sin, Satan, death and hell. The word of God liberates us because every passage of the Scripture leads us to Jesus our Savior. <sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 61:1,2. *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God.*

In love, God is encouraging and urging us to abide in his Word, for he knows that we will so easily become enslaved again to that which on the surface may sound good, but which strips us of our freedom in Christ. Many popular churches today seem to offer such liberating experiences. Yet, where there is no emphasis on the gospel, the “freedom” offered is really not freedom at all, but only a renewed slavery to principles of this world. <sup>NIV</sup> Colossians 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.* “Where legalism—no matter what form it takes or how trifling it may seem—lifts its head, the gospel in Word and sacrament is endangered.”<sup>53</sup>

To such (Reformed) theology... our people are being subjected by broadcast and telecast by press and by publication. How can this influence be counteracted? The answer does not rest in a resort to gimmickry in the pulpit or in an effort to out-huckster the huckster with a halo. The answer comes in three words: preach the gospel.

As never before, this is the time to preach and teach the gospel, to drive it with the Spirit’s power deep into the hearts and lives of the people. This is the time to shun like the plague any presentation in pulpit or classroom or office of a conditioned gospel that needs the work of man before it can amount to anything. This is the time to avoid studiously any motivation for the life of faith that is not born and bred in the gospel. This is the time for *sola gratia*, as it is also the time for grace for all. Neither Reformed Calvinism, that wars with the latter, nor Arminianism, that clashes with the former, dare be allowed to influence our people and to undermine their faith.<sup>54</sup>

We might add that this is also the time for *sola Scriptura*. There is such safety and refreshment in the word of God, such joy in Christ, that it is inconceivable that we would not come day by day to enjoy even more this very special home. For in the Word not only are we set free from every enemy, but set free to serve Christ.

### *B. Freedom to serve Christ in everything we say and do*

There is a sign on a window in my neighborhood: “Freedom is never free.” The freedom we enjoy in America today, has cost many people their lives. Pastor Bill McMurdie of our ELS recalled an incident at the Battle of the Bulge:

I asked (PFC) Ison one day how come he was in our outfit, since married men with three children did not have to be in the infantry. He said he was a coal miner from West Virginia, and where he came from, freedom and the United States of America were very important... (later, during the battle) Suddenly I looked to my right and

saw bullet after bullet hitting Ison... It was the most tragic sight I had ever seen... For me, PFC Robert Ison still lies beside that tree in Germany, a husband and a father who had indeed given his life so his children and the rest of us could live in freedom.<sup>55</sup>

Freedom from all our terrible spiritual enemies is what we enjoy in Christ. This freedom also came at a great price. It cost our dear friend, Jesus, his life. He shed his precious blood for the sins of the world—for our sins.

Christ set us free from our enemies, but not just to live as we please. We are free to serve him who rescued us from our sin. <sup>NIV</sup> Galatians 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.* <sup>NIV</sup> Romans 6:18 *You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

There is great danger in spiritual freedom. There is the danger of apathy. There is the danger of not remembering the price of freedom. There is the danger of abusing freedom, using it for our own selfish gain. The Apostle Paul reminds us not to misuse the freedom we have in Christ. <sup>NIV</sup> Galatians 5:13 *You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

It is far too easy to believe that the “truth has set us free” not to worship God, not to have family devotions, not to read our Bibles, not to bring our offerings to the Lord, not to think about the lost in distant lands, not to concern ourselves with sound doctrine, and not to commit ourselves to Christian education for all ages. Nothing could be farther from the truth. We have been set free from our spiritual enemies not to ignore Jesus, but to live in him. We are set free to enjoy the home he gave us in the word of God. We are free to live within its secure walls, to raid its refrigerator of nourishment and refreshment, to plug into its awesome power to transform our thinking and our very lives, and to lie down and rest in it. We are free to go out to the highways and byways and beckon all to come in and enjoy the same home. We are free to pool our resources in the cause of Christian education at all levels. We are free to bring our offerings to support the work of the ministry at home and abroad. We are free to pray for the success of the Word.

Yes, we are free to abide in the Word, to truly be Jesus’ disciples, and to know the truth of God’s word in our experience, as we live in freedom in our “dream home.”

## Conclusion

Someday the temporary homes in which we live here on earth will cease to exist. We will die and our souls will go to be with the Lord, while our bodies reside temporarily in cemeteries instead of homes. We dare not live here on earth as though we are permanent residents in it. God makes very clear in his Word that we are but strangers and foreigners here. <sup>NIV</sup> Hebrews 11:13 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.*

Even though we are aliens and strangers as far as life on this earth is concerned, we are permanent residents in the word of the living God. Because the word of the Lord endures forever, what we build on that Word lasts forever too. So, today Jesus tells us that if we are to be his disciples, we are to “abide” or “remain in” or “reside in” his Word.

*Only if you continue in My Word are you truly My disciples.* It is not sufficient to begin to believe; no, it is necessary to continue and to persevere in adherence to the Word.... Stand fast. Do not flee. Do not retreat. If you have begun to believe, persevere in it. <sup>56</sup>

*“If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples; you will come to know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (New Jerusalem Bible). There may be many others who thoughtlessly continue to misquote the final words of this verse and apply them to all sorts of wrong ideas about freedom. Let others do what they will! By the grace of God these words will always mean something very special to us – an invitation from our Savior to abide in his special, saving Word as the home where our Christian faith

was born and is sustained, as the home where we live as disciples and grow in saving knowledge, and the home where we experience true freedom from all our enemies.

And so, my dear Christians, get to it, get to it, and let my exposition and that of all the doctors be no more than a scaffold, an aid for the construction of the true building, so that we may ourselves grasp and taste the pure and simple word of God and abide by it; for there alone God dwells in Zion. Amen. <sup>57</sup>

¡A Dios solamente sea la gloria!



## **Appendix A**

### Devotional life publications

- Bartels, Mark (ed.). *Cling to the Cross*. ELS Board for Education and Youth.
- Braun, John A. (ed.) *His Word, Our Delight*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, , 1995.
- Braun, John A. *Up to Jerusalem*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1997.
- Kremer, Kenneth. *At Home with the Psalms*. Oshkosh WI: Kremer Publishing, 2001.
- Laache, Nils Jakob. *Book of Family Prayer*. (Translated by Mark DeGarmeaux) Mankato MN: Lutheran Synod Book Company, 2000.
- Lauersdorf, Richard. *As Luther Taught the Word of Truth*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2002.
- Lauersdorf, Richard, *God's Children Never Die* (Devotions for those facing death), Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Lauersdorf, Richard. *Help Me, Lord*. (Preparing for a loved one's death). Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Lauersdorf, Richard, *With Tears in Our Eyes* (Grieving the death of a loved one), Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Lauersdorf, Richard, *When Jesus is There* (Help to endure sorrows). Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Lauersdorf, Richard. *Together with Jesus*. (Devotions for a year). Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Lindblom, Ines. *Letters from Ines*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Luther, Martin. *A Simple Way to Pray*. (Translated by C.J Trapp). Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1983.
- Moldstad, Joslyn Wiechmann. *At Home with Jesus*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1992.
- Paustian, Henry. *Listen! God is Speaking to You!* Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1992.
- Schmeling, Gaylin. *God's Gift to You*. (Devotions on the Lord's Supper), Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2001.
- Senkbeil, Harold. *Where in the World is God?* Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1999.
- Senkbeil, Harold. *Triumph at the Cross*. Milwaukee WI: NPH, 1999.
- Tacke, Rachel. *Blessings by the Handful*. (Devotions for women). Milwaukee WI: NPH, 2003.
- Various authors. *Little Visits* (Devotional Series for parents and children), St. Louis MO: Concordia Publishing House.

## **Appendix B**

### Online Bible Reading Plans

I typed "Bible Reading Plans" into Google one day and got 191,000 sites. Granted, some of the ones down the list are probably not too viable, nor did I have the chance to check the details on very many. But here is a little sampling of what is available "free."

1) **bibleplan.org**. You may actually not only follow a Bible reading plan, but do your reading on the internet by going to bibleplan.org. The title on their home page is our verse for today: "*If you continue in my word . . . you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*" -- Jesus (John 8:31-32 RSV)

Bibleplan.org has various Bible reading plans which then link to gospelcom.net where you can read the Scripture or make further choices about any of the 15 English translations or other languages you want (including Norsk, Spanish, Italian, German, French, Portuguese). So for the computer freak, you can pause right where you are, go to cyberspace, go to the site, click on the day's reading, and do your devotion for the day.

Look at the 13 plans available to you!

- Whole Bible in a year
- Old Testament in a year
- New Testament in a year
- Old Testament in 2 years



Words of Jesus 4 times a year  
 Whole Bible Chronologically in a year  
 Whole Bible Chronologically in a year #2  
 New Testament Letters 3 times in a year  
 New Testament and Proverbs twice, Psalms once in a year  
 New Testament and Psalms twice, rest of Bible once in a year  
 Proverbs in a month  
 Gospels in a month  
 Psalms in a month

This site is by far and away the most extensive plan and seems easiest to use, when you want to work right at your computer.

2) **Bible-reading.com** has a reading plan, which also links to the actual reading and plays music in the background. (The music is annoying in some instances, although, thankfully, you have the choice to turn it off).

3) **Heartlight.org** has several plans to choose from which can be downloaded in pdf format. You can go “Straight through the Bible in one year”, do “Different Topics”, read “Old and New Testament Each Day”, cover “The Story of the Bible” (a chronologically arranged reading) and/or read “New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs in one year.”

4) **Navpress.com** offers two Bible reading plans which are downloadable in pdf format: The “Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan” has readings from two locations in Scripture each day, an Old or New Testament book and wisdom literature. Their other plan “Original Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan” has reading from four locations each day --- Old Testament, Gospel, Epistle, and Wisdom literature. There are a couple “free days” each month, which allow you to skip Sunday, for example. With either plan you can jump in any time.

5) **Dynamicapps.org** allows you to follow an onscreen reading plan.

6) **Christianity.com** has three Bible reading plans—a chronological Bible plan, Bible chart with daily Old and New Testament readings, and a Weekly Bible reading plan. These plans will print out in Windows Word. You would actually read from a printed Bible of your choice.

7) **Verseoftheday.com** offers three plans—straight through the Bible, both Old and New Testament each day, and a different subject each day of the week. The subject plan has links for reading online.

8) **fruitsofthevine.com** allows you to sign up for various Bible reading plans and the reading for the day is emailed to you free of charge. They have the 1, 2 and 3 year plans for reading the entire Bible plus plans for just the Old or New Testament.

9) **Allaboutgod.com** has several Bible reading plans—a) the chronological plan (events in the order they occurred), b) historical plan (in the order of when the books were written), c) Old and New Testaments combined, d) beginning to the end, e) the yearly plan, and f) the blended plan by which several of the plans may be used together. The site links to the Scripture either for reading or listening (mp3). Available in audio form are the King James Version, New Living Translation, and the Spanish Reina Valera Version 1960. Available to be read online are the New Living Translation, New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, Revised Standard Version, Noah Webster Version, Robert Young Literal Translation (1898), the Hebrew Old Testament, the Latin Vulgate and a couple of others.

10) **wels.net** our sister synod's website has a Three-year-plan for reading the Scripture which generates an Excel spreadsheet that you may print out and follow. Follow the dropdown lists from "Faith → Bible → Read the Bible → Three Year Plan." Click on "Three Year Plan" and from there you can access the spreadsheet.

In addition to the reading plan you may get outlines and helps for each Book of the Bible.

11) **learnaboutJesus.com**, our ELS evangelism website, does not have any Bible reading plans or links to online Scripture, but offers other material helpful for doing Bible reading and an online Bible Information Class.

### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Bauml, Gary. *The People's Bible*, "The Gospel of John," Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.didyouknow.cd/Bible/Bible.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Barna, George. "Seven Paradoxes Regarding America's Faith, Contradictions Regarding Religious Beliefs," December 17, 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Barna, George. "The Bible," December 2004 (webpage).

<sup>5</sup> Barna, George. "Twentysomethings Struggle to Find Their Place in Christian Churches, Other Signs of Struggle," September 24, 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Gallup, George. [http://www.irfi.org/articles/articles\\_51\\_100/bible\\_reading\\_declines.htm](http://www.irfi.org/articles/articles_51_100/bible_reading_declines.htm)

<sup>7</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1975). Vol. 18: Luther's works, vol. 18: Minor Prophets I: Hosea-Malachi (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Hag 1:1). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, p. 369.

<sup>8</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1972). Vol. 17: Luther's works, vol. 17: Lectures on Isaiah: Chapters 40-66 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Is 46:4). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.

<sup>9</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: Apology of the Augsburg Confession: XIII, 13. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p. 212.

<sup>10</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: Smalcald Articles: 3, VIII, 5-6). Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p. 312.

<sup>11</sup> Luther, M. "Warning to the people of Frankfurt on the Main," Luther's Works, St. Louis ed., XVII, p. 2015.

<sup>12</sup> Petersen, Wilhelm W. (2004). Seminary Graduation 1988, *A Brief Legacy*, p. 28.

<sup>13</sup> It is clear that none of the patriarchs had the written Word, which God began to give through Moses. Nonetheless, they trusted in the Savior through God's Word and promise handed down orally. The *protevangelium* (first Gospel) of Genesis 3:15 and the subsequent promise to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his offspring were well-known.

<sup>14</sup> Preus, Robert D. "Luther: Word, Doctrine and Confession," *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, Concordia Theological Seminary: Ft. Wayne IN, vol 60:3, July 1996, p. 177.

<sup>15</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1972). Vol. 17: Luther's works, vol. 17: Lectures on Isaiah: Chapters 40-66 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Is 60:20). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.

<sup>16</sup> Maclaren, Alexander DD. *Exposition of the Holy Scriptures*, St. John Chapters I-XIV, p. 336.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 337-338.

<sup>18</sup> Barna, George. "Seven Paradoxes Regarding America's Faith, Deceptions Regarding Truth," December 17, 2002.

<sup>19</sup> Madson, Norman A. "The Power of the Word," *The Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Vol. XXII, Number 3, September 1982, p. 52.

<sup>20</sup> Luther, M. Weimar Edition 21,469 as quoted in Ewald Plass, *What Luther Says*, Vol. III, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, p. 1486, 4803.

- <sup>21</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1969). Vol. 42: Luther's works, vol. 42: Devotional Writings I (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Vol. 42, Page 56). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
- <sup>22</sup> Barna, George. "Practical Outcomes Replace Biblical Principles as Moral Standard," September 10, 2001.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid, same web page.
- <sup>24</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: Augsburg Confession, Preface; Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (The Confession of Faith: 1, 7-8). Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p.25.
- <sup>25</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1958). Vol. 14: Luther's works, vol. 14: Selected Psalms III (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Ps 118:15). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, p. 78.
- <sup>26</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1974). Vol. 19: Luther's works, vol. 19: Minor Prophets II: Jonah and Habakkuk (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Hab 2:19-3:17). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>27</sup> Kuhatschek, Jack. *Taking The Guesswork Out of Applying The Bible*, IVP, 1991, p. 16 at bible.org
- <sup>28</sup> Report of the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the ELS, 2004, statistics sheet.
- <sup>29</sup> Barna, George, *Church Attendance*, Barna Research Institute website. [www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=Topic&TopicID=10](http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=Topic&TopicID=10)
- <sup>30</sup> Peters, Thomas C. *Cherish the Word – Reflections on Luther's Spirituality*. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis. 2000. p. 62.
- <sup>31</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: The Large Catechism: 1, 96-97. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p. 378.
- <sup>32</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1960). Vol. 35: Luther's works, vol. 35: Word and Sacrament I (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Vol. 35, Page 165-166). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
- <sup>33</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: The Large Catechism: 1, 84. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p. 376.
- <sup>34</sup> Schmeling, Rev. Gaylin, "God's Gift to You: The Means of Grace," Essay to the 1989 Synod Convention, 1989 Synod Report, p. 48.
- <sup>35</sup> Tappert, T. G. (2000, c1959). The Book of Concord: The Large Catechism: 1, 98. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, p. 378.
- <sup>36</sup> It was called "Mining the Treasures of God's Word" until Harold E. Wicke stepped aside as editor in February 1982. As one might expect, James P. Schaefer changed the appearance of the magazine (adding four color in May of 1982) and changing the name of the Bible study section to "Studies in God's Word."
- <sup>37</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1973). Vol. 28: Luther's works, vol. 28: 1 Corinthians 7, 1 Corinthians 15, Lectures on 1 Timothy (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (1 Ti 1:1). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>38</sup> Aaberg, Theodore A., *A City Set on a Hill*, Board of Publications of the ELS: Mankato MN, 1968, p. 10.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid., p.10.
- <sup>40</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1962). Vol. 45: Luther's works, vol. 45: The Christian in Society II (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Vol. 45, Page 318). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.
- <sup>41</sup> I do not mean to diminish the blessings of home schooling. For those Christian parents who have the time, ability and inclination to dedicate themselves to this labor of love day in and day out, I have only the highest praise and encouragement.
- <sup>42</sup> Bartels, Harry. "The Devotional Life of the Pastor in the Light of the Third Commandment," *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Mankato: Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Vol XXX, Number 3, September 1990, p. 48.
- <sup>43</sup> Vangen, Rev. Luther. "Educating for Eternity," ELS Synod Report, 1966, pp. 36-37.
- <sup>44</sup> Spach, John T. *Reader's Digest*, reported at bible.org

- <sup>45</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1961). Vol. 3: Luther's works, vol. 3: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 15-20 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Ge 17:7). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>46</sup> Kuster, A.V. "Luther and the Word of God," *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Mankato, Minnesota, Vol. 27, Number 3, September 1987, p 23.
- <sup>47</sup> Plass, Ewald. *What Luther Says*. Vol. III, Item 4807, p. 1487. (St. Louis IV, 1751)
- <sup>48</sup> Laetsch, Theodore, D.D. *The Abiding Word*, volume 1, Concordia Publishing House, 1947, p., 88.
- <sup>49</sup> Ibid., pp. 90-91.
- <sup>50</sup> Ehlke, Roland Cap, *The People's Bible*, "Proverbs," Northwestern Publishing House: Milwaukee, WI, 1992, p. 206.
- <sup>51</sup> I am using the term Reformed loosely, in a wide sense. Many of the groups referred to are actually Arminian (Decision Theology) in their teaching.
- <sup>52</sup> Becker, Dr. Siegbert W., *Christian Liberty*, Essay at the forty-seventh biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, New Ulm, Minnesota, August 1-6, 1983, p.4.
- <sup>53</sup> Frederich, Edward C. "The Influence of Reformed Theology on Our People in Regard to Word and Sacrament." Minnesota District Pastors' Conference. Bloomington, MN. April 21, 1993. p.5.
- <sup>54</sup> Frederich, p.6.
- <sup>55</sup> McMurdie, Rev. William. *Hey, Mac! This is Serious Business! A Guy Could Get Killed!*, Gig Harbor WA: Red Apple Publishing (current publisher, Cameron MO: American Home School Publishing), 2002, pp. 73 & 78.
- <sup>56</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1959). Vol. 23: Luther's works, vol. 23: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 6-8 (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Jn 8:39). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>57</sup> Luther, M. (1999, c1974). Vol. 52: Luther's works, vol. 52: Sermons II (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Vol. 52, Page 286). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bartels, Harry. "The Devotional Life of the Pastor in the Light of the Third Commandment," *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Mankato MN: Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Vol. XXX, Number 3, September 1990.
- Baumler, Gary. *The People's Bible*, "The Gospel of John," Milwaukee WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997.
- Becker, Dr. Siegbert W., *Christian Liberty*, Essay at the forty-seventh biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, New Ulm MN, August 1-6, 1983.
- Frederich, Edward C. "The Influence of Reformed Theology on Our People in Regard to Word and Sacrament." Minnesota District Pastors' Conference. Bloomington MN. April 21, 1993.
- Keller, Brian. *Bible: God's Inspired, Inerrant Word*. Milwaukee WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 2003.
- Kuhatschek, Jack. *Taking The Guesswork Out of Applying The Bible*, IVP, 1991, at bible.org.
- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*. Philadelphia PA: Fortress Press, 1994.
- Madson, Norman A. "The Power of the Word," *The Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Vol. XXII, Number 3. Mankato MN. September 1982.
- McMurdie, William. *Hey, Mac! This is Serious Business! A Guy Could Get Killed*, Gig Harbor WA: Red Apple Publishing (current publisher, Cameron MO: American Home School Publishing), 2002.

Morris, Leon. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament. The Gospel According to St. John*. Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1971.

Peters, Thomas C. *Cherish the Word – Reflections on Luther’s Spirituality*. St. Louis MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2000.

Pink, Arthur. *Exposition of the Gospel of John*. Volume II. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1945

Preus, Robert D., “Luther: Word, Doctrine and Confession,” *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, Concordia Theological Seminary: Ft. Wayne IN, vol 60:3, July 1996.

Schmeling, Gaylin. “God’s Gift to You: The Means of Grace,” ELS Synod Report. 1989.

Sahlstrom, Greg. “God’s Reliable Word: Our Passport to Knowing God,” *Foundations of Faith* (Adult Instruction Material), Chapter 1, 2005.

Vangen, Luther. “Educating for Eternity,” ELS Synod Report, 1966.

### **Thank you**

To Richard Sauer, member of Peace Lutheran Church in Kissimmee, Florida, for illustrating the cover of this essay.



# REPORTS AND ACTION

*SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP  
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

**Resolution 1: Membership Applications of Pastors**

WHEREAS, The following pastors have been recommended by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,  
WHEREAS, It has been established in their applications for synodical membership that the requirements of the synodical 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 John Merseth, Sr., pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Weston, Ohio.
2. The Reverend Erich Hoeft, pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clara City, Minnesota.
3. The Reverend S. Piet Van Kampen, pastor of English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, Minnesota.

**Resolution 2: Membership Transfer of Pastor**

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

**Resolution 3: Membership Application of Teacher**

WHEREAS, Mr. Craig Zibrowski has applied for membership as a teacher in the teaching ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,  
WHEREAS, He has accepted a call to teach at Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Mankato, Minnesota, and,  
WHEREAS, Mr. Zibrowski unconditionally subscribes to the teachings and constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That Mr. Zibrowski be received into permanent membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**Resolution 4: Membership application of congregation**

WHEREAS, It has been established that Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Portage, Indiana, in its application for synodical membership has met the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Portage, Indiana, be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**Resolution 5: Constitution Review**

WHEREAS, Newport Evangelical Lutheran Church, Town of Newport, Columbia County, Wisconsin, has submitted its constitution for review, and,  
WHEREAS, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Audubon, Minnesota, has submitted its constitution for review, and,  
WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne, Minnesota, has submitted its constitution for review, and,  
WHEREAS, These constitutions have been found to be in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,  
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Newport Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and,  
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Audubon, Minnesota, and,  
C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the revised constitution of Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne, Minnesota.

**Resolution 6: King of Grace Lutheran Church, Waukon, Iowa**

WHEREAS, King of Grace Lutheran Church of Waukon, Iowa, now relocated, has submitted its constitution for review, and,

WHEREAS, This constitution is in agreement with the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the constitution of King of Grace Lutheran Church, Waukon, Iowa.

***CREDENTIALS******ACTION OF THE SYNOD*****Resolution 1: Excuses of pastors: non-attendance**

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 2005 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: D.Bakke, K.Brumble, M.Crick, C.Dale, M.Grubbs, W.Kessel, M.Krentz, J.Krikava, K.Kuenzel, T.Kuster, B.Leonatti, D.McElwain, D.Meyer, S.Reagles, F.Schmugge, G.Smith, V.Settje, E.Stubenvoll Jr., M.Thompson, H.Vetter, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

**Resolution 2: Excuse of lay delegates: non-attendance**

WHEREAS, An excuse for absence from the 2005 Synod Convention has been received from A.Sroka (St. Matthew, Detroit, Michigan), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That he be excused.

**Resolution 3: Excuse of Congregation: non-attendance**

WHEREAS, An excuse for absence from the 2005 Synod Convention has been received from Zion Lutheran Church (Irwin, Pennsylvania), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That she be excused.

**Resolution 4: Excuses of pastors: late arrival**

WHEREAS, Excuses for late arrival for the 2005 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: H.Gieshen, A.Hamilton, G.Haugen, K.Hermanson, H.Huhnerkoch, K.Kluge, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

**Resolution 5: Excuses of pastors: early departure**

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2005 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: T.Bartels, M.Brooks, R.Dale, E.Geistfeld, H.Gieschen, W.Grimm, G.Haugen, B.Homan, N.Krause, P.Lepak, D.Lillegard, K.Mellon, H.Mosley, K.Schmidt, T.Skaaland, T.Smuda, T.Westendorf, J.Willitz, C.Wosje, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

**Resolution 6: Excuses of lay delegates: early departure**

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2005 Synod Convention have been received from the following delegates: H.Anderson, L.Appold, J.Bartels, A.Bartness, J.Baxter, H.Berg, D.Davis, H.Fischer, R.Fouts, C.Handberg, B.Hayden, D.Heiliger, B.Holm, R.Kain, G.Lillegard, E.Lueck, S.Skaaland, R.Soule, P.Swenumson, J.Tibbets, W.Wandschneider, K.Welkener, C.Williams, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.



# **REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE**

We confess that the only true God is the Triune God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This great Three in One God is revealed to us by God the Son, the Word Incarnate, in His written Word, the Holy Scripture. The central message of this life-giving Word is the God-Man Jesus Christ and His redemptive work for our salvation. He loved us so much that He lived a holy life in our place and gave Himself into death as the one sufficient ransom to free us from the domination of sin, death, and the devil. He took upon Himself our sin, our death, and our hell so that we could have His righteousness, His life, and His heaven. This wonderful treasure is offered to us in the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments, and is received by faith alone in Him as the Savior, which faith is worked, strengthened, and preserved through these same means of grace.

These truths our great God has revealed to us in His inerrant and life-giving Word. It is our purpose as a synod and as a Doctrine Committee to continue in that Word so that we are indeed His disciples (John 8:31). We desire to confess boldly the truth of His Word so that more and more may know the joy of salvation, and we desire to defend it from attacks on every side.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Doctrine Committee consists of Prof. Juul B. Madson, Dr. Wilhelm Petersen, Mr. Allen Quist, the Rev. Thomas Rank, the Rev. Paul Zager, Mr. Paul Tweit, and seminary President Gaylin Schmeling. Its four regular meetings per year were devoted to the 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), held on October 4-5, 2004, at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center in Trego, 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.

## **COLLOQUY PROCEDURES**

In response to concerns and questions expressed by the synodical president, the Doctrine Committee discussed issues relating to colloquy procedures. Among ideas given to the synod president for consideration were: having colloquents spend a longer period of time on the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary campus, and moving that the Synod Review Committee work to incorporate some of the current unofficial practices for colloquy into the very brief current synodical guidelines for colloquy.

## **DOCTRINE OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY**

A presidentially appointed committee, the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM), was established in 2002 to study the doctrine of the public ministry. This committee was asked to study the issues before us and to work toward a God-pleasing unity through the development of a statement on that doctrine. 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. After a number of meetings the PCM on February 2, 2004 presented to President Moldstad a document entitled "The Public Ministry of the Word." This document was discussed at a joint meeting of the

PCM and the Doctrine Committee on March 22, 2004. The Doctrine Committee prepared an evaluation of the document in the summer of 2004 at the synodical president's request. At the General Pastoral Conference (October 6-8, 2004) there was an in-depth discussion of the document. On the basis of the input of the General Pastoral Conference and other sources, the Presidium has made a number of revisions in the document and is recommending that the synod adopt the revised PCM document. We trust that the prayer of the psalmist prevails in all that we do: "*Direct my footsteps according to Your Word.*" (Psalm 119:133)

## **CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE CONVENTION**

The fifth triennial convention of the CELC will be held in Tokyo, Japan, May 31 – June 2, 2005. The Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church of Japan has graciously agreed to host this meeting. The Planning Committee of the conference has chosen the convention theme: "Eagerly Await the Savior," based on Philippians 3:20-21. This topic will be discussed in five essays by pastors from the various church bodies that make up the CELC. Each member church of the CELC is eligible to send two voting delegates ("the president or leader of the church and another representative chosen by the church") plus up to four advisory, non-voting representatives. Additional visitors and observers are always welcome.

A highlight of the 2002 convention at Gothenburg, Sweden, was the acceptance into membership of three national churches: the Confessional Lutheran Churches in the Czech Republic, Latvia, and Ukraine. The Lutheran Church of Indonesia (Gereja Lutheran Indonesia—GLI) is asking to be received into membership at the 2005 meeting. The 2004 ELS convention resolved to declare fellowship with the Lutheran Church of Indonesia.

The CELC is the third largest worldwide Lutheran fellowship, following the larger Lutheran World Federation and the International Lutheran Council. It was organized in 1993 at Oberwesel, Germany, and has approximately 450,000 members in 19 church bodies. The conference accepts the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God) as sole authority for doctrine, faith, and life. The conference also accepts the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, not in so far as but because they are a correct exposition of the pure doctrine of the Word of God. The CELC continues to strengthen each of its member churches through mutual encouragement and consultation. We praise and thank our Triune God for having permitted us to establish this confessional organization on the firm foundation of Jesus and His Word.

## **BIBLE TRANSLATIONS**

Several new Bible translations have been published recently, including *Today's New International Version* (TNIV) and *English Standard Version* (ESV). Because of the appearance of these new Bible versions the Doctrine Committee has again undertaken a review of translations. The Rev. Thomas Rank is leading the committee in this review and intends to produce a paper on Bible translations to be published in the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* and summarized in the *Lutheran Sentinel*. This is in accord with the 2003 synod convention resolution which encouraged the Doctrine Committee "to publish the results of their efforts in a timely fashion." (2003 ELS Synod Report, page 76, #2)

## **POSTMODERNISM IN SOCIETY**

Postmodernism is a major philosophical system in our society. Postmodernism is affecting many areas of our culture and life. Textbooks and federal curriculum standards are being influenced by pantheism, panentheism, and other concepts borrowed and generated by postmodernism. So that the members of our synod can be made aware of these dangers, the Doctrine Committee is studying the pervading influence of postmodernism. Committee member Mr. Allen Quist is leading this study.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Doctrine Committee desires to keep abreast of doctrinal trends and issues within the church at large, e.g., homosexuality, feminism, the church growth movement, worship practices. Therefore each member of the committee is assigned certain magazines, periodicals, and theological essays which he is to monitor for the committee and keep it informed concerning developments within the various church bodies.

The Lord's directive is that we build up the walls of Zion through mission work employing Law and Gospel. We will strengthen ourselves and those around us through Word and Sacrament by which the Lord gives the power to do all things through Him, the power to overcome our foes and obtain the victory. At the same time we will stand ready with the sword of defense prepared to face false doctrine as it arises on every side. May we always remember Luther's thoughts concerning the sword and trowel, *Luthers Schwert and Kelle. Gottes Wort und Luthers Lehr vergehet nun und nimmermehr! God's Word and Luther's Doctrine now and forever!*

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

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: PRESIDIUM'S COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The members of the Presidium's Committee on Ministry (PCM) specially appointed in 2002 to study the doctrine of the ministry are: the Rev. Karl Anderson, the Rev. Mark Bartels, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, the Rev. Jerry Gernander, the Rev. Alex Ring, and Professor Erling Teigen. The president and vice-president of the synod have served as advisory members to this committee.

A draft of the theses was distributed to our synod's pastors and their congregations in May 2004. This draft, dated May 18, 2004, was also favorably reviewed by the Doctrine Committee in preparation for discussion at the General Pastoral Conference held October 6-8, 2004, at the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center.

At the General Pastoral Conference questions submitted by pastors and by members of congregations were discussed. Following this discussion with the pastors, the president and vice-president edited the document with the assistance from the special committee, as well as in consultation with the Doctrine Committee. A final version of the document was sent to all pastors of the synod on February 10, 2005, to share with their congregations in preparation for discussion and adoption at this year's synod convention.

There are several reasons why the ministry theses entitled "The Public Ministry of the Word" should be adopted at this year's convention. Permit me to enumerate them and explain the rationale behind the request for adoption.

1. For the sake of confessional integrity toward the Word of God. We are convinced from our study that what is stated in the document is in complete conformity with God's Word and also our study of the Lutheran Confessions. As pastors, teachers and lay people who are deeply concerned about confessing God's Word in its truth and purity on all points of doctrine, it is important to make a clear confession on this subject of the Public Ministry – a subject long debated over the years.
2. For the sake of unity among ourselves. Church and Ministry discussions/debates have occurred throughout our synod's history. In 1980 we adopted a statement on the Doctrine of the Church. The assumption was that the related teaching – the Ministry – would also one day be treated in an official document but not at that time. In 2002 our Doctrine Committee presented a statement but the synod did not choose to adopt it. In the years following, a specially appointed committee has led us in composing a document that is scripturally sound and has helped in unifying our synod members.

3. For the sake of letting the church bodies of our fellowship (CELC) know where we stand. Several church bodies in fellowship with our synod have been wondering where our synod positions itself on an issue that often has divided Lutheranism. One of these churches, the ELFK, experienced in recent years a defection of some clergy as a result of adopting its own statement. As a synod we owe our fellow brothers in our sister churches a clear answer when asked what we teach.
4. For the sake of letting pastors and congregations outside of our fellowship know where we stand. In light of the confessional struggle going on inside the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a number of pastors with their congregations have been contacting us for information. Many are interested in the possibility of leaving the LCMS and joining a truly confessional synod. Some of those who are inquiring have wondered if our synod has settled its ministry debate. Before joining a synod that they regard as a safe haven, they want to be assured that doctrinal conflicts have been resolved.
5. For the sake of conducting future colloquies. It is very difficult to hold colloquies to any given position on the doctrine of the Public Ministry without having an officially adopted document. Since there are various views (not just the customary two) floating around among Lutheran clergy in general, it is imperative that we provide any pastors who are seeking to join our synod with what we expect of them confessionally.
6. For the sake of instructing our seminarians. There is a natural tendency for men in the seminary to become involved in whatever doctrinal controversy may be brewing at the time. In order to be assured as a synod where future candidates of theology pledge themselves in matters of doctrine, our seminary instructors need to be able to show where and how the synod has decided to resolve respective issues that threaten to divide.

In light of the foregoing, I am asking this year's convention to adopt the following edited version of the PCM document.

*John A. Moldstad*  
*ELS President*

## THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **Salvation Won by Christ and Received through Faith**

*We teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God accounts as righteousness in His sight, Rom. 3 and 4 (Augsburg Confession IV, Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, 9).*

### **Salvation Distributed**

*That we may obtain this faith, the office of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, who works faith where and when it pleases God in those who hear the Gospel. That is, God, not because of our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into favor for Christ's sake. (AC V, Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, 9)*

### **We reject the teaching that**

*the Holy Spirit comes without the external Word but through their own preparations and works (AC V, Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, 9).*

## The Role of the Church in Salvation Distributed

### I. The Office of the Keys

God has given to His church on earth the Office of the Keys (Matthew 16:19, Matthew 18:18-20, John 20:21-23; also see Smalcald Articles, Part III, Art. VII, 1). “The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth, to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners and to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent” (Luther’s Small Catechism, “The Office of the Keys and Confession”, ELS 2001 ed.; “Doctrine of the Church,” Thesis III, ELS Synod Report, 1979, p. 31 and 1980, p. 76). The church uses the keys to preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and practice church discipline. The keys are used privately or unofficially<sup>1</sup> when individual Christians, on behalf of Christ, speak the Gospel of forgiveness to others; when they forgive the sins of those who sin against them; when they retain the sins of those who do not repent, e.g., when they confront in a brotherly way those who need to repent of their sins; and when in “the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren” they comfort one another with the words of the Gospel (1 Peter 2:9, Matthew 18:15-18, Matthew 6:12 – The 5th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer; SA Part III, Art. IV). Christians also use the keys publicly or officially when scripturally qualified individuals, who have been called by Christ through the church, forgive and retain sins on behalf of Christ and His church (Romans 10:14-17, Acts 14:23, Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 67). Christians also use the keys to judge the teaching of their pastors and teachers; they are to beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15-16, 1 John 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:16).

1. We reject any teaching that denies individual Christians the use of the keys privately in their calling as the Universal Priesthood of All Believers.
2. We reject any teaching that treats the Universal Priesthood and the Public Ministry as one and the same thing.

### II. The Public Ministry of the Word

This public use of the keys is the Public Ministry of the Word. “That we may obtain this faith, the office of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted” (AC V). The Lord has instituted the Public Ministry of the Word. {This divinely instituted Public Ministry of the Word includes both a narrower and a wider sense. The narrower sense refers to a presiding office that is indispensable for the church; see II A. The wider sense refers, in addition to a presiding office, to offices having a limited public use of the keys, offices that the church, in her freedom, may establish; see II B.} The divine institution of this preaching and teaching office is not located in just one particular passage. Rather, throughout the New Testament, a divine ordering, establishment, and institution of the preaching and teaching office is indicated and presupposed (John 20:21-23, John 21:15ff, Matthew 28:18–20 [NKJV], Matthew 9:36-38, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 4:1; see also Treatise 10). Those in this office by virtue of God’s call through the church perform their duties on behalf of the church and in the name and in the stead of Christ, so that whenever we hear Christ’s servant we hear Christ Himself speak (Luke 10:16, AC XXVIII, 22, Apology of the Augsburg Confession VII & VIII, 28, 47).

3. We reject any teaching that the Public Ministry is a development of the church and not a divine institution.
4. We reject any teaching that holds that the Public Ministry is established merely by the orderly carrying out of the Universal Priesthood according to 1 Corinthians 14:40.

**A. The Public Ministry of the Word in a Narrower Sense: The Pastoral Office in its Various Manifestations.**<sup>2</sup> The church is commanded to appoint ministers who will preside over the churches (2 Timothy 2:2, Titus 1:5, Ap XIII, 12), who must have the scriptural qualifications for a full use of the keys: “The Gospel requires of those who preside over the churches that they preach the Gospel, remit sins, administer the sacraments, and, in addition, exercise jurisdiction, that

is, excommunicate those who are guilty of notorious crimes and absolve those who repent....[T]his power belongs by divine right to all who preside over the churches, whether they are called pastors, presbyters or bishops” (Treatise 60-61). God commands that properly called men publicly preach, teach, administer the sacraments, forgive and retain sins, and have oversight of doctrine in the name of Christ and the church (1 Timothy 2:11-12). Therefore a presiding office, whether it is called that of pastor, shepherd, bishop, presbyter, elder or by any other name, is indispensable for the church (Luke 10:16, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-2).

5. We reject any teaching that denies the exercise of spiritual oversight by the pastoral office.

6. We reject any teaching that the apostolic authority of the Public Ministry of the Word or the validity of the sacraments depends on or is derived from ordination by a bishop standing in an unbroken chain of succession from the apostles, or the necessity of maintaining a “historic episcopate.”

Scripture clearly teaches that women are not to be in the pastoral office, because this presiding office includes the exercise of authority over men (1 Corinthians 14:34-35, 1 Timothy 2:11-12). Also, when Scripture refers to one who officiates at the Word and sacrament liturgy it speaks in male terms (1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Timothy 4:13). Therefore women shall not read the Scripture lessons in the divine service, preach the sermon, administer Baptism or distribute the Lord’s Supper, for these things are intimately related to the pastoral office (1 Timothy 4:13-14, 1 Corinthians 4:1).<sup>3</sup>

The church is free to divide the labors of the pastoral office among qualified men (1 Corinthians 1:17, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6). While every incumbent of this office must be qualified for a full use of the keys, not every incumbent must be responsible for full use of the keys. Missionary, assistant pastor, professor of theology, synod president (who supervises doctrine in the church), and chaplain are some examples of this.

7. We reject the teaching that the Public Ministry of the Word is limited to the ministry of a parish pastor.

**B. The Public Ministry of the Word in a Wider Sense: Other Offices That Have a Limited Public Use of the Keys.** The church has freedom<sup>4</sup> in dividing the labors of the Public Ministry (for example, vicars, principals, Lutheran elementary school teachers and other teachers), but must not go beyond the bounds of God’s commands when calling men or women to carry out a limited public use of the keys (1 Corinthians 14:34, 1 Timothy 2:12ff, etc). The extent to which one is authorized by the call of the church to exercise the keys publicly is the extent to which one is in the Public Ministry of the Word. Authorization to exercise a limited part of the Public Ministry of the Word does not imply authorization to exercise all or other parts of it (1 Corinthians 12:5, 28, Romans 12:6-8, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:8, 5:17).

**Teachers of Children in Christian Schools.** In the Old and New Testaments, our Lord commands parents to train their children in the fear of the Lord. He also has commanded His church and the Public Ministry of the Word to feed the lambs of His flock with His saving Word. Teachers of children in Christian schools established by the church therefore have their authority from both of these divinely established estates (Deuteronomy 6:1-7, Matthew 15:4, Ephesians 6:1-4, John 21:15-17, Large Catechism I, 141).

Extending calls to teachers who have spiritual care of children in Christian schools is not merely a laudable custom, but is in accordance with Romans 10:14-17 and Augsburg Confession XIV, not only for the sake of good order, but also because these



teachers carry out a specific part of the Public Ministry. It is by human right that the church separates a limited portion of the office to one individual. But it is by divine right that one exercises that work on behalf of the Christians through whom the call has come.

8. We reject the teaching that only those qualified to carry out a full use of the keys are in the Public Ministry.

9. We reject the teaching that the Public Ministry is limited to any one divinely fixed form, that is, limited to the pastoral office to the exclusion of other teachers of the Word.

10. We reject any teaching which would conclude that the means of grace are effective only when used by a pastor.

11. We reject any teaching that makes the office of the Lutheran elementary school teacher, Sunday school teacher or any other limited office in the church equivalent to the pastoral office.

**C. Qualifications.** Those in the Public Ministry of the Word by virtue of a regular call are to conform to the specific and general qualifications given in Scripture (see especially 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, as well as directives such as Matthew 28:19, 20, John 21: 15-17, Acts 14:23, 20:28, and Romans 12:6-8).

### III. The Divine Call Into the Public Ministry

One cannot hold the office of the Public Ministry of the Word unless called by God (Romans 10:14-17, AC XIV). Some men, such as the apostles, were called immediately, directly by God, to the Public Ministry. Since the time of the apostles God calls mediately (Acts 1:15-26) through the church so that there will always be qualified individuals who have been set apart to administer publicly His means of grace for the salvation of souls. The church in an orderly way extends divine calls in the name and stead of Christ and on behalf of the believers. Those who possess divine calls are serving in the Public Ministry of the Word in either a narrower or a wider sense (Acts 13:2-3, 14:23, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 3:4-9, 21-23).

12. We reject the teaching that every Christian is a public minister of the Word.

13. We reject any teaching that one may publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call (AC XIV).

### IV. Ordination and Installation

In the Lutheran Confessions ordination is understood as the rite by which the church confirms a man to be suitable for a call to the pastoral office (SA Part III, Art. X, Treatise 66-69). Historically the Lutheran church has reserved this rite for those entering the pastoral office.

The church also has used rites of installation for all those called into the Public Ministry, in both the narrow and the wide senses. Through such rites, the church makes clear that those installed in office have been properly called to it and invokes the Lord's blessing on them. At the same time those who are called to serve the people of God give public testimony to their submission to the Word of God as it is taught in the Lutheran Confessions. Rites of installation also have been used among us for congregational officers and occasional teachers in Christian congregations (Sunday school teachers, etc).

### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> In this document when we speak of the *private or unofficial* use of the keys we mean the duty and authority belonging to individual believers (the Universal Priesthood of All Believers) which is their personal responsibility toward their neighbor. When we speak of the *public or official* use of the keys we are referring to the duty and authority of those who are called to act on behalf of Christ and His believers.

<sup>2</sup> The term "pastoral office" has been used historically according to a more restrictive meaning (referring only to those men who are called to the pastorate of a local

congregation), and according to a less restrictive meaning (referring to all those men who are called to a ministry of pastoral oversight in local congregations, as well as in other specialized fields of labor). In this document the term is being used according to its less restrictive meaning.

<sup>3</sup> Certainly emergency situations may arise, such as when our catechism states “Q: Who should administer baptism? A: Ordinarily the called minister of Christ should administer Baptism, but in emergency any Christian may and should do so” (ELS Catechism, p. 182). For further discussion of emergency situations, see the 1862 Lay Ministry Theses, parr. 5-7 (*Grace for Grace*, p. 139).

<sup>4</sup> Christian freedom is given to the church by God. “By divine right” refers to those things which are commanded by God. “By human right” refers to those things neither commanded nor forbidden by God which Christians may arrange according to their needs and circumstances (Acts 6:1-7, 15:22-29, 4:32, 5:29, 1 Cor 3:21,22, 14:40, Gal 5:1)

*[Secretary's note: The phrase in braces {} on page 68 has been modified to correspond with changes made by the PCM on June 21, 2005.]*

## DOCTRINE

### ACTION OF THE SYNOD

#### **Resolution 1: The Public Ministry of the Word**

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) discussions and debates have taken place concerning the Public Ministry of the Word, especially in the past decade, and,

WHEREAS, These discussions and debates have not produced a statement adopted by the synod clearly professing the scriptural truth concerning this vital aspect of our theology and practice, and,

WHEREAS, In 2002 President Moldstad and Vice-President Obenberger appointed six men to a “Presidium’s Committee on the Ministry” (PCM) to lead the synod in continued study of the doctrine of the public ministry, and,

WHEREAS, The PCM faithfully and dutifully studied the pertinent issues and produced “The Public Ministry of the Word” in February 2004, and,

WHEREAS, This document was discussed at a joint meeting of the PCM and the (standing) Doctrine Committee in March 2004, after which the Doctrine Committee prepared a favorable evaluation of the document, and,

WHEREAS, A revised PCM document was disseminated to the synod in May 2004, and,

WHEREAS, This document was discussed thoroughly at the ELS General Pastoral Conference in October 2004, and,

WHEREAS, The Presidium made a number of revisions of the PCM’s document based on the input from the General Pastoral Conference and numerous individuals within the synod, and,

WHEREAS, President Moldstad, in a letter dated February 10, 2005, has urged the synod to adopt “The Public Ministry of the Word” as disseminated on the same date, citing as the primary reasons the following:

- 1) For the sake of confessional integrity toward the Word of God,
- 2) For the sake of unity among ourselves,
- 3) For the sake of letting the church bodies of our fellowship (CELC) know where we stand,
- 4) For the sake of letting pastors and congregations outside of our fellowship know where we stand,
- 5) For the sake of conducting future colloquies, and
- 6) For the sake of instructing our seminarians, and,



WHEREAS, The synod has had ample time to study and discuss the PCM's document, and,

WHEREAS, "The Public Ministry of the Word" clearly and faithfully states the doctrine of the public ministry as drawn from Holy Scripture and as reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt "The Public Ministry of the Word" as its official position concerning the Public Ministry of the Word, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the members of the PCM (the Rev. Karl Anderson, the Rev. Mark Bartels, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, the Rev. Jerry Gernander, the Rev. Alex Ring, and Prof. Erling Teigen), President Moldstad, and Vice-President Obenberger for their diligent work.

The following negatives votes were recorded for Resolution 1A:

Pastors: Robert Lawson Sr., Rolf Preus, Harry Bartels, Joseph Abrahamson, Stephen Schmidt, Leslie Lanier, Steven Brockdorf, Timothy Bartels, Robert Lawson Jr., Shawn Stafford, Larry Vinton, Frank Fielder III, Leonard Buelow, Karl Heck.

Delegates: David Rovey, Glen Hansen, Scott Markel, Matthew Paine, Dennis Davis, Larry Brown, Whit Ulrich, Heb Rischer, Ryan Dee.

### **Resolution 2: Circuit 8 Revision of "The Public Ministry of the Word"**

WHEREAS, The synod has been asked by River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Trail, Minnesota; Nazareth Lutheran Church, Trail, Minnesota; Oak Park Lutheran Church, Oklee, Minnesota; First American Lutheran Church, Mayville, North Dakota; and Wayfarers' Chapel Lutheran Church, Fillmore, California, to adopt the revision of "The Public Ministry of the Word" as prepared by pastors of Circuit 8, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Circuit 8 Revision of "The Public Ministry of the Word" be referred to the presidium, in consultation with the PCM, for a written response as to where, how, and why the revision is not in order.

### **Resolution 3: Concerns Regarding Role of Women in the WELS**

WHEREAS, Three memorials have been received expressing concern regarding public statements made by clergy of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) regarding the role of women in the church, and,

WHEREAS, These concerns have already been a topic of discussion between the ELS and WELS on an official level, and,

WHEREAS, These concerns will be further addressed at a September meeting of the WELS Committee on Inter-Church Relations and the ELS Doctrine Committee, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod refer these memorials to the Doctrine Committee and the synod further direct the Doctrine Committee to address these concerns with the CICR of the WELS using section "II A" of the adopted doctrine statement "The Public Ministry of the Word," and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee report to the 2006 Synod Convention with the results of its study and discussion with the WELS.

### **Resolution 4: Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference**

WHEREAS, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) continues to serve as a God-pleasing venue of fellowship between confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world, providing opportunities for mutual encouragement and consultation of its members, and,

WHEREAS, The CELC recently met for its fifth triennial meeting in Tokyo, Japan, receiving into membership its newest member, Gereja Lutheran Indonesia, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks to God for the opportunity to be a member of the CELC, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod continue to seek out church bodies which may be potential members of the CELC.

# 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., McFarland, Wisconsin, chairman; Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, Minnesota, vice-chairman; the Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin, secretary; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. Jon C. Bruss, Sr., Hartland, Wisconsin; Mr. Paul T. Chamberlin, South Chatham, Massachusetts; Mr. Lyle Fahning, Burnsville, Minnesota; the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Kissimmee, Florida; Mr. Roland Reinholdt, Middleton, Wisconsin; the Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith, Mankato, Minnesota; and the Rev. Joel Willitz, Lakeland, Florida.

Advisory Members: the Rev. John A. Moldstad, Mankato, Minnesota, President of the ELS; the Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Louis, Missouri; Mr. William Overn, Eagan, Minnesota; and the Rev. Milton Tweit, Mankato, Minnesota.

## THE FACULTY AND STAFF

Bethany Lutheran College is thankful that the Lord continues to provide talented and committed men and women who embrace the mission of the college and serve as faculty and staff. We praise God for sending us these dedicated workers. During a special service on February 14, 2005, the college observed the following anniversaries:

Prof. Bill Bukowski, Art	25 years
Prof. Mark Harstad, Religious Studies	25 years
Mr. Steven Jaeger, Vice President for Student Affairs	20 years
Ms. Lois Otto, Housekeeping	20 years
Prof. Lyle Jones, Health and Human Performance	15 years
Mr. Lance Schwartz	
Director of Marketing and Public Relations	15 years
The Rev. David Thompson	
Schwan Center Executive Director/Chaplain	15 years
Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux, Religious Studies	10 years
Mrs. Lynette Merseth, Assistant to the President	10 years
Mrs. Gina Moldstad, Admissions Secretary	10 years
Mr. Paul Wold, Bookstore Manager	10 years

This past academic year we had several new faculty and professional personnel join our staff: Mr. Zachary Buelow, Mathematics; Mr. Matthew Caron, Theatre; Mr. Jonathan Logging, Communication; Ms. Estelle Tesch, Admissions; Ms. Paulette Tonn Booker, Human Resources; Ms. Charlene Trautman, Career Services and Internships; and Mr. James Wall, Development.

## ENROLLMENT

The 2004-2005 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	210	170
Sophomores	177	160
Juniors	91	87
Seniors	63	90
Part-Time	27	27
	568	534
FTE	551	516
PSEOP FTE	4	4

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 expand the baccalaureate curriculum. At its November meeting the Board of Regents approved the addition of a major in sociology. In addition the 3-2 engineering dual degree with the University of Minnesota was approved. In this program students complete three years at Bethany and are then directly admitted into one of a number of engineering degree programs at the University of Minnesota. Completion of the program results in baccalaureate degrees from both institutions.

Co-curricular programs continue to flourish. Students actively participate at a high level in a wide variety of activities in music, speech, theatre, community service and athletics. This is the first year that Bethany fully participated in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference. The conference consists of eight baccalaureate degree-granting colleges located primarily in Minnesota.

## **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 board submits the following for synod action:

WHEREAS, The synod in convention approved the inclusion of three (3) Type B members in the makeup of the Board of Regents to address specialized areas of expertise needed by the board in specific areas (Synod *Handbook*, Article II.A, 35-A), and,

WHEREAS, The current term limits of office of such Type B members which stipulate they not serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms (Synod *Handbook*, Article II.B, 35-A) may inadvertently remove an individual from the Board of Regents while the expertise and advice of that individual continues to play a substantial role, and,

WHEREAS, The synod in convention continues to ratify, for each three-year term, all Type B members appointed by the Board of Regents, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the term of two (2) consecutive full three (3) year terms be suspended for the Type B members.

## **GRANTS**

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation continues to support the college in a significant way. We are very grateful for the grants they have provided to energize program and capital development as well as matching funds for scholarships.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to provide matching funds to its members who support the college. This year Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided over \$50,000 in matching support. In addition many corporations match their employees' contributions to the college through their corporate foundations. We are thankful for this leveraged support.

The Bethany Lutheran College Ladies' Auxiliary continues to support our students through their gifts and prayers. This year the group voted to allot \$12,000 to several projects that directly impact students. We are very thankful to this generous group of women.

## **ESTATES**

The college gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following estates:

Charlotte Becker	\$342,087.69
Carl Faber	1,000.00
Einar Hagen	515.53
Gladys Iverson	3,477.72
Martha Reitz	18,661.10
Henrietta Zigel	30,215.51
Milton Zigel	30,000.00

## PHYSICAL PLANT

With record enrollment comes the need for additional student housing. The Board of Regents and Board of Trustees approved the construction of an apartment-style facility to accommodate these needs. Ground breaking took place on September 27, 2004. The complex will house 62 junior and senior women in modern two-bedroom apartments and is scheduled to open for the 2005 fall semester.

## FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

Gifts continue to play a critical role in helping Bethany provide a high quality Christian education for our students. 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. Without these gifts from our generous supporters, the college would not be able to continue to offer the level of programs and services that are so important to the mission of the college. We are very thankful that God has moved so many to support Bethany. Thanks be to God!

The following are audited figures for the year ending June 30, 2004.

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>				
Tuition and fees	\$6,790,345			\$6,790,345
Less: Scholarships and grants	<u>(2,845,870)</u>			<u>(2,845,870)</u>
Net tuition and fees	3,944,475			3,944,475
Government Grants	143,013			143,013
Contributions	3,191,174	\$908,056	\$1,448,749	5,547,979
Endowment income	94,936	258,698	981	354,615
Endowment gains (losses)	5,069,966	154,303	14,409	5,238,678
Sales and services of student activities	124,760			124,760
Other sources	333,634	(2,843)	9,321	340,112
Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises	3,156,743			3,156,743
Adjustment of actuarial liability	<u>(1,118)</u>	<u>1,402</u>	<u>(30,601)</u>	<u>(30,317)</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	16,057,583	1,319,616	1,442,859	18,820,058
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>18,523,010</u>	<u>(1,145,811)</u>	<u>1,442,859</u>	<u>18,820,058</u>
<b>EXPENSES AND LOSSES</b>				
Program expenses				
Instruction	4,334,109			4,334,109
Academic support	858,393			858,393
Student services	2,985,671			2,985,671
Auxiliary enterprises	4,118,634			4,118,634
Support expenses				
Institutional support	2,848,655			2,848,655
Allocable expenses				
Operation and maintenance of plant	1,311,684			1,311,684
Depreciation	2,065,805			2,065,805
Amortization	18,580			18,580
Interest	280,865			280,865
Less: Allocated expenses	<u>(3,676,934)</u>	—	—	<u>(3,676,934)</u>
Total Expenses and Losses	<u>15,145,462</u>	—	—	<u>15,145,462</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Reclassification</b>	3,377,548	(1,145,811)	1,442,859	3,674,596
Reclassification of net assets				
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	3,377,548	(1,145,811)	1,442,859	3,674,596
NET ASSETS – Beginning of Year	<u>15,307,042</u>	<u>37,965,065</u>	<u>18,466,907</u>	<u>71,739,014</u>
<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$18,684,590</u>	<u>\$36,819,254</u>	<u>\$19,909,766</u>	<u>\$75,413,610</u>

## CONCLUSION

We give thanks to God for the many blessings Bethany has received during this period of rapid growth and development. Bethany's generous supporters, dedicated faculty and staff, and talented students have all played an important role in this. We are confident that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts as long as we remain faithful to providing

an education that keeps its focus on the “One Thing Needful.” It is this focus on the gospel message that gives us the confidence that a Bethany education is “An education that lasts beyond a lifetime.”

*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 BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

This year marks the 475<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Augsburg Confession and the 425<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Book of Concord. The Augsburg Confession is the primary confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was presented at the Diet of Augsburg on June 25, 1530. The Book of Concord, which includes the Augsburg Confession and the other Lutheran Confessions, was prepared for official publication on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession in 1580. The Augsburg Confession clearly enunciates the chief article of the Christian faith, justification by faith alone: “It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness, as Paul says in Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5” ([AC IV] *Tappert*, p. 30).

The purpose of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is to prepare men as pastors who proclaim the gracious message of justification in Christ as taught in the Scripture and summarized in our Lutheran Confessions. The seminary renders a valuable service to our synod by providing pastors to our congregations. We pray God’s continued benediction on our “school of the prophets” to the end that all instruction in the classroom and the preaching of the Gospel from our pulpits which emanates from that instruction may redound to the glory of God and for the welfare of His Kingdom.

### **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., McFarland, Wisconsin; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Kissimmee, Florida; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin; the Rev. J. Kincaid Smith, Mankato, Minnesota; the Rev. Joel Willitz, Lakeland, Florida; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota; Mr. Jon Bruss, Hartland, Wisconsin; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, Massachusetts; Mr. Lyle Fahning, Burnsville, Minnesota; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Middleton, Wisconsin; and Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, Minnesota. The Rev. John Moldstad, Mankato, Minnesota; the Rev. Milton Tweit, Mankato, Minnesota; Mr. William Overn, Plymouth, 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 2004-05 school year: Adolph Harstad, Michael Smith, Thomas Kuster, Erling Teigen, 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. Professor Kuster teaches Communication and Homiletics. Professor Teigen teaches Dogmatics. 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* was published this spring. This commentary will greatly assist confessional Lutherans in studying this important book of the Bible.

## **ENROLLMENT**

There were 12 students enrolled at the seminary in the 2004-05 academic year. It breaks down as follows: 4 juniors, 4 middlers, 1 senior, and 3 vicars. Those who served or are serving their vicarages: Piet Van Kampen, Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, Washington (completed December 2004); Daniel Finn, Norseland and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Parish, St. Peter, Minnesota; and Samuel Schmeling, Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida.

## **RECRUITMENT**

Although our synod is blessed with few vacancies at present and our seminary enrollment continues to grow, projections indicate that many new pastors will be needed in the coming years. Our synod desires to begin new missions and continue to serve our present congregations. Therefore, 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. St. Paul reminds us, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15) 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.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The annual senior recognition dinner was held on the evening of April 23, 2004. This is always a pleasant and relaxing evening for the students and staff, and we are grateful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for sponsoring this event.

Our annual vicar workshop was held on Thursday, May 15, 2004. The returning vicars reported on certain phases of their vicarage. President John Moldstad 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.

This past summer Professor Harstad was invited to lecture at Biblicum, the seminary of our fellowship in Ljungby, Sweden. He taught a course in second-year Hebrew. This spring he presented courses in India in connection with a visit of the Board for Foreign Missions to our sister church in that land. President Schmeling attended a meeting of the Theological Commission of CELC held May 22 – June 5, 2004, in Lusaka, Zambia. While in Zambia, he lectured at the seminary of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa. The essay was entitled "The Lord's Supper and the Feast of Salvation."

The annual Reformation Lectures were held at the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center on October 28-29, 2004. These lectures are sponsored jointly by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. This year there were three presenters. The first lecture was given by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., associate professor of historical theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The second presenter was the Rev. Prof. Lyle Lange, professor of religion and history at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota. The third presenter was the Rev. Prof. David Jay Webber, an ELS pastor who currently serves as rector of Saint Sophia Ukrainian Lutheran Theological Seminary Ternopil, Ukraine.

The topic of the lectures was "Reformation Legacy on American Soil." The first lecture presented by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast was entitled "The Legacy of Franz Pieper." In this presentation the essayist portrayed Pieper as a connecting link between the present age and that of the fathers and founders of Lutheranism. The second lecturer, Rev. Prof. Lyle Lange, presented "The Legacy of Adolph Hoenecke." In this lecture the essayist explains that by God's grace Adolph Hoenecke was the right man at the right time in Wisconsin Synod history. The third lecture given by Rev. Prof. David Jay Webber was entitled "The Legacy of Charles Porterfield Krauth." In this lecture the essayist presented Charles Porterfield Krauth as the American Chemnitz.

President and Mrs. Schmeling conducted a Seminary Retreat in Minneapolis on February 11-12, 2005. President Moldstad presented the topic entitled "The Pastor and His Family." President Schmeling gave a presentation on "Finances in the Parsonage." This retreat was made possible through a special grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The purpose of this seminar was to prepare the students and their families for life in the parsonage and to increase their awareness of Christian stewardship.

An invitation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was extended to our seminary students and staff to attend the annual mission and ministry seminar February 1-3, 2005, at Mequon, Wisconsin. The invitation was gratefully accepted and appreciated by the attendees. The theme of the seminar was "Proclaim Peace to the People" based on Romans 5:1-8. The purpose of this seminar was to increase an awareness of our privilege and responsibility in Christian missions.

## **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 *Quarterly* are to be found on the Bethany Seminary website <www.blts.edu>, under LSQ Online.

## **GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will contribute fifty cents for every dollar members donate to the seminary to a limit of \$300 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 Text Book Fund. This has been a wonderful blessing for our students. Thank you for all your help.

In the summer of 2003 a program was initiated to purchase required textbooks for the seminary students. We are very grateful to the congregations, organizations, and individuals who are contributing funds to this program.

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.

## **LEGACIES AND GIFT ANNUITIES**

The following legacies were received in 2004:

Charlotte Becker	\$ 342,087.69
Edna Getz	36,758.08
Martha Reitz	18,661.10
Henrietta Zigel	30,195.52
Dr. Milton Zigel	40,026.13

The following matured gift annuities were received in 2004:

Ken Bolstad	\$ 2,000.00
Ervin Hafemann	10,000.00



## 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; Larry and Jane Carlovsky; Arthur O. Carlsen; Glenn and Dorothy Collins; Mabel Dahlgren; Allen and Susan Daniels; Davis-Nelson; Robert and Betty Diesing; John Dukleth Memorial; George and Dorothy Feil; Donald and Opal Hackbarth; Paul and Cordia Hasz; Hoiland Family; Lenwick Hoyord; Ewald and Verda Kohlmeier; 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; Kenneth and Violet Peter; Emil and Martha Peterson; Timothy and Gail Peterson; Richard and Florence Rado; Roland and Lois Reinholtz; Richland Lutheran Church; Ronald and Gay Rose; Herbert, Linette and Grace Sahnnow; Edna May Scherzer-Getz; Eugene and Bertha Schiller; Gaylin and Rebecca Schmeling; Kenneth and Pat Schneider; Rev. Albert and Clara Strand; Thomas Stueck; Calhoun and Jean Sumrall; Timothy and Nancy Thiele; Walker-Schneider; William and Eunice Wehrenberg; 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 assists students with their housing. 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.

## FINANCES

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

### Revenues

Tuition and Fees	\$ 49,960
Synod: Subsidy	62,833
Endowment Income	51,825
Gifts and Grants	224,585
Other Sources	<u>13,080</u>
TOTAL	402,283

### Expenditures

Education & General	\$ 383,107
Maintenance & Utilities	<u>22,130</u>
TOTAL	405,237

Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ (2,954)
-------------------------------------	------------

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



*HIGHER EDUCATION  
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

**Resolution 1: Anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College Faculty and Staff**

WHEREAS, The a number of anniversaries of Bethany Lutheran College faculty and staff members have been observed, therefore,

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

**Resolution 2: Financial Support for College and Seminary**

WHEREAS, Various donors (individuals and organizations) have provided financial support for general needs and scholarships at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, therefore,

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

**Resolution 3: Seminary Recruitment**

WHEREAS, Our synod has a program and staff in place to equip men to go into the harvest field, and,

WHEREAS, Our synod has encouraged congregations to recruit students for the Holy Ministry, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod continue to encourage pastors and laity alike to recruit men from their membership to study at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That our seminary continue its efforts at recruitment.

**Resolution 4: Joshua Commentary**

WHEREAS, A need exists for Biblical, confessional commentaries on the various books of the Bible, and,

WHEREAS, Professor Adolph Harstad has written and submitted for publication a commentary on the book of Joshua, and,

WHEREAS, This spring Concordia Publishing House published Professor Harstad's commentary as part of its *Concordia Commentary Series*, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod thank our gracious Lord for blessing our synod and seminary with gifted individuals, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod thank Professor Harstad for his hard work and commitment to confessional exegesis, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That our synod encourage our pastors to make use of Professor Harstad's commentary on Joshua.

**Resolution 5: Course on Denominations and Cults**

WHEREAS, Various "non-denominational" and also pseudo-Christian groups have experienced rapid growth in recent years, and,

WHEREAS, Such groups are attracting and confusing members of other faith traditions, including some of our synod, and,

WHEREAS, the spread of such heterodox and pseudo-Christian groups represents a departure from pure Biblical doctrine and represents a risk to the faith and salvation of our ELS members, and,

WHEREAS, The Bible warns that even “a little leaven leavens the whole lump” and admonishes us to put on the full armor of God, and,  
 WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College does not currently make a course available on Christian denominations and pseudo-Christian cults, and,  
 WHEREAS, Such a course could be a valuable resource to assist people to discern truth from error, therefore,  
 A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College be asked to investigate the possibility of making a course available that examines the teachings of the various Christian denominations and pseudo-Christian cults and provides a detailed Scriptural response, and,  
 B. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents report back to the 2006 Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to report on their progress in evaluating or making such a course available.

#### **Resolution 6: Board of Regents, Type B Appointments**

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents has appointed James Minor of Plymouth, Minnesota, as a “type B” member of the Board of Regents, therefore,  
 BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod ratify this appointment.

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS**

St. Paul commended the Thessalonian Christians who had “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*” By His grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, the same can be said of us all. Through the Board for Home Missions, we members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod also seek to follow the example of the Thessalonians in sharing the Gospel with others. Paul says of them, “*The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere*” (1 Thessalonians, chapter 1).

It is the privilege of the Board for Home Missions to serve along-side those from whom the Gospel “rings out” in our Home Mission fields.

#### **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; the Rev. Dan Basel, Mr. Keith Duin and Mr. Loren Meyer. Members marked with an asterisk (\*) also serve on the Trustee/Home Mission Sub-committee. Chairman Ekhoﬀ serves on the Planning and Coordinating Committee. Missions Counselor, the Rev. Steven Petersen, also attends board meetings.

#### **GENERAL 2004 WORK HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to regular quarterly board meetings, special meetings at the 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 2004:

January. Among matters resolved: 2005 Home Mission Salary Scale increased 4% over 2004; support for store-front worship facilities in Plainfield, Illinois and Clermont, Florida; subsidy approved for Faith, San Antonio, Texas and Peace, Kissimmee, Florida; Faith, Medford, Oregon was granted support for legal fees and evangelism.

May. It was resolved: to encourage the establishment of a line of credit with Bremer Bank in support of future home mission construction projects; to provide a loan to Peace, Lakeland, Florida following a lawsuit; to pursue assisting the Rev. Jong In Kim’s effort

to achieve R-1 status in order to serve ELS mission interests; to approve construction at Faith, San Antonio, Texas;

June. The board resolved: to continue subsidy for Our Savior, Lakeland, Florida and provide funds for parking lot improvement at Faith, Medford, Oregon.

August. The board began planning for the 2005 Winter Home Mission Seminar in Orlando, Florida; it was resolved: to set May, 2005 as review of our exploratory missions' viability; to give final approval to building plans at Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin; to resume subsidy for Peace, Lakeland, Florida.

November. Housing allowances were established for exploratory missionaries; it was resolved: 25% or expenses at Asian Mission Church, Irvine, California will be taken from 2000 *Years of Grace* offering funds; to provide subsidy at Resurrection, Winter Haven, Florida; to approve disbursement of funds from Cross-Stitch and the Marvin M. Schwan Foundation Special Project Grant funds for signage in home mission congregations.

In 2004, the board supervised two exploratory missions:

South Lake, Clermont, FL – Rev. Greg Sahlstrom

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

These seven 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

Beautiful Savior, Springboro, OH – Rev. Glenn Smith

Faith, Medford, OR – Rev. Thomas Westendorf

Peace, North Mankato, MN – Rev. Bradley Kerkow

Resurrection, Winter Haven, FL – Rev. Charles Keeler

Nine additional congregations received subsidy:

Good Shepherd, Indianola, IA – Rev. Robert Harting (subsidy ended 2004)

Faith, San Antonio, TX – Rev. Matthew Crick

Family of God, Fort Mojave, AZ – Rev. Larry Wentzlaff

Korean Lutheran, Des Moines, WA – Rev. Youn Soo Park (subsidy ended 2004)

Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR – Rev. Steven Sparley

Our Savior, Lakeland, FL – Rev. Andrew Palmquist

Parkland Daughter, Graham, WA – Rev. Glenn Obenberger (subsidy ended 2004)

Peace, Kissimmee, FL – Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch (subsidy ended 2004)

Peace, Lakeland, FL – Rev. Joel Willitz

## MISSIONS COUNSELOR

In addition to serving as liaison between board and missions, the Missions Counselor also worked with Cross-Stitch, the network of ELS Women's Missionary Societies, which raised funds in support of Peru: educational support for Peruvian women, *People's Bible* commentaries; Chile: English-As-Second-Language program support; United States: office equipment update, transportation for wives to 2005 Winter Home Mission Seminar.

In 2004 no ELS Video-links were produced, but plans for the coming year include presentations on the ELS Museum and Archives as well as Home and Foreign Missions.

The Missions Advancement Project 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.

In 2004 the Missions Counselor presented MISSION: STATEMENT, STRUCTURE AND STRATEGY (Home Mission organization and operation materials) to mission congregations and at pastoral conferences. The project was funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. On behalf of the board he visited missions in Texas, California, Illinois, Ohio, Arizona, Minnesota, Oregon and Florida.

# SALARY SCALE FOR 2006

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 2005 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>2006 Base Salary</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>2006 Base Salary</u>
0	\$27,200	16	\$32,550
1	\$27,450	17	\$33,025
2	\$27,700	18	\$33,500
3	\$27,950	19	\$33,975
4	\$28,200	20	\$34,450
5	\$28,450	21	\$35,000
6	\$28,775	22	\$35,550
7	\$29,100	23	\$36,100
8	\$29,425	24	\$36,650
9	\$29,750	25	\$37,200
10	\$30,075	26	\$37,825
11	\$30,475	27	\$38,450
12	\$30,875	28	\$39,075
13	\$31,275	29	\$39,700
14	\$31,675	30	\$40,325
15	\$32,075		

# FUTURE PLANS

Plans include one budgeted new mission start in 2004 (Minneapolis – St. Paul metro area). Purchase of land, rental of worship facilities and construction of church buildings continues to be a priority.

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.

# THANK YOU

During the past year, various individuals, congregations and other organizations have contributed special gifts toward our home mission efforts. We appreciate Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation’s Church Extension Grant for MISSION: STATEMENT, STRUCTURE AND STRATEGY material. We are especially grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for continued support of ELS home mission projects.

## OPERATING BUDGET

	2004 <u>Budget</u>	2005 <u>Budget</u>	2006 <u>Budget</u>
SUBSIDY – HOME MISSIONS			
Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove	46,000	37,000	28,000
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	12,000	9,000	6,000
Asian Mission, Irvine	62,500	54,000	45,000
Beautiful Savior, Springboro	42,900	37,400	30,400
Faith, Medford	42,000	35,000	28,000
Peace, North Mankato	25,000	18,000	12,000
Resurrection, Winter Haven	<u>14,000</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
	244,400	204,400	158,400

### SUBSIDY – CONGREGATIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT

Faith, San Antonio	17,000	17,000	17,000
Family of God, Fort Mojave	12,000	8,000	4,000
Good Shepherd, Indianola	7,500		
Korean Lutheran, Des Moines	8,400		
Our Savior, Grants Pass	18,083	12,000	6,000
Our Savior, Lakeland	9,500	6,000	3,000
Parkland, Graham	5,500		
Peace, Kissimmee	6,000		
Peace, Lakeland	<u>34,000</u>	<u>25,200</u>	<u>18,000</u>
	117,983	68,200	48,000

### SUBSIDY – EXPLORATORY MISSIONS

Plainfield Exploratory, Plainfield *	45,000	22,000	22,000
South Lake, Clermont *	<u>45,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>
	90,000	44,000	44,000

\* Salary, housing, benefits, travel, etc. are in addition

### SUBSIDY – CAPITAL INTEREST

Abiding Shepherd, Cottage Grove			59,405
Abiding Word, Bowling Green	28,304	27,166	24,539
Christ the King, Green Bay	3,337	3,038	2,709
Faith, Medford	8,333		
Faith, San Antonio			39,222
Family of God, Fort Mohave	6,313	12,389	12,057
Grace, Hobart	7,894	7,710	3,159
Lord of Life, Holland	3,741	3,425	3,091
Peace, Kissimmee	8,893	3,629	
Peace, Lakeland	9,676	8,485	7,286
Peace, North Mankato	58,493	55,769	41,405
Redeemer, Scottsdale	8,531	6,875	6,004
Resurrection, Winter Haven	12,748	12,583	11,384
Light of Life, Plainfield		23,607	63,522
South Lake, Clermont		<u>23,607</u>	<u>63,522</u>
	156,263	188,283	337,305

### BOARD EXPENSES

Board expenses	12,000	12,000	12,000
Moving expense	12,000	12,000	12,000
Advertising Subsidy	<u>4,134</u>	<u>7,992</u>	<u>8,658</u>
	28,134	31,992	32,658

In 2004, the synod budgeted \$189,538 for the home mission program. The remainder of the money needed to fund the program came from special gifts, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, 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 2006**

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has recommended a compensation package for home missionaries for the year 2006, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has taken into account the increases in the cost of living index, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the compensation package for home missionaries for 2006 be adopted.

#### **Resolution 2: Board for Home Missions Specific Programs and Circuit Involvement**

WHEREAS, There is a need to concentrate on problems of revival in small town and rural churches, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions currently has no programs or resources specifically earmarked for this purpose, and,

WHEREAS, There is a need to establish a specific program with specific goals to address these issues facing small town and rural congregations, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions establish the specific programs needed to address these issues, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions consider it a first step to encourage circuit involvement in such evangelistic outreach efforts.

#### **Resolution 3: Circuit Adoption of Struggling Small Town and Rural Congregations**

WHEREAS, There is no synodical financial support for struggling small town and rural congregations, and,

WHEREAS, We should value the fellowship of like-minded brothers and sisters in our circuits, even in sparsely populated areas, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod president and Board for Home Missions encourage such circuits to adopt and help revive struggling small town and rural congregations.

#### **Resolution 4: Circuits Involved in New Mission Starts**

WHEREAS, Synodical finances are somewhat limited to establish numerous new home mission congregations each year, and,

WHEREAS, Our Lord commanded us to go and preach the Gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That each circuit be encouraged to recommend and help develop new mission starts to the Board for Home Missions.

# **REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS**

## **BOARD PERSONNEL**

The Board for Foreign Missions is composed of seven members. They are Prof. Adolph Harstad, chairman; Mr. Marlin Goebel, vice chairman; Prof. Silas Born, recording secretary and education consultant; the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, field secretary; Mr. Harmon Anderson, treasurer; the Rev. Paul Fries, information officer; Dr. William Kessel. The Rev Paul Anderson, former chairman, serves as advisory member to the board. Mr. Robert Soule, former treasurer serves as an 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 mission building in Mankato. The president of the synod, the Rev. Steven Petersen (missions counselor) and Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft (treasurer and business administrator), attend our meetings regularly.

## **FIELD PERSONNEL**

There are three missionaries serving in Peru. They are the Rev. David Haeuser (president of the seminary in Peru), the Rev. Terry Schultz, and the Rev. Karl Kuenzel. There are two missionaries in Chile. They are the Rev. Oto Rodriguez and the Rev. Timothy Erickson. The Rev. Kurt Smith has returned to the USA, along with his family, after serving faithfully in the Peru Mission field.

## **VISITS TO THE MISSION FIELD**

Missions Counselor Steven Petersen and Field Secretary the Rev. Wayne Halvorson visited the two fields in August of 2004. They visited the Chile and Peru fields, and some of the congregations. A meeting was held with many of the Peru national pastors. This visit was extremely beneficial to the ongoing work of the fields.

## **PERU**

There are now thirteen ordained national pastors working in various areas of the country, including Lima, the Amazon Jungle area, coastal cities and mountains north of Lima. There are twelve vicars and student pastors serving congregations. Seven of them were ordained this past year. There are seven students studying in the Lima Seminary, and there are six students in the seminary by extension in the mountain region and jungle areas of Peru. The seminary is directed by Seminary President David Haeuser. One high point is that there are six national pastors teaching part time in the various locations of the seminary, and the seminary by extension. The seminary education is generally comparable to what is required of the seminary students in Mankato, Minnesota.

Two elementary schools continue in the Lima area, in Año Nuevo on the north side of Lima with about ninety-five students; and at Reynoso, on the west side of Lima in the port city of Callao, with about sixty students. These two schools have now in their fourth year of operation. The Reynoso school enjoys its new building, and is looking to add an additional floor to the building soon. These schools will strengthen the national church in Peru for generations to come. A highlight in the schools, is that there now are pastors and vicars who are teachers or administrators in the elementary schools in Lima and the Amazon region. Both these schools are nearly self-supporting in their operating costs.

Another Christian school is now in its fourth year of conducting classes, in the Amazon village of Nueva Barranquita, with twenty-five students. A neighboring village has now started a pre-school and is planning to research the possibility of adding additional grade levels. Some may like to know that there are now four cows in this village to help with the nutrition and health of the pupils and their families.

Work in the mountain areas has been expanding in recent years, with several national pastors and vicars serving about twenty churches or preaching stations. This work is being supervised by the mission team and by national pastors.

Over fifty groups now meet in the country of Peru for worship and study regularly. That includes ten groups in and around the Amazon jungle area. Membership has surpassed the 1,500 mark, and shows huge growth this past year. Growth continues in outreach and in spiritual understanding. More and more of the churches' work in Peru is being directed by national pastors. The Lord continues to bless the work in Peru.

## **CHILE**

The missionaries serve congregations in the greater Santiago area and south in the towns of Linares and Chimbarango. As of this writing (March) many baptisms and confirmations have taken place to strengthen the spiritual life of the churches. One bright spot is the instruction classes for adults in San Bernardo which now includes eleven new individuals. About six young men continue to study for leadership in the church, with some of them planning to become pastors.

Recently a new outreach tool has shown promise. English as a Second Language classes are being conducted in many potential outreach sites near Santiago. It has opened up the opportunities to reach new people. Volunteer ESL teachers are presently being used to conduct these classes. It shows great promise for reaching new people. If this program continues with the success it now has, we will need replacements for the present volunteers when they have completed their term.

Christian schools are being considered as a possible educational agency for expansion into the communities in and around Santiago.

The four present sites of our churches are: LaCisterna, Las Vertientes, San Bernardo and Linares. New places for work are being explored and give great promise. The Lord is blessing His work in Chile.

## **FAITH MISSION SOCIETY & HELPING HANDS**

These organizations continue to be successful information, promotion, and fundraising organizations for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod mission program. Let the Foreign Mission Board know you would like these mailings and newspapers.

## **MISSIONS COUNSELOR**

In 2004 Missions Counselor the Rev. Steven Petersen attended meetings of the Board for Foreign Missions, Thoughts of Faith, ELS Video-Link and Missions Advancement Project, Inc. He visited India in February, South Korea in March, Chile in August, and Peru in August and September. His duties include preparing regular and periodic vouchers, furlough arrangements, serving as pastor to missionaries and their families, promoting the synod's foreign mission program, and serving as liaison with potential fields and church-related organizations.

In addition the Missions Counselor also worked with Cross-Stitch, the network of ELS Women's Missionary Societies, which raised funds in support of Peru: educational support for Peruvian women, *People's Bible* commentaries; Chile: English-As-Second-Language program support; United States: office equipment update, transportation for wives to 2005 Winter Home Mission Seminar.

In 2004 no ELS Video-links were produced, but plans for the coming year include presentations on the ELS Museum and Archives as well as Home and Foreign Missions.

## **THE MISSIONS ADVANCEMENT PROJECTS, INC.**

The Missions Advancement Project (MAP) received and disbursed funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation on behalf its ELS-related supported organizations. In 2004 MAP disbursed \$1,933,600 to Thoughts of Faith, \$275,000 to ELS Board for Foreign Missions—Helping Hands, and \$198,540 to Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India. \$17,500. In addition \$17,500 from the Brown Trust was disbursed in support of lay mission work in Ukraine and South Korea.



## **LUTHERAN MISSION OF SALVATION—INDIA**

At the 2004 convention, the synod resolved that the Board for Foreign Missions continue to explore the relationship with Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India (LMSI) toward the goal of mission status. That resolution was carried out with regular correspondence with the LMSI through the Rev. Eugene Kauffeld as Field Coordinator. In January of 2005, the India Committee for Exploration (ICE) visited India on behalf of the board. During the two-week stay, the Rev. Paul Fries, Prof. Adolph Harstad and Missions Counselor the Rev. Steven Petersen visited officials and members in the Hyderabad, Rajahmundry and Jabalpur districts. They made doctrinal presentations on Justification-Sanctification, Eschatology and Reformed Theology to approximately 250 laymen who serve small groups in cities and villages within the three districts.

The Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India is served by two ordained pastors, the Rev. Ananda Raju and the Rev. Solomon Mamidi, and a group of over 200 laymen who provide spiritual care for nearly 17,000 members. There are approximately twenty seminary students and the same number of pre-seminary students. It is a priority of the ICE that regular theological training be provided for these men by qualified instructors of our fellowship, such as Bethany Seminary and College professors and those who have taught at St. Sophia Seminary in Ternopil, Ukraine.

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation provided \$240,000 for work in India for 2005. The funds are distributed as follows:

\$204,000	\$17,000/month subsidy to pastors, lay workers, orphan homes and schools
15,000	Clergy Training and Administration
<u>21,000</u>	Discretionary spending for special projects
\$240,000	

The Board for Foreign Missions has adopted the following governing factors for its relationship with LMSI:

### **ELS BFM – LMSI Governing Factors**

#### **Principles of Mission work – it is our goal to:**

1. Emphasize direct evangelism as our chief priority
2. Benefit many souls rather than few
3. Establish work which is sustainable when indigenization is complete
4. Emphasize long-term rather than short-term benefit
5. Challenge national Church to match our contribution
6. Support planning which originates on local level
7. Support planning which involves laity throughout
8. Establish ongoing offices rather than temporary individuals

#### **Priorities for Resources – we intend to support:**

1. Clergy development
  - a. Subsistence support for ministers (lay/ordained)
  - b. Training to serve
  - c. Recruitment of leaders
  - d. Accountability training
2. Congregational development
  - a. House church or worship site
  - b. Training center
  - c. Exploration of new areas
3. Humanitarian
  - a. Widows
  - b. Orphans
  - c. Orphan home managers
  - d. Education
  - e. Medical

The Board for Foreign Missions has adopted the following as its initial management arrangement for its relationship with LMSI.

**India Field Coordinator**

- A. The India Field Coordinator (IFC) shall be appointed by the Board for Foreign Missions (BFM) of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for a term of two years. The IFC shall perform his duties under the authority and according to the policies of the BFM. As the official body responsible for good stewardship of funds and as the body appointing the IFC, the BFM shall remain the final governing authority in regard to all the duties of the IFC and all decisions made by him.
- B. The duties of the India Field Coordinator are as follows:
  - 1. He shall serve as liaison between the Asia Committee Chairman (ACC)\* and the Lutheran Mission of Salvation, India (LMSI). Summaries of communications to and from BFM and LMSI shall be transmitted through the IFC with complete copies available upon request.
  - 2. He shall serve as administrator of LMSI.
    - a. In cooperation with BFM and LMSI, he shall prepare a one- and a five-year plan, and shall offer and invite encouragement and advice that lead to the fulfillment of the plan.
    - b. He shall prepare an agenda for joint meetings of LMSI and BFM.
    - c. He shall report quarterly to BFM through ACC and provide minutes of meetings with LMSI officials to ACC.
    - d. He shall assist BFM and LMSI with budget matters and the transfer of financial support.
    - e. He shall compile and maintain in good order the permanent records of all pastoral acts and shall maintain in good order the archive system of the LMSI.
    - f. He shall provide the necessary report forms for the pastoral acts of the LMSI (baptisms, confirmations, communion attendance, marriages, burials, etc.).
    - g. He shall have all related documents legalized as necessary.
    - h. He shall coordinate ongoing worker training as needed by LMSI.
    - i. He shall fulfill other responsibilities as agreed upon by BFM and LMSI
    - j. He shall assure that LMSI is in agreement with ELS doctrine and practice
  - 3. He shall take the lead in orientation of new field personnel and the board in the culture and work.
  - 4. He shall annually review his job description and suggest changes as needed to the ACC.

(Revised 27 January 2004)

At its January 2005 meeting, the Board for Foreign Missions adopted the following: BE IT RESOLVED that the five-part proposal in the ICE report be adopted, namely: Because ELS Board for Foreign Missions is responsible for providing Schwan Foundation funding to LMSI and because LMSI would benefit from a period of mentoring from a loving partner such as the ELS, we suggest that

- 1. the Board for Foreign Missions resolve to invite LMSI to request mission status with the ELS. Ultimately LMSI should become an independent sister-synod of ELS and WELS and a member of CELC.
- 2. representatives of LMSI be invited to attend the 2005 Synod Convention and Board for Foreign Missions seek money from the President's discretionary funds to pay for this.
- 3. Cross-stitch be asked to fund the approximate \$10,000 for orphan home assistance in 2005 to buy clothing and school supplies.
- 4. the process of bringing Seminary-level teachers to LMSI begin in the fall of 2005 as LMSI determines its needs for clergy development.

5. ELS pastors be solicited to provide sermons for translation from ILCW series A – Gospels.

The board is happy to welcome Pastor Ananda Raju, president of LMS—Rajahmundry, and Pastor Solomon Mamidi, president of LMS—Hyderabad to our convention. We recommend that the convention formally resolve to adopt Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India as a mission field of the ELS. As with every mission field, it is our goal that LMSI eventually become an independent church body of our fellowship.

## **SOUTH KOREA**

At its 2003 and 2004 Conventions, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod resolved to encourage the Board for Foreign Missions to continue to explore opportunities to do mission work in South Korea and to report progress to the synod.

Furthering those instructions, the board has called the Rev. Young Ha Kim to begin exploratory mission work in South Korea this year. He was commissioned for this work on 10 April 2005 at Asian Mission Church, Irvine, California. The board has on hand approximately \$250,000 in support of this outreach effort. One factor which enabled the board to take this step of exploration is the availability of the Rev. Jong In Kim to serve at Asian Mission Church in place of the Rev. Young Ha Kim.

The Rev. Young Ha Kim has many contacts in South Korea among family and friends, as well as among Koreans who have been in contact with Asian Mission Church and returned to Korea. In addition, a group of Korean students are now enrolled at Luther Preparatory School (WELS) and their families form a group of prospects for our work. We plan to use English-as-a-Second-Language in our outreach effort, as the Rev. Kim's wife, Margaret has a Master's Degree in that area. With God's blessing we hope that a self-supporting congregation(s) may be planted in South Korea, and that eventually we may be able to reach further with the Gospel into Asia. The Board hopes to be able to recommend the formal adoption of South Korea as a mission field of the ELS in the future.

## **ACTUAL EXPENSES FOR 2004**

Board for Foreign Missions	\$41,073
Cross Stitch	7,028
Chile	147,886
Korea Exploratory	6,964
Peru	574,929
Miscellaneous	<u>5,157</u>
Total	\$783,037
Missionary salaries, excluding benefits (six men)	\$291,225

## **ACTUAL REVENUE 2004**

Individual Gifts	\$60,428
Organization Gifts	14,522
Congregational Funding	146,320
Schwan Foundation	207,738
Estates	44,026
Helping Hands	280,980
Interest & Gain on Investments	59,611
Miscellaneous	11,318
Transfers	<u>120,527</u>
Total	945,470

## **THOUGHTS OF FAITH**

Thoughts of Faith (TOF) is a church-related organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. 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 Moldova.

The Thoughts of Faith stateside staff includes Mr. Kermit Traska, Executive Director, Mr. Larry Dilgard, Assistant Executive Director, Mrs. Susan Dilgard, Program Specialist, and Mrs. Pam Schultz, Executive Assistant.

### **Board of Directors**

President: the Rev. Paul Schneider, Midland, Michigan; Vice-President: the Rev. George Orvick, Mankato, Minnesota; Secretary: the Rev. John Petersen, Vero Beach, Florida; Treasurer: Mr. Leroy Meyer, Lombard, Illinois; Directors: Mr. Dan Browning, Minnetonka, Minnesota; Mr. David Ewert, North Mankato, Minnesota; Mr. Paul Fick, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Prof. John Lawrenz, Kowloon, Hong Kong; Mr. Gerald Perrine, Sullivan, Wisconsin; Mr. Mark Schwan, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Mr. Tom Vik, Appleton, Wisconsin; and Mr. Dick Waldschmidt, Colgate, Wisconsin.

### **Mission Advancement Project**

Thoughts of Faith continues to be thankful to the Mission Advancement Project (MAP) for coordinating grants that fund part of the operation of TOF. The MAP Board is appointed by the ELS Board of Trustees and is made up of the following men: Mr. Greg Griffin, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. Dan Browning, Minnetonka, Minnesota; Mr. Don Heiliger, Stoughton, Wisconsin; the Rev. Fred Theiste, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; the Rev. Karl Anderson, Apple Valley, Minnesota. Ex-Officio board members: the Rev. Steve Petersen, Mankato, Minnesota; Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, Mankato, Minnesota; and Mr. Kermit Traska, Oregon, Wisconsin.

### **Development Director**

The Rev. Ronald Muetzel, former Development Director for Thoughts of Faith accepted a call in October of 2004 to Wisconsin Lutheran College to serve as V.P. of Institutional Advancement and Church Relations. Thoughts of Faith is thankful for his years of service. The Thoughts of Faith—Board of Directors will be considering his replacement in the second half of 2005. Currently the TOF Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director are sharing the Development Director responsibilities.

### **Ukraine**

#### **A. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC)**

The Lord's work in Ukraine continues to be conducted in partnership with the ULC. The ULC currently has 25 congregations, 13 preaching stations and 8 new village fields with total membership of about 3,000 souls. The active clergy of the ULC consists of 21 Ukrainian national pastors, 1 American missionary, and 1 American Pastor. Pastor Vyacheslav Horpynchuk serves as the Bishop (President) of the ULC. TOF and the ULC jointly operate St. Sophia Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ternopil to train men to become pastors in the ULC. Missionary David Jay Webber serves as the rector (president) of the seminary. Retired pastor, the Rev. Wayne Borgwardt currently serves as the pastoral mentor for the ULC. Mr. Tom Conzelmann has served as the Lay Mentor to the ULC through February 2005.

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. Special gifts have been received for construction of the church and ULC headquarters building in Kyiv and phase one construction of the church building in Sevastopol.

The operating budget for the Ukraine division for 2005 is \$817,450.

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

The Gift of Life program encompasses the humanitarian work of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. in Ukraine. This work has been managed for Thoughts of Faith, Inc. by contract

with Christian Life Resources – Life Resources International Division directed by Larry Dilgard. Effective January 1, 2005 the Gift of Life program's management was returned to Thoughts of Faith. Nick and Kerry Laper will oversee both the on-site Ukrainian and stateside management responsibilities.

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 five Life Centers in Kyiv (2), Ternopil, Sevastopol, and Kremenetz. 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 2005 is \$375,050.

**C. TOF Branch Office – Kyiv, Ukraine**

The TOF Branch Office in Kyiv, Ukraine coordinates work and funding between TOF in the United States and the ULC. The Branch Office in Ukraine operates as International Charitable Fund Faith in Action. Funds can be sent to Ukraine without being subject to high taxes. The operating budget for the Branch Office for 2005 is \$48,800.

**Moldova**

Pastor Vladimir Mozer from Tiraspol, Moldova serves five Lutheran congregations in Moldova. Pastor Mozer is attending St. Sophia Seminary in Ternopil to take courses to complete his theological training. The operating budget for Moldova for 2005 is \$15,000.

**Georgia**

One student from Georgia is currently studying in the pre-seminary course at St. Sophia Seminary in Ternopil, Ukraine. The operating budget for Georgia for 2005 is \$5,800.

**Belarus**

Members of the Belarus Evangelical Lutheran Church have requested humanitarian aid assistance from the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. Some financial aid has come to TOF for the BELC. Discussions are taking place between the BELC and the ULC with Rev. Borgwardt representing TOF. This information will be shared with the ELS as it becomes available. No budget has been designated for Belarus for 2005. However, any gifts designated for Belarus will be forwarded to them.

**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 nearly 200. 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 several publications for its U.S. supporters.

**B. Martin Luther School**

Enrollment at Martin Luther School for the 2004-2005 school year is at 192 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. Periodic support is provided to a local orphanage.

D. Horni Briza

Our Lutheran mission began outreach work in Horni Briza in December 1999. Weekly services have been held since March 2000 that has become the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. 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.

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. There are 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 members have helped identify additional outreach locations. Plans are underway to open a Christian pro-life resource Life Center in Plzen. Volunteers from the Plzen congregation will staff the life center.

The TOF operating budget for the Czech division for 2005 is \$787,900.

## 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, 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, and confessional Lutheran writings.

B. Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia (CLCL)

The Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia consists of eleven national pastors serving thirteen congregations with 600 baptized souls. The TOF operating budget for Latvia for 2005 is \$227,200. A special gift has been received for the construction of a church building in Ozolnieki, a town in Latvia that has no other church buildings. The building project has been started, with the walls and roof already in place.

## Summary

The Lord has greatly blessed the efforts of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. and we are confident that He will continue to do so as His Word is shared with the people of Central and Eastern Europe. The Board of Directors serve diligently throughout the year by the Grace of God to make TOF 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, and the Rev. Larry Burgdorf and the Rev. Keith Boheim of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

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

*FOREIGN MISSIONS*  
*ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

**Resolution 1: LMSI**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India (LMSI) has successfully accomplished a great deal of mission work in India, and,

WHEREAS, The potential for mission work is great, and the need “to work while it is day” is evident, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Foreign Missions of the ELS will experience little or no impact on its budget if the proposed supervisory role of the LMSI is adopted, and,

WHEREAS, It is likely that the current source of funding outside the synod will continue for the foreseeable future, and,

WHEREAS, Continued support for the LMSI may enable further cooperative work with the WELS in India, and,

WHEREAS, The possibility of expanding the work in India into the middle classes and the need for adequate supervision of the already broad scope of work requires a well trained indigenous clergy, and,

WHEREAS, “The angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents,” therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the recommendation of the Board for Foreign Missions that the LMSI be considered a new mission field of the ELS under the supervision of the Board for Foreign Missions, as outlined above, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the highest priority be given to the careful training of national pastors for India.

**Resolution 2: Korea**

WHEREAS, There has been little or no confessional Lutheran presence in South Korea, and,

WHEREAS, Korea could serve as a springboard for mission work in China in the future, and,

WHEREAS, The ELS has sent the Rev. Young Ha Kim to explore the potential for mission work in South Korea, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the Board for Foreign Missions to continue exploratory work in South Korea.

**Resolution 3: Chile and ESL**

WHEREAS, The government of Chile encourages “English as a Second Language” (ESL) classes, and,

WHEREAS, These ESL classes could also be an effective means of reaching new people with God’s Word, and,

WHEREAS, Such classes could be a tool for reaching the middle class of Chile, which could enable the building of self-sustaining congregations from which to reach the lower classes as well, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the continued use of this avenue for mission work in Chile.

**Resolution 4: Restructuring the Board for Foreign Missions**

WHEREAS, A memorial has been presented suggesting possible benefits from restructuring the Board for Foreign Missions, and,

WHEREAS, Our foreign mission program has expanded greatly, but the structure of the board has not changed for decades, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Foreign Missions re-evaluate its present structure and bring back their recommendations to the synod as necessary for implementation.

### **Resolution 5: Board for Foreign Missions Plan for Peru**

WHEREAS, The goal of the Board for Foreign Missions, in all of its foreign fields, has always been to develop an indigenous church as reflected in its *Toward 2010* plan for Peru, and,

WHEREAS, We now have thirteen ordained national pastors in Peru as well as other men in training, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we endorse the *Toward 2010* plan of the Board for Foreign Missions whereby our expatriate missionaries in Peru will be reduced in number from three to two.

### **Resolution 6: Thank you for contribution of time, talents and treasures to Mission Work**

WHEREAS, *Helping Hands* continues to support our mission work, and,

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

WHEREAS, There have also been many generous lay people, along with synodical personnel who have supported our foreign mission work, and,

WHEREAS, The *Cross-stitch* organization also supports our ELS mission program, therefore,

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

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

## **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 (October, 2004 and May, 2005). The board has four elected members: Pastors – Matthew Crick (chairman and *Evangelism Resource* editor), Bradley Kerkow (secretary), Cory Hahnke; Laymen – Maynard Pick. Layman Lloyd Ahlbrand resigned from the board early in 2005.

### **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), Wisconsin (Circuit 5), Florida (Circuit 1) and Michigan (Circuit 3). For future workshops in other circuits, please contact the board chairman. The board is planning new workshop for the future.

### **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](http://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. Board member the Rev. Brad Kerkow serves as the distributor of many board materials.

### **BROCHURE – GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOU**

The board reprinted the brochure "*God's Message to You*," previously known as "*The 4 P's*." Two versions of the brochure have been produced. One version is a traditional format styled brochure. The other is a credit card sized pocket edition, which can be kept in one's wallet or purse and therefore close at hand for unexpected evangelism opportunities. Approximately 20,000 brochures were distributed to our ELS congregations in December 2004. They are also available from the board.

### **WEBSITE**

The board has its own website: <[www.learnaboutJesus.com](http://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 RESOURCE**

*Evangelism Resource* (formerly *Evangelism Notes*) is the board's periodical. In 2004 there were some changes in this publication, in both format and information. The format is now a full-page, multiple color booklet, with in-depth articles focused on a single evangelism idea. For example, the 2004 issue focused on designing and publishing an outreach newsletter for prospects. Past copies of the *Resource* 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 at <[peacel@hickorytech.net](mailto:peacel@hickorytech.net)>.

### **SEMINARY WORKSHOP**

The board held a workshop for students of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary on May 3, 2005. The students were trained in different aspects of evangelism and outreach. They were urged to include evangelism as a part of their future ministry.

### **PARISH EVANGELISM ASSISTANCE**

Parish Evangelism Assistance funds of approximately \$58,000 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. Any ELS congregation may apply for Parish Evangelism Assistance by contacting the board chairman.

### **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 evangelism in different community settings. 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 updating the appearance and content of current tracts to assist ELS members in outreach.
2. The board plans to continue to add new tracts and other printed materials to its available resources.
3. The board plans to add a new workshop and continue to present workshops to the seminary and circuits of our synod.

*“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: Evangelism Materials**

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has produced the tracts *We’re Glad You Asked About...* and the brochure *God’s Message to You*, and,

WHEREAS, These materials are useful for mission outreach in the congregations of the synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be encouraged to produce more tracts and materials to be used for mission outreach.

#### **Resolution 2: “Evangelism Resource”**

WHEREAS, Information about evangelism work is an important resource for the continued mission outreach work in the congregations of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has changed the format and content of this publication, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be thanked for improving the format and content of *Evangelism Resource*, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be encouraged to continue publishing *Evangelism Resource* with timely articles and suggestions for mission outreach.

#### **Resolution 3: Seminary Workshop**

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism conducted a one-day evangelism workshop for the students at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism explore ways to increase its evangelism instruction at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

#### **Resolution 4: Parish Evangelism Assistance (PEA)**

WHEREAS, The Parish Evangelism Assistance program is an important aid for the mission outreach of the congregations of synod, and,

WHEREAS, Funding for future projects may be limited, and,

WHEREAS, Requesting Parish Evangelism Assistance funds is an involved process, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod explore ways to fund the Parish Evangelism Assistance program in the future, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be encouraged to streamline the process of requesting funds, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be encouraged to further inform the congregations of the synod about the purpose of Parish Evangelism Assistance and how it has benefited those congregations of the synod which have used it.

### **Resolution 5: Board Size**

WHEREAS, Evangelism is the vital work which the Lord has given His Church to do, and,

WHEREAS, There is a need for additional manpower and resources on the Board for Evangelism, and,

WHEREAS, Rural and small congregations in the synod need greater access to the members of the Board for Evangelism, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the matter of increasing the number of members on the Board for Evangelism be referred to the Synod Review Committee, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism also study the feasibility of increasing the number of its members on the board.

### **Resolution 6: Rural Outreach**

WHEREAS, The synod authorized the synod president to set up a rural evangelism outreach committee, and,

WHEREAS, President Moldstad appointed a Circuit 7 ad hoc committee, the members of which have developed materials and expertise in these mission efforts, and,

WHEREAS, "Circuit 7 Outreach" can offer various printed materials and much hands-on experience to synod congregations, and,

WHEREAS, "Circuit 7 Outreach" can provide outreach teams to give advice and training to congregational outreach committees, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the members of the ad hoc Circuit 7 Outreach committee for their interest in and work for rural evangelism, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod be encouraged to contact "Circuit 7 Outreach" through the Rev. Harvey Abrahamson or the Rev. Karl Heck for assistance in rural outreach training, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president of the synod explore ways to assist and coordinate this work in the future.

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

The Board for Education and Youth met twice since the 2004 ELS convention, once in the fall of 2004 and the second meeting in the winter of 2005. The board serves the synod in these three areas: Lutheran Elementary Schools, Parish Education and Youth. Three subcommittees comprise the board and work in the above mentioned areas. The BEY seeks to help in making Bible studies available, assist current Lutheran elementary schools and encourage the start up of new schools, conduct youth conventions, encourage regional youth retreats, camps and much more.

Funds from the *His Truth for Our Youth Thankoffering* continue to permit the board to carry out its work. We are grateful to the Lord for these blessings.

The officers of the BEY include Chairman, Pastor Charles Keeler, and Secretary, Pastor Jonathan Madson. Prof. Peter Bloedel from Bethany Lutheran College was newly elected to the BEY in 2004.

The Lutheran School Initiative (LSI) continues to move forward. More information on the work of the LSI committee can be found in the report of the Lutheran Elementary School subcommittee.

At the January 2005 meeting of the BEY, the following resolution was approved by the board. The resolution concerns the feasibility of reorganizing the BEY by establishing the Lutheran Elementary School subcommittee as its own board. The resolution is as follows:

## **Resolution for Reorganizing the BEY**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod had in its 2004 convention authorized the ad hoc Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI) committee to move forward with the solicitation of funds for starting new schools, and,

WHEREAS, the synod has directed the Board of Trustees to invest and monitor the funds collected, and,

WHEREAS, the Board for Education and Youth (BEY) has been directed to oversee the applications for and distribution of these funds, and,

WHEREAS, the BEY has been directed to continue the development of specific guidelines for the establishment and management of new Lutheran elementary schools, and,

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Elementary School committee of the BEY as it is presently constituted oversees the application for school grants and the distribution of funds, and,

WHEREAS, the LSI committee has arranged for the calling (hiring) of a full-time administrator for the Lutheran Schools Initiative, and,

WHEREAS, the Lutheran School Initiative would require additional meetings of the Lutheran Elementary School committee to work with this administrator and to adequately fulfill the additional responsibilities associated with LSI, and,

WHEREAS, additional manpower would be required to carry out these responsibilities, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Synod Review Committee in consultation with the BEY determine the feasibility of the Lutheran Elementary School committee of the BEY becoming a separate board of synod responsible for implementing the Lutheran Schools Initiative.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work of the BEY and our ELS in the proclamation of the Redeemer of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Members of the subcommittee are Mr. Brian Brudvig, Mr. Allen Labitzky, Mr. Curtis Mantey, and Prof. Peter Bloedel. Advisor: Prof. Silas Born.

Teachers in the ELS work together in teachers' conferences in the Midwest and in the Pacific Northwest. Teachers' conferences offer opportunities to grow spiritually, to enhance our expertise as educators, and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship. An exchange program between the Midwest and Pacific Northwest conferences has been established to bring the teachers in these two conferences closer together. In addition, teachers also meet with their brothers and sisters in the WELS in regional teachers' conferences. To promote these conferences, each conference may request up to \$250 from the BEY each year for conference expenses.

Teachers serving in a Lutheran elementary school of our synod and who are certified by our synod may apply for up to \$450 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. Continuing education grants totaling \$4,760.00 were awarded in 2004.

Through this subcommittee, the Board for Education and Youth also awards grants available through *His Truth for Our Youth* endowment fund and Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation funds 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. Larger grant requests are usually disbursed over a two to three year period based on the congregation meeting specific benchmarks in a project.

Applications are reviewed and approved at the two regularly scheduled meetings of the Board for Education and Youth, so congregations seeking funds should have their

applications submitted either by October 1 or January 1 in order to be placed on the subcommittee's agenda. Grants are often reviewed and placed into the LES subcommittee budget over a year in advance so congregations must submit their applications well in advance of their requested disbursement date. Application forms can be obtained from and should be submitted to Silas Born. Five grants totaling \$62,081 were awarded in 2004. Three grants totaling \$27,000 have already been awarded for the 2005 fiscal year. To date this program has awarded just over \$360,000 in support of our Lutheran elementary schools.

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 being 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. The LES subcommittee wishes to thank Prof. Born for his tireless work on behalf of our synod's schools and teachers.

The LES Subcommittee has also begun to plan for the 2006 National ELS Teachers' Convention. It has been over 30 years since our last national convention. A Convention Committee has been assigned the task of planning and coordinating the convention. Preliminary plans have scheduled the four-day convention for the summer of 2006, to be held in the mid-Atlantic region. Generous support through a Schwan Grant will help subsidize the cost of this convention. With this financial support, our goal is to have 100% attendance from our synod's teachers so that we may mutually grow together in God's grace and as fellow called workers in His Kingdom.

The LES Subcommittee also continues to review the need of a School Visitation Program in which the benefits and burdens of visitation are more widely shared between school principals. Funding for such a program is being sought and pending such funding, the subcommittee plans to launch a trial program during the upcoming academic year.

The LES Subcommittee recommends the following additions be put in place when applying the salary scale for teachers in our Lutheran Elementary Schools.

LES Subcommittee reviewed the Teacher Salary Scale guidelines passed at the 2004 Synod Convention, and recommends the inclusion of the following additional items:

1. Duties as principal are to be remunerated at 10% of the base salary. Other duties assigned to a teacher, but not those expected because of regular congregational membership, should also be adequately remunerated.
2. Congregations are encouraged to provide financial support for the teacher's continuing education, and teachers should be encouraged to take a minimum of three credit hours of graduate or undergraduate work during each three year period. Congregations may also wish to establish a salary incentive program to encourage teachers to take additional course work by providing incremental increases based on additional credits.
3. The congregation should insist that the teachers attend the annual teacher's conference, and should provide ways and means to do so.
4. The congregation should encourage all male teachers to attend the synod convention and become permanent advisory members to the synod. Congregations should assist these teachers by providing ways and means to attend.
5. A sick leave of five days shall be granted each year. These shall be accumulated to a maximum of fifty days. For any sick leave beyond the accumulated amount, the substitute teaching may be deducted from the salary of the teacher who is absent.
6. Personal leaves are not to exceed five days each year. The cost of substitute teaching is to be deducted from the teacher's salary for all days over five days. In the event of a death or serious illness in the immediate family, an additional leave shall be considered. The extent of this leave is to be determined by the congregational Board for Christian Education based on distance and circumstances.
7. In addition, we recommend that teachers also receive
  - Housing or a housing allowance equivalent to the HUD rental value of a home based on family need.
  - Family health insurance

- A pension set at 6% of the teacher's salary

### **Teacher Salary Scale 2005/06** (reprinted from the 2004 Synod Convention)

Years of Service	ELS Bachelor	ELS Masters
	Salaries for 2005/06	Degree Salaries for 2005/06
0	\$23,340	\$24,931
1	\$23,590	\$25,181
2	\$23,840	\$25,431
3	\$24,090	\$25,681
4	\$24,340	\$25,931
5	\$24,590	\$26,181
6	\$24,915	\$26,506
7	\$25,240	\$26,831
8	\$25,565	\$27,156
9	\$25,890	\$27,481
10	\$26,215	\$27,806
11	\$26,615	\$28,206
12	\$27,015	\$28,606
13	\$27,415	\$29,006
14	\$27,815	\$29,406
15	\$28,215	\$29,806
16	\$28,690	\$30,281
17	\$29,165	\$30,756
18	\$29,640	\$31,231
19	\$30,115	\$31,706
20	\$30,590	\$32,181
21	\$31,140	\$32,731
22	\$31,690	\$33,281
23	\$32,240	\$33,831
24	\$32,790	\$34,381
25	\$33,340	\$34,931
26	\$33,965	\$35,556
27	\$34,590	\$36,181
28	\$35,215	\$36,806
29	\$35,840	\$37,431
30	\$36,465	\$38,056

Schools of the synod should pay substitute teachers \$70/day (plus Social Security), plus 30¢/mile for mileage.

Finally, as the responsibilities of the Lutheran Elementary Schools Subcommittee continues to grow, the need for additional time and meetings beyond that required of the Board for Education and Youth, has led to the resolution that the LES Subcommittee be turned into a separate board. The need for such a change is only magnified as we move forward with the additional tasks and responsibilities associated with Lutheran Schools of America. The Board for Education and Youth is bringing this resolution forward to the synod convention.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH WORK**

Members of the subcommittee include the following: Pastors Don Moldstad, Tony Pittenger, Bernt Tweit and Jonathan Madson. Don Moldstad is the chairman and Jonathan Madson is the secretary. The Youth Subcommittee serves the youth of the ELS through youth conventions, camps, retreats, etc.

The 2004 ELS Youth Convention was held on the campus of Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, a suburb of Orlando. The dates were July 29 – August 1. The theme of

the convention was *As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord*. The convention director was Pastor Charles Keeler from Winter Haven, Florida. Bible studies and devotions centered around the theme. Approximately 400 youth and counselors attended the convention. The participants visited Islands of Adventure, an amusement park connected to Universal Studios, and the Atlantic Ocean at Vero Beach.

The 2005 ELS Youth Convention will be held July 28-31 at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts. The convention director is Pastor Bernt Tweit of Madison, Wisconsin. The theme will be *I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home*. Bible studies and devotions will focus on the two kingdoms of church and state and the Christian's role in each. The 2006 youth convention is scheduled to be held in the Salt Lake City, Utah area.

There were several retreats held in various circuits of the synod. There are funds available to help defray some of the costs of the retreats. There were a number of youth camps held through the summer that included ELS youth.

The publication *Young Branches* has not been published for a while. The editor, Pastor Don Moldstad, has not had enough time to get it done. The Youth subcommittee continues to examine some ways to distribute the work load so that *Young Branches* issues can continue to be produced at least a couple of times yearly.

Production of a songbook that could be used at youth conventions, camps, retreats, etc. is still on the subcommittee's agenda. This past year we provided some financial subsidy for the ELS Youth Honor Choir that was held on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College. We thank Prof. Dennis Marzolf and Mrs. Lois Jaeger for promoting and conducting the honor choir. A new teen devotion booklet and a Bible study on the family are also projects in work.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARISH EDUCATION**

Members of the committee include Mr. Glen Hansen, chairman; the Rev. Jerry Gernander, secretary; the Rev. Alexander Ring; and Mr. Daniel Johnson.

Advent and Lent devotions were made available again in 2004-05 with assistance from the Board for Publications. The committee now makes these available on the synod website, for congregations to photocopy for use by families in the parish.

A new synod-wide Bible study on the book of Hebrews is being sponsored by the committee. It is planned for completion by fall of 2005, and copies will be sent to each congregation.

Beginning in January 2005, the committee provides a children's page for the *Lutheran Sentinel*, focusing on a Bible word for the month with activities for young children (pre-school to 1st grade).

The committee encourages congregations to make use of two recent publications: the revised *Catechism Workbook*, completed in 2004 and sold by the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore; and the devotional booklet, *I Pray the Catechism*, the latter of which is provided by the board for free as a gift to ELS confirmands each year, upon pastors' request. The committee also continues to offer crossword puzzles on chapters of the Bible, which are produced by the Rev. Karl Heck (St. Timothy, Williamsburg, Iowa), and sold by the BLC Bookstore. The following materials are available on request from the board: Vacation Bible School materials on the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed; a recommended list of hymns to teach children; and bulletin inserts on the catechism.

*The Rev. Jonathan Madson, secretary*



# REPORT OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE AD-HOC COMMITTEE

The 2003 convention of the ELS directed the Board for Education and Youth (BEY) to address the memorial, "Calling for the Establishment of Parochial Schools." Responding to this directive, President Moldstad, with support from the BEY, appointed an ad hoc committee. This committee, known as the Lutheran Schools Initiative Committee, held its first meeting in March of 2004.

The 2004 convention continued its study of the need for more Christian schools and subsequently passed a number of important resolutions. These resolutions directed the LSI Committee to continue its work, to develop specific guidelines for the establishment and management of new Lutheran schools, to gather funds and to work with the Board of Trustees in order to call (or hire) the personnel needed to reach our goals. The synod in convention also asked the committee to make plans for a synod-wide special offering. President Moldstad has asked the ELS Board for Stewardship to assist in this offering which is slated to begin in June of 2006.

Since the 2004 Convention, the LSI Committee has continued to meet in order to move forward. At the time of this writing, the committee is reviewing resumes in order to select a full-time director. Funding from both private and institutional sources has been granted to cover this person's salary and the start-up costs of this important endeavor. One of the first responsibilities of the full-time director will be to conduct a feasibility study.

The LSI Committee recommends that we should change LSI to LSA (Lutheran Schools of America) and that the **Board for Lutheran Schools of America** should replace the subcommittee (LES) of the Board for Education and Youth, which has presided over our schools in the past.

In addition to the items pertaining to the LES subcommittee in the synod handbook pages 38-A & 38-B, the proposed board for LSA should also oversee the work specific to the schools of the LSA. It will seek to establish schools (preschools, elementary schools and secondary schools) throughout the country, whether in conjunction with existing congregations or in exploratory mission sites. The goal is to establish two new schools per year. The board will oversee the building and maintaining of these schools until local congregations are able to assume independent operation. It will provide a curriculum and hiring (calling) standards for administration and teaching staff in consultation with the Education Department of Bethany Lutheran College, so that there are set salary scales and benefit packages, standards for certification and performance reviews. It will provide uniformity, continuity, consistency and accountability for each LSA school, monitor the operation and progress of each school and seek funding within the ELS for the ongoing work of LSA. LSA will also seek funding from sources in the corporate sector and from governmental agencies without compromising our Scriptural Lutheran confession in teaching and practice.

The Board would be comprised of the following voting members:

- 3 Clergy (1 from the eastern third of the USA; 1 from the mid-western third of the USA and 1 from the western third.
- 3 Laymen (1 from the eastern third of the USA, 1 from the mid-western third of USA and 1 from the western third of the USA; the potential candidates for these positions would be first selected by the ELS Board of Trustees and then their names would be submitted to the ELS Nominating Committee).
- 2 Male Teachers/Permanent members (1 from the Midwest and 1 from another region of the USA).

President/CEO, elected (hired/called) by the Board of Trustees.

The LSA Board would have the following advisory members:

- President of the synod or his representative from the Board of Trustees.
- President of Bethany Lutheran College.
- President of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- Director of Christian Education from Bethany Lutheran College.

## **OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER**

The rationale for regional representation on the proposed Board for Lutheran Schools in America is twofold: donors will see in this a national interest. Secondly, receiving counsel from members in various regions will enhance the ability of the board to serve a wide variety of needs.

The reason for a slate of lay candidates originating with the ELS Board of Trustees is that there will be a need for these positions to be filled by men with business and financial backgrounds. The support staff for the President/CEO will increase as the resources and responsibilities of LSA grow.

It is also being discussed whether the board of LSA should be incorporated separately, similar to Bethany Lutheran College. This matter can be determined through the feasibility study to commence this year after the Pres/CEO is in place.

## **PERSONNEL**

Members of the ad hoc LSI Committee are: the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Prof. Silas Born, Mr. Wayne Anderson, the Rev. Ed Bryant, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, and Rev. Richard Wiechmann. President Moldstad chairs the committee, and BLC President Dan Bruss, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary President Gaylin Schmeling serve as advisory members.

*The Rev. Richard Wiechmann, secretary*

## **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

### **Resolution 1: Teacher Compensation Guidelines**

BE IT RESOLVED, That Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregations with Christian Day Schools be encouraged to meet or exceed the recommended salary scale, benefits, and additional items.

### **Resolution 2: National Teachers' Conference**

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth has begun to plan for the 2006 national ELS Teachers' Conference, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education and Youth be commended for this development, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That all teachers be encouraged to participate in this first national Teachers' Conference in thirty years, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations encourage and support full attendance by their teachers.

### **Resolution 3: Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI) Name Change**

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Schools Initiative (LSI) Ad Hoc Committee recommends its name be changed to Lutheran Schools of America (LSA), therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve this change.

### **Resolution 4: Restructuring of the Lutheran Elementary Schools Subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth**

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth has recommended that the Lutheran Elementary Schools subcommittee be restructured, and,

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Schools Initiative Ad Hoc Committee has recommended that the Board of Lutheran Schools of America replace the Lutheran Elementary Schools subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth, and,

WHEREAS, This change might require changes in the bylaws of the synod, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Lutheran Elementary Schools subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth be restructured, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the Lutheran Schools of America Ad Hoc Committee be referred to the Synod Review Committee to establish a selection/nomination process and term lengths for Lutheran Schools of America board members to be approved at the 2006 Synod Convention, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That both the Lutheran Schools of America Ad Hoc Committee and the Lutheran Elementary Schools subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth continue to fulfill their appointed duties until the restructuring is completed, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That when this process is completed the board for the Lutheran Schools of America replace the Lutheran Elementary Schools subcommittee of the Board for Education and Youth.

### **Resolution 5: Special Offering**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Stewardship conduct an appeal for gifts and offerings over a period of two years, beginning at the 2006 synod convention, under the theme “For You And Your Children” (Acts 2:39).

## *YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION*

### *ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

### **Resolution 1: The Subcommittees of Youth & Parish Education**

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth Subcommittees for Youth and Parish Education, in the interest of our young people, organizes and encourages attendance at youth conventions, provides funds to help defray the costs of regional retreats, and provides financial subsidy for the *ELS Youth Honor Choir*, and,

WHEREAS, The board provides publications, such as *Young Branches*, the children’s page for the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the *Catechism Workbook*, and *I Pray the Catechism*, and other devotional materials for use in our congregations, therefore

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank the subcommittees for all of their hard work and dedication in teaching our children and young people the Word of God, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage congregations to make use of the means and materials that these subcommittees faithfully provide for our children and young people.

# **REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS**

The Board for Publications consists of chairman the Rev. Roger Holtz, the Rev. Brad Homan, the Rev. Eric Gernander, Mr. Paul Wold, Mr. Robert Deering and Mr. Howard Siewert. Reporting to the board is the *Lutheran Sentinel* staff, editor the Rev. Theodore Gullixson, managing editor the Rev. Wayne Halvorson and business manager Mrs. Lois Halvorson. Also reporting to the board is the Technology Advisory Committee. Representing this committee is the Rev. Jesse Jacobsen, who is the “webmaster” for our website <evangelicallutheransynod.org>.

The *Lutheran Sentinel* continues to be a monthly sixteen-page magazine which is distributed to approximately 6500 homes. The majority of these are part of what is

referred to as “blanket subscriptions,” ordered by congregations and mailed to each member household. It is the synod’s primary means of communication to our membership. In addition to the scriptural articles, the *Lutheran Sentinel* also reports synod, Bethany College and Bethany Seminary news. The *Lutheran Sentinel* includes a monthly letter from President John Moldstad. Also there is a monthly summary of contributions to the synod. The *Lutheran Sentinel* has always been printed in two colors. The board is now considering upgrading this to a full-color magazine. This can be accomplished at a relatively small increase in cost. **The board is looking for feedback and asking for direction from the convention** to help reach a decision in this manner. The *Lutheran Sentinel* is also available in large print (text only) to accommodate our “sight challenged readers.

Annually the board publishes the *Synod Report*. This is compiled by synod secretary, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad. This is published immediately following the synod convention and contains detailed information relative to all the action of the many boards and committees. It also provides a directory of all member congregations, schools, pastors and teachers.

The board passed a motion to discontinue the publication of the *Convention Echo*, which consisted of news of what transpired at the convention in text and photos. More of this news will be included in the August issue of the *Sentinel*.

Periodically the board has published a synod directory, including photos of all the churches and pastors. Due to the cost of such a project the board is now considering placing this directory on our website.

A great deal of the board’s attention is now focused on the distribution of information via the internet. The board received a grant of \$30,000 to establish and maintain a synod website. As directed by President Moldstad, the primary focus of the website shall always be evangelism. The building of the website continues to be a work in progress. Pastor Jesse Jacobsen is our “webmaster.” To date Mr. Josh Metcalf has been our “web architect.” The web address is <evangelicallutheransynod.org>. This should become a favorite address to all members and friends of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

*Mr. Howard L. Siewert, secretary*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

#### **Resolution 1: The Lutheran Sentinel**

WHEREAS, The *Lutheran Sentinel* is the chief publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for reporting synodical news to the congregations, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications is making every effort to enhance and improve the publication, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications be encouraged to proceed with their recommendations to print this publication in four colors, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications continue to look for means to improve and broaden the news content to the *Lutheran Sentinel*, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That given the value of this publication, that every congregation be encouraged to get the *Lutheran Sentinel* into every home, and,
- D. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Rev. Ted Gullixson for his diligent and faithful service to our synod as editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel*.

#### **Resolution 2: Utilization of synod website for publications**

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications, with the encouragement of the synod in convention (2003 *Synod Report*, page 109, Resolution 6; and 2004 *Synod Report*, page 111, Resolution 2), has made the flow of information through the web a priority, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Publications is now in a position to make use of this newly constructed website, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications use every opportunity in its printed material to implement a drive-to-the-web strategy that encourages more people to make use of our website, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That since the construction of our website has been completed, and since there will no longer be a need for a web “architect,” that the Board for Publications explore the possibility of finding an individual to be a back-up for the webmaster position, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank our webmaster, the Rev. Jesse Jacobson, and our web “architect,” Mr. Josh Metcalfe, for their many hours of work in creating and implementing the use of our synod website.

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

The Board for Christian Service consists of the following personnel: Mr. Don Heiliger, chairman; the Rev. Mark Marozick, secretary; Mr. Herb Berg, Widows and Retired Workers Special Needs Coordinator; the Rev. Richard Fyffe, Term Insurance Coordinator; Mr. Joel Petersen, Retired Benefit Coordinator. The board has met three times since the last report: in June, September, and February.

### **TERM LIFE INSURANCE**

As of this writing there were still six congregations that had not reimbursed the synod for the term insurance premium for their called workers. Over 98% of the congregations had reimbursed the synod. A member of our board corresponded with the congregations who had not reimbursed the synod to encourage them to do so. We encourage the congregations of the synod to continue such support.

### **WORLD NEEDS FUND**

The World Needs Fund was used to help others in their distress. The \$12,861.05 which was given to the Tsunami Relief Fund has been forwarded to the WELS Committee on Relief. We have also given out \$13,500 directly to Florida hurricane victims. The board publishes an article in the May issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel* and also a bulletin insert in May in order to solicit funds for this purpose.

### **TAX SHELTER ANNUITY CONTRIBUTION PLAN**

Participation in this program continues to be excellent. The synod's contribution (or match) to the called worker's plan was again \$360. The board encourages the congregations of the synod to continue using this matching program and to support the synod with their contributions to help offset the expense to synod.

### **WIDOW'S SUBSIDIES**

There are currently nine widows who are receiving subsidy from this board. We hope to increase the current level of support by \$10 per month.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE AD-HOC COMMITTEE**

This committee was formed to investigate the high cost of health insurance and held an informational meeting at last year's convention. The board decided to keep this subcommittee of our board active (now named “Worker's Health Insurance subcommittee”) for the time being to keep an eye on these matters. Joel Petersen is the chairman of this subcommittee and the person to contact with regard to such matters. Questions with regard to health insurance might also be answered on the WELS VEBA website: <[www.welsbpo.net](http://www.welsbpo.net)>.

## **WELS CARE-LINE**

Our board has found no alternative to the WELS Care-Line other than to refer workers to a local pastor or Circuit Visitor for counsel. Perhaps the local pastor or Circuit Visitor could refer them to a good Christian counselor in the area, if that is needed.

## **PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2006**

Widow's subsidy payments	\$ 27,697.20
Pastor's retirement fund	4,146.36
Board expenses	1,000.00
Group Life Insurance	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 33,843.56

*The Rev. Mark E. Marozick, secretary*

## **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

### **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

#### **Resolution 1: World Needs Fund**

WHEREAS, \$12,861.05 was given to the Tsunami Relief Fund, and,

WHEREAS, \$13,500 was given directly to the Florida Hurricane victims, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord for these wonderful gifts, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for their support, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage them to continue this same support as needs arise.

#### **Resolution 2: Tax Shelter Annuity Contribution Plan**

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod matched a congregation's contribution to their called workers' TSA up to the amount of \$360 in 2003, \$400 in 2004, \$500 in 2005, and a planned \$600 in 2006, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord for these blessings, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be encouraged to continue to use this matching program.

#### **Resolution 3: Widow's Subsidy**

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service supports nine widows, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service hopes to increase the current level of support by \$10.00/month, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord for this kindness from His people, and

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service continues this support, increasing it as funds are available.

## **REPORT OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Worship Committee will meet in June to discuss issues relating to worship and music in our synod. Prof. DeGarmeaux was in Tacoma at Reformation time, where he gave a presentation on the Catechisms on Oct. 30, and preached for Reformation Festival at Evergreen Lutheran High School. Prof. Marzolf will present at the national conference on worship, music and the arts sponsored by WELS in July.

Work on the three-part settings of hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* is progressing, and the volume may be ready by the time of the synod meeting.

The following document was prepared for congregations who may need to use electronically reproduced music for accompaniment to the liturgical music, in response to a request from the synod.

### **Preface:**

The Worship Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod is firmly convinced that church music should be provided by real live musicians, be they organists, pianists, vocalists, or other instrumentalists. There was no organ under the oaks at Koshkonong, but the service was certainly memorable and lives on in the oral and written tradition of our church.

Organists should be respected and given due earthly compensation for their work. Our Lord Himself says: "The laborer is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7).

Since the Lutheran Church has the most abundant and most revered reputation for singing and providing music for the church and the world, it behooves us to train up each generation to carry on the sacred duty of singing the Lord's song, even in a foreign land (Psalm 137).

We therefore urge congregations to review their organists' salary and see that it offers appropriate compensation and encouragement for excellence and improvement in performance, musical selection, and lessons.

We urge congregations to establish scholarship funds for people (young or old) who are willing to learn to play organ or piano for services. The benefits of this scholarship will be seen also in future generations who will carry on the art of David, Asaph, Luther, Gerhardt, Kingo, Bach, and others.

Three-Part Hymns are available for many of the hymns in ELH to help the aspiring musician. One volume will soon be available at the Bethany Bookstore, with hymns specifically from ELH. Three volumes called *Favorite Hymns* are already available from the bookstore, published by Northwestern Publishing House in Milwaukee.

We encourage congregations to purchase pianos and organs that encourage learning and leading. The instrument that accompanies the Word of God in song should be regarded at least as important as the dishwasher, the lawnmower, and the gymnasium.

We also urge pastors to get the hymns to the organists far in advance to allow proper preparation and selection of service music.

Computer-generated music should be substituted only as a very last resort. It can be useful to pastors and congregants to learn a new or unfamiliar tune.

### **Some Available Resources**

Below is a list of some available resources. We offer them for information only, with no universal recommendation as to their usability. #6 and #8 seem to be the most complete sets. Please follow the links for more complete information.

1. *Join All the Glorious Names*: Audio CD with several hymns sung by the choir of Bethany Lutheran College
2. *Ever Glad at Heart I Am*: Audio CD with several hymns sung by the choir of Bethany Lutheran College
3. *Vaughan Williams Hymnal*: CD available at places like amazon.com, bn.com, etc.  
*Conifer Classics #51249*: 21 hymns – sometimes sung to different texts and rhythms than ELH
4. St. Mary Magdalene's Organ Accompaniment Music CDs: *Forty Anglican Episcopal Hymns*  
<<http://www.stmarymagdalenes.org/hymnorganmusic.htm>>  
St. Mary Magdalene's Church  
P. O. Box 1760, Yreka, California 96097  
(530) 842-1018 \* [stmarymags@snowcrest.net](mailto:stmarymags@snowcrest.net).  
<<http://www.stmarymagdalenes.org/index.htm> >



5. Bb Music Production

<<http://www.bflatmusic.com/praise1.html>>

*PRAISE HIM WITH THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, Volume I: Trumpet Descants*  
For Forty Best Loved Hymns

The complete package consists of:

(1) The book of 40 Printed descants with hymn melodies for Bb trumpet.

(2) CD: Hunt plays the melody and descant of 31 hymns.

(3) Play-along Organ Accompaniment CD. = \$29.95 + \$4.00 s + h.

Toll Free Telephone/Fax Sales: 1-866-711-6408

Hunt Performance CD only – \$14.95

Organ Accompaniment CD only – \$10.95

PRAISE Vol. I... purchase the book only – \$12.95

These descants have been recorded on CD by the author.

*PRAISE HIM WITH THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, Vol. I* Compact Disc: The recording contains thirty one of the world's best-loved hymns, for trumpet and pipe organ, complete with high, florid descants composed by Hunt. Recorded live, direct-to-digital, utilizing a two-mic, stereophonic technique. The organ at the Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus, Md.

Rev Walter G. Edmonds, organ \* Clyde E. Hunt, trumpet

NEW – The Play-Along, Organ accompaniment CD for thirty six best-loved Hymns. A great way for you to practice the hymn or descant with the organ accompaniment. Parts are supplied for B-Flat piccolo trumpet and D or E-Flat trumpet, as is appropriate for the key. I prefer to use the B-flat or A-piccolo tpt.

6. Cantoris Records

<<http://www.cantis.sageweb.co.uk/200hymns1.htm>>

200 hymns are available on 15 CDs. The CDs are available individually or as a full set. Individual CDs cost £14.95 each. The full set of 15 CDs costs £169, saving over £50, and comes in a high-quality, durable zip-up case. Prices include 17.5% VAT, UK Postage & packing 1-3 CDs: £1.00 per order; 4 CDs or more: £2.00 per order Full set of 15 CDs: £6.00 (by Royal Mail Special Delivery).

7. The Woodley Ensemble: *The Old Hymns*

<<http://www.cdfreedom.com/cdfreedom/artist.asp?artistID=770prod~The+Old+Hymnsprodid~522art~The+Woodley+Ensemble%7Ctheoldhymns>>

2 volumes of hymns \$14.99 each

8. LutheranMusic.com

<[www.lutheranmusic.com](http://www.lutheranmusic.com)>

[These are computer-generated and not very musical, using chord accompaniment and not the accompaniment as in the hymnbook. They correspond to ELH. Only 22 hymn tunes are missing.]

Audio CD's

The ELH Audio CD Set contains 23 audio CDs for the public domain hymn tunes found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary" (ELH). Each CD audio track is played on a church organ and begins with a short musical lead-in, followed by the tune repeated according to the number of stanzas printed in the hymnal, and ending with an appropriate 'Amen'. The audio CDs can be played on any standard audio CD player (no computer equipment is needed). The CDs are packaged in a handy CD wallet. Price: \$239.95 (23 CDs & CD Wallet, 2 lbs.)

CD-ROM – Midi files

The Midi Files Computer CD contains midi files for the public domain hymns tunes found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary" (ELH). Each midi file is played on a church organ and begins with a short musical lead-in, followed by the tune repeated according to the number of stanzas printed in the hymnal, and ending with an appropriate 'Amen'. Midi player software must be installed on your computer in order to listen to midi files using your computer sound card and speakers. There are 3,097 midi files on the CD arranged in folders by hymn number. There are several

midi files provided for each hymn tune, corresponding to the stanzas are printed in the hymnal. Price: \$29.95 (Computer CD, 0.5 lbs.)

9. Christ Lutheran Academy

<<http://www.christlutheranacademy.com/cd.htm>>

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image: A Collection Of Hymns For The Christian Year*

Twenty Four Hymns In All!

\$14.00 each\*

\*All proceeds benefit the ongoing work of Christ Lutheran Academy in elementary education and Lutheran Catechesis.

*The Rev. Dennis Marzolf, chairman*

**WORSHIP**

**ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

**Resolution 1**

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee during the past year promoted Lutheran worship and music by giving presentations when asked to do so, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Worship Committee for their efforts, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage congregations and organizations within the synod to contact the Worship Committee for possible opportunities for presentations.

**Resolution 2**

WHEREAS, The 2003 convention asked the Worship Committee “to make available both audio CDs and digital CDs of the entire Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary as quickly as possible,” and,

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee has made available this year a list of said resources, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them for their efforts, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee keep the synod abreast of new materials that may be of value to our congregations.

**Resolution 3**

WHEREAS, The Worship Committee of the ELS is convinced that church music should be provided by live musicians such as organists, pianists, vocalists, or other instrumentalists, and,

WHEREAS, Musicians should be respected and given due compensation for their work (“the laborer is worthy of his wages” Luke 10:7), and,

WHEREAS, The Lutheran church has a revered reputation for singing and providing music for the church and the world, and,

WHEREAS, It behooves each generation to carry on the sacred duty of singing the Lord’s song, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we urge congregations to properly compensate their organists and other musicians, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That in order to facilitate an improvement in the number of musicians and in performance skills, congregations be encouraged to provide financial aid for those willing to take lessons to learn to play organ or piano or improve their skills in order to play for services, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Worship Committee discuss with the Board for Education and Youth and the Board of Trustees the possibility of establishing scholarships to help train prospective keyboardists/organists and to report to the 2006 Synod Convention.

# REPORT OF THE LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

As acting chairman of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee it is my privilege and responsibility to contact the congregations of our synod for funds to carry on the work of this committee for the annual convention of the synod. The 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 2004 convention period.

## Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 3/1/2004		\$ 8,021.08
Receipts:		
Church Assessments Received	\$ 25,640.00	
Interest Income	<u>9.49</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>25,649.49</u>
Total		\$ 33,670.57
Disbursements:		
Delegates:		
Air Fares and Mileage	\$ 25,461.13	
Printing, Postage, checks, etc.	<u>4.70</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>25,465.83</u>
Balance on Hand 2/28/2005		\$ 8,204.74

1. Mileage payments were made at the rate of \$.20 per mile (round trip) to a laymen delegate who drove 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 was 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 were also accepted. These were reimbursed in full as funds permitted. Otherwise a pro ration of available funds was made. Only mileage to or from an airport was reimbursed. Car rental costs were not reimbursed.
3. Delegates registered at the convention showing name, congregation, round trip mileage, and/or travel expenses in order to receive reimbursement.
4. Delegates were encouraged to ride together, whenever possible. This stewardship of money enabled the Equalization Fund to cover more of the expenses.
5. The Chairman was to receive \$.20 per mile or actual expenses; whichever was less, out of the fund to cover his costs of attending the convention. (Note: if chairman was a delegate he was to be reimbursed according to rules for delegates.) Since the chairman is a Bethany employee, no reimbursement was necessary.
6. Maximum reimbursement had 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: August and February. The members of the board are: Mr. Howard Hougan, vice-chairman; Mr. Jon Natvig, Mr. Tom Oswald, recording secretary; the Rev. Mark Rogers, and the Rev. David Russow, chairman. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft serves as an ex. officio member of the board.

The charter of this board of your synod requires that the board:

Promote Christian stewardship on the basis of biblical principles.

Submit to the Planning and Coordinating Committee an estimate of anticipated income from regular synodical contributions, including data used in making this estimate.

Review, approve and coordinate all new synod-wide appeals for funds by synodical boards or individuals.

## TO PROMOTE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP ON THE BASIS OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

With funds remaining from an original grant of \$12,500 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, as reported at the 2003 Convention of the ELS, the board provided a second annual stewardship packet (at no cost to our congregations) to promote a synod-wide stewardship emphasis for personal, congregational and synodical stewardship. *THEREFORE...IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCIES* was the theme of the 2004-05 stewardship emphasis, as based on Romans 12:1. Again the board provided a sermon study and outline, a Bible Study and teacher's guide. This year's stewardship emphasis also included special worship aids.

Also with remaining funds from the same grant 1,200 more copies of *Managing My Master's Money* (by the Rev. Paul Schneider) were reprinted and made available to congregations upon request. With the final balance the board is printing generic (as opposed to seasonal, e.g. Advent or Lent) special offering envelopes and will make them available to congregations at this convention and upon request.

The board has determined to continue to provide a yearly stewardship emphasis with similar materials. Future stewardship emphasis themes for synod-wide use are:

### 2005-2006 – *One Blessing After Another*

Biblical Basis: *"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another," John 1:16*

### 2006-2007 – *Love for Love*

Biblical Basis: *"We love because he first loved us," 1 John 4:19.*

### 2007-2008 – *A Time For Every Purpose Under Heaven*

Biblical Basis: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

It is the board's goal to make these stewardship emphasis packets available at our annual conventions, thus saving on shipping costs, practicing good stewardship itself.

The board welcomes invitations to conduct stewardship seminars/workshops from any of our congregations or groups of congregations. During this past year one such seminar was held with members of Christ, Windsor and Apostles, Ukiah, California on February 12, 2005. The undersigned was privileged to be able to conduct this seminar and to preach in both of the congregations.

The undersigned was also privileged in the past to lead a study and discussion of the Biblical principles concerning stewardship of all that we are and all that we have in the grace of God and to introduce stewardship emphasis materials to the seminarians of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. This past year the undersigned also presented stewardship principles from the Bible in a class at Bethany Lutheran College.

Grant monies received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, two years ago, have continued to fund the majority of these stewardship efforts and projects, without any major impact to the synodical budget.

## **TO SUBMIT TO THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE AN ESTIMATE OF ANTICIPATED INCOME FROM REGULAR SYNODICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING DATA USED IN MAKING THIS ESTIMATE**

In order to meet this second duty the board is encouraged with the increased number of congregations of the synod in employing the *ELS Ambassador*\* effort. More and more congregations are designating an *ELS Ambassador* who serves as a point man, along with the pastor, in communicating reciprocally synodical and congregational information.

One item that can be shared or highlighted in some way by an *ELS Ambassador* is our monthly *ELS Ambassador Update*, for distribution in the congregations in bulletin insert form. The *ELS Ambassador Update* reminds the congregations of our annual stewardship emphasis theme, shares synodical information, history, and current offering/budgetary information, as well as stewardship encouragements. The board intends to add to the *ELS Ambassador Update* a monthly featured congregation of the synod, sharing information about that congregation, so that we can get to know each other, pray for each other and encourage each other as we walk together in the Truth and under the Great Commission. Our sincere thanks go to board member, the Rev. Mark Rogers, for spearheading the preparation and production of the monthly *ELS Ambassador Update*.

The board is also making a concerted effort to contact our congregations with encouragement to submit an annual Synod Offering Projection (SOP) to our chairman in order to be able to make an honest attempt at carrying out the duty of providing the Planning and Coordinating Committee an estimate of anticipated income from regular synodical offerings. Again, we are so encouraged that more and more congregations are participating in submitting a Synodical Offering Projection. About forty of our congregations submitted a Synod Offering Projection, during the first few months of 2005. God's amazing grace that blesses and moves is evident as congregations wrestle with such a projection. So many of our congregations are submitting a generous percentage of their overall offerings, many 5%, many others 10% or more! God's people see beyond the walls of their own congregations into all the world with the Good News of Jesus. Your board recognizes that seeing beyond our local walls with supportive offerings for the sake of precious souls who need to be touched with the Gospel is not limited to offerings to the synod and that a number of congregations make use of other wonderful avenues to do so. God bless all of our faithful efforts to do so!

Christian Stewardship is not to be measured solely, nor most importantly, in monetary offerings, especially monetary offerings to carry out the work of the Lord decided upon by our synod in convention. But, it is a cause of joy in the Lord, to observe that the saints of our synod, through our congregations, are breaking a twenty year static level of giving and this past year increased in their synodical offerings, nearly, for the first time in a number of years, matching budget needs with synod offerings! To God alone be the glory who makes our hearts respond in a "therefore" for His glory and the nurturing and extending of His Kingdom through the Gospel!

## **TO REVIEW, APPROVE AND COORDINATE ALL NEW SYNOD-WIDE APPEALS FOR FUNDS BY SYNODICAL BOARDS OR INDIVIDUALS**

Finally, in light of the prospect of the *Lutheran Schools Initiative*, with the potential of a synod-wide special offering, the board once again reviewed the history of synod-wide special offerings over the past years:

*Jubilee Thankoffering, 1942-43; \$45,868*

*Centennial Campaign for Christ, 1953-1954; \$76,564*

*Golden Jubilee, 1963-1968; \$290,664*

*"Gratitude for Grace" Anniversary Thankoffering (50 years Bethany Lutheran College, 30 years Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary), 1978-1980; \$791,007*

*"Partners in the Gospel," (Home Missions, Endowment Funds), 1986 -1989; \$881,400*

*“His Truth for Our Youth,” 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thankoffering, 1992-1994; \$405,102*  
*“Messengers of Peace,” (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary),*  
*1996-1998; \$502,350*

*“2000 Years of Grace,” Thank Offering, 2000-2002; over \$600,000.*

The board noted that these special offerings are beneficial to the synod and many blessings have been received through them. Also, in response to Resolution 1, Lutheran Schools Initiative, (SR 2004, page 109), and in communication with the Ad Hoc Committee for LSI, the board presents the following resolution to the synod

WHEREAS, The ELS Board for Stewardship is entrusted with reviewing, approving and coordinating, all new synod-wide appeals for funds by synodical boards or individuals, and,

WHEREAS, Christian parents are instructed to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and the church is committed to encourage and assist its parents with this important task, and,

WHEREAS, The schools of are nation prove to be one great battleground for Christian parents with the anti-Christian spirit of our age over the hearts of their children, and Christian education is an effective way to prepare the next generation with a solid and fruitful understanding of the Christian faith equipping our children for this battle with spiritual discernment, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College now prepares graduates for teaching in the classrooms of our Lutheran elementary schools, and there is need to place those graduates, and,

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools have traditionally been an effective source in preparing well educated laity and also often lead many to choose the vocations of pastor and teacher, which will serve the on-going needs of the church, and,

WHEREAS, The Lutherans Schools Initiative provides ways and means of establishing and maintaining Lutheran schools based upon the need and opportunity for Christian education, not just upon the resources of a local congregation, and,

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools have proven to be effective mission tools in our churches as non-member families are exposed to the gospel, the power of God unto salvation, and,

WHEREAS, A special gathering of gifts and offerings would facilitate the purposes proposed in such an effort, and,

WHEREAS, President Moldstad has asked the ELS Board for Stewardship to be involved in any LSI funds gathering effort, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod entrust the Board for Stewardship with reviewing, approving, and coordinating the synodical appeal for gifts and offerings for funding the Lutheran Schools Initiative, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, such an appeal for gifts and offerings be conducted over a period of two years beginning with a “kick off” presentation at the 2006 synod convention, preliminary to congregational presentations in the Fall of 2006, under the theme, *“FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN,”* based on Acts 2:39.

A wise man once said, “The Gospel, like water, is free; but we’ve got to pay for the piping.” Not only does the Lord supply the Good News of salvation full and free, He also supplies the piping and the means of paying for the piping. And on top of that He even gives us the privilege of being a part of the gospel mission, where we all are, with all that we are, and with all that we have, to all the world, to all precious souls, with all the time we have left while it is still day and we can work!

God bless us, our congregations and our synod as we go with the gospel, glorify our Lord, glow before all as the lights our God has made us to be in such a dark world, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ever believing that, “God’s work, done God’s way, will never lack God’s supply,” (Hudson Taylor).

---

**\*A description of the ELS Ambassador:**

The ELS Ambassador is a key communicator and helper who is a courier of information between the members of our congregations in the ELS and the synod. As both the congregation(s) and synod carry out the Kingdom work in proclaiming the Gospel for the gathering and nurturing of precious souls information that is shared can bring joy and encouragement, and can evoke responses of prayer, effort, and various manners of support. Thus, the ELS Ambassador ought to be a highly respected encourager who, with the pastor, is eager to share important congregational and synodical information.

**Responsibilities:**

Coordinating with the pastor, the ELS Ambassador, as much as possible...

Will make sure to share synodical information, such as bulletin inserts, ELS Video-link, foreign and home mission information, various activities and events of the ELS, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, etc., with the congregation(s) through accepted and effective formats;

Will be responsible for seeing that regular verbal or printed reports of quarterly status of synodical offerings are shared with the congregation(s);

Will relay questions and congregational information to the Board for Stewardship;

Will be an enthusiastic advocate for many synodical efforts for the Gospel and the ways and means—in the Lord, of course—for carrying out those efforts;

Will also be an enthusiastic advocate for stewardship education and stewardship efforts within the congregation(s);

Will also advocate use of the services of the Deferred Giving Counselor.

**Team:**

The ELS Ambassador will be part of a team work of communication consisting of the members of the ELS Board for Stewardship, the Circuit Visitors, and the local pastor(s).

**Qualifications:**

The ELS Ambassador ought to be a dedicated leader and voting member of the ELS congregation(s), blessed spiritually with an understanding of and eagerness for the local and worldwide mission of the Gospel, with a strong understanding of and commitment to the stewardship necessary to carry on that mission.

**Relationship:**

The ELS Ambassador serves alongside the pastor as an evangelical voice on behalf of the Gospel work of congregation and synod and sound Christian stewardship of resources. It may be beneficial that the ELS Ambassador also holds an office on the church council and/or be able to attend and, perhaps, give reports at the council and voters meetings. It would be highly beneficial if the ELS Ambassador was able to attend the synod conventions as a delegate or visitor.

**Selection:**

Congregations are free to select an ELS Ambassador in whatever manner is best suited to setting and structure. If the ELS Ambassador is selected or suggested by the pastor, it would be beneficial that the council and/or voters ratify such a selection/suggestion. The congregation may desire to attach the role of ELS Ambassador to the responsibilities of an existing elected position, such as congregational president, stewardship chairman, financial secretary, etc. The length of service may be indefinite or designated, as the congregations sees fit.

*The Reverend David Russow, chairman*



# REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod only met once this past year as recommended by last year's convention (2004 *Synod Report*, page 134, resolution 6B). The meeting was held on April 11, 2005.

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 and Mr. Richard Waldschmidt. The president and the secretary of the synod also serve as the chairman and secretary of the committee.

## COORDINATION OF WORK

Two items for special consideration were submitted to the convention. The first was the matter of a salaried position of a production aide for the design and production needs of the various boards of the synod (2004 S.R., page 111, Resolution 3). A needs assessment survey was conducted on behalf of the committee by the Committee for Information and Technology. The response indicated that there is a need for such a position; however, it is not sufficient, at this time, to support a full-time position. The Planning and Coordinating Committee recommends that each board hire its own staff in conjunction with other boards, or outsource, as needed.

The other item referred to the committee was that of the consideration of biennial conventions for the synod (2004 S.R., page 111, Resolution 10). The committee has resolved to make no recommendation for a change to the schedule of the synod convention at this time.

## 2006 BUDGET

The 2006 synodical budget was prepared

Operating Funds	\$2,980,137.00
Less Funding Sources	<u>-1,811,231.00</u>
Total Budget Need	\$1,138,906.00
Less Program Funds	<u>-350,000.00</u>
Total Budget need from congregations	\$788,906.00

The proposed 2006 budget is as follows:

Bethany Lutheran College (subsidy)	\$281,000
Bethany Lutheran Seminary (subsidy)	66,600
Home Missions	197,000
Foreign Missions	173,000
Evangelism	15,718
Education and Youth	32,100
Publications	39,000
Christian Service	32,884
Synod Fund	<u>301,604</u>
Total synod funding	\$1,138,906
Less Schwan Program Funds	<u>-350,000</u>
Total Synod Budget Need	\$788,906

*The Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, secretary*

# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## MEMBERSHIP

The board consists of nine trustees: Mr. Wayne Anderson, Mr. Robert Brown, the Rev. Karl Anderson, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, Mr. Greg Griffin, Mr. Donald Heiliger, Mr. Wilbur Lieske, Mr. Leroy Meyer, and Pres. John A. Moldstad. 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.

## MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has met since the last convention for regular quarterly meetings on August 9-10, November 16, and February 1. The board also will meet in May 2005.

## STAFF

The Deferred Giving Counselor, the Rev. Richard Wiechmann, and the Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft serve under the direction of the board and report regularly. Regular reports also are received from the Board for Home Missions, the Board for Foreign Missions, and Bethany Lutheran College. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft is appointed, by the board, as the treasurer of the synod.

## BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees and the officers of the synod also serve as the Board of Directors and the Officers of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. and, as such, receive regular quarterly reports concerning the finances of Bethany Lutheran College and the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center. A sub-committee also meets as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents.

## SYNOD PROPERTIES

The board receives reports for its regular quarterly meetings from the fifteen congregations where it has any financial responsibility through loans which have been issued. These reports are received 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, the board approved the sale of the church property in Richardson, Texas. Approval was given for a construction loan for Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church (Cottage Grove, Wisconsin).

## ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The Rev. George Orvick, reports the following:

The persons responsible for the care and management of the synodical Archives and Museum are as follows: Director, the Rev. George Orvick; Archivist, the Rev. Paul Madson; and Secretary, Melvina Aaberg. The Museum Committee members are: Prof. Norman Holte, Prof. Sigurd Lee, Pastor Craig Ferkenstad, Mrs. Juul Madson, Mrs. Melvina Aaberg, the archivist, the Rev. Paul Madson, and the director, the Rev. George Orvick. This past year the Rev. Norman Madson worked in the archives for several months before accepting a call to Scottsdale, Arizona. Prof. Peter Bloedel, Prof. Dave Norris, and Prof. Tim Pietsch have helped with various projects. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the committee for donating many hours of labor. We also wish to thank the synod's Board of Trustees for funding this program.

The Rev. Paul Madson as archivist is busy accessioning materials that are submitted to the archives, such as letters, minutes, documents and artifacts. Melvina Aaberg enters each item into the computer so they can be easily located. Records from the President's office from 1970-1976 and 1980 to 2002 have all been brought to the archives.

and are being entered into the computerized system. Records from synodical boards and committees are also entered. From time to time students and others make use of the archives for research.

In the past year we have had a number of visitors. The Norwegian Grove Ladies Aid from Gaylord, Minnesota; the Senior's group from Mt. Olive Lutheran, Mankato, Minnesota; the Ladies Aid from Luverne, Minnesota; and the Mankato area pastoral conference came for a visit. Members of the Sons of Norway, who were on campus for the 100th anniversary of Syttende Mai (17th of May), also visited the museum. Numerous other individuals have shown interest, contributed artifacts, and have stopped in for a visit. We are planning to arrange visits from Bethany College faculty and students as well as Christian Day Schools pupils.

A major accomplishment during the past year was the completion of the "Pioneer Log Cabin" on the lower level of the museum. It is a replica of a cabin in which the pioneers lived when they first came to America. It is furnished with authentic articles used by the early settlers, such as farm tools, a butter churn, household goods, a cradle from 1842, and a spinning wheel as well as numerous other items of interest and authenticity.

"In the works" is another room. This will be a small chapel and display room. One table will show a collection of old Bibles and theological books. Also shown will be a collection of books which have been published by our ELS throughout the years. Portable displays describing the Museum and Archives may be seen in the convention hallway.

A final project which we hope will soon become popular will be the Oral History Project. In this endeavor families are encouraged to record on tape the story of their own family. We will provide instructions as to how to go about it along with a list of 149 questions to be used in recording the Oral History Interview. Feel free to telephone the museum for more information (507-344-7308).

Once again, we urge members and friends of our synod to be on the lookout for items which are of historical interest that might be put on display in the museum and to search for old church records, documents and correspondence that should be in the Archives.

The Norwegian poet Ivar Aasen wrote: Let us not forget our forefathers; For they gave us an heritage to remember. It is greater than many realize.

## **COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY (CfIT)**

The chairman of the Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) reports:

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod believes modern technology is an asset that when used properly, can be of assistance in carrying out God's work. The Committee for Integrating Technology (CfIT) was established at the 2003 convention to serve synod boards, committees, congregations and organizations with technical consultation and by providing assistance with technological matters when determined appropriate.

CfIT consists of six members appointed by the synod president for terms of three years (at least one of whom shall be a clergy). The chairman of the Board for Publications, or his designated representative, shall serve as the seventh voting member of the committee. The synod president also serves as an advisory member. Currently CfIT is comprised of four lay members and one clergy: Mr. Dennis Behr, chairman; the Rev. Phillip K. Lepak; Mr. Christopher Johnson, secretary; Mr. Mark Meyer; Mr. Rod Kuznicki and Rev. Jesse Jacobsen of the Board for Publications. CfIT reports to the Board of Trustees.

CfIT is a secondary service committee so serve other groups. The majority of CfIT's technical consulting work is driven by various Technical Requests coming from groups through out our synod to assist them in accomplishing their mission and goals. CfIT conducts its work through technological tools such as: cost-efficient audio conferencing, e-mail and online discussion groups. CfIT has been using itself to test the collaboration work space features of the new ELS Web Site using wiki page technology to accomplish its consulting work by its members through the country without travel. CfIT conducts its quarterly business meetings by audio-conferences along with it's monthly Technical Request & Project Review work sessions. Face-to-face meetings and travel are held to a minimum and are usually conducted in coordination with the synod convention. An

informal New Technology Review & Planning session is also usually held as scheduling permits.

CfIT members specialize and participate in initiatives closely related to their own individual technical expertise and career field. The following “Technical Requests” are examples of recent projects being worked on or completed by CfIT:

1. Production Aide – analyze and provide options regarding the feasibility of a shared synod production aide position. Research and present options for a shared synod position with various production and multi-media skills. Options presented to Planning & Coordinating Committee in April of 2005.

2. SteepleCom – provide technical consultation regarding a proposal by a vertical real estate wireless aggregator. Provided contract review of said proposal. CfIT did not recommend our synod enter into agreement at this time under the stated conditions.

3. Audio Webcasting & Video Recording – 2004 and 2005 ELS Convention. Develop plan and facilitate audio web casting and video recording of the 2005 ELS Synod Convention for Board for Publications. Video recordings of the convention by the Bethany Lutheran College studio for archive purposes.

4. Audio Conferencing – supply technical consultation and oversight for installing audio conferencing systems at various congregations throughout our synod. Applied for, awarded first-phase Schwan grant for audio conferencing systems. Equipment is being ordered and arrangements for installations are being made at three locations/congregations.

5. Test new ELS Web Site Tools – for improving efficiency of committee related work without travel time and costs. Test and develop through using new synod web site tools for authoring, editing, sharing and documenting technical information. Much of CfIT’s current consulting work is now being accomplished by using these new and efficient technical work tools.

## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

At last year’s convention, the synod authorized the Board of Trustees “to hire or call the persons needed to carry out the various goals of the LSI” (2004 *Synod Report*, Resolution 1.E, page 109). The board, in turn, authorized the LSI committee to seek a director with the understanding that funding for both this position and the LSI must be outside of the budget and regular financial support of the synod. Approval also has been granted to conduct a feasibility study.

A demographic study also was authorized by the board on behalf of the Lutheran Schools Initiative. Results of the study are as follows with 112 of 139 congregations reporting:

Total membership	16,845
Total number of males	7,746
Total number of females	8,953
Age breakdown of members:	
0-5 years	1,178
Elementary age	1,951
High School age	1,088
18-40 years	4,317
41-65 years	4,635
65+ years	3,397
Community types:	
Rural (country)	25
Less than 10,000	25
Greater than 10,000	62
Community growth during the past ten years:	
Grown in population	77
Decreased in population	19
Remained the same	16

At its May meeting, the board offered the position of president/CEO of the Lutheran Schools Initiative to Mr. Michael Butterfield.

## GRANTS

In 2004, the synod received \$66,000 in grants from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans which were used as follows:

\$13,000	for the 2005 Missionary Conference
\$20,000	for the Lutheran Schools Initiative
\$33,000	for the funding of a new home mission congregation.

## GENERAL

Authorization was given for the publication of 1,000 copies each of *I Believe: A Study of the Ecumenical Creeds*, *I Believe: A Study of the Augsburg Confession*, and *I Believe: A Study of the Small and Large Catechisms*.

Periodically the board reviews the reimbursement rate for travel to the Synod Convention and the General Pastoral Conference (*Handbook*, “Guidelines for the Board of Trustees, III, G). The multiple rider rate is being increased from 25¢/mile to 35¢ /mile; leaving the single rider reimbursement at 20¢/mile with a maximum reimbursement of \$600.00.

The board also is to set the reimbursement rate for the costs of travel by synod officers and board and committee members on synod business. The rate of #35¢/mile will become effective on August 1, 2005. Board and committee members are reminded that they should seek to travel at the most economical means.

## WILLS AND ESTATES

The synod gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following estates:

Henrietta Zagel	\$30,196	foreign missions
Milton Zagel	\$40,026	synod

Estates received by the college or the seminary are acknowledged within the respective reports.

## MISSIONS ADVANCEMENT PROJECT

The Missions Advancement Project (MAP) reports regularly to the board. This organization receives funds from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation (1999 *Synod Report*, page 134, resolution 8). The organization has its own Board of Directors. Four new directors have been elected to the board in the past twelve months. The following currently serve as members of the Board of Directors: the Rev. Karl Anderson, Mr. Dan Browing, Mr. Greg Griffin (chairman), Mr. Donald Heiliger, the Rev. Frederick Theiste. The board elected Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft as Assistant Treasurer and has asked the Rev. Steven Petersen to serve as Assistant Secretary.

A total of \$2,424,640 was distributed to various ELS entities in 2004 which includes a special grant of \$16,000/month for financial assistance for the “Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India” (LMSI).

## SYNODICAL BUDGET

The synod received \$757,062.23 toward the reduced 2004 synodical budget of \$765,000. Although this was a budget shortage of \$7,837.77, it reflects the largest budget contribution by the congregations of our synod in the past four years.

The synodical budget is supplemented, for a number of boards, by investment income from endowments, legacies, etc. The approximate total of 2004 expenditures for the synod was as follows:

Bethany Lutheran College	\$446,853
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	57,001
Home Mission	675,414
Foreign Missions	772,334
Evangelism	31,164

Education and Youth	163,346
Publications	105,455
Christian Service	69,250
Synod Fund	523,636
	<b>\$2,844,453</b>

## **2006 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. In anticipation of such continued support, the board recommends the following allocation of Program Funds for 2006:

Foreign Missions	230,000
Home Missions	300,000
TSA contributions	25,000
CDS match (3%)	30,000
Budget supplement	350,000
Board of Trustees	<u>65,000</u>
Total	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

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.

In 2004, the approval was received for the following projects:

Church signage for mission congregations	\$10,000
National conference for Lutheran elementary school teachers	25,000
Synod-wide audio conferencing	5,000
Synod web-site development	30,000
Festival sermon book	<u>10,000</u>
	<b>\$80,000</b>

In 2005, the Board of Trustees has recommended, and received approval, for the following projects:

Lutheran Schools Initiative (start-up costs)	\$130,000
Board for Education and Youth (continuing education grants)	30,000
Board for Education and Youth (school visitations)	<u>16,000</u>
	<b>\$176,000</b>

Applications for Special Project Grants for 2006 are to be made to the ELS Board of Trustees by August 1, 2005. Application forms are available through the secretary of the synod.

## **TASK FORCE STUDY**

Discussion has taken place concerning the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. A Task Force was appointed and the following report has been unanimously adopted by both the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees. It is reported for purposes of information only.

### **A. Purpose**

The Task Force was appointed by the president of the Evangelical Synod (ELS) and the chairman of the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College to study the present situation and recommend a course of action to achieve the objectives set forth by the president and treasurer of the ELS in a document dated May 25, 2004.

### **B. Task Force Members**

The members of the Task Force were Wilbur Lieske, Leroy Meyer, Lyle Fahning, and Harold Theiste (chairman). The Task Force was supported and assisted in its efforts by Greg Costello, Chief Financial Officer of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. and Keith Wiederhoeft, Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

### **C. Methodology**

The Task Force held three meetings during which it reviewed the 1966 Lease Agreement, the 1984 proposed lease document and the current status of property ownership for properties owned by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.) in support of their educational missions.

The Task Force held two teleconferences to consider the changes needed per the request of the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee at its March 29, 2005 meeting. In all its deliberations the Task Force was guided by at least four major considerations:

- 1) Affirm the ownership of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod;
- 2) Ensure that the ELS financials clearly show the assets of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary as assets of the ELS;
- 3) Support the need of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. to demonstrate financial viability:
  - a) to maintain national accreditation,
  - b) to remain qualified for student loans and grants from governmental agencies,
  - c) to obtain financial support from individuals, foundations ,and other private sources outside the ELS;
- 4) Ensure that the individuals serving on the governing boards of the ELS, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary can rely on the financial reporting of the respective entities and are not jeopardized by misleading or unsupported financial documents.

The ELS has a December 31 year-end and has a “review” of its financial statements. The college and seminary have a June 30th year-end. The college requires an “audit” of its financial statements because of federal and state funding, while the seminary uses “agreed upon procedures” in preparing its financial statements.

The two institutions, Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, are both included in Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.

### **D. Recommendations**

After study and discussion the Task Force recommends:

1. That title to all land and buildings utilized by Bethany Lutheran College and/or Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary be held by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
2. That the land, buildings and other capital improvements utilized by Bethany Lutheran College Inc. as part of its mission for educational purposes be part of a long-term capital lease agreement and be reported on the financial reports of the respective institutions.
3. That the ELS include in its review a supplemental statement showing a consolidated balance sheet listing the total assets of all three entities. The ELS will remove Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary assets (land, buildings and equipment) currently included on its financial statements from its books and records, since they will be included on the new supplemental consolidated balance sheet.
4. That all improvements, maintenance costs, and insurance coverage of said property, including special assessments for capital improvements, be the responsibility of the respective institution utilizing the asset(s).
5. That a new lease document be prepared which accurately states the legal description of all real properties utilized by Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. as part of its educational mission; and that the lease document include appropriate clauses to incorporate all future property purchases by Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. for its educational mission, unless specifically declined by the Board of Trustees of the ELS.



6. That the ELS and Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. establish a formal agreement regarding the synod's leasing of a portion of the current seminary building listing how costs are shared.
7. That Article II, Section E (Rules and Regulations for the Board of Trustees) be eliminated from the ELS handbook. (This section authorizes the Board of Trustees to provide "when necessary" housing to professors of the college and seminary.)
8. That a review be conducted of the exposure of the ELS and Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. to potential liabilities concerning their relationship, as well as the roles, responsibilities and accountability involving the individual members of the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees, and the officers of the synod.

## **GUIDELINES**

Current guidelines exist concerning the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the boards for Home Missions and Foreign Missions. There are no corresponding guidelines for the relationship between the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents together recommend the following guidelines for the Board of Trustees for adoption at this convention:

### **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

- A. The Board of Trustees, serving as the agent of the synod in financial transactions, has the responsibility and authority to make the final decision on all building projects, land purchases and capital improvements (cf. G, below) affecting the institutions of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. (cf. *Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Chapter V, Paragraph 1; Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Article VIII*)
- B. The Board of Regents and Board of Trustees shall endeavor to hold at least two joint meetings each year for the purpose of joint planning and communication. Except under unusual circumstances, the joint meetings will not be for the sole purpose of definitive action.
- C. The Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees shall establish a joint subcommittee (Regents-Trustees Subcommittee) consisting of three members from each board, with the president of the synod and the chairman of the Board of Regents serving in an advisory capacity.
- D. The purpose of the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee is to provide a vehicle for communications between the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees in all matters pertaining to the operation and planning for Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, especially, but not limited to, those matters involving land purchases, building projects and capital expenditures in support of the development of the institutions. The subcommittee is expected to meet on an as needed basis, but at least twice annually
- E. The subcommittee shall organize itself, including the election of a chairman and a secretary. These officer positions shall be elected each year. The chair and the secretary shall not be representatives of the same board.
- F. When proposing any building project, land purchase, or capital improvement on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College or Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Board of Regents shall first inform the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee of its intentions. While developing proposals, the Board of Regents shall communicate with the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee. The Board of Regents, together with the respective administration, shall do their own thorough planning, including the method of financing for the project.

1. The Trustees members of the subcommittee shall be responsible for advising the Board of Trustees of the matters being considered by the subcommittee and shall advise the subcommittee of any concerns raised by the Board of Trustees or their members as related to any plans or proposals in development by the Board of Regents.
  2. The Regent members of the subcommittee shall be responsible for advising the Board of Regents of any issues and concerns communicated to the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee by the Board of Trustees or the Trustee members of the subcommittee.
- G. After the approval of a project/plan by the Board of Regents, the plans and the method of financing will then be submitted to the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee. If the project/plan is larger than the threshold amount (periodically set by the Board of Trustees), the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee shall take action. If approved, it shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for final approval.
  - H. Building project recommendations from the joint subcommittee to the Board of Trustees shall include the total (all-in) cost and an updated report on the impact the new project will have on the debt load for the respective educational institution and for the synod.
  - I. Upon the project's approval and its implementation, should the anticipated cost of completion of the project exceed 102% of the originally approved sum of the all-in cost, the Regents-Trustees Subcommittee is expected to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for further action.
  - J. For the purpose of approving above projects, it is understood that plenary sessions (a quorum needed) of the Board of Trustees can take place via teleconferencing upon two days notice.
  - K. Once approved in final form by the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees, implementation shall involve only the Board of Regents in conjunction with the administration of the college or seminary. The Regents-Trustees Subcommittee shall not serve as the on-site building committee.
  - L. The Board of Regents has the sole responsibility to manage, maintain, and fully insure all acquired properties used by the college and seminary. The Board of Regents also sets the priorities for capital improvements for the college and seminary. It also will be responsible for including any new capital projects in its respective reports (college and seminary) to the next annual synod convention.
  - M. Any land or building sale proposed by the Board of Regents must be approved by the Board of Trustees. (see "Rules and Regulations for the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod," Article III.A.).

*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 2004. The Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. Wilbur Lieske were elected in 2003. The committee considers and makes recommendations regarding the investment of its assets and the use of the income from those investments. For the year 2005, a 5% pay-out is being granted from the endowments.

The rate of return for all investments for the calendar year 2004 was 9.43%. An accounting is found in the “Financial Statements and Accountant’s Review Report.”

*Mr. Leroy Meyer, chairman*

## **FINANCES**

### **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

**Resolution 1: Report of the Laymen’s Delegates Equalization Fund Committee**  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Laymen’s Delegates Equalization Fund Committee be accepted.

**Resolution 2: Report of the Board for Stewardship**  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Board for Stewardship be accepted.

**Resolution 3: Concerning the ELS Ambassador Program**  
WHEREAS, The Board for Stewardship has instituted the ELS Ambassador program, and,  
WHEREAS, The Board for Stewardship has published program details, and,  
WHEREAS, Not all congregations are currently participating in the ELS Ambassador program, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations who have not yet appointed an ELS Ambassador be encouraged to make such appointments.

**Resolution 4: Concerning Synod Offering Projections**  
WHEREAS, About 40 congregations have submitted a synod offering projection for 2005, and,  
WHEREAS, Offering projections are helpful in the budget planning of the synod, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That all congregations be encouraged to submit synod offering projections.

**Resolution 5: Report of the Planning and Coordinating Committee**  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Planning and Coordinating Committee be accepted.

**Resolution 6: Concerning the 2006 Budget Proposal of the Planning and Coordinating Committee**  
WHEREAS, The Planning and Coordinating Committee has recommended a 2006 budget, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the budget be adopted.

**Resolution 7: Report of the Board of Trustees**  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Board of Trustees be accepted.

**Resolution 8: Thanksgiving for 2004 Gifts**  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank God and acknowledge with thanks the grants from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, the estates of Henrietta Zagel, Milton Zagel and various memorial gifts received during 2004.

## **Resolution 9: Report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation be accepted.

## **Resolution 10: Financial Review and Treasurer's Supplement**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Financial Review and Treasurer's Supplement be accepted.

# **REPORT OF THE SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The members of the Synod Review Committee are Prof. Erling Teigen, chairman, Prof. J. B. Madson, Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. Norman Werner. Upon the resignation of the Rev. Milton Tweit in October 2004, the Rev. Ernest Geistfeld was appointed to fill that term until 2006. The committee met three times in February and March 2005. President John Moldstad is advisory.

The 2004 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod provided no assignments to the committee, therefore, all of the matters discussed were presented by the office of the President. Those items for consideration by the convention follow. Please note that proposed additions to the guidelines are underlined and recommended deletions are shown as ~~strikethroughs~~.

## **1. REMOVAL OF ARTICLE II. E. FROM THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents requested that the article concerning housing of faculty and staff be removed from the guidelines. The synod owns only one house at this time and there is no plan for supplying housing for the faculty or staff of the synod or its institutions in the future. The Synod Review Committee recommends retaining the authority to provide housing when and if necessary, but removing the detailed maintenance procedures.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **ARTICLE II: INTERNAL ORGANIZATION (p.9-A)**

- E. The synod authorizes the board to provide residences, when necessary, for its professors at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. ~~The Board of Trustees shall elect a representative from its own midst to serve with a representative of the Board of Regents and the college administration in the care of the synod-owned residences for the housing of college and seminary personnel. They shall be authorized to make needed minor repairs on the residences and shall make recommendations to the board regarding any major repairs needed on the residences. They shall report to each quarterly meeting of the board. The upkeep of the residences shall be paid from the Synod Fund~~

## **2. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2004 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS IN REGARD TO ADVANCE NOMINATING.**

### **Background:**

The 2004 Committee on Nominations recommended that: "at the end of each convention, the secretary of the synod shall publish known vacancies to be filled at the next convention and a box shall be placed at the rear of the convention for submitting names to the next synod Committee on Nominations. Getting the information out early may help more people become involved in the nominating process." The Committee on Nominations was disappointed by the lack of response that had followed its request for

candidates; therefore, additional time and expense was involved in the completion of the committee's work.

Discussion and Action:

The Synod Review Committee discussed the matter at two meetings. It recommends an action suggested by Secretary Ferkenstad, namely that he will prepare information for publication in a timely manner in the *Lutheran Sentinel* that will announce the offices that are to be filled at the next synod convention and whether they are positions for clergymen or laymen. No changes in the guidelines are recommended.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2004 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—NOMINATING INCUMBENTS.**

The Committee on Nominations recommended that “the Nominating Committee shall not necessarily feel compelled to nominate incumbents to offices when those names have not been submitted to the committee from outside sources before it assembles to do its work.” It has been concluded that incumbents are often nominated for reelection primarily because they have served previously, without regard to their ability to continue to be of service. The Synod Review Committee offers the following amendment to the guidelines:

#### **CONVENTION GUIDELINES**

##### **ARTICLE VIII: 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. The committee is not obligated to nominate an incumbent to continue his present position on a board or committee. However, the committee should consider whether that person has been suggested for nomination for re-election, the experience and continuity of service that he brings to the office and his ability to continue effective service.

### **4. SHOULD OFFICERS AND FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS?**

The Synod Review Committee discussed the conflict of interest that may occur when a synod employee serves on the Committee for Nominations and the possible undue influence that can be exercised by an officer who serves on the committee. Even if conflicts of interest and undue influence do not occur, the perception may be more damaging to public confidence in the nomination process than the actual fact. Therefore, the Synod Review Committee recommends the following amendment to the guidelines:

#### **CONVENTION GUIDELINES**

##### **ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (p.21-C)**

#### **A. Election of the Committee on Nominations**

5. No officer or employee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod shall serve on the Committee on Nominations.

The current 5. will become 6.

### **5. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE 2004 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—VACANCY APPOINTMENTS.**

Background:

The Committee on Nominations recommended that “when a vacancy occurs on any board or committee, except in the most extreme circumstances, the president shall be encouraged not to fill that vacancy by appointment. Instead he shall allow the next synod convention to hold an election to fill the vacancy.” Chapter V. Paragraph 1. (ELS *Handbook* p.6-D) of the Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod states that “[t]he synodical conventions shall...(d) elect such boards and committees as the synod may determine.” Chapter VII. Paragraph 1. (p.6-E) states: “The duties of the president shall

be (f) to supervise the work of the synod and of its elected boards and committees...” and “(g) to appoint replacements to the synod’s boards and committees when vacancies occur.”

#### Discussion:

It is the responsibility of the president to be certain that the boards are working as effectively as possible. If a vacancy on a board or committee might lead to a diminishing of the effectiveness of its work, the president should see to the filling of the vacancy as soon as possible. If, although shorthanded, the board or committee is believed to be able to conduct its assignments successfully, the president may determine that the filling of the vacancy should be left to the succeeding annual synod convention.

#### Conclusion:

The Synod Review Committee recommends the adoption of the following amendment to the bylaws. (NOTE: AN AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE.)

### **BYLAWS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

#### **CHAPTER VII---Jurisdiction and Duties of the Officers (p.6-E)**

##### **Paragraph 1---President**

The duties of the president shall be:

- g) to appoint replacements to the synod’s boards and committees when vacancies occur (*cf. Chapter VI, paragraph 4*); such appointees shall serve until the next regular convention,
  - (1) If a board or committee is not scheduled to meet before the next convention following the date of the vacancy, the position shall be filled by the next annual convention.
  - (2) A vacancy more than six months before the next annual synod convention should be filled by the president.
  - (3) If a vacancy occurs less than six months before the next convention and the president determines that the vacancy will harm the work of the body, he shall fill the vacancy by appointment; if the vacancy will not harm the work, it remains until the next election.
  - (4) At no time should a board or committee be lacking more than 25 percent of its elected membership unless it has no scheduled meetings;

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COLLOQUY COMMITTEE.**

Inasmuch as the current president of the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is also the chairman of the Doctrine Committee, the membership of the Colloquy Committee is potentially lacking one member. The following proposed amendment would permit the authorized strength of the committee:

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLOQUY COMMITTEE**

#### **Article I: MEMBERSHIP (p.16-a)**

- A. The Colloquy Committee shall consist of the following members:
  - 3. The chairman of the Doctrine Committee or another clergy member of the Doctrine Committee in case the chairman is the president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

#### **7. GUIDELINES FOR PASTORAL COLLOQUIES.**

It is the responsibility of the office of the president to determine that the clergy of the synod is in agreement with the doctrine and practice adopted by the synod. The current guidelines include administrative procedures, but require more clarity in the requirements necessary to becoming an informed ordained member of the synod.

## **8. BOARD FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA.**

The Synod Review Committee reviewed the report of the Lutheran Schools Initiative committee to the 2005 convention. The Synod Review Committee is aware of the proposals to restructure the synodical responsibilities for youth and education, and the possible creation of a new board.

## **9. GUIDELINES FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS.**

As a matter of information the Synod Review Committee was given two drafts of proposed guidelines concerning the relationship between the boards. There are no guideline amendments proposed to the convention at this time.

## **10. THREE-DAY WORK SESSIONS FOR THE CONVENTION.**

In view of the synodical officers' ongoing effort to make the synodical conventions more efficient, the Synod Review Committee discussed Article II of the Convention Guidelines (p. 21-A). The committee concluded that shortening the annual convention to three days might unnecessarily restrict the reporting of the work of the synod and its boards and committees to the convention. Some study of the provisions in Article II for possible revisions should be undertaken, but the committee recommends that the president and secretary continue to experiment with convention procedure in order to make the time spent as fulfilling, enlightening and educational as possible. There are no guideline amendments proposed at this time.

## **11. PASTORAL CONFERENCE GUIDELINES.**

The officers of the pastoral conference are in the process of drafting the guidelines directed by the 2004 convention (S.R. 2004, page 147, Resolution 2).

*Mr. Norman Werner, secretary*

*[Secretary's note: The report of the Synod Review Committee has been regarded as a working document and modified to correspond with the convention resolutions.]*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

#### **Resolution 1: Report of the Board of Regents "Type B" Members**

WHEREAS, This proposal involves a revision to the synod guidelines for the Board of Regents for "Type B" Members, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the proposal be referred to the Synod Review Committee.

#### **Resolution 2: Regarding Removal of Article II. E. from the rules and regulations from the Board of Trustees.**

WHEREAS, The Synod Review Committee recommends retaining the authority to provide housing for professors at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Seminary when and if necessary, therefore,  
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the Synod Review Committee's deletion of the detailed maintenance procedures.

#### **Resolution 3: Recommendation from the 2004 Committee on Nominations – Nominating Incumbents**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed amendment to the guidelines.



**Resolution 4: Should Officers and full-time employees of the ELS serve on the Committee on Nominations?**

(Note: “Full-time employees” include the following: Missions Counselor, Deferred Giving Counselor, Business Administrator, and President of the LSA)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed amendment to the guidelines.

**Resolution 5: Membership of the Colloquy Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed amendment to the guidelines.

**Resolution 6: Guidelines for Colloquies and the Colloquy Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED, That guidelines for colloquies and the colloquy committee be referred to the Synod Review Committee.

**Resolution 7: Guidelines for the Relationship Between the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents**

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents have unanimously approved the proposed guidelines, and,

WHEREAS, The Synod Review Committee will need to study how these guidelines will be inserted into the synod handbook, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed guidelines for immediate implementation, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the guidelines be sent to the Synod Review Committee for proper formatting and consistency in the *Synod Handbook*.

**Resolution 8: Vacancy Appointments**

(Note: An amendment of the bylaws requires a 2/3 majority vote.)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the proposed amendment to the bylaws.

**Resolution 9: Report of the Synod Review Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the Synod Review Committee’s report.

**Resolution 10: General Pastoral Conference**

WHEREAS, The pastors involved now have discretion to determine the location, and,

WHEREAS, The pastors better understand their unique needs for a meeting location, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod decline the memorial.

**Resolution 11: Convention Guidelines for Reports and Memorials to the Convention**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod refer the memorial to the Synod Review Committee

**Resolution 12: Convention Date**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2006 ELS Convention be held June 18-22, 2006 at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato, Minnesota.

*PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE AND REPORT  
ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

**Resolution 1**

WHEREAS, The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr., has faithfully served his first three years as fulltime 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: Special Occasions**

WHEREAS, We joyfully note a large number of special occasions such as installations and ordinations of pastors; assignments of vicars; anniversaries of congregations, buildings and schools; and dedications of facilities, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank God for these blessings that reflect His undeserved continuing grace within our midst.

### **Resolution 3: Closings**

WHEREAS, The president reports the closing of Holton Lutheran School, Holton, Michigan; the last service of East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa; and the last service of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Richardson, Texas, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we give thanks to our loving God for His blessings unto many in these areas given through the means of grace as distributed by His faithful workers.

### **Resolution 4: Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC)**

WHEREAS, The CELC recently met for its fifth triennial convention, and,

WHEREAS, This confessional conference continues to be blessed with unity of belief and growth to the number of twenty church bodies, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we join in thanks to God for the confessional unity and excellent fellowship we enjoy through this conference, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we seek God's continued blessings to this valuable organization.

### **Resolution 5**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President's Message and Report be accepted and printed in the 2005 *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 19, 2005) as well as the Monday (June 20, 2005) 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 21, 2005) 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 22, 2005) morning and afternoon business sessions, and found them to be correct.

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 23, 2005) morning and afternoon sessions.

*PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS*  
*ACTION OF THE SYNOD*

**Resolution 1: Pastoral Conference Minutes**

WHEREAS, Conference minutes from Circuits 1, 2, 5, 7 and 12, the West Coast Conference (Circuits 11, 12) and the Great Lakes Conference (Circuits 3, 4, 5, 6) have been received and reviewed, 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, and,

WHEREAS, Several circuits continue the practice of including sermon critiques in their study each year, 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 whenever possible, and,
- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That all conferences consider sermon critiques in their program agenda, and,
- D. 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*

**Resolution 1: Resolutions**

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of congratulations be sent to the following pastors on the occasion of their anniversaries in the pastoral office:

The Rev. Walther Gullixson (65 years)

The Rev. Paul Anderson (60 years)

The Rev. Juul Madson (60 years)

The Rev. Harry Bartels (50 years)

The Rev. Leonard Buelow (50 years)

The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad (25 years)

The Rev. Martin Hoesch (25 years)

The Rev. Matthew Luttman (25 years)

The Rev. William Mack (25 years)

The Rev. Daniel Metzger (25 years)

The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr. (25 years)

The Rev. David Russow (25 years)

The Rev. Thomas Smuda (25 years)

- 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:

The Rev. Bjarne Teigen

The Rev. El Roy Buhr

The Rev. Milton Tweit

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters acknowledging receipt of greetings to the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be sent to the following:

The Rev. Terry Schultz, Peruvian Lutheran Church

The Rev. Timothy Erickson, Chilean Mission

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kallangur, Queensland, Australia

- D. BE IT RESOLVED, That a letter of greeting be sent to the chairman of the CELC, and,

E. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of greeting be sent to our mission churches and partner churches.

## MEMORIALS

### **Subject: General Pastoral Conference**

WHEREAS, It is good for our pastors to gather in theological study and conversation each year in the General Pastoral Conference, and,

WHEREAS, The present location of the General Pastoral Conference is determined by the pastors, and,

WHEREAS, The location currently used for this yearly gathering is the Marvin M. Schwan Retreat and Conference Center at Trego, Wisconsin, and,

WHEREAS, This location is further removed from a large airport and the commute is a disincentive for many of our pastors, and,

WHEREAS, Transportation costs are rising and thus adding to the costs of the conference, and,

WHEREAS, Lodging costs and accommodation costs at the conference have also been rising in recent years, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in convention strongly encourage the General Pastoral Conference to give serious consideration to moving their annual gathering to our Bethany Lutheran College campus in Mankato, Minnesota, asking the college to work to accommodate the needs of the conference, thereby,

1. Helping the synod congregations in their stewardship to better manage costs in lodging and mileage for sending their pastors,
2. Giving the college greater visibility to the pastors (a great public relations opportunity),
3. Giving many of the college students the opportunity to interact with their pastors and take part in Christian fellowship in the “off” time of the conference, thus strengthening the ties between the college, the synod pastors, and the congregations,
4. Assisting the synod in cutting costs for faculty and others who attend from the synod (as they will not need transportation and lodging), and,
5. Giving Bethany Lutheran College the opportunity to collect conference use fees of the campus.

*Submitted by  
Saint Timothy Lutheran Church  
Williamsburg, Iowa*

### **Subject: Restructuring the Board for Foreign Missions**

WHEREAS, God has blessed the Evangelical Lutheran Synod with new mission fields which are being explored and supervised by the Board for Foreign Missions, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board be encouraged to consider restructuring options in consultation with the Synod Review Committee and report its recommendations, if any, to the 2006 Synod Convention.

*Submitted by  
The Rev. Theodore G. Gullixson*

**Subject: Convention Guidelines for Reports and Memorials to the Convention**

WHEREAS, Resolution 5 of the Miscellaneous Actions of the Synod (SR 2004, p 148) adopted the Synod Review Committee's proposed changes to the Convention Guidelines titled "Article IV: Reports and Memorials to the Convention" (SR 2004, p. 137-138), and,

WHEREAS, Paragraph C of those convention guidelines states:

"Where it is not possible to submit a memorial through a congregation, a memorial will be accepted from an individual member if it is concerned with a doctrinal matter and is so certified by the synod president." (SR 2004, p. 138), and,

WHEREAS, This implies that a permanent member of the synod no longer has authority to submit memorials to the synod convention for inclusion in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM), and,

WHEREAS, The proposed requirement that individual members may only submit doctrinal matters prevents individual synod members who may not serve member congregations of the synod from being able to include in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* healthy and God pleasing non-doctrinal matters for consideration and study of the synod prior to the convention, and,

WHEREAS, The proposed requirement that the president of the synod certify a memorial from an individual member of the synod on a doctrinal matter may unduly place the synod president in a conflict of interest, and,

WHEREAS, The only place where an individual member of the synod could propose a memorial would be on the floor of the synod convention, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod Review Committee be directed to re-consider the wording of Article IV, paragraph C that would allow individual members of the synod to submit memorials for publication in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* so that pastors and congregations have opportunity to study such memorials, and that would protect the integrity of the office of the synod president in doctrinal matters.

*Submitted by  
River Heights Lutheran Church  
East Grand Forks, Minnesota*

*Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
Trail, Minnesota*

*Nazareth Lutheran Church,  
Trail, Minnesota*

*Oak Park Lutheran Church  
Oklee, Minnesota*

**Subject: Women Pastors and Women Administering the Lord's Supper to Other Women**

WHEREAS, Scripture prohibits women from holding the pastoral office (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:5-7), and,

WHEREAS, The Gospel assigns to those holding the pastoral office the authority to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and to forgive and retain sins (Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:23; 1 Corinthians 4:1; Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 60-61), and,

WHEREAS, Public statements from clergy of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) have denied these truths, stating that the Scriptures do not forbid women from being pastors and/or administering the Lord's Supper to other women, (Examples: *Feminism*, by Nathan R. Pope, Northwestern Publishing House, 2003, pages 242-243; *Forward in Christ*, July, 2004, Q & A, Topic: Holy Communion, Richard Gurgel; WELS Council of Presidents Report, January, 2005), and,

WHEREAS, The Lord encourages us to admonish erring brothers, speaking the truth in love (Colossians 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:15), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, express our concerns regarding unscriptural doctrine and practice in these matters to our brothers in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod admonishing and encouraging them to return to and maintain Biblical doctrine and practice.

*Submitted by  
Wayfarer's Chapel Lutheran Church  
Fillmore, California*

### **Subject: Role of Women in the Church**

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has had a long-lasting and treasured relationship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," and,

WHEREAS, It sometimes becomes necessary to admonish one another in love (Romans 15:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15), and,

WHEREAS, Our sister synod has allowed certain materials to be published in her midst which state:

"The Bible never says that women cannot be pastors. It does say that a woman is not supposed to have authority over a man in the church or teach him the Word.... Would that mean that a woman could serve as a pastor... in the hypothetical situation that her entire flock were made up of women? Yes. Would that ever happen? Hardly, but that's not the point. It is the principle that I'm after. Women can have authority over women and can teach the Word to women in the local church or church-related circles."<sup>1</sup>

"Would that mean that a woman could commune another woman in a parish, provided she did so under the auspices or supervision of a male pastor? Yes. Could that ever happen? Perhaps, if the parish is too large for one pastor to handle, the church may assign the pastor a deaconess who would assist him in ministering to elderly women....

"Could a woman do all the things previously mentioned in a special setting, like a retreat that gathers women from various congregations, where it would be a woman leading women in Word and sacrament? Yes, on principle. Whether that is advisable and orderly becomes another debate....

"What about women lectors? Reading the Sunday lessons has been the time-honored responsibility of the parish pastor. But as Brug admits, our Lutheran practice has not been entirely consistent. We allow children to make Christmas recitations, and no one seems to have a problem with women soloists who sing the "Verse of the Day." But we have no female lectors. Why the inconsistency? Perceptions. And motives. Brug says, 'From a practical point of view this practice [female lectors] would be a source of confusion and offence, since some churches have used and are using such roles for women as stepping-stones toward the assumption of the pastoral ministry by women.'"<sup>2</sup>

"However, if those gathered were all women, it would not be wrong for a woman to administer the Lord's Supper. That sacrament would be just as valid as any sacrament administered by a man."<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, God through St. Paul, in the First Epistle to the Corinthians writes, "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive as the law says," and thereby excludes women from being lectors, pastors, or to serve in any related role in the Divine Service, and,

WHEREAS, God through St. Paul, in the First Epistle to Timothy writes, "I do not permit a woman to have authority over a man but to be in silence...", and since a woman's very presence as a pastor would exclude men from the Divine Service and the Sacrament, and therefore she would be exercising authority over men, and,

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Synod has stated that this is not WELS practice, but has not condemned these matters as false doctrine nor condemned the principles of women pasturing by Word and Sacrament, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod fraternally admonish the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod for allowing these false doctrines to be published and promoted within their midst, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to condemn these teachings in accord with Scripture, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to use the inspired Word of God to correct, rebuke and instruct those who have authored these and similar materials, that they may, by the work of the Holy Spirit, be brought back to the truth.

#### **(End Notes)**

<sup>1</sup> Nathan Pope, *Feminism: Understanding and Balancing Its Impact on Marriage Family, and Church*. (Northwestern Publishing House, 2003), p. 242.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 243

<sup>3</sup> "Q&A at the foot of the cross; Topic: Holy Communion," *Forward in Christ*, Volume 91, No. 7 (July 1, 2004).

*Submitted by  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Litchfield, Illinois*

#### **Subject: Fraternal Correction on the Subject of Women Pastors**

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have enjoyed a long-lasting relationship which is of great spiritual benefit, and,

WHEREAS, Scripture directs us to admonish one another in love (Romans 15:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15), and,

WHEREAS, From time to time both our synods have each benefited from Scriptural and brotherly correction that this godly fellowship affords, and,

WHEREAS, Scripture is the only norm and standard for the teaching of the Church, for "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16), and,

WHEREAS, Scripture assigns to those holding the pastoral office the authority to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and to forgive and retain sins (Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:23; 1 Corinthians 4:1; The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 60,61), and,

WHEREAS, Scripture prohibits women from holding the pastoral office (1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:5-7), and,

WHEREAS, Some pastors in the Wisconsin Synod have allowed certain materials to be published in her midst which state:

"The Bible never says that women cannot be pastors. It does say that a woman is not supposed to have authority over a man in the church or teach him the Word.... Would that mean that a woman could serve as a pastor...in the hypothetical situation that her entire flock were made up of women? Yes. Would that ever happen? Hardly, but that's not the point. It is the principle that I'm after. Women can have authority over women and can teach the Word to women in the local church or church-related circles."

"Would that mean that a woman could commune another woman in a parish, provided she did so under the auspices or supervision of a male pastor? Yes. Could that ever happen? Perhaps, if the parish is too large for one pastor to handle, the church may assign the pastor a deaconess who would assist him in ministering to elderly women....



“Could a woman do all the things previously mentioned in a special setting, like a retreat that gathers women from various congregations, where it would be a woman leading women in Word and sacrament? Yes, on principle. Whether that is advisable and orderly becomes another debate.”

“What about women lectors? Reading the Sunday lessons has been the time-honored responsibility of the parish pastor. But as Brug admits, our Lutheran practice has not been entirely consistent. We allow children to make Christmas recitations, and no one seems to have a problem with women soloists who sing the ‘Verse of the Day.’ But we have no female lectors. Why the inconsistency? Perceptions. And motives. Brug says, ‘From a practical point of view this practice [female lectors] would be a source of confusion and offense, since some churches have used and are using such roles for women as stepping-stones toward the assumption of the pastoral ministry by women.’” The above paragraphs are found in *Feminism* [Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2004], by Nathan R. Pope, pp. 242-43

“However, if those gathered were all women, it would not be wrong for a woman to administer the Lord’s Supper. That sacrament would be just as valid as any sacrament administered by a man.” This paragraph is found in “Q&A at the foot of the cross” [Topic: Holy Communion], by Richard L. Gurgel, *Forward In Christ*, Vol. 91, No. 7 [July 1, 2004]

WHEREAS, These writings violate the teachings of Scripture where God through St. Paul, in the Second Epistle to the Corinthians writes, “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says,” and thereby excludes women from being lectors, Pastors, or to serve in administering the Means of Grace to those assembled for public worship, and,

WHEREAS, These writings violate the teachings of Scripture where God through St. Paul, in the First Epistle to Timothy writes, “I do not permit a woman to have authority over a man but to be in silence. I do not permit a woman to teach nor to have authority over a man,” and since the very presence of a woman as a pastor would exclude men from the Divine Service and the Sacrament, and therefore she would be exercising authority over men, and,

WHEREAS, The Scriptural doctrine is clearly stated in the ELS *Catechism & Explanation* (2001)

Question “307. How do Christians publicly administer the Office of the Keys? Christians publicly administer the Office of the Keys by calling qualified men to forgive and to retain sins on their behalf (Office of the Public Ministry). The Bible forbids women to serve as pastors.” (page 195), and,

WHEREAS, The Scriptural doctrine is also stated in the WELS Catechism:

Question “313. Who only may serve as pastors in our congregations?

313a Only men who have all the qualifications that God has established may serve as pastors in our congregations.

313b. Only men whom the Holy Spirit has led the congregations may serve as pastors in our congregations. (divine call)”

(David Kuske’s *Luther’s Catechism*, Revised Edition, 1998, NPH, page 267), and,

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Synod has stated that it is not WELS practice to call women as pastors, but has not condemned this teaching as false doctrine nor condemned the principles of women pastoring by Word and Sacrament, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod fraternally admonish the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod for allowing these false doctrines to be published and promoted within their midst, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to publicly condemn these teachings in accord with Scripture, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod encourage the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to use the inspired Word of God to correct, rebuke and instruct and restore those who have authored these and other similarly erring

materials, that they may, by the work of the Holy Spirit, be brought back to the truth.

*Submitted by*  
*Mt. Olive Lutheran Church*  
*Trail, Minnesota*  
*Nazareth Lutheran Church,*  
*Trail, Minnesota*  
*Oak Park Lutheran Church*  
*Oklee, Minnesota*  
*The Rev. Christopher Dale*  
*Ulen, Minnesota*

**Subject: Ministry**

WHEREAS, The Presidium's Committee on Ministry produced what is in most respects a fine statement of our synod's biblical and confessional doctrine on the Office of the Public Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and,

WHEREAS, In response to suggestions offered by pastors in our synod, President Moldstad and Vice President Obenberger have improved the original PCM theses, and,

WHEREAS, There still remains a legitimate concern that the document does not yet adequately distinguish between what is by divine right and what is by human right, and,

WHEREAS, The proper distinction between what God commands for His Church and what God permits His Church to do in Christian freedom is of the utmost importance, and,

WHEREAS, Several pastors of our synod have worked together to revise the PCM theses further in order to sharpen the necessary distinction between what is by divine right and what is by human right, and,

WHEREAS, This revised version of the PCM theses remains close to the wording proposed by the PCM and the Presidium, with changes provided for the purpose of clarifying the distinction between what is by divine right and what is by human right, and,

WHEREAS, This revised version of the PCM theses clearly sets forth the biblical and confessional teaching of our synod, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod adopt the Circuit 8 Revision of the PCM Theses as the official teaching of our synod on this topic, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Presidium's Committee on Ministry as well as President Moldstad and Vice President Obenberger be thanked and commended for their work, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That we implore our gracious God to keep us steadfast in His Word and truth and at peace with one another.

*Submitted by*  
*River Heights Lutheran Church*  
*East Grand Forks, Minnesota*  
*Mt. Olive Lutheran Church*  
*Trail, Minnesota*  
*Nazareth Lutheran Church,*  
*Trail, Minnesota*  
*Oak Park Lutheran Church*  
*Oklee, Minnesota*  
*First American Lutheran Church*  
*Mayville, North Dakota*  
*Wayfarers' Chapel Lutheran Church*  
*Fillmore, California*

## **The Circuit 8 Revision of the Public Ministry of the Word Salvation Won by Christ and Received through Faith**

*We teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God accounts as righteousness in His sight, Rom. 3 and 4. (Augsburg Confession IV, Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, 9).*

### **Salvation Distributed**

*That we may obtain this faith, the office of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, who works faith where and when it pleases God in those who hear the Gospel. That is, God, not because of our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into favor for Christ's sake.*

*We condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Spirit comes without the external Word but through their own preparations and works (AC V, ELH, 9).*

## **The Role of the Church in Salvation Distributed**

### **I. The Office of the Keys**

“The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth, to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners and to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent” (Luther’s Small Catechism, “The Office of the Keys and Confession”, ELS 2001 ed., Matthew 16:19, Matthew 18:18-20, John 20:21-23; also see Smalcald Articles, Part III, Art. IV.) The Office of the Keys is the church’s authority to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and practice church discipline. Individual Christians also speak the Gospel of forgiveness to others, forgive the sins of those who sin against them, confront in a brotherly way those who need to repent of their sins, and in “the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren” comfort one another with the words of the Gospel. This may be called the private or unofficial use of the keys. (1 Peter 2:9, Matthew 18:15-18, Matthew 6:12 – The 5th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, SA Part III, Art. IV). Christians use the keys publicly when, as Christ’s church and by God’s authority, they call scripturally qualified males to forgive and retain sins in the stead and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:14-17, Acts 14:23, Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 67). All Christians also have the right and the duty to judge the teaching of their pastors and teachers; they are to beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15-16, 1 John 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:16).

1. We reject any teaching that denies individual Christians the authority to speak both the law and the gospel privately in their calling as the Universal Priesthood of all Believers.
2. We reject any teaching that treats the Universal Priesthood and the Public Ministry as one and the same thing.

### **II. The Public Ministry of the Word and Sacraments**

The Lord has instituted the Public Ministry of the Word and Sacraments to administer the Office of the Keys publicly. “That we may obtain this faith, the office of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted” (Augsburg Confession V). The divine institution of this preaching and teaching Office is not located in just one particular passage. Rather, throughout the New Testament, a divine ordering, establishment, and institution of the preaching-teaching office is indicated and presupposed (John 20:21-23, John 21:15ff, Matthew 28:18-20 [NKJV], Matthew 9:36-38, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 4:1; see also Treatise 10). Those in this office by virtue of God’s call through the church perform their duties in the name and in the stead of Christ and for the benefit of the church, so that whenever we hear Christ’s servant

we hear Christ Himself speak. (Luke 10:16, AC XXVIII, 22, Apology of the Augsburg Confession VII & VIII, 28, 47).

3. We reject any teaching that the Public Ministry of the Word is a development of the church and not a divine institution.

4. We reject any teaching that the Public Ministry of the Word is established merely by the orderly carrying out of the universal priesthood according to 1 Corinthians 14:40.

### **The Pastoral Office (The Public Ministry in the Strict Sense)<sup>1</sup>**

Since God has given the Public Ministry of the Word to His church the church is commanded to appoint ministers who will preside over the churches (2 Timothy 2:2, Titus 1:5, Ap XIII, 12), who must have the scriptural qualifications to carry out the duties God entrusted to the office. “The Gospel requires of those who preside over the churches that they preach the Gospel, remit sins, administer the sacraments, and, in addition, exercise jurisdiction, that is, excommunicate those who are guilty of notorious crimes and absolve those who repent....[T]his power belongs by divine right to all who preside over the churches, whether they are called pastors, presbyters or bishops” (Treatise 60-61). God commands that properly called men publicly preach, teach, administer the Sacraments, forgive and retain sins, and have oversight of doctrine in the name of Christ and the church (1 Timothy 2:11-12). This presiding office, whether it is called pastor, shepherd, bishop, presbyter, elder or by any other name, is indispensable for the church (Luke 10:16, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11–12, 1 Peter 5:1-2).

5. We reject any teaching that denies the exercise of spiritual oversight by the pastoral office.

6. We reject any teaching that denies the divine institution of the pastoral office.

7. We reject any teaching that the apostolic authority of the public ministry of the Word or the validity of the sacraments depends on or is derived from ordination by a bishop standing in an unbroken chain of succession from the apostles, or the necessity of maintaining a “historic episcopate.”

Scripture clearly teaches that women may not be pastors. This office includes the exercise of authority over men (1 Corinthians 14:34-35, 1 Timothy 2:11-12) and when Scripture refers to one who officiates at the Word and Sacrament liturgy it speaks in male terms (1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Timothy 4:13). Therefore women shall not read the Scripture lessons in the Divine Service, preach the sermon, administer Baptism or distribute the Lord’s Supper, for these things are intimately related to the pastoral office (1 Timothy 3:1-2, 1 Corinthians 4:1).<sup>2</sup>

The church is free to divide the labors of the pastoral office among qualified men (1 Corinthians 1:17, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6). While every incumbent of this office must be qualified to do what the office requires, it is not necessary that every incumbent of the office regularly carry out all of its duties. Incumbents of this office may be serving as missionaries, assistant pastors, professors of theology, chaplains, etc.

8. We reject the teaching that the public ministry of the Word is limited to the ministry of the parish pastor.

One cannot hold the Office of the Public Ministry of Word and Sacrament unless called by God through His church (Romans 10:14-17, AC XIV). The apostles were called immediately, directly by God, to the Public Ministry of the Word. Since the time of the apostles God calls mediately (Acts 1:15-26) through the church (1 Corinthians 3:4-9, 21-23) so that God’s ministers will continue to administer publicly His means of grace for the salvation of souls (Acts 14:23, 20:28, Titus 1:5). Through the regular call (*rite vocatus*, AC XIV), the church obligates her pastors to teach in accordance with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Those in the Public Ministry of the Word by virtue of a regular call are to conform to the specific and general qualifications given in Scripture

(See especially 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, as well as directives such as Matthew 28:19, 20, John 21: 15-17, Acts 14:23, and 20:28.)

9. We reject the teaching that every Christian is a public minister of the Word.

10. We reject any teaching that one may publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call (AC XIV).

### **III. Other Sacred Churchly Offices (The Public Ministry in a Wider Sense)**

The church is free to establish offices that assist the Public Ministry of the Word and Sacraments<sup>3</sup> (for example, vicars, principals, Lutheran elementary school teachers and other teachers) but must not go beyond the bounds of God's commands when calling men or women to serve in these offices (1 Corinthians 14:34, 1 Timothy 2:12f, etc.). The church in her freedom determines the duties of such Sacred Ecclesiastical Offices. (Acts 6:1-5, Philippians 1:1, 1 Timothy 3:8).

### **Teachers of Children in Christian Schools**

In the Old and New Testaments, God commands parents to train their children in the fear of the Lord and to teach them His holy Word (Deuteronomy 6:1-7, Matthew 15:4, Ephesians 6:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15). The church may establish Christian schools to help parents raise their children in God's Word. "Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach him" (Large Catechism, I, 141). When the church takes on this responsibility she does not take it away from the parents of the children but rather assists the parents in carrying out their God-given duties. God commands the pastors of the church to feed both the sheep and the lambs of the flock (John 21:15-17). Teachers of children in Christian schools established by the church therefore assist both parents and pastors in their divinely ordained duties. While the office of Christian schoolteacher is established by human right, the work entrusted to this office is ordained by God.

Calls are extended to teachers who teach God's word to children in Christian schools because they are entrusted with a Sacred Ecclesiastical Office that has been established by the church and are therefore servants of the church. They are accountable to the church and to the parents of the children for their teaching. The pastors of congregations that establish Christian schools are also accountable for the teaching of Christian schoolteachers in those schools (Acts 20:28, 2 Timothy 4:1-5).

11. We reject any teaching that denies the church the freedom to establish Sacred Ecclesiastical Offices to assist the ministry of the Word.

12. We reject any teaching which would conclude that the means of grace are effective only when used by a pastor.

13. We reject any teaching that makes the Lutheran elementary school teacher, Sunday school teacher or any other office of churchly origin equivalent to the pastoral office.

### **IV. Ordination and Installation**

In the Lutheran Confessions ordination is understood as the rite by which the church confirms a man to be suitable for a call to the pastoral office (SA III, X; Treatise 66-69). Historically the Lutheran church has reserved this rite for those entering the pastoral office.

The church has also used rites of installation for men serving in the Public Ministry of the Word and Sacraments as well as for those who serve in Sacred Churchly Offices. Through such rites, the church makes clear that those installed in office have been properly called to it and invokes the Lord's blessing on them. At the same time those who are called to serve the people of God give public testimony to their submission to the Word of God as it is taught in the Lutheran Confessions. Rites of installation have also been used among us for congregational officers and occasional teachers in Christian congregations (Sunday School teachers, etc.).

## (End Notes)

- <sup>1</sup> The office to which God has entrusted the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments is called the pastoral office. Usually the term “pastoral office” refers to the pastorate of the local congregation, but incumbents of this office may be serving in specialized fields of labor in which they do not regularly carry out all the duties of the office. The pastoral office is called the Public Ministry in the Strict Sense because it is specifically instituted by God and is therefore necessary for the church. Other Sacred Ecclesiastical Offices (see III. below) are called the Public Ministry in a Wider Sense because they are not specifically instituted by God and they are not a necessity for the church, but they are established by the church in her Christian freedom.
- <sup>2</sup> Certainly emergency situations may arise, such as when our catechism states “Q. Who should administer baptism? A. Ordinarily the called minister of Christ should administer Baptism, but in emergency any Christian may and should do so” (ELS Catechism, p. 182). For further discussion of emergency situations, see the 1862 Lay Ministry Theses parr. 5–7 (*Grace for Grace*, p. 139).
- <sup>3</sup> Christian freedom is given to the church by God. “By Divine right” refers to those things which are commanded by God; “By Human right” refers to those things neither commanded nor forbidden by God which Christians may arrange in their freedom. (Acts 6:1-7, 15:22-29, 4:32, 5:29, 1 Cor 3:21,22, 14:40, Gal 5:1, etc.).







# **STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



**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

March 30, 2005

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, 2004 and 2003, and for 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 that the financial statements of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary should be consolidated into the financial statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Management has elected to include in the Synod's financial statements certain land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary net of debt as disclosed in Note 1 of the financial statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief as of March 30, 2005, the following representations made to you during your reviews.

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.
2. During the year 2003 –
  - a. We reclassified land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary from permanently restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets.
  - b. We recorded the land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary net of bonded debt.
3. We have made available to you all –
  - a. Financial records and related data.
  - b. Minutes of the meetings of stockholders, directors, and committees of directors, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not been prepared.
4. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
5. There are no material transactions that have not been properly recorded in the accounting records underlying the financial statements.
6. We acknowledge our responsibility to prevent and detect fraud.
7. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management or others.
8. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, or others.
9. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.



**Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod**

www.ev.luthsyn.org

Peterson & Company, P.A.

Page 2

March 30, 2005

**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

10. There are no material losses (such as from obsolete inventory or purchase or sales commitments) that have not been properly accrued or disclosed in the financial statements.
11. There are no:
  - a. 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.
  - b. Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised us are probable of assertion that must be disclosed in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5.
  - c. Other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by FASB Statement No. 5.
12. 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.
13. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
14. The following have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements:
  - a. Related party transactions and related accounts receivable or payable, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees.
  - b. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Synod is contingently liable.
15. There are no 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 Synod vulnerable to the risk of a near-term severe impact that have not been properly disclosed in the financial statements.
16. 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.
17. We have responded fully and truthfully to all inquiries made to us by you during your review.

Keith Wiederhoeft  
Name

Bvs. Adm. / Treasurer  
Title

Debbie M. Luckmann  
Name

Administrative Assistant  
Title

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
Review

December 31, 2004

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD  
Mankato, Minnesota

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Accountants' Review Report	[150]
Statements of Financial Position	[151]
Statements of Activities	[152]
Statements of Cash Flows	[154]
Notes to Financial Statements	[155]



Northwestern Office Building ■ Suite 407  
209 South Second Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
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, 2004 and 2003, 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 matters 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, the financial statements of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary should be consolidated into the financial statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management has elected to include with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod property, plant, and equipment, certain land and buildings, net of debt, of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, which have also been recorded in the College and Seminary financial statements. The effects of these departures from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the financial statements are not known.

*Peterson & Company, P.A.*  
Certified Public Accountants

Mankato, Minnesota  
April 26, 2005

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
Mankato, Minnesota  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$288,984	\$129,930
Accounts receivable	9,708	23,179
Interest receivable	4,988	9,242
Inventory of publications	82,661	88,056
Prepaid expenses	34,690	19,897
Current portion of loans receivable	327,560	141,310
Loans receivable	1,422,017	1,807,677
Investments	13,287,089	12,469,541
Property, plant, and equipment, net	<u>43,811,775</u>	<u>44,269,334</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$59,269,472</u></u>	<u><u>\$58,958,166</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$57,088	\$61,406
Interest payable	5,649	5,785
Other liabilities	2,507	26,782
Notes payable	1,049,984	1,095,476
Charitable gift annuity	150,718	158,441
Current portion of mortgages payable	47,474	38,932
Mortgages payable	<u>367,693</u>	<u>422,997</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>1,681,113</u>	<u>1,809,819</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Designated	2,110,616	1,769,070
Undesignated	<u>43,876,085</u>	<u>44,258,114</u>
	45,986,701	46,027,184
Temporarily restricted	7,105,534	6,645,186
Permanently restricted	<u>4,496,124</u>	<u>4,475,977</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u>57,588,359</u>	<u>57,148,347</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>\$59,269,472</u></u>	<u><u>\$58,958,166</u></u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
Mankato, Minnesota

**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2004

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>				
Contributions				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$931,642	\$160,282	\$20,147	\$1,112,071
Estate, trusts, and memorials	62,885			62,885
Thrivent	65,985			65,985
Helping Hands	280,980			280,980
Schwan funds	1,080,000			1,080,000
Others	20,972			20,972
Interest	11,940	154,695		166,635
Investment income	48,451	234,716		283,167
Rent and royalties	885			885
Publications	30,591			30,591
Registration fees	60,935			60,935
Subscriptions	44,413			44,413
Bad debt recovery	140,000			140,000
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on long-term investments	134,434	624,826		759,260
Net assets released from restrictions	714,171	(714,171)		
	<u>3,628,284</u>	<u>460,348</u>	<u>20,147</u>	<u>4,108,779</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Bethany Lutheran College	451,491			451,491
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	61,740			61,740
Christian services	96,974			96,974
Education and youth	163,828			163,828
Evangelism	31,164			31,164
Foreign missions	783,038			783,038
Home missions	707,341			707,341
Publications	93,248			93,248
Synod Fund	546,249			546,249
Other programs and costs	276,025			276,025
Depreciation	21,443			21,443
	<u>3,232,541</u>	<u>0</u>	<u></u>	<u>3,232,541</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	395,743	460,348	20,147	876,238
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING</b>	46,027,184	6,645,186	4,475,977	57,148,347
Additions and improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, funded by gifts and grants to the College, net of Schwan Retreat Center, depreciation and disposals	(436,226)			(436,226)
<b>NET ASSETS, END</b>	<u>\$45,986,701</u>	<u>\$7,105,534</u>	<u>\$4,496,124</u>	<u>\$57,588,359</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
Mankato, Minnesota

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>				
Contributions				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$845,460	\$66,868		\$912,328
Estate, trusts, and memorials	72,027			72,027
Thrivent	78,900			78,900
Helping Hands	244,211			244,211
Schwan funds	1,000,000			1,000,000
Others	24,542			24,542
Interest	13,193	230,287		243,480
Investment income	54,216	239,640		293,856
Rent and royalties	494			494
Publications	19,883			19,883
Registration fees	36,429			36,429
Subscriptions	53,928			53,928
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on long-term investments	379,040	1,586,069		1,965,109
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>736,717</u>	<u>(736,717)</u>		
	<u>3,559,040</u>	<u>1,386,147</u>		<u>4,945,187</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Bethany Lutheran College	461,410			461,410
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	62,341			62,341
Christian services	86,259			86,259
Church extension	111,564			111,564
Education and youth	95,806			95,806
Evangelism	29,887			29,887
Foreign missions	1,058,383			1,058,383
Home missions	713,925			713,925
Publications	106,402			106,402
Synod Fund	590,426			590,426
Other programs and costs	97,397			97,397
Depreciation	<u>21,443</u>			<u>21,443</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>3,435,243</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>3,435,243</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	123,797	1,386,147	\$0	1,509,944
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING</b>	<u>2,885,048</u>	<u>5,259,039</u>	<u>46,438,267</u>	<u>54,582,354</u>
Additions and improvements to real estate at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, funded by gifts and grants to the College, net of Schwan Retreat Center, depreciation and disposals	1,056,049			1,056,049
Reclassify fixed assets	<u>41,962,290</u>		<u>(41,962,290)</u>	
<b>NET ASSETS, END</b>	<u>\$46,027,184</u>	<u>\$6,645,186</u>	<u>\$4,475,977</u>	<u>\$57,148,347</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
Mankato, Minnesota

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

	For the Year Ended December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase in net assets	\$876,238	\$1,509,944
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	21,443	21,443
Allowance for bad debt reduced	(140,000)	
Amortization of discount on charitable gift annuities	13,051	23,189
Unrealized (gains) losses on investments	(759,260)	(1,965,109)
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	13,471	(10,796)
Interest receivable	4,254	7,608
Inventory of publications	5,395	2,185
Prepaid expenses	(14,793)	47,331
Investments	(158,288)	(1,745,948)
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(4,318)	(61,271)
Interest payable	(136)	(4,466)
Other liabilities	(24,275)	(26,814)
<b>NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>(167,218)</u>	<u>(2,202,704)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from investments	100,000	750,000
Loans to congregations	(431,748)	(853,110)
Repayment of loans	771,158	2,908,648
Purchase land		(360,754)
Purchase furniture and vehicle	(110)	
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>439,300</u>	<u>2,444,784</u>
<b>CASH USED FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment of mortgages and notes	(95,814)	(302,117)
Payments of charitable gift annuities	(20,774)	(20,775)
Additional notes and accumulated interest	3,560	5,986
<b>NET CASH USED FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>(113,028)</u>	<u>(316,906)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	<u>159,054</u>	<u>(74,826)</u>
<b>CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>129,930</u>	<u>204,756</u>
<b>CASH, END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$288,984</u></u>	<u><u>\$129,930</u></u>
 <b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>		
Cash paid for interest	\$90,068	\$116,488
Noncash acquisition of property, plant, and equipment	979,726	2,179,068

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.

**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 board of trustees of the Synod has majority control over Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Therefore, the financial statements of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary should be consolidated into the financial statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- 2) The Synod has elected to include in their financial statements certain land and buildings, net of debt, of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

**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.

During the year 2003, the Synod's management has elected to:

- 1) reclassify land and buildings of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary from permanently restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets.
- 2) record the land and buildings of the College and Seminary net of bonded debt.

**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. The Synod had cash deposits in excess of federal insurance limits of \$199,343 as of December 31, 2004. As of December 31, 2003 cash deposits were fully insured.

**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.

**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 for Church Extension, Inc., 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 Theological 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,	
	2004	2003
Corporate bonds and bond funds	\$2,088,496	\$4,019,205
Domestic equity and equity funds	6,613,969	6,354,943
Foreign equity funds	2,521,981	646,944
International bonds	53,896	
Real estate funds	550,892	799,576
Short-term money funds and other	1,252,855	443,873
Lutheran Association for Church Extension, Inc., certificates	205,000	205,000
	<u>\$13,287,089</u>	<u>\$12,469,541</u>

Assets held by the Synod under the charitable gift agreements as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 total \$489,942 and \$436,032, respectively, are included in the various investment categories.

	December 31,	
	2004	2003
Investment return is summarized as follows:		
Interest and dividend income	\$283,167	\$293,856
Realized and unrealized gains	<u>759,260</u>	<u>1,965,109</u>
Total	<u>\$1,042,427</u>	<u>\$2,258,965</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 - 8% per annum. The Synod subsidized 25% to 90% of the interest on loans to mission congregations.

	December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Beginning balance	\$2,088,987	\$4,144,525
Additions	431,748	853,110
Payments received	<u>(771,158)</u>	<u>(2,908,648)</u>
Ending balance	1,749,577	2,088,987
Current portion	<u>(327,560)</u>	<u>(141,310)</u>
Allowance for bad debts		<u>(140,000)</u>
	<u>\$1,422,017</u>	<u>\$1,807,677</u>

Loan receivables of approximately \$15,000 and \$19,000 were over 90 days past due at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

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			
	<u>12/31/04</u>	<u>6/30/04</u>	<u>6/30/04</u>	
	Evangelical	Bethany	Bethany	
	Lutheran	Lutheran	Lutheran	
	Synod	College	Theological	
			Seminary	<u>Total</u>
Land and land improvements	\$782,393	\$7,186,118	\$11,500	\$7,980,011
Buildings	644,096	43,152,421	2,720,231	46,516,748
Equipment	<u>34,790</u>			<u>34,790</u>
	1,461,279	50,338,539	2,731,731	54,531,549
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(231,617)</u>	<u>(10,488,157)</u>		<u>(10,719,774)</u>
	<u>\$1,229,662</u>	<u>\$39,850,382</u>	<u>\$2,731,731</u>	<u>\$43,811,775</u>

	For the Year Ended			
	<u>12/31/03</u>	<u>6/30/03</u>	<u>6/30/03</u>	<u>Total</u>
Land and land improvements	\$782,283	\$7,074,832	\$11,500	\$7,868,615
Buildings	644,096	42,508,053	2,720,231	45,872,380
Equipment	<u>34,790</u>			<u>34,790</u>
	1,461,169	49,582,885	2,731,731	53,775,785
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(210,174)</u>	<u>(9,296,277)</u>		<u>(9,506,451)</u>
	<u>\$1,250,995</u>	<u>\$40,286,608</u>	<u>\$2,731,731</u>	<u>\$44,269,334</u>

The 2003 fixed assets have been restated because Bethany Lutheran College's bonded debt of \$12,500,000 is secured by the endowment fund not real estate as previously stated in the 2003 review.

5. Notes payable -

	December 31,	
	2004	2003
Demand promissory notes payable to the Marvin Schwan Foundation; interest rate 7% per annum	\$476,798	\$508,146
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	465,947	480,131
Life Loan Plan notes, unsecured, amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from 5 - 6% per annum	7,239	7,199
	<u>\$1,049,984</u>	<u>\$1,095,476</u>

6. Mortgages payable -

	December 31,	
	2004	2003
<i>Payable to Thrivent for Lutherans</i>		
5% mortgage, due in monthly installments of \$2,384, including interest through May 2010, secured by real estate and other property	\$159,189	\$181,625
<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	255,978	280,304
	415,167	461,929
Less current portion	<u>(47,474)</u>	<u>(38,932)</u>
	<u>\$367,693</u>	<u>\$422,997</u>

Future schedule maturities of the above debt are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	
2005	\$47,474
2006	50,741
2007	54,246
2008	58,005
2009	62,038
Thereafter	142,663
	<u>\$415,167</u>

7. Related organizations -

Related Organizations to the Synod are Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The Synod provided funds to Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary of approximately \$167,400 and \$61,700, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2004 and \$177,400 and \$62,300, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2003.

8. Contingencies -

As of December 31, 2004, the Synod is contingently liable to the extent of approximately \$1,929,000 as guarantor of the indebtedness for the following congregations: Abiding Word – Bowling Green, Ohio; Christ – Windsor, California; Family of God, Ft. Mohave, Arizona; and Peace – North Mankato, Minnesota. As of December 31, 2003, the Synod was contingently liable to the extent of \$1,785,000 as guarantor of the indebtedness for the following congregations: Abiding Word – Bowling Green, Ohio; Christ – Windsor, California; and Peace – North Mankato, Minnesota.

9. Designations and restrictions on net asset balances -

Designation of unrestricted funds consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Foreign Missions	\$869,842	\$707,909
ELS Foundation	399,516	389,211
Youth	98,757	106,100
Home Missions	202,643	88,222
Parish Evangelism	58,068	75,464
Christian Day School	52,055	65,901
Pension Plan	62,653	59,603
Projects and Grants	154,673	59,466
Evangelism	62,332	45,459
Christian Service	37,142	44,970
Parish Education	48,784	43,664
Seminary, special tax assessment		41,016
Book of Family Prayer	18,838	20,120
Publications	28,748	17,399
World Needs	12,418	4,566
Lutheran Schools of America	<u>4,147</u>	
	<u>\$2,110,616</u>	<u>\$1,769,070</u>

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Home Mission Expansion	\$3,668,102	\$3,591,679
ELS Foundation	789,283	773,519
General Foreign Mission	607,450	585,400
Church Extension	796,926	423,387
Home Mission Reserve	236,596	228,267
Celebrate 2000	804	213,536
Partners in the Gospel	267,004	208,311
Foreign Mission Seminary	201,501	178,009
President's Office	191,453	173,653
Charitable Gift Annuity	183,012	132,602
Marvin and Delores Schwan	108,531	94,639
75th Anniversary / His Truth for Our Youth	34,512	25,821
St. Martin Lutheran Church - Shawano, WI	1,447	
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	18,534	16,216
Preschool	<u>379</u>	<u>147</u>
	<u>\$7,105,534</u>	<u>\$6,645,186</u>

Permanently restricted net assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Partners in the Gospel	\$1,755,977	\$1,755,977
Foreign Mission Seminary	1,000,000	1,000,000
President's Office	600,000	600,000
Marvin and Delores Schwan	600,000	600,000
75th Anniversary / His Truth for Our Youth	410,000	410,000
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	100,000	100,000
Preschool	10,000	10,000
St. Martin Lutheran Church - Shawano, WI	<u>20,147</u>	
	<u>\$4,496,124</u>	<u>\$4,475,977</u>



**TREASURER'S SUPPLEMENT**  
**TO THE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**REVIEW**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

**C O N T E N T S**

	<u>Page</u>
Management Letter	[162]
Balance Sheet (Exhibit I)	[163]
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance -Operating Funds (Exhibit II)	[165]
Summary of Financial Activities (Exhibit III)	[167]
Summary of Financial Activities by Fund (Exhibit IV)	[171]
Notes to Financial Statements (Exhibit V)	[177]
Fund Descriptions For ELS Foundation (Exhibit VI)	[181]
Loans Receivable (Schedule A)	[183]
Balance Sheet & Changes in Fund Balance -Foundation Funds (Schedule B)	[184]
Mortgage/Demand Notes Payable (Schedule C)	[186]

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Board of Trustees  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato, Minnesota

In the course of our review of the financial statements of Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of December 31, 2004, we noted that in the following areas wherein we believe the systems and/or policies of the Synod might be improved. Although none of the matters referred to below are considered to have had a material effect on the fairness of presentation of the District's financial statements, we nevertheless offer these observations and recommendations in the hope that their implementation will improve the areas listed below:

The Synod is currently adjusting temporarily restricted net assets for realized and unrealized gains and losses on related investments. Generally accepted accounting principles would only allow this policy if it was agreed to by the donor. We recommend a policy be adopted that would make sure all donors are aware of the investment policy of the Synod, and the manner in which gains and losses are allocated, at the time funds are donated. This will improve the accountability of gains and losses of donated funds.

We have discussed these suggestions with the Synod's treasurer. We will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

*Peterson & Company, P.A.*  
Certified Public Accountants

Mankato, Minnesota  
April 26, 2005

Werner W. Fick, CPA  
wernerf@petersoncpas.net

Robert H. Quabset, CPA  
bobq@petersoncpas.net

Dennis P. McCormick, CPA  
dennism@petersoncpas.net

Mary E. Berberich, CPA, CMA  
maryb@petersoncpas.net

Michael E. Ward, CPA  
mikew@petersoncpas.net

Myrna K. Meunier, CPA  
myrna@petersoncpas.net

Justin Sandmann, CPA  
justins@petersoncpas.net

Robert C. Peterson  
(1919-1994)

Russell T. Peterson  
(Retired)

Richard J. Breiter  
(Retired)

**Northwestern Office Building**

Suite 407

209 South Second Street

Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Phone: 507.388.1641

Fax: 507.388.4494

**St. Peter Office**

1900 West Jefferson Avenue

St. Peter, Minnesota 56082

Phone: 507.931.6510

**ASSETS**

Cash - checking account	\$328,172.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	3,733.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,973.90
Inventory of publications	82,660.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prepaid expenses/deposits	5,505.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,893.03
<b>Investments:</b>							
Investment management accounts	\$600,861.81	\$995,908.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$139,323.23	\$865,811.19
Loans receivable from congregations (Schedule A)	0.00	1,164,422.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	97,770.97	0.00
Allowance for doubtful accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest receivable	0.00	185.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)	0.00	0.00	\$0,338,539.24	2,731,730.99	906,895.05	0.00	0.00
Accumulated depreciation	0.00	0.00	(10,488,168.96)	0.00	(231,116.84)	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,220,934.31</b>	<b>\$2,160,486.76</b>	<b>\$39,850,382.28</b>	<b>\$2,731,730.99</b>	<b>\$674,889.05</b>	<b>\$247,325.64</b>	<b>\$890,678.12</b>
Due from (to) other funds	136,268.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,357,202.68</b>	<b>\$2,160,486.76</b>	<b>\$39,850,382.28</b>	<b>\$2,731,730.99</b>	<b>\$674,889.05</b>	<b>\$247,325.64</b>	<b>\$890,678.12</b>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

[illegible]

# **BALANCE SHEET (cont.)**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

## **EXHIBIT I**

Page 2 of 2

### **ASSETS**

Cash - checking account					
Accounts receivable - contributions					
and other income					
Inventory of publications					
Prepaid expenses/deposits					
Investments:					
Investment management accounts					
Loans receivable from congregations (Schedule A)					
Accounts receivable					
Interest receivable					
Real estate and buildings (Notes B and C)					
Accumulated depreciation					
<b>TOTAL</b>					
Due from (to) other funds					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>					

### **LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

#### **Liabilities:**

Notes payable: (Note D)					
Working capital					
Investment program					
Demand notes (Schedule C)					
Life Loan plan					
Accounts payable					
Accrued interest payable					
Deferred revenue					
Charity gift annuity payable					
Mortgages payable (Schedule C)					
Other liabilities					
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>					

#### **Fund Balances:**

Unrestricted - designated (Note E)					
Unrestricted (Note F)					
Permanently restricted (Note G)					
Temporarily restricted (Note H)					
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>					
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>					

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
 December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT II**  
 Page 1 of 2

	GENERAL FUND 1	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND 2	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE FUND 03	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FUND 04	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE FUND 05
<b>Balance 12/31/2003</b>					
Permanently Restricted	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temporarily Restricted	0.00	423,386.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted	543,442.65	0.00	27,786,608.10	2,731,730.99	696,332.00
Unrestricted - Designated	577,143.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2003</b>	<b>\$1,120,586.22</b>	<b>\$423,386.53</b>	<b>\$27,786,608.10</b>	<b>\$2,731,730.99</b>	<b>\$696,332.00</b>
<b>ADD:</b>					
Investment Portfolio Income	\$24,886.57	\$16,974.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investment Services	(11,853.93)	(8,150.70)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annuity amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Market value gains (losses)	68,495.92	47,097.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	12,336.71	317,618.67	0.00	0.00	(21,442.95)
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>\$93,665.27</b>	<b>\$373,539.72</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$21,442.95)</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,214,251.49</b>	<b>\$796,926.25</b>	<b>\$27,786,608.10</b>	<b>\$2,731,730.99</b>	<b>\$674,889.05</b>
<b>DEDUCT:</b>					
Adjustment					
Debt Secured by Real Estate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,063,774.18	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,063,774.18</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance 12/31/2004</b>					
Permanently Restricted (Note G)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temporarily Restricted (Note H)	0.00	796,926.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted (Note F)	619,083.13	0.00	39,850,382.28	\$2,731,730.99	\$674,889.05
Unrestricted - Designated (Note E)	595,168.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2004</b>	<b>\$1,214,251.49</b>	<b>\$796,926.25</b>	<b>\$39,850,382.28</b>	<b>\$2,731,730.99</b>	<b>\$674,889.05</b>

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (cont.)

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2014

EXHIBIT II  
Page 2 of 2

	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	CELEBRATE 2000 FUND	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
	FUND 06	FUND 7	FUND 32		
<b>Balance 12/31/2003</b>					
Permanently Restricted	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,475,977.00	\$4,475,977.00
Temporarily Restricted	0.00	0.00	213,536.00	6,008,263.87	6,645,186.40
Unrestricted	88,222.49	324,155.92	0.00	389,210.75	32,559,702.90
Unrestricted - Designated	6,584.20	383,753.22	0.00	0.00	967,480.99
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2003</b>	<b>\$94,806.69</b>	<b>\$707,909.14</b>	<b>\$213,536.00</b>	<b>\$10,873,451.62</b>	<b>\$44,648,347.29</b>
<b>ADD:</b>					
<b>Investment Portfolio Income</b>					
Investment Services	\$0.00	\$15,792.54	\$0.00	\$226,072.41	\$283,525.87
Annuity amortization	0.00	(7,583.22)	0.00	(97,463.50)	(125,051.35)
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	(13,051.14)	(13,051.14)
Market value gains (losses)	0.00	0.00	(218,885.03)	(457,785.66)	(676,670.69)
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	0.00	43,818.32	(87.00)	600,929.88	760,254.52
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>150,783.75</b>	<b>110,404.57</b>	<b>6,240.20</b>	<b>71,289.45</b>	<b>647,230.40</b>
	<b>\$150,783.75</b>	<b>\$162,432.21</b>	<b>(\$212,731.83)</b>	<b>\$329,991.44</b>	<b>\$876,237.61</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,590.44</b>	<b>\$870,341.35</b>	<b>\$804.17</b>	<b>\$11,203,443.06</b>	<b>\$45,524,584.90</b>
<b>DEDUCT:</b>					
Adjustment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,063,774.18
Debt Secured by Real Estate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,063,774.18</b>
<b>Balance 12/31/2004</b>					
Permanently Restricted (Note G)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,496,123.95	\$4,496,123.95
Temporarily Restricted (Note H)	0.00	0.00	804.17	6,307,803.78	7,105,534.20
Unrestricted (Note F)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,876,085.45
Unrestricted - Designated (Note E)	245,590.44	870,341.45	0.00	399,515.33	2,110,615.58
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2004</b>	<b>\$245,590.44</b>	<b>\$870,341.45</b>	<b>\$804.17</b>	<b>\$11,203,443.06</b>	<b>\$57,588,359.18</b>

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT III**

Page 1 of 2

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Statement of Activities  
12/31/2004**

**INCOME**

4001	Congregational Contributions	757,062.23
4002	Designated-Congregational Contributions	62,055.80
4051	Organizational Contributions	114.25
4052	Designated - Organizational Contributions	15,548.87
4090	Investment Portfolio Income	283,167.36
4092	Interest	168,738.67
4095	Individual Gifts and Bequests	190,395.62
4096	Designated-Individual Gifts	67,871.83
4200	Designated - Schwan Program	650,000.00
4201	Schwan Program	350,000.00
4202	Schawn - Project Grants	80,000.00
4301	Thrivent	65,985.05
4500	Estates/Trusts	16,688.98
4501	Designated - Estates/Trusts	44,026.13
4600	Memorials	1,225.00
4601	Designated-Memorials	945.00
4700	Helping Hands	280,980.09
4702	Mission Advancement Projects	5,000.00
4920	Registration/Fees	60,935.00
4921	Subscriptions	44,412.85
4922	Sale of Publications	30,590.69
4927	Royalties	884.55
4928	FM Vehicle Use	5,373.37
4930	Seminary Salary Reimbursement	10,000.00
4999	Unrealized Gain	<u>759,259.78</u>
Total Income		3,951,261.12

**EXPENSES**

5110	Salaries/Admin/Sup	(543,999.08)
5111	Salaries/Administrative Assistant	(11,166.55)
5120	Salaries/Clerical	(26,563.68)
5205	Moving Expenses	(32,567.66)
5210	Housing & Furnishing Allow.	(127,940.16)
5211	Furlough Expense	(21,834.97)
5215	School Tuition	(27,874.58)
5220	FICA/Medicare	(5,980.36)
5225	Health/Disability Insurance	(92,877.03)
5227	Emergency Evacuation Insurance	(1,435.36)
5230	Life Insurance	(1,270.89)
5240	Tax Sheltered Annuities	(30,158.40)
5245	Workers Compensation	(3,550.00)
5250	Other Employee Benefits	(143.05)
5305	Investment Services	(124,879.20)
5310	Auditor Services	(6,000.00)
5315	Legal Services	(7,025.42)
5317	Other Professional Services	(17,275.28)
5320	Printing & Publishing	(77,381.15)
5321	Printing & Publishing/Book of Family Prayer	(3,336.23)



**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

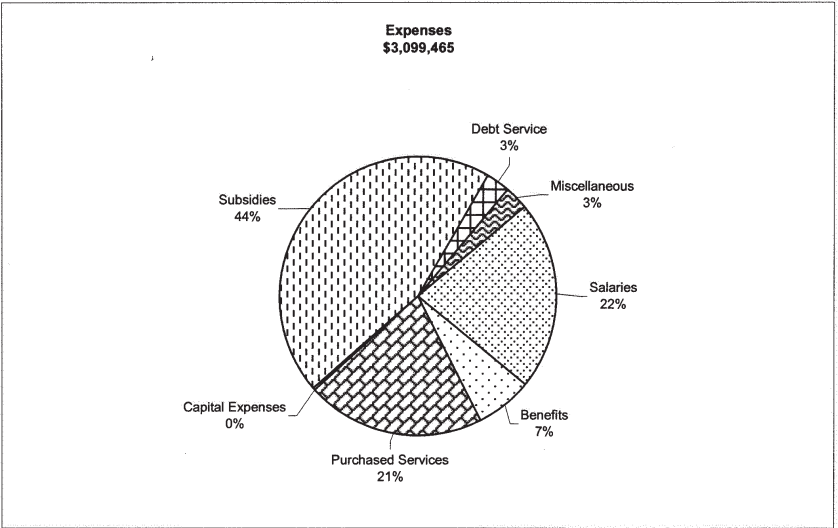
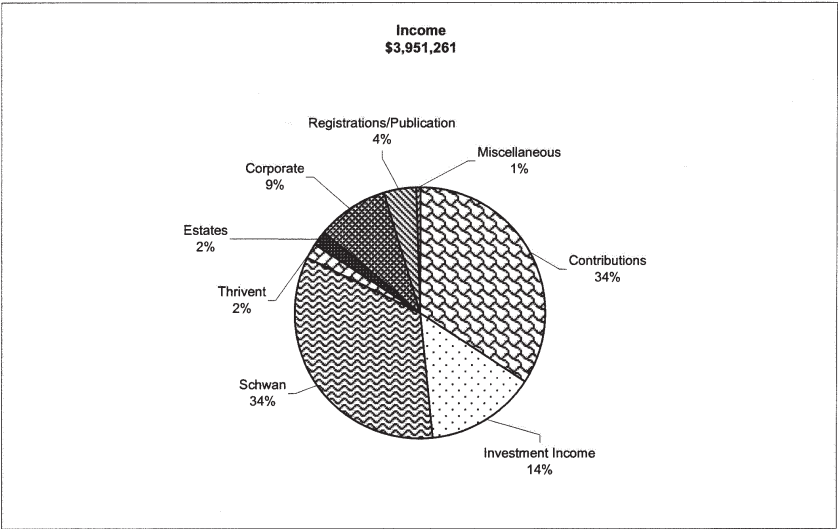
**EXHIBIT III**

Page 2 of 2

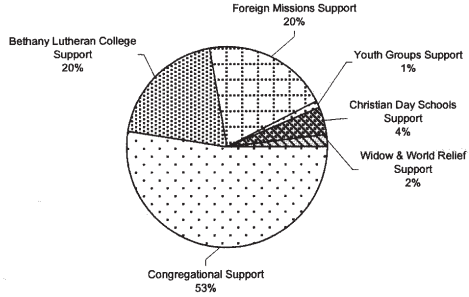
**EXPENSES (cont.)**

5330 Communication Services	(7,250.55)
5335 Postage & Parcel Services	(26,187.62)
5346 Commercial Multi-Peril	(5,754.00)
5347 Umbrella Liability	(575.00)
5350 Repairs & Maintenance	(9,383.43)
5355 Travel/Meals/Lodging	(125,845.20)
5356 Travel/Meals/Lodging	(12,800.46)
5360 Registration Fees	(2,195.80)
5365 Leases or Rentals	(63,130.00)
5380 Stipend	(26,664.67)
5390 Payment to Others	(110,571.00)
5391 Payment to Others Designated	(31,209.73)
5341 Heat	(2,549.40)
5342 Light	(2,002.37)
5344 Water/Sewer/Garbage	(370.85)
5405 Supplies & Materials	(8,311.33)
5406 Supplies & Materials	(1,369.98)
5440 Auto Expenses	(1,688.02)
5460 Publications/Subscriptions	(1,392.65)
5470 Books	(1,411.37)
5530 Equipment/Furniture	(7,379.99)
5531 Equipment/Furniture Spec Project	(2,225.37)
5540 Software/Upgrade Purchases	(714.93)
5605 Advertising Support	(4,134.00)
5609 Office Equipment Support	(750.00)
5610 Operating Support	(794,850.01)
5611 Rent Support	(38,057.15)
5612 Five Talents Campaign	(200,000.00)
5614 Faculty Housing Allowance Support	(84,000.00)
5620 Interest Support	(135,721.36)
5625 Outreach/Evangelism Support	(2,000.00)
5630 Maintenance Support	(72,082.98)
5635 Christian Education Support	(4,200.00)
5640 Parish Support	(2,950.00)
5650 National Pastors Support	(900.00)
5660 LYA Travel Support	(11,298.56)
5661 Youth Retreat Grant	(4,500.00)
5662 Continuing Education Grant	(4,760.00)
5663 Christian Day School	(59,881.69)
5670 Widow Support	(25,777.20)
5671 Pastor Retirement Support	(4,146.36)
5672 Group Term Insurance Support	3,032.19
5740 Interest	(89,839.71)
5820 Dues & Membership	(115.00)
5830 Property Taxes/Assessments	(52,629.10)
5889 Depreciation	(21,442.95)
5899 Miscellaneous	(1,166.97)
5989 Bad Debt	140,000.00
5999 Change in Charitable Gift Annuity	(13,051.14)
Total Expenses	(3,099,464.76)
Net Income	<u>851,796.36</u>

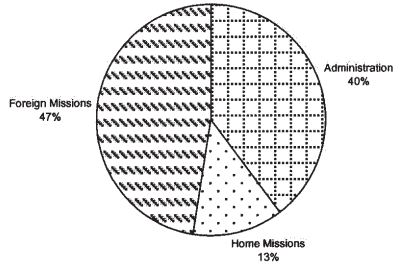
Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Statement of Activities



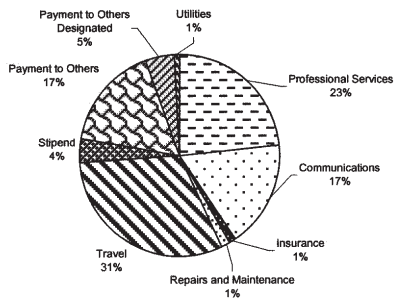
**SYNOD SUBSIDIES**  
\$1,446,977



**SALARIES AND BENEFITS**  
\$927,363



**PURCHASED SERVICES**  
\$662,387



**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Markato, Minnesota  
 December 31, 2004

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**12/31/2004**

EXHIBIT IV  
 Page 1 of 6

Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES	Total	General 1	Church Extension 2	Residences & Real Estate 3	Home Missions 6	Foreign Missions 7	Agency Gospel 17 8	President's Office 19	Schwan Foreign 20	Partners in the Gospel 21
<b>INCOME</b>											
4001	Congregational Contributions	757,062.23	757,062.23								
4002	Designated - Congregational Contributions	62,055.80	19,577.66				21,431.19				
4010	Chargeback	(757,062.23)	(757,062.23)								
4100	Board Designated/Congregational Funding	757,662.24	503,461.03			129,292.43	124,888.78				
4101	Board Designated - Organizational Program	680,000.00	350,000.00			150,000.00	150,000.00				
4051	Organizational Contributions	114.25	114.25								
4052	Designated - Organizational Contributions	15,548.87	1,027.25				14,521.62				
4090	Investment Portfolio Income	283,167.36	24,666.57	16,974.35		(356.51)	15,792.54		16,469.75	14,765.68	22,707.49
4092	Interest	168,738.67	4,950.32	109,228.17		6,969.89	7,635.00				23,530.46
4095	Individual Gifts and Bequests	190,395.62	13,460.62	151,825.00		17,475.00	52,793.16				
4096	Designated-Individual Gifts & Bequests	67,871.83	9,738.47			59,496.24	57,737.76				
4201	Schwan Program	350,000.00	232,766.00			10,000.00	10,000.00				
4202	Schwan - Project Grants	80,000.00	70,000.00			46,000.00					
4203	Other Grants	16,863.55	16,863.55								
4204	Estate/Trusts	16,868.98	13,223.66								
4500	Designated - Estates/Trusts	44,026.13	1,225.00				44,026.13				
4600	Memorials	1,225.00									
4601	Designated - Memorials	945.00					945.00				
4700	Helping Hands	280,980.09					280,980.09				
4702	Mission Advancement Projects	5,000.00					5,000.00				
4820	Registration/Fees	60,935.00	60,935.00								
4821	Subscriptions	44,412.85	44,412.85								
4822	Publications	30,580.69	30,580.69								
4827	Religious Publications	184.55	684.35								
4828	PM Vehicle Use	5,373.37	5,373.37				5,373.37				
4830	Seminary Salary Reimbursement	10,000.00	10,000.00								
4948	Permanent Transfers Unrestricted	418,042.70	73,960.27			221,336.98	120,526.79				2,216.66
4949	Permanent Transfers Designated	289,263.45	70,378.42			218,885.03					2,216.66
	Transfer = contributions from fund 9		15,155.23				1,650.71				
4999	Unrealized Gain	769,259.78	68,495.92	47,097.40		(994.74)	43,818.32		45,697.30	40,969.16	63,004.67
	Total Income	4,659,167.28	1,639,054.81	325,124.92	0.00	858,124.32	947,120.46	2,103.77	62,167.05	55,734.84	113,675.94
<b>EXPENSES</b>											
5110	Salaries/Admin/Sup	(543,999.08)	(202,001.20)			(45,552.80)	(296,445.08)				
5111	Salaries/Administrative Assistant	(11,166.55)	(11,166.55)								
5120	Salaries/Clerical	(26,563.68)	(26,563.68)								
5205	Moving Expenses	(32,567.66)									
5210	Housing & Furnishing Allow.	(127,940.16)	(70,600.08)			(1,023.50)	(31,544.16)				
5211	Travel Expense	(21,834.97)				(57,340.08)	(21,834.97)				
5215	Travel Expense	(2,000.00)					(2,000.00)				
5220	FICA/Medicare	(5,960.36)	(5,965.06)			(15.30)					
5225	Health/Disability Insurance	(92,877.03)	(26,811.03)			(12,072.00)	(53,994.00)				

EXHIBIT IV  
Page 2 of 6

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Statement of Activities**

Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES(cont.)	Whipple Okon 22	Foreign Missionary 23	Gen Foreign Mission 24	Charitable Gift 25	Mission Reserve 26	Mission Expansion 28	St. Martins 29	75th Anniversary 30	Pro School 31	Caldesate 2,000 32	Donated 40	Trustees Designated 45
<b>INCOME</b>													
4001	Congregational Contributions												
4002	Designated - Congregational Contributions										900.00		
4011	Chargeback							20,146.95					
4100	Board Designated/Congregational Fding												
4200	Designated - Schwon Program												
4301	Organizational Contributions												
4302	Designated - Organizational Contributions												
4303	Investment Portfolio Income												
4304	Designated - Foreign Income												
4095	Individual Gifts and Bequests												
4096	Designated-Individual Gifts & Bequests												
4201	Schwon Program	2,470.30	25,039.79	12,552.46	23,723.04	4,891.80	68,972.35	439.24	9,863.82	216.00		16,230.05	8,339.64
4202	Schwon - Project Grants				350.00		20,866.06				5,340.20	500.00	
4301	Thivent												
4500	Estates/Trusts												
4501	Designated - Estates/Trusts												
4600	Memorials												
4601	Designated - Memorials												
4700	Helping Hands												
4702	Mission Advancement Projects												
4820	Registration Fees												
4921	Subscriptions												
4922	State of Publications												
4927	PM Vehicle Use												
4928	PM Vehicle Use												
4930	Seminary Salary Reimbursement												
4948	Permanent Transfers Unrestricted												
4949	Permanent Transfers Designated												
	Transfer = contributions from fund 9												
4999	Unrealized Gain	6,854.13	69,475.93	34,826.33	39,487.10	13,572.89	191,372.13	1,216.74	25,703.58	599.33	(87.00)	45,032.23	23,114.36
	Total Income	9,324.43	94,515.72	47,380.79	63,760.14	18,464.69	281,230.54	21,804.93	34,967.40	815.33	6,153.20	61,762.28	34,904.32

## EXPENSES

5110	Salaries/Admin/Sup
5111	Salaries/Administrative Assistant
5120	Salaries/Clerical
5205	Moving Expenses
5210	Housing & Furnishing Allow.
5211	Furlough Expense
5215	School Tuition
5220	FICA/Medicare
5225	Health/Disability Insurance

EXHIBIT IV  
Page 3 of 6Partners  
in the Gospel  
21

(10,903.61)

EXHIBIT IV  
Page 4 of 6

## 12/31/2004

174

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
 December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT IV**  
 Page 5 of 6

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod**  
**Statement of Activities**  
 12/31/2004

Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES (cont.)	General 1	Church Extension 2	Residences & Real Estate 5	Home Missions 6	Foreign Missions 7	Agency Gifts 8	President's Office 19	Schwan Foreign 20	Partners in the Hospital 21
	<b>EXPENSES (cont.)</b>	<b>Total</b>								
5614	Facility Housing Allowance Support	(84,000.00)								
5625	Interest Support	(135,721.36)								
5626	Office Telephone Support	(1,000.00)			(135,721.36)					
5630	Maintenance Support	(72,083.98)			(2,000.00)					
5635	Christian Education Support	(4,200.00)			(1,500.00)					
5640	Parish Support	(2,950.00)			(4,200.00)					
5650	National Pastors Support	(900.00)								
5660	LYA Travel Support	(11,298.56)				(900.00)				
5661	Youth Retreat Grant	(4,500.00)				(898.56)				
5662	Continuing Education Grant	(4,760.00)								
5663	Christian Day School	(59,881.69)								
5664	Worship Support	(23,777.20)								
5671	Pastor Retirement Support	(1,446.39)								
5672	Group Term Insurance Support	3,032.19								
5740	Interest	(89,639.71)	(83,434.50)							
5820	Dues & Membership	(115.00)								
5930	Property Taxes/Assessments	(52,629.10)								
5989	Depreciation	(21,442.95)		(21,442.95)						
5989	Miscellaneous	(1,393.64)								
5910	Transfers	(707,306.15)								
5989	Board of Directors	140,000.00								
5989	Change in Charitable Gift Annuity	(13,051.14)	140,000.00							
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(3,807,370.91)</b>	<b>48,414.80</b>	<b>(21,442.95)</b>	<b>(707,340.57)</b>	<b>(763,037.44)</b>	<b>(26,545.11)</b>	<b>(44,387.39)</b>	<b>(41,842.50)</b>	<b>(52,766.81)</b>
	<b>Net Income</b>	<b>851,796.37</b>	<b>108,820.50</b>	<b>373,539.72</b>	<b>150,763.75</b>	<b>164,083.02</b>	<b>(24,441.34)</b>	<b>17,759.66</b>	<b>13,892.34</b>	<b>60,909.13</b>



**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND**  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

EXHIBIT IV  
Page 6 of 6

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Statement of Activities**  
12/31/2004

Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES (cont.)	Whipple Olson 22	Foreign Missionary 23	Gen Foreign Mission 24	Charitable Gift 25	Mission Reserve 26	Mission Expansion 26	St. Martins 29	75th Anniversary 30	Pre School 31	Celebrate 2,000 32	Donated 40	Trustees Designated 43
	<b>EXPENSES (cont.)</b>												
5614	Facility Housing Allowance Support												
5620	Interest Support												
5625	Outreach/Evangelism Support												
5630	Maintenance Support												
5635	Christian Education Support												
5640	Class Support												
5650	National Prayers Support												
5660	LYA 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												
5673	Interest Support												
5680	Discipleship												
5682	Property Taxes/Assessments												
5689	Depreciation												
5699	Miscellaneous												
5910	Transfers												
5989	Bad Debt												
5999	Change in Charitable Gift Annuity												
		(5,620.60)	(56,999.56)	(19,303.56)		(7,786.80)	(171,688.98)		(21,827.76)	(478.80)	(218,885.03)	(38,205.48)	(20,699.56)
					(13,051.14)								
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>(7,006.76)</u>	<u>(71,023.09)</u>	<u>(25,330.96)</u>	<u>(13,351.14)</u>	<u>(10,135.73)</u>	<u>(204,807.92)</u>	<u>(210.91)</u>	<u>(26,276.03)</u>	<u>(562.52)</u>	<u>(218,885.03)</u>	<u>(45,998.78)</u>	<u>(24,595.74)</u>
	<b>Net Income</b>	2,317.65	23,492.63	22,046.83	50,409.00	8,328.96	76,422.62	21,594.02	8,691.37	232.81	(212,731.83)	15,763.50	10,304.58

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT V**  
(Page 1 of 4)

(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 Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is an "endowment" fund established by the Synod's Board of Trustees. In addition to donations specified for the Foundation, two-thirds 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, 2004, 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%.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT V**

(Page 2 of 4)

**(E) Unrestricted - Designated:**

## General Fund

Video Link	(564.32)
Christian Service	37,142.13
Pension Plan	62,652.50
World Needs	12,418.26
Evangelism	62,331.91
Publications	28,748.41
Christian Day School	52,054.97
Parish Education	48,783.94
Youth	98,757.29
Book of Family Prayer	18,837.60
Lutheran Schools Initiative	4,147.00
Parish Evangelism Assistance	58,068.49
Project/Grants	
Stewardship	3,034.60
Deferred Giving	753.79
Kessel Book	7,390.93
4 Browns Court - Archives	5,712.18
President	2,567.33
Large Print Sentinel	20,089.45
Lutheran School Initiative	12,960.07
Pre-School Endowment	2,469.32
BEY	25,000.00
CFIT	5,000.00
Web-Site	16,812.51
Festival Writing	10,000.00

Total General Fund Unrestricted - Designated \$595,168.36

## Home Missions

General	-\$500.00
Thank Offering	\$203,143.03
Project/Grants	
Outreach	\$33,025.00
Conference	\$15,012.22
Strategy	\$2,860.19
Church Signs	-\$7,950.00

Total Home Mission Fund Unrestricted - Designated \$245,590.44

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)**  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT V**  
(Page 3 of 4)

Foreign Missions

General	\$370,280.53
Conference	\$29,470.01
Cross Stitch	\$34,903.10
Australia	\$1,895.00
Chile - General	\$28,903.65
Seminary Startup	\$155,200.00
Korea Exploratory	\$146,158.57
Scandinavia	\$1,961.07
Peru - General	\$30,717.71
Drug Rehab	\$10,628.44
Christian Day School	\$2,952.72
South America Contingencies	\$51,779.17
Amazon	\$4,991.48
Project/Grants	
Jungle School	\$500.00

Total Foreign Mission Fund Unrestricted - Designated \$870,341.45

Board of Trustees \$399,515.33

**Total Unrestricted - Designated** \$2,110,615.58

(F) **Unrestricted**

General Fund	\$619,083.13
Residences & Real Estate	\$674,889.05
Bethany Lutheran College	\$39,850,382.28
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	<u>\$2,731,730.99</u>

**Total Unrestricted** \$43,876,085.45

(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	1,755,977.00
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	100,000.00
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment	1,000,000.00
St. Martin Lutheran Church	20,146.95
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	410,000.00
Pre-School Endowment Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>

**Total Permanently Restricted** \$4,496,123.95

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)**  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**EXHIBIT V**  
(Page 4 of 4)

(H) **Temporarily Restricted**

Church Extension & Loan Fund	\$796,926.25
Celebrate 2000 Thank Offering	804.17

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

President's Office Endowment	\$191,452.75
Marvin & Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	108,530.98
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	267,004.02
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	18,533.84
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment	201,501.20
General Foreign Mission Fund	607,449.77
Charitable Gift Annuity	183,011.70
Home Mission Reserve Fund	236,596.21
Home Mission Expansion Fund	3,668,101.55
St. Martin Lutheran Church	1,447.07
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	34,511.99
Pre-School Endowment Fund	379.77
Donated	<u>789,282.93</u>

<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<u><u>\$7,105,534.20</u></u>
-------------------------------------	------------------------------

**Fund Description for ELS Foundation**

<b>Fund Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
19	Pres. Office Endowment \$600,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated by Dorothy Arbury. Income only available. 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 Marvin Schwan. Income only Available. To be used to support the Helping Hand's Programs – Income limited to the amount of other donations received by Helping Hands. (example) Income = \$40,000; donations to Helping Hands = \$50,000 – \$40,000 to Helping Hands. Income = \$40,000; donations to Helping Hands = \$30,000 – \$30,000 to Helping Hands.
21	Partners in the Gospel \$1,755,977 Permanently Restricted	Principal derived from special synod wide offering. Income only available. To be used as endowment for Home Missions.
22	Whipple – Eleanor Wilson \$100,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated as endowment for Foreign Missions. Income only available.
23	Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment \$1,000,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated by Marvin Schwan as endowment to support seminary in South America. Income only available.
24	General Foreign Missions  Unrestricted	From estates designated for Foreign Missions. "Fund functioning as endowment". Income for Foreign Missions.
25	Charitable gift annuities  Temporarily Restricted	Fund established to account for charitable gift annuities of which the beneficiaries are Synod programs when the donor dies.
26	Home Mission Reserve \$100,000  Temporarily Restricted	Original principle from Marvin 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   Temporarily Restricted	Original principal from Marvin Schwan 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.
29	St. Martin Lutheran Church, Shawano Endowment \$20,146.95 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated from St. Martin Lutheran Church, Shawano, WI. Income only available. Income to be divided between Home and Foreign Missions for work in the USA and abroad.
30	Truth for Youth \$410,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal derived from special synod wide offering. Income only available. To be used for youth programs.

**Fund Description for ELS Foundation (cont.)**

32	Pre-School Endowment  \$10,000  Permanently Restricted	Principal donated by John Arends. Income only available. 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 Temporarily Restricted	Principal from estates designated for ELS without program identification. Income used for general synod purposes.
45	Designated          Unrestricted Designated	"Fund functioning as endowment". Board of Trustees established a policy of applying 2/3 of non-designated estates to this fund. Income goes to general synod purposes with principal available for use at discretion of Board of Trustees.

**LOANS RECEIVABLE**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

**SCHEDULE A**

**Church Extension Loan (Fund 02)**

Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:

Church

Family of God - Fort Mojave, Arizona (Construction)  
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX  
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota  
Grace - Hobart, Indiana  
Hope - West Jordan, Utah  
Peace - Kissimmee, Florida  
Resurrection - Winter Haven, Florida  
Faith - Medford, Oregon  
Trinity - Sebastian, Florida

**Home Missions (Fund 6)**

Lighthouse Bible Baptist (Indian Landing Lutheran)

**Agency Fund (Fund 09)**

New Covenant (Hawatha Lutheran)

**Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation**

**Partners in the Gospel (Fund 21)**

Christ - Windsor, California  
Family of God - Riviera, Arizona  
Good Shepherd - Brownsburg, Indiana  
Redeemer - Scottsdale, Arizona

**Home Mission Expansion (Fund 28)**

Abiding Shepherd - Cottage Grove, WI (Construction)  
Peace - Lakeland, Florida

**Total Loans Receivable**

ORIGINAL LOAN BALANCE	REMAINING LOAN BALANCE 12/31/03	RECLASS./ NEW LOANS 2004	PAID 2004	TOTAL PAID	REMAINING LOAN BALANCE 12/31/04
\$155,500.62	\$92,099.06	\$0.00	\$3,256.23	\$66,657.79	\$88,842.83
15,000.00	15,000.00	165,000.00	180,000.00	180,000.00	0.00
384,977.59	139,999.28	0.00	139,999.28	384,977.59	0.00
63,946.76	25,303.71	0.00	2,610.36	41,263.41	22,683.35
250,000.00	154,621.08	0.00	53,630.41	149,009.33	100,990.67
186,203.42	148,538.75	11,309.29	926.85	38,591.52	158,921.19
414,408.72	299,211.41	7,500.00	1,774.87	116,972.18	304,936.54
479,322.97	320,554.89	0.00	4,165.95	162,934.03	316,386.94
120,382.00	7,537.47	3,139.00	64.90	112,909.43	10,611.57
180,000.00	165,483.36	0.00	4,445.70	18,962.34	161,037.66
\$2,249,742.08	\$1,368,349.01	\$186,948.29	\$390,874.55	\$1,272,267.62	\$1,164,422.75
\$99,814.32	\$98,705.64	\$0.00	\$994.67	\$2,103.35	\$97,710.97
\$80,000.00	\$21,715.95	\$0.00	\$21,715.95	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
\$70,000.00	\$60,465.67	\$0.00	\$24,854.15	\$34,388.48	\$35,611.52
127,800.00	55,801.46	0.00	49,011.78	121,010.32	6,789.68
74,500.00	13,179.88	0.00	2,565.13	63,885.25	10,614.75
308,062.44	206,212.81	0.00	16,585.94	118,435.57	189,626.87
\$580,362.44	\$335,659.82	\$0.00	\$93,017.00	\$337,719.62	\$242,642.82
407,131.00	\$0.00	\$244,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$244,800.00
\$407,131.00	\$264,556.52	0.00	\$264,556.52	\$407,131.00	0.00
\$3,417,049.84	\$2,088,986.94	\$431,748.29	\$771,158.69	\$2,099,221.59	\$1,749,576.54



## December 31, 2004

## Page 1 of 2

Page 1 of 2

## Due from (to) other funds

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable  
Charity Gift Annuity Payable

## FUND BALANCES

Balance 12/31/2003  
 Permanently Re  
 Temporarily Re  
 Unrestricted - D  
 TOT

TOTAL

Add:

Income - Net	
Investment Portfolio Income	
Investment Services	
Annuity amortization	
Distributions	
Market value gains (losses)	

TOTAL

Balance 12/31/2004  
 Permanently Restricted  
 Temporarily Restricted  
 Unrestricted - Discretionary

TOTAL

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES**

\$335,341.03

[illegible]

## December 31, 2004

## Page 2 of 2

Page 2 of 2

Investment management accounts  
Loans receivable from congregations (Schedule A)  
Accounts Receivable  
Interest receivable  
Land[illegible]Accounts Payable  
Charity Gift Annuity Payable

\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
							\$1,611.63
							150,717.70
							\$152,329.33

## Balance 12/31/2003

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Balance 12/31/2003									
Permanently Restricted (Note G)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,146.95	\$410,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,496,123.95
Temporarily Restricted (Note H)	236,696.21	3,668,101.55	1,447.07	34,511.99	379.77	789,262.93	0.00	0.00	6,307,803.78
Unrestricted - Designated (Note E)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	399,515.33	0.00	399,515.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$236,696.21</u>	<u>\$3,668,101.55</u>	<u>\$21,594.02</u>	<u>\$444,511.99</u>	<u>\$10,379.77</u>	<u>\$789,262.93</u>	<u>\$399,515.33</u>	<u>\$1,203,443.06</u>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>									
	\$236,696.21	\$3,668,101.55	\$21,594.02	\$444,511.99	\$10,379.77	\$789,262.93	\$399,515.33	\$1,355,772.39	

**MORTGAGE DEMAND NOTES PAYABLE****SCHEDULE C**

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
December 31, 2004

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Secured</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2005 Current</b>	<b>Long Term</b>
<b>Long term mortgage</b>					
Thrivent	Peace - Kissimmee, FL	Land	\$159,188.27	\$21,128.41	\$138,059.86
Schwan Foundation	Resurrection - Winter Haven, FL	Land	255,977.96	26,345.17	229,632.79
Total			<u>\$415,166.23</u>	\$47,473.58	\$367,692.65
<b>Demand promissory Notes</b>					
Schwan Foundation	Grace - Hobart, IN	No	\$195,748.86		
Schwan Foundation	Hope - W Jordan, UT	No	119,220.80		
Schwan Foundation	Trinity - Sebastian, FL	No	161,828.80		
Total			<u>\$ 476,798.46</u>		

# Foreign Missions 2004

COLLEGE MISSIONS 2004		CONGREGATION		MEMBERS		MINISTRATIONS				SERVICES				EDUCATION								Value of Property					
		Pastor	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Special Services	Average Attendance	Sunday Services	Average Attendance	CDS Enrollment	CDS Teachers	Sunday School	Bible Study	Teachers		VBS	Camp	Lutheran High School/College	College Students	
No	Congregación																										
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Peru:																											
Cono Sur de Lima																											
1	San Gabriel Norte-Dios es Mi Rev	A. Robles (p)	32	38	4				1	584					48		41			37	19		30			3,000	
2	San Gabriel Sur-Jesus mi Salvador	G. Ocrospoma (v)	32	23	10					213					48		15			8	11	3	35			5,000	
3	Villa Solidaridad	A. Robles (p)	21	9	4					122					48		23				15		30				
4	Villa El Salvador	S. Melendez (v)	13	4	2										48		14				8		10				
5	Comunidad Terapéutica "Emmanuel"	F. Liñan (v)	3	5											24		84										
6	San Juanito	G.Ocrospoma (v)	8	6	2										48		16			15	16	2	15				
	Otros		33	16											32		7			9	8		9				
Cono Norte de Lima																											
7	Año Nuevo - Jesús Redentor	K.Smiyth (m)	98	59	6	1				340					48		37			41	24	3	98			25,000	
8	Tahuantinsuyo	A. Rosario (p)	31	21	5	1				146					48		14			13	13	2	25				
	Otros		11	8	3										24		8			24	39	1	48				
Callo																											
9	Reynoso	R. Berrospid (p)	106	60	27	5				1443					48		62			25	16	3	65			15,000	
10	Cerro Candela	G.Ocrospoma (v)	9												48		9			15	9	2	15				
	Otros																										
Lima																											
11	Santa Beatriz	Misioneros	37	25	5	5		1	338	2	4	258	48	28							17	1	15			60,000	
12	San Martín de Porres	A. Vilchez (v)	18	11	4	1		3					48	16					14	15	1	23					

13	Canto Grande	G.Ocospoma (v)	16									48	16		15	16	2	15	
	Otros		27	17								10	6						
Panamérican Norte																			
14	Ancón-Cristo Rev	B. Capulíán (v)	41	31	6	8	1	1	142				48	21		35	12	2	40
15	Puente Piedra-Santísima Trinidad	A. Rosario (p)	74	39	8			3	348				48	25		26	16	2	45
16	Zapallal-Jesús Pan de Vida	J. Estrada (e)	39	30	8			4	129				48	35		33	22	2	70
17	Los Cedros, Ventamillo-Arcángel Gabriel	G. Asto (e)	14	9	2				204				48	21		30	17	2	67
18	Sta. Luzmila	F.Suarez (e)	10	7				3	8				24	15		26		1	26
19	Sayan	E.Carrera (v)	2	2					4							17	2	17	
20	Valle Sagrado	J.Estrada (v)																	
21	Carabayllo	A.Rosario (p)																	
Provincias de Lima																			
22	Huacho	O. Fernandez (p)	41	27	7			5	253				48	25		11	12	1	15
23	Cañete	A. Robles (p)	19	9	1				20				24	16			10		
24	Chancay-Huaral	O. Fernandez (p)	28	20	7			1	413				48	17		12	10	1	10
25	Barranca	G. Rivas (v)	6	6					12				24	12		25	38	2	30
26	Cochas	O. Fernandez (p)	8	6	1				4				48	17		7	5	1	
27	Marca	G.Ocospoma (v)											6				18	2	
Bolognesi de Ancash																			
28	Chiclaúan	F. Convecio (p)	37	33	12			1	157				48	20		15	29	1	35
29	Llamac	F. Convecio (p)	53	41	10				220				24	24		15	2	39	
30	Pacllon	F. Convecio (p)	127	80	24			1	439				48	37		20	56	3	45
31	Pocpa	F. Convecio (p)	26	17	5				159				24	24		68	1	20	
	Otros		32	8	1														
Ancash																			
32	Chimbote-Cristo Vive	S. Gutierrez (p)	53	26	8	1		3	412	1			48	36		17	24	2	30
33	Huaraz	E. Convecio (v)	22	5	10				32				48	18		19	18	1	25
34	Vista Alegre, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	26	23					288				48	18		35	29	2	35
35	Marque, Coris	F. Lozano (l)	17	6									48	17		12	11		43
31	Huancayo	J. Huaranga (e)																	
	Otros		1	1															
Otros Departamentos del Perú																			
37	Cajamarca	S. Gutierrez (p)	20	16	2								12	31		28			
38	Parahuancia	M Chinchay (l)											12	28		30	29	1	30

39	Tarapoto	T. Schultz (m)	41	29	9			5	480				48	40		30	14	1	45		
40	Pelejo	R. Rivas (v)	32	15		2		9					24	29		35	17	2	65		
41	Nueva Barrancuita	R. Rivas (v)	35										24	23		25	15	1	50		
42	Parinari	R. Rivas (v)	15		3								24	25		15	11	1	40		
43	Edén Viejo	R. Rivas (v)																			
44	Limoncocha	T. Schultz (m)	8																		
45	Sta. Rosa	T. Schultz (m)																			
46	Yurimaguas	T. Schultz (m)																			
	Otros																				
	Total:		1,322	788	193	27	1	41	6,910	3	4	258	1,560	970		706	747	56	1,255		142,700

**Chile:**

1	La Cisterna	K. Kuenzel																			
2	Las Vertientes	O. Rodriguez																			
3	Linares	O. Rodriguez																			
4	San Bernardo	O. Rodriguez																			
	Total:																				

**Thoughts of Faith:**

	<b>Czech Republic:</b>																				
1	Holy Cross	M. Grubbs	6	2					35			49	4				5				
2	St. Paulis	M. Grubbs	139	86	8			1	1279		4	117	52	70	195	16	30		9	15	
3	St. Peteris	M. Grubbs	13	6				1	206		5	46	51	10			10				

(e) estudiante-student  
 (p) pastor  
 (v) vicario-vicar  
 (l) laico-layman  
 \*información del año anterior - information from previous year





# DIRECTORIES



---

# CHURCH BODIES IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

---

## CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

[www.celc.info](http://www.celc.info)

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) is the successor to the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America—with one important exception: it is international in scope rather than restricted to North America.

First founded in 1993 with thirteen confessional Lutheran national churches as members, the conference has grown to twenty members today. Plenary sessions are held every three years. To date there have been five plenary meetings (1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005) with regional meetings held in the intervening years.

### OFFICERS

President: The Rev. Steven Petersen  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato MN 56001  
507-344-7852, Fax: 507-344-7426  
[spp@blc.edu](mailto:spp@blc.edu)  
Vice President: The Rev. Daniel Koelpin  
Secretary: Prof. Forrest Bivens  
Treasurer: Mr. Eugene G. Schulz  
Planning Committee Members at Large:  
The Rev. John Moldstad  
The Rev. Wayne Mueller

### 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  
Gereja Lutheran—Indonesia  
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  
www.wels.net

## 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. Thomas F. Zarling  
6 Wiltshire Ct. E., Sterling, VA 20165 .....(703) 433-1500  
Secretary: Teacher Steven A. Lemke  
1108 Ontario Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081.....(920) 459-7844

## CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

Rev. Karl R. Gurgel, Chairman  
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 .....(414) 256-3201  
Rev. Wayne D. Mueller, First Vice President  
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222 ..... (414) 256-3204  
Rev. Thomas F. Zarling, Second Vice President  
6 Wiltshire Ct. E., Sterling, VA 20165 .....(703) 433-1500  
Rev. Paul M. Janke  
3461 Merle Ave., Modesto, CA 95355 ..... Arizona-California District  
Rev. Peter J. Naumann  
620 W. 9th St., Mobridge, SD 57601 ..... Dakota-Montana District  
Rev. John C. Seifert  
907 Mattes Dr, Midland, MI 48642.....Michigan District  
Rev. Larry E. Cross  
4520 19th Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901 .....Minnesota District  
Rev. Joel G. Frank  
110 E State Hwy. 4, Box 222, Plymouth, NE 68424..... Nebraska District  
Rev. Joel V. Petermann  
199 Naticook Rd, Marrimack NH 03054 ..... North Atlantic District  
Rev. Douglas J. Engelbrecht  
249 E. Franklin Ave., Neenah, WI 54956 ..... Northern Wisconsin District  
Rev. Theodore D. Lambert  
6027 Peregrine Ct., Bremerton, WA 98312.....Pacific Northwest District  
Rev. John R. Guse  
716 Song Bird Way, Woodstock, GA 30188 ..... South Atlantic District  
Rev. Vilas R. Glaeske  
233 E Eldorado Dr., Scroggins, TX 75480.....South Central District  
Rev. David N. Rutschow  
527 - 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516..... Southeastern Wisconsin District  
Rev. Herbert H. Prahll  
S8441 Michael Dr., Eau Claire, WI 54701..... Western Wisconsin District

---

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001

507-344-7354

[www.evangelicallutheransynod.org](http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org)

---

## OFFICERS:

President .....	The Rev. John A. Moldstad 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001 Phones: Office 507-344-7356; Home 507-386-7267 Fax 507-344-7426, E-mail <a href="mailto:jamjr@blc.edu">jamjr@blc.edu</a>
Vice President .....	The Rev. Glenn R. Obenberger 919 120th Street South, Tacoma, WA 98444 Phones: Office 253-537-5492; Home 253-531-0777 Fax 253-537-0172, E-mail <a href="mailto:obiwhine@aol.com">obiwhine@aol.com</a>
Secretary.....	The Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad 37769 State Hwy 22, St. Peter, MN 56082 Phones: Office 507-246-5312; Home 507-246-5140 E-mail <a href="mailto:elsec@prairie.lakes.com">elsec@prairie.lakes.com</a>

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Rev. Karl Anderson	Mr. Donald Heiliger	Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
Mr. Wayne Anderson	Mr. Wilbur Lieske	Mr. Robert Brown
Rev. John Moldstad	Mr. Leroy Meyer	Mr. Greg Griffin

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>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Paul Chamberlin	Rev. Mark Bartels	Mr. Jon Bruss
Rev. John Moldstad Sr.	Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch	Mr. Harold Theiste
Rev. J. Kincaid Smith	Rev. Kenneth Schmidt	Mr. Roland Reinholdt

#### Type B members

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Rev. Joel Willitz	Dr. Willis Anthony	Mr. James Minor

Advisory Members: Rev. John Moldstad  
Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf

# BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## THE SYNOD'S VISITORS

(2007)

Circuit 1.....	The Rev. Joel Willitz Alt. The Rev. Charles Keeler
Circuit 2.....	The Rev. Thomas Fox Alt. The Rev. Michael Langlais
Circuit 3.....	The Rev. Paul Schneider Alt. The Rev. Kenneth Mellon
Circuit 4.....	The Rev. Frederic Lams Alt. Rev. Stephen Schmidt
Circuit 5.....	The Rev. Jonathan Madson Alt. The Rev. Nathan Krause
Circuit 6.....	The Rev. Frederick Theiste Alt. The Rev. Tosten Skaaland
Circuit 7.....	The Rev. Wayne Halvorson Alt. The Rev. Thomas Rank
Circuit 8.....	The Rev. Rolf Preus Alt. The Rev. Shawn Stafford
Circuit 9.....	The Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ Alt. The Rev. Karl Anderson
Circuit 10.....	The Rev. Erik Gernander Alt. The Rev. Richard Waters
Circuit 11.....	The Rev. William Stehr Alt. The Rev. Larry Wentzlaff
Circuit 12.....	The Rev. James Braun Alt. The Rev. Alex Ring

## DOCTRINE COMITTEE

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Rev. Wilhelm Petersen	Rev. Juul Madson	Mr. Paul Tweit
Mr. Allen Quist	Rev. Paul Zager	Rev. Thomas Rank

By virtue of office: President of Bethany Lutheran Seminary

## BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Robert Smith	Rev. Daniel Basel	Mr. Keith Duin
Rev. R. Wiechmann	Mr. Loren Meyer	Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ
		Rev. Rodney Flohr

## BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Harmon Anderson	Rev. Wayne Halvorson	Rev. Adolph Harstad
Rev. Paul Fries	Rev. William Kessel	Mr. Marlin Goebel
		Mr. Silas Born

## BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Roger Whitford	Rev. Cory Hahnke	Rev. Bradley Kerkow
Rev. Matthew Crick	Mr. Maynard Pick	

## **BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Glen Hansen	Mr. Peter Bloedel	Mr. Brian Brudvig
Mr. Curtis Mantey	Rev. Charles Keeler	Rev. Aaron Hamilton
Rev. Alexander Ring	Mr. Allen Labitzky	Mr. Daniel Johnson
Rev. Bernt Tweit	Rev. Donald Moldstad	Rev. Jonathan Madson
		Rev. Anthony Pittenger

## **BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2005</u>
Rev. Bradley Homan	Mr. Robert Deering	Rev. Erik Germanader
Mr. Howard Siewert	Mr. Paul Wold	Rev. Roger Holtz

## **BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Herb Berg	Rev. Richard Fyffe	Mr. Dean Shoop
	Mr. Joel Petersen	Rev. Mark Marozick

## **COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Rev. Mark DeGarmaux	Rev. Dennis Marzolf	Rev. Harry Bartels
	Mr. James Olson	Mr. James Baxter

## **BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Jon Natvig	Mr. Tom Oswald	Mr. Howard Hougan
Rev. Mark Rogers		Rev. David Russow

By virtue of office: Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

## **EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Brian Hayes	Mr. Ralph Miller	Rev. Roger Holtz

## **COMMITTEE FOR INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY**

### **Appointed by the synod president**

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Rod Kuznicki	Mr. Dennis Behr	Rev. Phillip Lepak
	Mr. Christopher Johnson	Mr. Mark Meyer

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>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Dennis Behr	Mr. Brian Hayes	Mr. Richard Waldschmidt

## SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

### Elected Positions:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
--	Mr. Robert Brown	Rev. Juul Madson

### Appointed by the synod president:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Rev. Ernest Geistfeld	Mr. Norman Werner	Rev. Erling Teigen

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2006 CONVENTION

Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ	Rev. David Russow	Rev. Stephen Schmidt
Rev. Steven Sparley	Mr. Donald Heiliger	Mr. Joshua Oswald
Mr. William Overn	Mr. Robert Schlesseman	

## COMMITTEE ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

507-344-7360

### Elected by the Board of Trustees:

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Mr. Sigurd Lee	Mr. Norman Holte	Rev. Walther Gullixson
Mr. Norman Werner	Rev. Norman Madson	Rev. Juul Madson

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/Treasurer
	6 Browns Court; Mankato MN 56001
	Office: 507-344-7395 Home: 507-345-1388
	Fax: 507-344-7426, E-mail keithw@blc.edu
Mr. Michael Butterfield.....	president/CEO of Lutheran Schools of America
	3104 Spyglass Circle; Palos Heights IL 60463
	Office: 708-466-8391 Home/Fax: 708-489-5682
	E-mail mikevicki2@comcast.net
Elsa Ferkenstad .....	507-344-7354 / elsa.ferkenstad@blc.edu
Denise Luehmann .....	507-344-7848 / dluehmann@blc.edu

years indicate expiration of current term

---

# FOREIGN MISSIONS

---

## MISSION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD IN PERU

(Peru, South America)

### Seminary Building:

Enrique Barron 964  
Santa Beatriz  
Lima, 1, Peru, SA  
Tel: 011-51-14-133-126  
Fax: 011-51-14-133-126  
postmas@mselp.org.pe

### Mailing Address:

Skyexpress Enterprises  
*Name of Missionary*  
6410 N.W. 82 Ave. Box 136  
Miami FL 33166

### Missionaries:

The Rev. David Haeuser  
The Rev. Karl Kuenzel  
The Rev. Terry Schultz

### National Pastors:

The Rev. Roberto Berrospid  
The Rev. Elmer Carrera  
The Rev. Edison Convercio  
The Rev. Fidel Convercio  
The Rev. Jaime Cortez  
The Rev. Oswaldo Fernández  
The Rev. Segundo Gutierrez  
The Rev. Santos Melandez  
The Rev. Giovany Rivas  
The Rev. Ronal Rivas  
The Rev. Andres Robles  
The Rev. Abraham Rosario  
The Rev. Antonio Vilchez

## IGLESIA CRISTIANA DE LA REFORMA LUTHERANA

(Chile, South America)

### Mailing Address:

*Name of Missionary*  
Exp #1141  
PM Box 025285  
Miami FL 33102-5285

### Missionaries:

The Rev. Timothy Erickson  
The Rev. Othoniel Rodriguez

## LUTHERAN MISSION OF SALVATION—INDIA

### Hyderabad District:

President: Pastor Mamidi Solomon  
8-3-228/678/12 Karmikanagar  
Yousufuguda  
Hyderabad 500 045 AP  
India

### Jabalpur District:

President: Mr. Vijay Sidney  
Plot No. 43  
Ramnagar Rampur  
Jabalpur M.P. 482008  
North India

### Rajahmundry District:

President: Pastor G. J. Ananda Raju  
101 Municipal Colony  
Rajahmundry 533 105 AP  
India

# THOUGHTS OF FAITH

*(a church related organization of the ELS)*

## MAILING ADDRESS:

280 W Netherwood Street  
Oregon, Wisconsin 53575  
Tel: 608-835-3375  
877-892-4718  
Fax: 608-835-3372  
contact@tof.org  
www.tof.org

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Kermit Traska

## ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Larry Dilgard

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. Daniel Browning	Rev. George Orvick, vice-president
Mr. David Ewert	The Rev. John Petersen
Mr. Paul Fick	Rev. Paul Schneider, president
Rev. John Lawrenz	Mr. Mark Schwan
Mr. Leroy Meyer, treasurer	Mr. Tom Vik
	Mr. Dick Waldschmidt

## 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. Matt Luttman

### Teachers:

Mr. Donald Weston  
Mrs. Mary Grubbs  
Mr. Paul Kelm  
Mrs. Nancy Luttman  
Mrs. Lisa Finkbeiner  
Mrs. Noelle Weston

## LATVIA:

### Mailing address:

Augsburg Institute  
Miesnieku 12  
Riga LV-1050  
Latvia  
Tel. 011-371-722-4410  
011-371-722-3956  
Fax 011-371-722-3041  
aii@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 Sildegis  
The Rev. Ugis Sildegis

## UKRAINE: (continued)



## **UKRAINE:**

### **Mailing Addresses:**

Kyiv:

The Rev. Wayne Borgwardt  
Vul. Horkogo, 103-a, kv.48  
03150 Kyiv  
Ukraine  
Tel./Fax 011-380-44-261-1320  
borgway@sab.wels.net

Ukrainian Lutheran Church  
14 Velyka Vasylkivska St.  
Kv #15  
01004 Kiev  
Ukraine  
Tel. 011-380-44-235-7721  
Fax 011-380-44-234-0800

Ternopil:

The Rev. David Jay Webber  
St. Sophia Seminary  
Lyuterans'ka Bohoslovs'ka  
Seminariya  
Vulytsya Peremohy 46  
47724 Velyka Berezovytsya  
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./Fax 011-380-35-253-7965  
giftoflife@tr.ukrtel.net

## **National Pastors in Ukraine:**

The Rev. V'yacheslav Horpynchuk  
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 Kolesnik  
The Rev. Oleh Okruhin  
The Rev. Oleksiy Onufriychuk  
The Rev. Pavlo Oskolov  
The Rev. Viktor Paschenko  
The Rev. Serhiy Romanyuk  
The Rev. Olexandr Simashko  
The Rev. Serhiy Somin  
The Rev. Olexandr Sonne  
The Rev. Oleh Stetsiuk  
The Rev. Oleh Yukhymenko  
The Rev. Oleksandr Zonne  
The Rev. Serhiy Zuyev  
The Rev. Vadim Zinchenko

## **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  
info@elcrm.com

---

## OTHER ADDRESSES

---

### **CROSS STITCH**

Contact: The Rev. Steven Petersen

### **ELS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Contact: Mrs. Robin Ouren  
47594 370th St, Nicollet, MN 56074

### **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION**

Contact: The Rev. Richard Wiechmann

### **FAITH MISSION SOCIETY**

Contact: Mr. Marlin Goebel 989-742-4505  
24885 Morrow Rd, Hillman, MI 49746

### **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: 715-466-6300 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

### **OTTESEN MUSEUM**

Contact: The Rev. George Orvick

---

## 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 MORAINES LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

3399 Division Rd, Jackson, WI 53037 262-677-4051

### **LAKE SIDE 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

### **SOUTHERN LUTHERAN ACADEMY**

8022 Ridge Point Dr W, Lakeland, FL 33810 863-816-8861

### **WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

3350 Harbor Lane N, Plymouth, MN 55447 763-509-9378

---

# BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

700 Luther Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
507-344-7000  
800-944-3066  
Fax: 507-344-7376  
[www.blc.edu](http://www.blc.edu)

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Bruss, Dan R.**

President

**Ausen, Orrin**

Director of Library Media Services

**Born, Silas V.**

Coordinator of Christian Education  
Education

**Costello, Gregory W.**

Chief Financial Officer

**Jaeger, Lois A.**

Fine Arts Director

**Jaeger, Steven C.**

Vice President for Student Affairs

**Manthe, Theodore E.**

Dean of Student Services  
Education

**Mundahl, Daniel L.**

Chief Administrative Officer

**Schwartz, Lance W.**

Director of Marketing and Public  
Relations

**Schloff, John M.**

Director of Information Technology  
Biology/Computer Science

**Westphal, Arthur P.**

Director of Development

**Westphal, Donald M.**

Dean of Admissions  
Sports Information Director

**Wiechmann, Jean K.**

Registrar

**Woodley Derek**

Athletic Director

**Younge, Jeffrey W.**

Financial Aid Director

**Younge, Ronald J.**

Vice President for Academic Affairs

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**Bartscher, Ellen**

Database Specialist

**Booker, Paulette Tonn**

Coordinator of Human Resources  
Business

**Buch, Ryan D.**

Admissions Counselor

**Ewert, Julie A.**

Library Public Services

**Forsberg, Kathy L.**

Library Technical Services

**Grunzke, Bruce**

Information Technology/Help Desk

**Hayes, Bukata O.**

Multi Ethnic Center Coordinator

**Hopp, Tina M.**

Student Life

**Johnson, Christopher T.**

Studio Director  
Communication

**Kovaciny, Jonathan**

Coordinator of Web Services

**Loge, Linda S.**

Associate Dean of Admissions

**Marozick, Abigail**

Admissions Counselor

**Marozick, Jonathan**

Programmer  
Computer Science

**Marzinske, Todd R.**

Network Manager

**Meyer, Mark S.**

Director Academic Computing  
Computer Applications/Education

**Miller, Ralph L.**

Director of Accounting

**Moldstad, Don\***

Director of Campus Spiritual Life/  
Chaplain  
Religious Studies

**Moldstad, Jon**

Director of Security

**Norris, David J.**

Coordinator of Publications

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF, continued

### **Paulsen, Kurt**

Assistant Studio Director  
Communications

### **Shubert, Lisa A.**

Director Administrative Computing

### **Tesch, Estelle**

Admissions Counselor

### **Wold, Paul**

Bookstore Manager

### **Wall, Jim**

Development Officer

## FACULTY

### **Bloedel, Peter J.**

Theatre

### **Boubel, John**

History

### **Browne, Polly**

Education

### **Buelow, Ronald**

Mathematics

### **Bukowski, William**

Art

### **Caron, Matthew**

Theatre

### **Czer, Ramona**

Communication/English

### **DeGarmeaux, Mark\***

Religious Studies

### **Hanna, Robert**

Education

### **Harstad, Mark\***

Hebrew/Religious Studies

### **Heins, Chad**

Biology

### **Johnson, Lars**

Communication/English

### **Jones, Lyle**

Physical Education

### **Kessel, William\***

Sociology/Religious Studies

### **Kjeer, Julie**

Mathematics

### **Kjeer, Peter**

Physics/Mathematics

### **Kuster, Matthew**

Biology/Physical Education

### **Kuster, Tom\***

Communication

### **Lo, Adrian**

Music

### **Loging, Jon**

Communication

### **Lussky, Patty**

Health

### **MacPherson, Ryan**

History/Philosophy

### **Marzolf, Dennis\***

Music

### **Metzger, Daniel\***

German/Religious Studies

### **Moldstad, Janet**

Business

### **Nissen, Angie**

Communication

### **Nissen, Jonas**

Communication/English

### **Ouren, Eric**

Art

### **Overn, Andrew**

Art

### **Pipal, Rob**

Physical Education

### **Reagles, Steven\***

Communication/Religious Studies

### **Riehl, Matthew**

Chemistry

### **Shoop, Dean**

Business/Accounting

### **Smith, Michael\***

Greek/Religious Studies

### **Teigen, Erling\***

Philosophy/Religious Studies

### **Tollefson, Timothy**

Music

### **Wiechmann, Mark**

Psychology

### **Woller, Eric**

Chemistry

### **Wosmek, Jennifer**

Psychology

### **Young Klockziem, Tiffany**

Physical Education/Health

\*Theologically Trained

## EMERITI

### **Hilding, Arlene**

### **Holte, Norman**

### **Honsey, Rudolph**

### **Johnson, Calvin**

### **Lee, Sigurd**

### **Madson, Juul**

### **Meyer, Marvin**

### **Petersen, Wilhelm**

### **Weberg, Cynthia**

---

# BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

6 Browns Court  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
Tel: 507-344-7354  
Fax: 507-344-7426  
e-mail: [gschmeli@blc.edu](mailto:gschmeli@blc.edu)  
[www.blts.edu](http://www.blts.edu)

---

**Gaylin R. Schmeling**

President

Dean of Students

**Adolph L. Harstad**

Registrar

## FACULTY

**Harstad, Adolph L.**

Biblical Theology

Historical Theology

Practical Theology

**Kuster, Thomas\***

Practical Theology

**Marzolf, Dennis\***

Practical Theology

**Schmeling, Gaylin R.**

Systematic Theology

Historical Theology

Practical Theology

**Smith, Michael K.\***

Biblical Theology

Systematic Theology

**Teigen, Erling T.\***

Systematic Theology

\* College professor teaching  
classes in the seminary

## EMERITI

**Honsey, Rudolph**

**Madson, Juul B.**

**Petersen, Wilhelm W.**

## PERIODICAL

*Lutheran Synod Quarterly*

Editor: Gaylin R. Schmeling

Subscription: \$15.00

---

# LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS

June 15, 2005

**Secretary of Schools** (Board for Education and Youth) ..... Curtis Mantey  
2985 Royalwood Place SE, Port Orchard, WA 98367

Tel. 360-876-0813, e-mail: [cmantey@hotmail.com](mailto:cmantey@hotmail.com)

**Director of Christian Education** (Bethany Lutheran College) ..... Silas Born  
700 Luther Drive, Mankato, MN 56001

Home: 507-388-6963, Office: 507-344-7431, e-mail: [sborn@blc.edu](mailto: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

Matthew Fager  
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](mailto:concordi@execpc.com)  
Lynda Krueger\*

**Grace Lutheran Preschool**  
1 So. Rosa Rd.  
Madison, WI 53705  
Tel 608-233-2985  
E-mail: [preschool@grace-els.org](mailto:preschool@grace-els.org)  
Patti Reinhold\*

**Heritage Lutheran Little Lambs  
Preschool and Kindergarten**  
(Preschool and Kindergarten)  
13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Road  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Tel. 952-431-6225

Stacy Kiecker  
Sarah Smith  
Cami Sonnenburg

**Holy Cross Lutheran School**  
(Preschool through Eighth Grade)  
2670 Milwaukee Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
Tel. 608-249-3101  
Fax 608-249-0601

Patricia Becker (PT)  
Pamela Berndt  
Rebecca Cleven (PT)  
Camilla Dashcund  
Ione Ibeling  
Eileen Karow (PT)  
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

Patricia Hoeft

vacancy\*

Dawn Sauer

Marjorie Scott

Christina Westendorf

**Hope Lutheran Academic  
Christian School**

(Preschool Only)

2930 W. 9000 S.

West Jordan, UT 84088

Tel 801-569-1111

Cindy Heinecke\*

**Jesus' Lambs at Peace**

(Preschool Only)

2090 Commerce Drive

North Mankato, MN 56003

Tel 507-385-1386

Joslyn Moldstad\*

**King of Grace Lutheran School**

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

6000 Duluth Street

Golden Valley, MN 55422

Tel. 763-546-3131

Fax 763-540-0028

Jean Borgerding (PT-Math)

Sheila Degner

Joshua Gregovich

Bethel Janisch (PT-Music)

Allen Labitzky\*

William Lubansky

Judy Luxford

Karen Madson

Jonathan Matzke

Cinda Meitner

Karen Merseth

Aaron Olmanson

Carol Robison

Kay Russow

Ruth Vomhof

**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\*

Katie Petermann

**Little Lambs Preschool**

(Preschool Only)

P.O. Box 10949

1863 Panadaro Rd,

Fort Mohave, AZ

Tel. 928-763-5303

Linda Martin\*

**Mt. Olive Lutheran School**

(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

1123 Marsh Street

Mankato, MN 56001

Tel. 507-345-7927

Steven Beilke\*

Susan Beilke

Mary Born

Alissa Griebel

Kari Sehloff

LuAnn Sting

Miranda Dittmer

Craig Zibrowski

**Our Redeemer Lutheran School**

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

805 East Yelm Ave.

P.O. Box 2169

Yelm, WA 98297-9424

Tel. 360-458-7310

E-mail: orlyelm@hotmail.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

Vanessa Hebert\*

Nancy Leifer

**Our Saviour Lutheran School**

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

3045 Arapaho Drive

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

Tel. 928-680-6181

Rachel Freer

Scott Hill

Stacey Hill

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

Sharon King

Jolene McClung

Linda Perry

Brent Sorn

John Staab

Chris Rogich

Larry Rude\*

Vacancy at time of printing

**Peace Lutheran School**

(Kindergarten)

3249 Windmill Point Blvd.

Kissimmee, FL 34746

Tel. 407-870-5965

Barbara Huhnerkoch\*

**Precious Lambs Preschool**

(Preschool only)

143 Washington Street

Oregon, WI 53575

Tel. 608-835-3554

Debra Saeger\*

Teri Schuman

**Princeton Ev. Lutheran School**

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

7401 Alpha Road

Princeton, MN 55371

Tel. 763-389-0704

Beverly Bentz

Linda Larson

Chad Ruzek\*

**Scarville Lutheran School**

(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

Box 20

Scarville, IA 50473

Tel. 641-568-3372

vacancy at time of printing

**St. Timothy Ev. Lutheran**

(Preschool through Fourth 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: trinpvw@nconnect.net

Diana Borman

Richard Brei\*

Andrea Loduha

Jeanine Heller

Barbara Speerschnneider

**Western Koshkonong Lutheran School**

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

2632 Church Street

Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Tel. 608-873-6011

Linda Marozick

Camille Bovee\*

Edith Zickuhr

**The School of Martin Luther**

(Kindergarten through Ninth Grade)

Skolní náměstí

131805 Plzeň, Czech Republic

Tel. 011-420-377-387-009

Mark Grubbs

Mary Grubbs

Paul Kelm

Matthew Luttmann\*

Nancy Luttmann

Donald Weston

Noelle Weston

\* indicates school administrator/  
principal/director



---

# CONGREGATIONS

---

## CIRCUIT 1

### FLORIDA

**Clermont-South Lake**

10:00  
G. Sahlstrom  
1208 Bowman St  
Mail: 2535 Rollins Ave; 34711  
[www.southlake.stormlash.net](http://www.southlake.stormlash.net)

**Kissimmee-Peace**

10:00; Spanish-12:00  
H. Huhnerkoch  
3249 Windmill Point Blvd; 34746

**Lakeland-Our Savior**

9:30  
A. Palmquist  
6920 North Socrum Loop Rd; 33809  
[www.osllakeland.com](http://www.osllakeland.com)

**Lakeland-Peace**

10:30  
J. Willitz  
5970 Lakeland Highlands Rd; 33813  
[www.geocities.com/peacelutheranlakeland](http://www.geocities.com/peacelutheranlakeland)

**Naples-Our Savior**

9:00  
G. Schmidt  
10,000 Airport Pulling Rd; 34109  
[www.oslcnaples.org](http://www.oslcnaples.org)

**Port St. Lucie-Christ**

10:00  
M. Dale  
1592 SE Floresta Dr; 34983

**Sebastian-Trinity**

10:00  
D. Lillegard  
611 Schumann Dr; 32958

**Sebring-New Life**

10:00  
R. Fyffe  
3725 Hammock Rd; 33872

**Vero Beach-Grace**

10:30  
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](http://www.pinewoodlutheran.com)

## CIRCUIT 3

### MICHIGAN

**Alpena-Faith**

9:00

B. Schwark

233 Cavanaugh; 49707

**Detroit-St. Matthew**

10:30

L. Vinton

4981 Cabot St

Mail: 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; 49746

**Holland-Lord of Life**

9:00

D. McQuality

512 S Waverly Rd; 49423

[www.lordlife.org](http://www.lordlife.org)

**Holton-Holton**

8:30 & 11:00

P. Zager

6655 Marvin Rd; 49425

<http://holtonelcs.triton.net>

**Midland-Holy Scripture**

9:00

P. Schneider

4525 West Main St; 48640

**Rogers City-Trinity**

5:00 pm Saturday

J. Londgren

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

[www.gloria-dei-sag.com](http://www.gloria-dei-sag.com)

**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

**Deshler-Peace**

9:30

T. Smuda

5-039 County Road G; 43516-9788

[www.bright.net/~peaceels](http://www.bright.net/~peaceels)

**Weston-Grace**

10:00

J. Merseth Sr.

20425 Taylor St

Mail: PO Box 304; 43569-0304

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Irwin-Zion**

10:30

B. Leonatti

351 Robbins-Station Rd; 15642

## CIRCUIT 4

### ILLINOIS

**Litchfield-Faith**

9:00

S. Schmidt

10415 Niemanville Tr; 62056

[www.faithlitchfield.com](http://www.faithlitchfield.com)

**Lombard-St. Timothy**

10:15 (S 9:00)

E. Bryant

547 N Main St; 60148

[www.sainttimothy.org](http://www.sainttimothy.org)

**Plainfield-Light of Life**

10:00

P. Lepak

530 W Lockport Rd; 60544

[www.lightoflife.name](http://www.lightoflife.name)

### INDIANA

**Brownsburg-Good Shepherd**

10:15

G. Lilienthal

204 E Main St; 46112

**Hobart-Grace**

9:00

F. Lams

6240 Grand Blvd

Mail: 1031 Hickey St; 46342

**Portage-Hope**

10:30

R. Flohr

6322 Portage Ave; 46368

### OHIO

**Springboro-Beautiful Saviour**

9:30

G. Smith

70 West Central Ave; 45066

## CIRCUIT 5

### WISCONSIN

**Cottage Grove**-Abiding Shepherd

9:00, Wed. 7:00 pm

N. Krause

406 West Cottage Grove Road; 53527

[www.abidingshepherd.org](http://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](http://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

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](http://www.holytrinityokauchee.org)

**Oregon**-Faith

9:00 (S: 9:00, Thu. 7:00)

W. Mack

143 Washington St; 53575

[userpages.chorus.net/faithlth](http://userpages.chorus.net/faithlth)

**Portage**-St. Paul's

9:00

W. Grimm

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

[www.trinityels.org](http://www.trinityels.org)

**Wisconsin Dells**-Newport

10:30

W. Grimm

N8794 Peterson Rd (4 miles E)

Mail: 212 Volk, Portage; 53901

## CIRCUIT 6

### WISCONSIN

**Amherst Junction**-Our Savior's

9:30  
G. Haugen  
Hwy 161 & Co Rd "T"  
Mail: N6916 TU Lakes Rd,  
Scandinavia; 54977

**Bloomer**-Good Shepherd

9:00  
R. Otto  
1504 Vine St; 54724

**Clintonville**-St. Paul

10:00  
R. Sawall  
31 N Park St  
Mail: PO Box 115; 54929  
[www.stpaulselsclintonville.org](http://www.stpaulselsclintonville.org)

**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/~concordi](http://www.execpc.com/~concordi)

**Eau Claire**-Pinehurst

9:00; Mon. 6:30  
M. Rogers  
3304 Fern Ct; 54703  
Lkd. from: [www.aroundyourtown.net](http://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  
R. Holtz  
125 North St.  
Mail: 295 E State St; 54945

**Marinette**-First Trinity

8:00; 10:00 (S 9:00)  
E.C.F. Stubenvoll, Jr.  
920 Wells St; 54143

**Omro**-Messiah

9:00  
G. Haugen  
H.B. Patch Elem. School  
607 Tyler Ave  
Mail: 1232 Snowdon Dr, Oshkosh;  
54904

**Shawano**-St. Martin

9:00  
J. Smith  
W8302 Belle Plaine Ave  
Mail: W8079 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.goodshepherdels.org](http://www.goodshepherdels.org)

**Lake Mills**-Lake Mills

9:15  
K. Hermanson  
107 N 1st Avenue E  
Mail: 106 13th St S, Northwood; 50459

**Lake Mills**-Lime Creek

8:00 \*  
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](http://www.redeemernewhampton.org)

**Newton-Grace**

9:00  
M. Hoesch  
814 1st Ave E  
Mail: 3219 Diamond St, Ames; 50010  
[www.gracelutherannewton.com](http://www.gracelutherannewton.com)

**Northwood-First Shell Rock**

10:45  
K. Hermanson  
1406 Central  
Mail: 106 13th St S; 50459

**Northwood-Somber**

8:00 \*  
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  
D. Finn  
3815 Ansborough Ave; 50701  
[www.pilgrim-lutheran.net](http://www.pilgrim-lutheran.net)

**Waukon-King of Grace**

11:00  
H. Abrahamson  
1351 Maud Rd  
Mail: 611 W Court St, New Hampton;  
50659

**Williamsburg-St. Timothy**

9:00  
K. Heck  
113 WRM Drive  
Mail: PO Box 766; 52361-0766

**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

R. Lawson

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

vacant

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

vacant

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**

10:45

C. Dale

Sixth & Joseph

Mail: PO Box 326, Ulen; 56585

**Lengby-St. Paul**

10:30

S. Stafford

38978 450th St SE

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; 56742

**Trail-Mt. Olive**

Sat 8:30

J. Abrahamson

Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee; 56742

[www.clearwaterlutheran.org](http://www.clearwaterlutheran.org)

**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

C. Dale

207 First Street NW

Mail: PO Box 326; 56585

### NORTH DAKOTA

**Mayville-First American**

10:30 (S 9:00)

A. Dethlefsen

214 Third Ave NE

Mail: 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: PO Box 187; 56214

#### **Belview-Rock Dell**

8:30 or 11:00\* (S 8:30 or 10:00)\*

D. Faugstad

4 miles NE

Mail: PO Box 187; 56214

#### **Clara City-Faith**

9:00

E. Hoeft

4015 SE 115th Ave

Mail: PO Box 796; 56222

#### **Cold Spring-Gloria Dei**

10:15 (S 9:00)

C. Hahnke

601 Red River Ave S; 56320

#### **Cottonwood-English**

9:00

S.P. Van Kampen

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, Mon. 7:00

(S 8:15; 10:00, Mon. 7:00)

E. Ekhoft, D. Russow, M. Brooks

6000 Duluth St; 55422

www.kog.org

#### **Luverne-Bethany**

10:15

P. Fries

720 N Kniss Ave

Mail: 735 N Freeman Ave; 56156

www.blc-luverne.org

#### **Mankato-Mt. Olive**

8:30; 10:45, Mon. 7:00

(S 8:30 & 10:00, Mon 7:00)

D. Basel

1123 Marsh St; 56001

#### **North Mankato-Peace**

8:00; 10:30 (S 9:00)

B. Kerkow

2090 Commerce Drive; 56003

www.peacemankato.org

#### **Princeton-Bethany**

9:00

vacant

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

200 Emroy Street

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 Grand; 64836  
users.joplin.com/faith

**Jefferson City-Peace**

8:30  
E. Gernander  
7808 New Church Rd; 65101

**Piedmont-Grace**

10:30  
vacant  
114 E Green St; 63957

### TEXAS

**San Antonio-Faith**

10:30  
M. Crick  
14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd; 78247

## CIRCUIT 11

### ARIZONA

**Fort Mohave-Family of God**

10:15  
L. Wentzlaff  
1863 Panadaro Rd  
Mail: PO Box 10949; 86427  
www.citlink.net/~familyofgod

**Lake Havasu City-Our Saviour**

8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:00, Apr-Dec)  
T. Hartwig  
3163 Maricopa Ave; 86406  
www.citlink.net/~saviour

**Scottsdale-Redeemer**

9:00  
vacant  
7670 E Jomax Rd; 85262

### CALIFORNIA

**Bell Gardens-Christ the King**

10:45  
E. Zimdars  
6541 Eastern Ave; 90201

**Bishop-Our Savior**

9:30  
C. Wosje  
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 Third St; 93015

**Irvine-Asian Mission**

12:00 (Korean)  
J. Kim  
13955 Yale Ave; 92620

**Irvine-Faith**

9:30  
W. Stehr  
13955 Yale Ave; 92620

**Ukiah-Apostles**

10:15  
M. Thompson  
710-E S State St  
Mail: 129 Shiloh Rd; Windsor 95492

**Windsor-Christ**

10:15  
M. Thompson  
125 Shiloh Rd; 95492

## CIRCUIT 12

### OREGON

**Grants Pass**-Our Savior

10:15  
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  
[www.reformationchurch.org](http://www.reformationchurch.org)

**Hood River**-Concordia

9:00  
vacant  
1107 Pine St; 97031  
**Klamath Falls**-Christ  
9:30  
J. Braun  
127 N Spring St; 97601

**Medford**-Faith

10:15  
T. Westendorf  
1773 S Columbus Ave; 97501

**Myrtle Creek**-St. Matthew

11:00  
F. Fiedler III  
436 Old North Pacific Hwy; 97457

**Sutherlin**-Christ

8:30  
F. Fiedler III  
161 W 2nd St  
Mail: Box R; 97479

**The Dalles**-Bethany

11:00  
vacant  
2323 East 12th St; 97058

### UTAH

**West Jordan**-Hope

8:00 & 10:30  
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  
[www.bethanylutheranes.org](http://www.bethanylutheranes.org)

**Tacoma**-Parkland

8:15; 10:30, Mon. 6:30  
(S 9:30; Mon. 6:30)  
South Mission Service 9:00 (S 8:00)  
G. Obenberger, A. Ring, H. Bartels  
12309 Pacific Ave; 98444

**Yelm**-Our Redeemer

10:00 (S: 9:00)  
V. Settje  
805 Yelm Ave E; 98597

\* Consult pastor for Service time

---

## PERIODICALS

---

### **LUTHERAN SENTINEL**

Published Monthly

Subscription-\$10.00 per year

Blanket subscription-\$8.00 per year

Bulk subscriptions (20 copies & over)-\$8.00 per year

Send to: The Lutheran Sentinel  
Box 185  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

### **LUTHERAN SYNOD QUARTERLY**

Published Quarterly

Subscription-\$15.00 per year

Send to: Lutheran Synod Quarterly  
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato, MN 56001

### **ANNUAL SYNOD CONVENTION REPORT**

Cost-\$8.50

Order through: Lutheran Synod Book Company  
700 Luther Drive  
Mankato, MN 56001

---

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

---

“The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is established for the purpose of soliciting gifts, other than for current operating funds, for the Synod, its agencies, and as requested, for its congregations and for the theological seminary, college, and other institutions related to the Synod. The Foundation is to encourage the making of wills, gift annuity agreements, trust agreements, insurance contracts, etc., under which the Synod or any of its parts or agencies may become an actual or contingent beneficiary.”—(Adopted by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 1969.)

### **IS GOD’S WILL INCLUDED IN YOUR WILL?**

The Foundation is ready to serve those who are concerned about their responsibility to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as those who are concerned about the needs of our church. It stands ready to serve as no other agency can.

### **A. GIFTS AND DONATIONS OF MONEY**

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of money designated for the general work of our church or any specific phase of its activities. Such gifts may be designated for any purpose the donor may desire, and they may be divided in any way.

In keeping with the donor’s wishes, the principal may be used for the purpose designated, or the principal may be held intact while the income alone is used for the work of the church.

### **B. GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY**

The Foundation is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of real estate, securities, or other property designated for the general work of our church or for any specific phase of its activities (including local congregations). If desired the Foundation

is ready to make arrangements whereby the donor will receive a gift annuity agreement income for life or a life income agreement income.

**C. BEQUESTS THROUGH WILLS**

In a very real sense your will is a continuation of your own life and influence. It is an expression of your wishes, a document that acts as your representative in distributing the material things you leave behind. Only you know how you wish them distributed. Only you have the power and the right to make your own will. If you don't have a will, the state makes a will for you through the laws that apply when a person leaves no will.

The E.L.S. Foundation urgently appeals to you: Make a will, and make your will a "Christian" will by remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in it.

Gift Annuity Agreements, Life Income Gift Agreements, Life Insurance Gifts, Gifts Through Trusts, and Memorial Gifts, may be used; and the Foundation is ready to serve you or counsel with you.

**LEGAL FORM FOR GIFTS TO THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION  
THROUGH YOUR WILL**

*(check with your attorney)*

I give, devise and bequeath to the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD  
FOUNDATION (a Minnesota Corporation):

---

*(insert sum of money or description of property which sum, or  
property, or proceeds thereof)*

to be used as directed by the donor or, if no direction as to use is  
stated, as its Board of Directors may determine.

Send inquiries to:

**DEFERRED GIVING COUNSELOR  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001**

# INDEX

Archives and History, Report of the Committee.....	118
Bethany Lutheran College, Report of the Board of Regents .....	73
Bethany Lutheran Seminary, Report of the Board of Regents.....	76
Christian Service, Report of the Board.....	107
Convention, Date of the 2006 Convention .....	131
Convention Committees .....	16
Convention Day-by-Day.....	6
Credentials Committee, Action of the synod .....	63
Directories:	
Bethany Lutheran College .....	206
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary .....	208
Church bodies in fellowship with the ELS .....	192
Clergy .....	229
Congregations .....	219
Foreign Missions:	
Chile .....	202
India .....	202
Peru .....	202
Thoughts of Faith .....	203
High Schools.....	205
Lutheran Elementary Schools .....	209
Lutheran Elementary School Teachers .....	212
Officers of the synod .....	194
Other Addresses .....	205
Doctrine, Report of the Board .....	64
Education and Youth, Report of the Board .....	98
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, Report of the Board .....	125
Evangelism, Report of the Board .....	95
Excuses .....	63
Finances:	
Action of the synod.....	126
Budget, 2005 .....	121
Budget, 2006 .....	117
Financial Statements .....	145
Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund .....	112
Program Funds, 2006 .....	122
Integrating Technology, Report of the Committee .....	119
Lutheran Schools Initiative, Report of the Ad-hoc Committee .....	103
Memorials:	
Convention Guidelines for Reports and Memorials to the Convention .....	135
Fraternal Correction on the Subject of Women Pastors .....	137
General Pastoral Conference .....	134
Ministry .....	139
Restructuring the Board for Foreign Missions .....	134
Role of Women in the Church.....	136
Women Pastors ... Administering the Lord's Supper to Other Women.....	135
Minutes, Action of the synod .....	132
Miscellaneous, Action of the synod .....	130
Missions:	
Foreign Missions, Report of the Board .....	86
Home Missions, Report of the Board .....	81
Pastoral Conference Records, Action of the synod .....	133
Permanent members admitted into membership .....	62

## Pictures:

Borgwardt, Wayne .....	27
Butterfield, Michael .....	7
Edgewood Place .....	6
Faith Lutheran Church (Oregon, WI) .....	26
Finn, Daniel .....	6
Hartland Lutheran Church (Hartland, Minnesota) .....	25
Hoeft, Erich .....	27
Hope Lutheran Church (Portage, IN) .....	27
Huhnerkoch, Herb .....	34
King of Grace Lutheran Church & School (Golden Valley, MN) .....	25
Mamidi, Solomon .....	8
Merseth, John .....	27
Moldstad, John .....	20
Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church (Gaylord, MN) .....	26
Peace Lutheran Church (Kissimmee, FL) .....	26
Raju, Ananda .....	8
Schmeling, Samuel .....	6
Van Kampen, S. Piet .....	6, 27
Planning and Coordinating Committee, Report of .....	117
President's Message .....	20
President's Report .....	24
Presidium's Committee on Ministry, Report of the President .....	66
Publications, Report of the Board .....	105
Public Ministry of the Word .....	67
Representatives eligible to vote .....	12
Resolutions, Action of the synod .....	133
Roll Call .....	10
Stewardship, Report of the Board .....	113
Stewardship, Special Offering .....	105
Synodical Membership, Action of the synod .....	62
Synod Review, Report of the Committee .....	127
Thoughts of Faith, Report of .....	90
Trustees, Report of the Board .....	118
Worship, Report of the Committee .....	108

Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Parochial Report for the year 2004:

	CONGREGATION					MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS					SERVICES				EDUCATION										FINANCES						
	State	Location	Circuit	Congregation	Pastor	Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance	Special Services	Average Attendance	CDS Enrollment	CDS Teachers	Sun Sch Enrollment	Sun Sch Teachers	Bible Class	VBS	Summer Camp	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 Mohave	11	Family of God	L.Wentzlaff	92	70	22	1	2	5	477	1	1	52	51	15	40				12	3	32	26				41,977	145	200,000	232,623		
2	AZ	Lake Havasu City	11	Our Saviour	T.Hartwig	220	171	67	8	5	2	1,503	4	5	67	134	12	75		45	3	10	3						271,849	14,317	1,500,000	260,000		
3	AZ	Scottsdale	11	Redeemer	vacant	51	49	23				280			16	33	5	25				2	1						75,364	5,040	1,000,000	207,000		
4	CA	Bell Gardens	11	Christ the King	E. Zimdars	41	27	8	2		1	2	394		1	52	27	13	12										41,977	145	200,000		94,103	
5	CA	Bishop	11	Our Savior	C. Wosie	24	22	7				191		2	52	18	14	17				2	1	22				36,816	1,280	750,000		18,000		
6	CA	Escondido	11	St. Paul	R.Lawson Jr.	54	43	17		1		5	865		2	62	35	16	25		10	2	15			3								
7	CA	Fillmore	11	Wayfarers' Chapel	L.Lanier	37	35	9				3	438			52	29	14	15				1		12		1							
8	CA	Irvine	11	Asian Mission	Y.Kim	60	45	17	2		3					52	70	2	30			16	2					2	5	41,456				
9	CA	Irvine	11	Faith*	W. Stehr	93	82	28			3	3	521	1	4	52	65	12	27			10	4	20	27	1	1	7	164,518	4,552	30,000			
10	CA	Ukiah	11	Apostles*	M. Thompson	29	22	9	2	1		3	96			52	23	13	22			7	2	13				2	34,689	300	6,000			
11	CA	Windsor	11	Christ	M. Thompson	81	70	21	2	1	3	5			1	52	50	15	15			8	2	24				7	118,982		1,200,000	174,000		
12	FL	Clermont	#	South Lake	G.Sahlstrom	20	15	5	1	2		2	101			50	18	11	12			4	1	7				4	29,783	84,377	3,000			
13	FL	Kissimmee	1	Peace	H. Huhnerkoch	150	117	46					1,556			50	89	12	37	8	1	11	3	20	35			4	66,663	4,747	604,476	319,396		
14	FL	Lakeland	1	Our Savior	A.Palmquist	48	48	22	1				605		1	50	50	23	22			2	1	15					67,970	9,504	30,000			
15	FL	Lakeland	1	Peace	J. Willitz	75	53	17			1		522	2		51	55	15	38			17	3	17	50	9	1	14	60,000	7,500	500,000			
16	FL	Naples	1	Our Savior	G. Schmidt	234	188	48	4	3	2	2,101	3	4	52	138	14	87			20	6	20	56	9		10	171,668	3,527	2,300,000	412,900			
17	FL	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	M. Dale	137	92	24	4	5			1,107		4	49	82	13	53			41	8	14	66	1	5	94,052	6,300	750,000	46,155			
18	FL	Sebastian	1	Trinity	D. Lillegard	86	74	14	1		1	1,190		1	50	57	14	35			9	2	20	21			7	72,165	5,013	700,000	164,000			
19	FL	Sebring	1	New Life	R. Fyffe	56	51	21				1,141	2	51	33	17	29							18				77,664	8,400	350,000	41,744	13,074		
20	FL	Vero Beach	1	Grace	J. Petersen	227	193	30	5	2	2	2,411	2	5	51	136	12	79				24	6	25	45		5	142,692	67,300	922,751				
21	FL	Winter Haven	1	Resurrection	C.Keeler	75	65	20			3					51	63	14	55			3	1	25					73,372	5,500	420,000	310,000		
22	IL	Litchfield	4	Faith	S. Schmidt	161	116	24	3		1	1	1,182			52	70	16	50			30	10	20	32			12	170,274	42,000	1,250,000	25,000		
23	IL	Lombard	4	St. Timothy	E. Bryant	191	134	19	6	1	3	2	1,139		2	53	69	15	28	6	1	22	5	34	27			1						
24	IL	Plainfield	#	Light of Life	P.Lepak	48	30	14	4			3	150		1	102	20	5	16			10	5	7	9				26,425	1,580				
25	IN	Brownsburg	4	Good Shepherd	G. Lilienthal	106	71	14	2				961	2	1	52	52	15	35	4		18	6	15	21			3	85,542	14,647	150,000	6,000		
26	IN	Hobart	4	Grace	F. Lams	218	176	23	8	2	1	8	3,275	2	1	52	136	13	102			39	4	72	54			30	146,444	19,706	750,000	100,931		
27	IN	Portage	4	Hope	R. Flohr	215	168	156	5	2	4	10	1,557		5	52	76	16	50				48	7	30	102		1	94,716		2,500,000		5,000	
28	IA	Ames	7	Bethany	M. Hoesch	49	39	14			1		536	1		52	30	16	27			6	2	15				3	48,525		420,000			
29	IA	Calmar	7	Trinity	H. Abrahamson	26	24	7					244		1	51	19	9	17			2	1	7	6	1			29,521	500				
30	IA	Forest City	7	Forest*	T.Gullixson	69	57	8	4				297	1	2	52		4				8	1		6			1	18,274	1,429				
31	IA	Indianola	7	Good Shepherd	R. Harting	68	50	14					865	1		52	44	17	35			15	3	34	40		3	2	84,771	7,929	100,000	40,400		
32	IA	Lake Mills	7	Lake Mills	K. Hermanson	64	62	18	1		1				1	52	23	8	35			3	1	25	14			2	12,728					
33	IA	Lake Mills	7	Lime Creek	K. Hermanson	29	26	9					116																					

---

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

---



700 Luther Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Dan R. Bruss, President



**Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary**

6 Browns Court  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Gaylin R. Schmeling, President

**LUTHERAN SYNOD BOOK COMPANY**  
(since 1920)

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE BOOKSTORE  
700 Luther Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Paul Wold, Manager

Telephone: 507-344-7777 or 1-800-944-1722

Fax: 507-344-7391

E-mail: [bookstor@blc.edu](mailto:bookstor@blc.edu)

Website: [www.blc.edu/bookstore](http://www.blc.edu/bookstore)